

THE WAY ШЛЯХ

Official Publication of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

VOL. 74 - No. 01

JANUARY 20, 2013

ENGLISH VERSION

Blessing of Holy Water at the Cathedral

The Feast of Theophany, which is also known as Epiphany, is a liturgical event typically celebrated every year on January 6th to commemorate Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist. On Sunday, January 6, 2013, Rev. Ivan Demkiv blessed Holy Water at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, PA.

During the Water Blessing Ceremony, Rev. Ivan Demkiv blessed the water: with the "Trikirion" which are three branch candles; with his breath; with his hand; and by immersing a cross in the water.

Watch a video on our Blog at
<http://www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com>



Pictures from the Festival of Christmas Carols will be in the next issue of "The Way." Visit our YouTube Channel to see videos from the Festival at <http://www.youtube.com/user/thewayukrainian>

Symbolism of the Water Blessing Ceremony

Rev. Ivan Demkiv at the Cathedral in Philadelphia, PA on January 6, 2013



1) The priest did a triple blessing with a Trikirion. A Trikirion stands for the Holy Trinity. Jesus is the Great Light, and when immersed, the burning candle (the Lord) sanctifies the water (the world).



2) The priest did a triple blessing with his breath. Breathing over the water, the priest asks the Holy Spirit to come upon the water. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that the water is blessed.



3) The priest did a triple blessing with his hand. The hand is a concrete, physical way in which the water is blessed. This symbolizes the fact that God is with us in a concrete way through the humanity of Jesus.



(4) The priest did a triple blessing with the immersed cross. The cross represents Jesus' personal descent into the water.

(Photos: T. Siwak)

Information on symbolism of the ceremony was found on website:

http://ihms.mb.ca/News%20&%20Events/News%20and%20Events%202007-08/Blessing%20of%20Water/blessing_water.htm

THEOPHANY: Eastern Rite churches focus on Baptism of Christ in the Jordan

BY JOHN E. USALIS (STAFF WRITER jusalis@republicanherald.com)
Published: January 7, 2013 Republican-Herald

FRACKVILLE, PA-- As Western Christian churches celebrated the feast of the Epiphany marking the visitation of the Magi or wise men to the Christ Child in Bethlehem, many Eastern Christian churches celebrated the feast of the Theophany of Jesus Christ, focusing on the Baptism of Jesus by St. John the Baptist.

The Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord is a major feast in Eastern Christianity, with only Pascha (Easter) and Pentecost considered greater on the liturgical calendar.

The importance of Christ's baptism is described in the Gospels of apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and is the first manifestation of the Holy Trinity to mankind. Theophany comes from the Greek word "theophania," which means "appearance of God" or "manifestation of God."

The Rev. Roman Pitula, pastor of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic

Church, Frackville, celebrated the feast day Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m., having also celebrated the Divine Liturgy at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Maizeville earlier in the morning. Deacon Paul Spotts assisted at the services.

An important part of the feast is the blessing of holy water called "Jordan Water," which signifies Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River.

"In Christ today we celebrate a very unusual presentation," Pitula said. "Our Heavenly Father Himself, with His mighty voice and with the assistance of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, said of His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, with these words, 'This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.' God said these words while Jesus was standing in the Jordan River. And most of the people who gathered on the banks of the Jordan to hear the sermons of St. John the Baptist heard and observed



(David Mckeown/staff photo)

Rev. Roman Pitula blesses the Jordan Water Sunday during Theophany services in St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, Frackville.

this unique presentation, thus making this feast the first feast in the Christian church before Christmas was introduced as a separate feast, according to St. John Chrysostom."

Pitula said the role of

introducing others to Jesus Christ is now the mission of the church.

"At that time, St. John the Baptist referred the people to receive the

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THEOPHANY: Eastern Rite churches focus on Baptism of Christ in the Jordan

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Son of God. Today the church does it," he said. "Through baptism in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we become the children of God and heirs of the heavenly kingdom. Only Holy Baptism can liberate us from the bondage of Original Sin, and the holy water possesses the power that washes away the evil."

In addition to Jesus' baptism, Theophany traditionally included the Nativity, the wedding feast at Cana, the visit by the Magi and the presentation of Jesus in the Temple as a child, all of which indicate in some way the manifestation of God on Earth.

Pitula conducted the "Great Blessing of Jordan Water" service near the end of the Divine Liturgy. The large font that is used for full immersion of infants for Baptism had been placed before the iconostasis (icon wall) and filled with water for the blessing.

Three parishioners - Robert Meriondale, Jay Evans and Joel Stepanchick - each held one of three trikiri, which is three candles joined together. Each trikiri was lit and after reading prayers and scripture, Pitula took each trikiri, one at a time, made the sign of the cross with them over the water three times, and then

immersed the lighted ends into the water. The extinguished candles were handed back to the candle bearers. After another prayer, Pitula leaned over the font and blew upon the water three times in the form of a cross. He later immersed his hand into the water three times, after which he made the sign of the cross with an ornate cross, held the cross above his head with both hands and then plunged it into the water three times.

When the blessing was completed, Pitula dipped a glass into the water font and then drank three sips of the Jordan Water. He passed the glass

to Spotts and the altar servers for each to take a sip and then walked through the church to bless the congregation with the holy water.

As the service ended, the faithful walked to the front of the church, kissed the cross and were anointed with holy oil, ate a piece of blessed bread and went to the baptismal font with containers to take some blessed water home. In some cases, people drank some water as they left the church, a common tradition, as is getting some of the candle wax floating the font in their containers.



(David Mckeown/staff photo)
Bob Meriondale, left, Jay Evans, center, and Joel Stepanchick, all of Frackville, hold the trikiri candles.



(David Mckeown/staff photo)
Roman Pitula holds the cross during Theophany services in St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, Frackville.

Patriarch Sviatoslav Calls on Faithful to Study Holy Scripture

11 January 2013

On the occasion of the proclamation of 2013 the Year of Faith, on January 8, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC), Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk, issued a Patriarchal Address to the clergy, monastics and laity stressing that “the Faith is God’s gift and a response to God’s call inspired by the Holy Spirit.” The motto of the Year of the Faith will be “One Lord, one faith, one Baptism,” reported the Information Department of UGCC.

“As for the Christian faith, we mean primarily the faith in the Triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit by which faith a person responds to His wish to embrace them and give them Life. Therefore, we trust God as the loving Father calling us to come to Him, inviting us to become participants of the community of God’s love and giving us the gift of His power from above, the grace and granting us true understanding of things invisible. To believe means to open up fully to God’s gift of love sent to His creation,” reads the address.

According to the patriarch, Christians draw from the faith the boldness to live by God’s laws and, therefore, to look into tomorrow and enter it with hope. The Primate called for everyone to grow in the faith by studying the Bible daily.



<http://risu.org.ua>

Пастирське послання Блаженнішого Святослава до духовенства, монашества і мирян з нагоди Року віри

«Один Господь, м о н а ш е с т в у , – і новий, і водночас своє духовне коріння. одна віра, одне возлюбленим братам і пам’ятний. У цьому Для нашої Української Хрещення» (Еф. 4, 5). сестрам, в Україні та на поселеннях у світі суцим матір Церква запрошує своїх синів і дочок Церкви цей рік має особливе значення, бо дає нагоду згадати видатну подію далекого 988 року від Різдва Христового, коли ми прийняли Володимирове

Високопреосвященним і Преосвященним Дорогі в Христі! Кожен рік нашого життя наближає до нас майбутнє і водночас живить пам’ять про минуле. Рік 2013-й Вірою ми пізнаємо

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Хрещення. Усвідомлюючи кардинальне значення віри, нам слід насамперед подякувати Богові за цей Його дорогоцінний дар, яким ми просвітилися і преобразилися 1025 років тому на березі Дніпра –українського Йордану. Це також добра нагода проаналізувати, яке місце посідає християнська віра в нашому побуті, та, краще пізнавши основні її постулати, надихнути ними своє життя і діяльність.

1. Прикмети християнської віри

Зазвичай, коли говоримо, що людина в щось вірить, то маємо на увазі її переконання, існування чи правдивість яких неможливо довести експериментальним способом. Коли ж ведемо мову про християнську віру, то йдеться не просто про переконання в існування якогось вічного принципу буття, чогось хоч і невидимого, але дійсного, а передусім про віру в Триєдиного Бога: Отця, і Сина, і Святого Духа, – якою

людина відповідає на Його бажання пригорнути її, даруючи Життя. Ми ставимося до Бога не як до далекого і непізнаваного об'єкта, а довіряємо Йому як люблячому Отцеві, який кличе нас до себе, запрошуючи стати причасниками спільноти Божої любові, обдаровуючи своєю силою з висоти – благодаттю, та посилаючи справжнє пізнання невидимих речей. Вірити – означає вповні відкритися до Божого дару любові, зверненого до Його творіння.

Запрошення до участі в Божому житті можна помітити в самій природі людини, яка створена на образ і подобу Божу. Навіть коли, понівечена гріхом, людина втрачає цю Божу подобу, вона все ж таки не може втратити прагнення до високих речей, до надприродного буття. Історія людства перед воплеченням Ісуса Христа є образом пошуку Бога людиною, яка не хоче задовольнятися своїм нужденним існуванням, а стремить знайти порятунок і сенс поза межами цього

світу. Відповідаючи на це прагнення людини, «багато разів і багатьма способами Бог говорив колись до батьків наших» (Євр. 1, 1); Він не покидає її, а сам поспішає на допомогу і, як пише християнський апологет Климент Олександрійський, зокрема дарує їй прагнення Істини як інструмент богопізнання. Тому й тепер людський розум, сягаючи країв Усесвіту, одночасно усвідомлює свою обмеженість та відкриває для себе Того, хто «раніш усього, і все існує в Ньому» (Кол. 1, 17) і хто «тримає все рукою своєю» (пор. Акафіст до Пресвятої Богородиці, Ікос 12). Господь чіткіше об'являє себе в людській історії, даючи вибраному ізраїльському народові Мойсеїв Закон і посилаючи йому пророків. А вкінці «Бог бо так полюбив світ, що Сина свого єдинородного дав, щоб кожний, хто вірує в Нього, не загинув, а життям вічним» (Ів. 3, 16).

Воскреслий Господь наш Ісус Христос – засновник і підстава нашої віри, бо, як зауважує святий

апостол Павло, «коли Христос не воскрес, то марна проповідь наша, то марна й віра ваша» (1 Кор. 15, 14). Він «чора і сьогодні – той самий навіки» (пор. Євр. 13, 8), тому вже дві тисячі років християнська віра дозволяє віруючим жити з відчуттям безнастанної присутності нашого Господа. З цієї віри християнин черпає відвагу укладати своє земне життя за Божими законами – «життя будучого віку», а тому з надією дивитися в завтрашній день і водночас входити в нього. Така віра проростає в надії, щоб плодоносити любов'ю.

І саме тому, що віра є Божим даром та натхненною Святим Духом відповіддю на Божий поклик, кожен із нас повинен ставитися до неї з великою відповідальністю: її треба плекати і розвивати, живлячи спочатку «молоком» початкової катехизи, а відтак «твердою стравою» (пор. 1 Кор. 3, 2) участі в таїнственому житті Церкви. Іншими словами, кожному з нас

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треба щодня зростати та утверджуватися у своїй вірі: читати Святе Письмо – Боже Слово до людини – і пильно вивчати християнські правди віри, перебувати в особистій та спільнотній молитві...

«Праведник з віри своєї буде жити», – сказав ще пророк Авакум (2, 4) і часто підкреслював святий апостол Павло (пор. Рим. 1, 17; Гал. 3, 11; Фил. 3, 9). Тому наша віра має стати для нас джерелом любові до ближнього та основою праведного християнського життя. Крім пізнання віри, маємо жити і ділитися нею поза храмом чи рідною домівкою, вносити її в культурне, суспільно-політичне й економічне життя. Сам Господь заохочує нас до цього: «Так нехай світить перед людьми ваше світло, щоб вони, бачивши ваші добрі вчинки, прославляли вашого Отця, що на небі» (Мт. 5, 16).

2. Віра вчора, сьогодні і завтра

Христос, котрий є Господом історії, об'єднує у часі всіх

вірних нашої Церкви – від апостола Андрея і Папи Климента, через святих Кирила і Методія, святого рівноапостольного князя Володимира, святих страсотерпців, преподобних, мучеників та ісповідників, аж до сьогодні – в єдиний Божий народ у всьому світі з центром на київських горах. Проповідь християнської віри неповторно лунала в Київській Церкві через візантійсько-слов'янське богослужіння, духовність і богослов'я та через народні звичаї і обряди. Завдяки цьому вона міцно вкоренилася та принесла свої численні плоди в Україні й на поселеннях. Тому будьмо ревні у сповідванні своєї християнської віри через наші древні церковні та народні традиції, щоб спадок віри був завжди живим і новим, а водночас «той самий навіки»!

Т а ї н с т в о Володимирівого Хрещення триває в історії і ми особисто сходимо в глибину хрещальної благодаті через Просвічення, Миропомазання і Євхаристію – три

«кроки» християнського втаємничення. Як наші предки, просвітившись вірою, відкинули поганських ідолів, так і ми покликані з вірою в серці відкидати гріхи та всі підступи лукавого, що їх посилає нам сьогодні с е к у л я р и з о в а н и й світ. Як наші предки, помазані Святим Духом, збудували на вірі сімейне, суспільне й державне життя, так і ми покликані до нової євангелізації: переображення силою Христового Євангелія цих же ділянок нашого життя, а також до євангелізації народів – привести до пізнання Істинного Бога та до світла християнської віри кожного, хто є поруч, і на рідній землі, і на землях поселень. Як наші предки в Євхаристії стали одним Тілом Христа, тобто Церквою, так і ми покликані усвідомити нашу сопричасну єдність із Богом і між собою. Ми – одне Тіло Христове – в Україні й на поселеннях.

Ще недавно Тіло Христової Церкви в Україні було «прибитим до хреста» переслідувань і репресій, було покладеним до гробу

історії. Але нині наша Церква воскресає на радість усім її дітям. Ще остаточно невідомо, перед якими новими викликами доведеться стати в майбутньому, але ми знаємо, що, незважаючи на будь-що, маємо поступати згідно з закликком апостола: «Як, отже, ви прийняли Господа Ісуса Христа, так у Ньому перебувайте; вкорінені в Ньому, збудовані на Ньому і зміцнені в тій вірі, якої ви навчилися, поступаючи в ній наперед з подякою (Кол. 2, 6–7)».

3. Наша відповідальність за віру

Тепер вже не наші батьки, діди і прадіди, а ми, діти ХХІ століття, переймаємо відповідальність за зростання у вірі, яку потрібно глибоко пізнавати, нею жити і нею ділитися з іншими. Так ми продовжимо й поглибимо віру предків, збагатимо вірою тих, що її шукають, а самі спасемо душі наші. Ці завдання є обов'язком усієї церковної спільноти.

Для кожної єпархії

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учителем віри є єпископ. Будучи наступником апостолів, він несе перед Богом найбільшу відповідальність за поширення Христової Благовісті там, де Церква його настановила. Він відповідає за передавання спадку віри в цілості, непорушності та чистоті. Допомагає єпископу священник. Він літургійно празнує віру Церкви, народжує у Святих Таїнствах нових дітей Божих, членів Церкви, відповідає за навчання віри у своїй церковній спільноті, дбає про служіння ближньому з душпастирською увагою до особи та відкритістю до кожного. Добрий священник старається, щоб парафіяльна громада була живою, тобто «місцем зустрічі з живим Христом».

У нинішньому секуляризованому та матеріалістичному світі особливе свідчення віри дає монашество. Живучи за євангельськими радами убозства, чистоти і послуху, богопосвячені особи власним прикладом проповідують про покликання кожного християнина до майбутніх благ Царства Божого. Їхнє

найцінніше свідчення віри полягає в тому, що Богові варто цілковито довірити своє життя. Християнська родина, як домашня Церква, перша школа молитви та християнської науки, є чи не найважливішим середовищем для передання віри та виховання в християнському житті. Батьки – це основні євангелізатори та апостоли віри для своїх дітей і перший приклад християнських чеснот. Тому вони мають пильно дбати про свій обов'язок виховувати дітей у християнському дусі, щоб обіцянка, висловлена під час святого Хрещення («Вірую Йому як Цареві і Богу!») принесла свій плід.

Гріх розділення християн суттєво послаблює автентичність християнського свідчення і є великою перешкодою на шляху поширення віри. Тому ми сумуємо з приводу втрати євхаристійного спілкування зі своїми братами у християнській вірі та прагнемо втілювати в життя Христову Заповідь: «Щоб усі були одно» (Ів. 17, 11),

передусім у відносинах із синами та дочками колись єдиної Київської Церкви, яка була в сопричасті і з Римом, і з Константинополем та рештою християнського Сходу.

Крім наших хрещених братів і сестер, є ще багато людей, брак віри яких є місійним викликом для нас, християн. Тому всі ми маємо розвивати у собі місійне покликання, аби вогнем Святого Духа, який сьогодні єднає і скріплює нашу Церкву, поширювати світло Христового Євангелія до кожного, хто ще не прийняв Христа як свого Спасителя і Господа.

Наша віра повинна бути чинною в ділах любові й милосердя, як це нам нагадує апостол Яків: «Як тіло без душі мертво, так само й віра без діл мертва» (Як. 2, 26). Маємо нагоду практично виявити свою християнську віру через соціальне служіння. Ставлення до потребуючих є найкращим дзеркалом нашої духовної зрілості, тому плекаймо в собі чесноту християнського милосердя, щоб очима віри вміти

розпізнати у нашому ближньому лик Христа.

Дорогі в Христі!

Цим пастирським листом я прагнув скріпити всіх у переконанні про цінність дару віри, яку з роду в рід передавали нам наші предки і яку ми прийняли в таїнстві Хрещення. З нагоди цього ювілейного року, Року віри, заохочую взяти участь у різних заходах – конференціях, прощах, урочистостях та інших ініціативах, які ми разом звершуватимемо на парафіяльному, єпархіяльному, митрополичому та загальноцерковному рівнях. Пізнаваймо нашу християнську віру, зростаймо в ній, ділімося нею, робімо все, щоб, освячені та оживлені нею, ми змогли передати цей дорогоцінний спадок живим і цілісним для майбутніх поколінь!

Благословення Господнє на вас!

† СВЯТОСЛАВ

Дано в Києві, при Патріаршому соборі Воскресіння Христового, 26 грудня/8 січня, на свято Собору Пресвятої Богородиці

UGCC announces its plans on commemorating the Year of Faith



Let us remember that UGCC Synod of Bishops that took place on September 9-16 in Winnipeg (Canada) answered the initiative of His Holiness the Holy Father, and pronounced 2013 as the Year of Faith in UGCC and created an Organizing Committee which was charged with planning appropriate spiritual events.

Plans include an all-Ukrainian ecumenical conference, focusing on the 1025th anniversary of Volodymyr's Baptism, a series of publications dealing with the lives of saints, martyrs and faithful of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in order to make them public.

Events will take place on a regional (within Ukraine and beyond its borders, in its Metropolitanates) on an eparchial and parish level. According to the plans of marking the Year of Faith, it is recommended that UGCC clergy give sermons on topics of faith, read and study the Papal Encyclical of Benedict XVI *Porta fidei* [The

Doors of Faith] and the Epistle of UGCC Head on the occasion of the pronouncement of the Year of Faith; spread electronic versions of the liturgy and other prayer texts.

Also it is worthwhile to organize pilgrimages to the Holy Land and Jerusalem with the specific focus of deepening one's faith and renewing the connection to the Jerusalem Church – the Mother of all Churches – as well as to the holy places in Kyiv and the Kyiv Metropolitanate as a source of faith for UGCC; to Rome as the seat of the Bishop who has Christ's mandate to "solidify brethren in faith."

Representatives of the Year of Faith Organizing Committee also recommend spreading popular aspects of Christian faith in the Kyiv tradition, to initiate catechetical programs in UGCC pastoral care in order to bring new individuals to the faith, as well as to deepen the faith of existing believers.

Adapted from the article on <http://www.ugcc.org.ua>

The Ukrainian Catholic Metropolia in USA *under the spiritual guidance of* **Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka** **and the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of USA**

invite you to renew your spiritual and cultural roots in a Pilgrimage celebrating the "Year of Faith" and 1025 years of Christianity in Ukraine

UKRAINIAN FAITH & HERITAGE TOURS



Tour A: August 13 - 29, 2013. 17 days \$3500 Twin (land tour)

Kyiv, Poltava. Lviv, Yaremche, Kamianets Podilsky, Iv. Frankivsk, Bukovel, Chernivtsi, Sanok, Peremyshl, Krakow. **Special Highlights:** Pilgrimage to Holy Resurrection Sobor in Kyiv and Mother of God Sobor in Zarvanytsia near Ternopil; Sorochynsky Yarmarok; Ukraine's Independence Day Celebrations in Lviv

Tour B: August 13 - 26, 2013. 14 days \$2850 Twin (land tour)

Kyiv, Poltava. Lviv, Yaremche, Kamianets Podilsky, Iv. Frankivsk, Bukovel, Chernivtsi **Special Highlights:** Pilgrimage Holy Resurrection Sobor in Kyiv and Mother of God Sobor in Zarvanytsia near Ternopil; Sorochynsky Yarmarok; Ukraine's Independence Day Celebrations in Lviv

Tour C: August 14 - 22, 2013. 9 days \$2200 Twin (land tour)

Kyiv and Lviv: Includes Celebrations of the 1025th Anniversary of Christianity in Kyiv

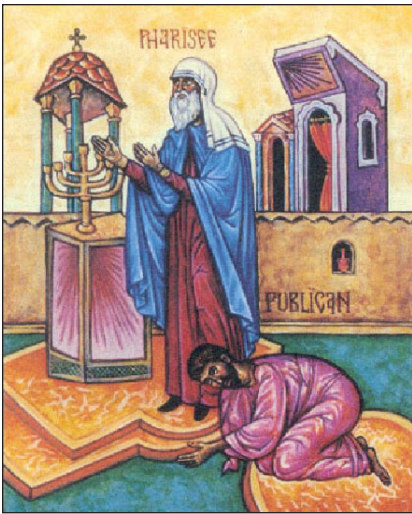
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Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee January 20, 2013

The Lord told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men - robbers, evildoers, adulterers - or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."(Lk. 18, 10-14)

Before the soldier goes to battle, he undergoes a long period of military training to prepare himself physically and psychologically for combat and to enable him to bear the burdens and inconveniences of military life.

In like manner, holy Church, our good Mother, prepares us, her children, spiritually for the struggles we must undergo before she imposes upon us the strict Great Fast. This is precisely the aim of the four pre-Lenten Sundays which begin with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee and end with Cheesefare Sunday. In our Church services of those Sundays, holy Church places before our eyes several biblical scenes: the proud Pharisee and the humble Publican, the conversion of the Prodigal Son, the scene of the Last Judgment, and the expulsion of our First Parents from

Paradise. These dramatic scenes have the power to move us to the depths; they reveal God's mercy and justice, and convince us of the need for conversion and penance for our salvation. Meditation on these events should evoke in us a serious attitude toward fasting, convincing us of its necessity and benefit as it gradually prepares us for the Fast itself.

The above pre-Lenten Sundays were incorporated into our church Calendar in the later centuries; it was not until then that the Great Fast assumed its present day form. First to be added before the Great Fast were the Sundays of Meatfare and Cheesefare; only later, sometime in the eighth or ninth centuries, the Sundays of the Publican and the Pharisee and the Sunday of the Prodigal Son were added.

The Sunday of the Pub-

lican and the Pharisee received its name from the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee, recorded in the gospel of St. Luke (18, 10-14). In this parable, Jesus Christ gives us two contrasts: the proud Pharisee and the humble Publican. Using these two types of people. He points out the ugliness of pride and the significance of humility.

The parable portrays a typical Pharisee. Although he came to the temple to pray, he praised, not God but himself. He does not ask God to pardon his sins. On the contrary, being sure of his righteousness, he even thanks God that he is not a sinner. He brags about his fasting and the tithes he gives to the temple of God, while at the same time, he looks down upon the Publican as upon a great sinner.

The Publican, conscious of his own sinfulness,

does not even dare raise his eyes to heaven, but prays humbly and strikes his breast, saying: 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner. (Luke 18:13). His short prayer, full of sorrow and humility, remains to this day, a most beautiful and sincere act of sorrow for our sins.

Jesus Christ ends this parable with the words: "I tell you, this man went back to his home justified rather than the other, for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and he who humbles himself shall be exalted." (Luke 18).

This parable teaches us clearly that God does not look at the person or his position in life, but at the person's heart and soul. This enables us to understand the truth of the words of Holy Scripture: "God resists the proud, and gives grace

(continued on next page)

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

(continued from previous page)

to the humble.” (I Peter 5,5). It is understandable then why God rejected the prayer of the vaunting and arrogant Pharisee but heard the prayer of the humble Publican. Since pride is one of the capital sins, it is the great-

est obstacle to conversion and penance, while humility is the beginning of true conversion and the foundation of sincere penance and fasting.

For this reason, holy Church desires that we

also, as we approach the Great Fast, prepare ourselves for it with great humility, mindful of our sinfulness, for only then will we experience compunction of heart and possess the courage and goodwill to

undertake fasting and penance. Without humility, there is no conversion, no sorrow for sin, and no return to God.

(A Byzantine Rite Liturgical Year)

Announcing the 2013 Women’s Day of Prayer: *Church Alive!* An Invitation to Women to Evangelize

On Saturday, March 9, 2013, the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, in partnership with the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great, the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, and the Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God, will sponsor *Church Alive! An Invitation to Women to Evangelize*. This Day of prayer, ritual, guided spiritual reflection and group discussion will be held at the Parish Hall of the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, corner of Franklin and Brown Streets in Philadelphia. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., and the Day’s closing ritual concludes at 4:00 p.m.

The theme and program elements for the 2013 Women’s Day of Prayer have been structured to complement our Holy Father’s indiction of a

“Year of Faith” and his invitation to “an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the One Savior of the world.” The Day’s participants will be awakened to and enlightened as to how “The ‘door of faith’ (Acts 14:27) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church.” (Pope Benedict XVI, Apostolic Letter entitled *Porta Fidei*, October 11, 2011.)

Because our entry through the “door of faith” begins with baptism, the call to participate in *Church Alive!* is sent forth to ALL women --including those as young as ten years of age! Our speaker for the Day is Sister Janice McLaughlin, M.M. Sister Janice, who is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and member of the Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, lived and

worked in Africa for thirty-five years. In 1992, she received from the University of Zimbabwe a doctorate in religious studies; and in 2008, she was elected President of the Maryknoll Sisters. Sister Janice’s latest book, *Ostriches, Dung Beetles and Other Spiritual Masters*, details the wisdom she observed while living in Africa and serves as the foundation for her presentation.

Our group facilitator for the Day is Ms. Marie Joseph, Executive Director of the Legacy of Life Foundation, an outreach for women in crisis pregnancies which responds to the call of Christ to protect the dignity of the unborn person. Author of *Faith on Fire*, a resource for those longing for a more passionate experience of the Catholic faith, Ms. Joseph is a single mother of two teenag-

ers who taught for seven years in a Catholic elementary school and has been deeply involved in Catholic mission work in Kenya, Africa. After completing her undergraduate work at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, Ms. Joseph received from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia a Master of Arts degree in Theology.

We cordially invite you to participate in *Church Alive!* to reawaken, reflect upon and delight in the joy which is the gift of the true faith! Because participation is expected to be significant, pre-registration is highly encouraged. To pre-register, please contact Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM at 215.663.9153. The pre-registration fee for the Day is \$25 (\$30 at the door) and includes lunch and parking. Bring a friend!

SHROUD EXHIBITION

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

SHROUD OF TURIN 2013

The Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy is pleased to announce the 2013 Schedule for the Exhibition of the Replica of The Shroud of Turin in select parishes of the Archeparchy.



The replica of the Shroud of Turin was acquired by Archbishop Stefan Soroka for the Ukrainian Archeparchy of Philadelphia in 2010. It is permanently on display at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Philadelphia. During the year the exhibit travels to various parishes in the Archeparchy as a means of promoting the Gospel message of Jesus through evangelization of the many pilgrims who come seeking to understand and encounter Jesus through the message of the Shroud of Turin.

The Shroud exhibit allows many people who would not be able to travel to Turin Italy to view the Shroud a chance to experience that opportunity. Many thousands of people have already viewed the Shroud Exhibit which reverently displays The Shroud for people to touch, venerate, and gather information about Jesus and His Gospel.

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF

- St. Michael's, Cherry Hill NJ
- St. Michael's, Shenandoah PA
- St. Nicholas, Wilmington DE
- St. Mary's, Bristol PA
- St. Michael's Jenkintown PA

EXHIBITION DATES

- February 10-23, 2013 : Cherry Hill NJ
- February 24-March 9, Shenandoah PA
- March 10-23, 2013 Wilmington DE
- March 24—April 6 Bristol PA
- April 7—21, 2013 Jenkintown PA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

	Fr. Volodymyr Klanichka	Fr. Volodymyr Kostiuik
Fr. Paul Makar Cherry Hill NJ	Wilmington DE	Jenkintown PA
856-482-0938	302-762-5511	215-576-5827
Msgr. Myron Grabowsky: Shenandoah PA	Fr. Gregory Maslak, Bristol PA	Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan
570-462-0809	215-788-7117	717-554-2994

Shroud replica coming to Shenandoah Parish

BY STEPHEN J. PYTAK (STAFF WRITER spytak@republicanherald.com)

Published: December 29, 2012

SHENANDOAH, PA-- - A replica of the Shroud of Turin will be on display at St. Michael's Ukrainian-Greek Catholic Church in February, according to the pastor, Monsignor Myron Grabowsky. "We feel that it is a blessing and a responsibility to have the shroud at St. Michael's, the first Ukrainian-Greek Catholic Church in America," Grabowsky said Tuesday.

This replica has been on tour throughout 2012 and it was on display at St. Nicholas Parish, a Ukrainian Catholic church at 415 Front St., Minersville, from March 21 to April 1, Christina Gray, the secretary at St. Michael's, said Wednesday.

Grabowsky is pastor of both St. Michael's in Shenandoah and St. Nicholas Church in Saint Clair. He said both churches are hosting the event but the replica will only be on display at St. Michael's. The replica will be exhibited Feb. 24 to March 9, Grabowsky said.

To discuss the schedule of events regarding the

display, St. Michael's is hosting a public meeting 9:30 a.m. Jan. 8 in the hall beneath the church at 114 S. Chestnut St., Shenandoah.

"We want to assure everyone knows about this opportunity to see this amazing recreation of the Shroud of Turin, and we would appreciate your help in making this happen," Grabowsky said.

Archbishop Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Archdiocese of Philadelphia had arranged for the replica to be on display in Minersville, and he also made the arrangements for the replica to be on display in Shenandoah, Gray said.

The Shroud of Turin is the famous linen which believers say Joseph of Arimathea used to wrap the body of the crucified Jesus Christ more than 1,970 years ago.

The actual shroud is a 14-foot long, 3 1/2-foot wide linen cloth bearing the front and back image of a scourged, crucified man, according



Replica of the Shroud of Turin displayed at the Cathedral in Philadelphia. (Photo: T. Siwak)

to www.shroud.com, the website for the Shroud of Turin Education and Research Association, Florissant, Colo.

The shroud became the property of the Catholic Church in the late 1980s and has been kept in Turin, Italy, since 1578, according to shroud.com.

For more information, call the church at 570-462-0809 or visit the church's website at www.first-ukrainian.com.

In a subsequent news story, it was reported that St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Parish has elaborate plans for the Feb. 24 visit to Shenandoah by the replica of the Shroud of Turin, which is thought by many to be the burial

cloth of Jesus Christ.

At a recent meeting of the Greater Shenandoah Area Chamber of Commerce at Shenandoah Manor/ Shenandoah Senior Living Community, East Washington Street, Monsignor Myron Grabowsky, St. Michael pastor, said there will be a parade including Shenandoah Mayor Andrew Szczyglak, the Knights of Columbus and the Shenandoah Fire and police departments escorting the Shroud to the church, where it will be available for viewing until March 9. St. Michael parish is the first Ukrainian Catholic parish in America. The original church still stands along West Centre Street.

Joyful Profession of Solemn Perpetual Vows

Joy filled St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church on November 21, 2012, the Feast of the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple, as Sister Teresa Anne Marie Loscocco professed her solemn perpetual vows and became a contemplative nun in the Sacred Heart Monastery of the Order of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great.

His Excellency Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, Eparch of Stamford, Connecticut, celebrated the Divine Liturgy and officiated at the Profession Ceremony. Concelebrating with Bishop Paul were Very Rev. Yaroslav Kostyk, pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Very Rev. Philip Sandrick, OSBM, Provincial Superior of the Basilian Fathers, Rev. John Lundberg of Middletown, NY, and Rev. Robert Moreno, pastor of Sister Teresa's home parish, St. Basil Ukrainian Catholic Church in Lancaster, New York. The responses for the Divine Liturgy and Profession Ceremony were beautifully sung by Mr. Yuri Snihur, the cantor at St. Andrew's Church.

Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great from New York, a visiting Basilian Sister from Poland,

family members, close friends and parishioners were among the approximately 50 people who attended the celebration.

The Profession Ceremony began with the singing of the Troparia of the Holy Spirit

and of the Embrace of the Father, followed by questions and admonitions from Bishop Paul regarding the vows which Sister Teresa was about to profess. With her hand on the holy Gospel Book, Sister Teresa professed her perpetual vows of chastity, poverty and obedience before the Lord in the open Tabernacle. Bishop Paul then blessed and gave to Sister Teresa seven items, each symbolizing an aspect of the monastic life she had just perpetually embraced: the Constitution of the Order (keeping the commandments and Rule), black veil (humility, obedience), mantle (garment of salvation, armor of truth), rosary and chotki (spiritual sword, the word of God), pectoral cross (resemblance to Jesus in bearing sufferings), ring



(fidelity to Christ and union with Sisters) and candle (light to the world by a chaste and virtuous life). The ceremony concluded with the singing of the Beatitudes.

Bishop Paul delivered a beautiful and inspiring homily on the similarity between Sister Teresa and the Mary of the day's Gospel who did what was countercultural and sat at the feet of Jesus, as well as the similarity between Sister Teresa and the Mother of God, both of whom were led into the temple by family and friends to begin a life of fidelity and perseverance amid the joys and sorrows of life.

Following the Divine Liturgy, the pastor of St. Andrew's and his family hosted a reception in the parish hall. Afterwards, friends and family visited

the Nuns at Sacred Heart Monastery, and Rev. Robert Moreno celebrated a panakhyda (requiem service) for Sister Teresa's parents and the deceased Nuns of the Monastery.

More information about this unique contemplative monastic community may be obtained by visiting their Web site (www.basiliannuns.org), e-mailing (basiliannuns@frontiernet.net), phoning (845)343-1308, or writing to: Nuns of St. Basil the Great, Sacred Heart Monastery, 209 Keasel Road, Middletown, NY 10940.

(Photo: The newly-professed Sr. Teresa (pictured front row, 5th from the left) stands with Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, con-celebrating clergy and Basilian Sisters.)

A New Subdeacon is Ordained

Walter Pacisznyk, son of Ihor and Olympia Pacisznyk, was ordained the Orders of Lector, Cantor and Subdeacon by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka at St. Anne Ukrainian Catholic Church, Warrington, PA on December 16, 2012. May God Grant Subdeacon Walter Many Happy Years! Mnohaya Lita!



Fr. Robert Hitchens with Walter Pacisznyk

<http://stanneukrainiancc.com/photo.html>



Metropolitan Stefan ordaining Subdeacon Walter Pacisznyk

Hillside, NJ Parish Children are visited by St. Nicholas

Hillside, NJ – On Sunday, December 9, 2012, St. Nicholas visited the children and parishioners of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hillside (Union County), NJ.

To the delight of St. Nicholas, the children presented the following bilingual holiday entertainment program:

* The Spider's Gift: A Ukrainian Christmas Story (Sonya Khedr; Julia and Emilia Pelesz; Matthew & Elizabeth Dolowy; Julianna, Ariana & Nicholas Shatynski; Ashley & Nicole Santoro;

Arthur Hrycak; Nicholas Senyk; and Anastasia & Janina Walburg,)

* Carols on the keyboard (Julia Pelesz), Violin (Julianna Shatynski) & Clarinet (Ariana Shatynski)

* Christmas carol singing (Arthur Hrycak with Julia Pelesz and Ariana Shatynski assisting)

* Dance (Sonya Khedr)

Mike Szyhulsky served as emcee. Russ Pencak served as liaison to St. Nicholas.

Rev. Vasyl Vladyka, Parochial Vicar, and Tom Dochych, Parish Choir



Director, led the attendees in prayer and koliady.

On Wednesday, December 26, 2012, the children of the parish visited parishioners in Union, Essex, Morris and Middlesex counties to share the gift of koliady. Special efforts were made to visit parishioners who were in nursing

homes. Many of the parishioners emphasized how wonderful it was to have the children sing beautiful Christmas carols in Ukrainian and English.

Additional photos can be found on the parish website www.byzcath.org/ImmaculateConception

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, Pa. observed Christmas with the Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. by Pastor Nestor Iwasiw, sung in Church Slavonic under the Direction of Prof. Patrick Marcinko. Two of the choir members, that come to sing during the Christmas Divine Liturgy include Ms. Judy McLane and RoseMary Musoleno Martynuk.

Judy, the current Star of the NYC Broadway Theater "Mamma Mia" and portrays Donna Sheridan. Judy was born and raised in Olyphant. Judy is always welcomed to sing with the choir through out the year.

Ms. RoseMary Musoleno Martynuk is World Wide soprano Opera singer (France, Switzerland, San Francisco, Phoenix, New York) is a current member of the Ss. Cyril's Choir. RoseMary sings every week-end when home in Olyphant.

<http://www.stcyrils.maslar-online.com/>



Photo: Inside SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Choir members gather in front of the Iconostas are Ms. Judy McLane (star of "Mamma Mia") and RoseMary Musoleno Martynuk (soprano Opera Singer) and Lauren Telep.

The Spirit of Giving at St. Nicholas School

Difficult economic times in Ukraine have resulted in abandonment of infants by desperate mothers. In 2011, Ternopil Maternity Hospital enabled 3007 births, and of these almost 30 newborns were abandoned. Maternity hospitals such as this one have limited resources to provide for these helpless infants, and their future appears bleak.

As part of their spiritual rebirth in this Year of Faith in this Advent season, St. Nicholas School in Passaic, selected Ternopil Maternity Hospital as its spirit of giving project. Students, teachers, and parents prepared ten (10) bulk packages brimming with urgently needed supplies such as diapers, baby bottles, pacifiers, infant and children's clothing, blankets, soaps, shampoos, powders, and creams for Ternopil Maternity Hospital.

As we read in the book of Matthew 25:40 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' Through their prayers and by using their talents and abilities for the benefit of others, students were able to live their Christian faith and show their love of those less fortunate, and their love of God. The students, teachers, and parents of St. Nicholas School sincerely thank Ukraine Express for, once again, delivering these packages to their destination in Ukraine.



Pylypivka (Advent) Mission at Passaic Parish

The 2nd Annual Advent Mission was held at St Nicholas, Passaic, on December 1-2, 2012. All parishioners and friends were invited to come to hear the guest homilist, Fr. Philip Sandrick, OSBM, and to take advantage of the sacrament of reconciliation in preparation for the most joyous Birth of our Lord and Savior. Fr. Philip, of St. Josephat's Monastery in Glen Cove, NY, is Provincial of the Order of Basilian Fathers in the USA. The theme of Fr. Philip's homilies, delivered in both English and Ukrainian, centered on our spiritual preparation for the Christmas feast. As we are reminded in the Pylypivka Pastoral Letter from our Ukrainian Catholic hierarchy, Advent "...is a time of penitence and lasts until the Eve of Christmas. Voluntary abstinence and acts of penance (prayer, fasting, charitable works) are encouraged".



Fr. Philip reminded all that at this time of year our lives are so hectic, fulfilling the needs of our families, and full of activities such as shopping. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas we think of gifts, much as the



wise men brought to the new born King. What gift will we offer Jesus? Prayer. It is a simple gift that can be given often, and in turn we have hope in our salvation. Though we have often forgotten to pray because we are too busy, it is in just these times that prayer is needed. There are many ways to pray in addition to formal prayers, and indeed, if we make time for those quiet moments to pray we will find ourselves closer to God. In this Year of Faith we are all asked to renew ourselves in the Holy Spirit and to become one with the Living Christ.

A Time for Giving; A Time for Receiving

The Advent season is a time of preparation for the Birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. In our Eastern Rite, we learn that this preparation includes abstinence (fasting) as well as acts of penance (prayer, fasting, charitable works). The students of the St. Nicholas Sunday Religious Education Program observed the season with prayer for their loved ones and those less fortunate, and through charitable works.



observed the season with prayer for their loved ones and those less fortunate, and through charitable works.

Beginning with the Feast of St. Nicholas, the parish patron saint, 7th grade students prepared gift bags of chocolate and oranges for their fellow students in grades 1 through 5. During the December 9th class, students processed throughout the school, delivering these gifts to each student in each class room. As they entered the class rooms, they sang the traditional Ukrainian carol in honor of St. Nicholas. Afterwards, all were invited to join parishioners and friends in a delicious Parish Praznyk dinner in the church hall, and to enjoy a Christmas Concert prepared and presented by all students who attend St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School.

Charitable Works of the Season

During this busy, joyous time of the year, often those who are unable to attend church and parish functions due to ill health or age feel lonely and in despair. Sunday December 16th found the students of the Sunday Religious Education Program at St. Nicholas parish in Passaic preparing gifts for the homebound of parish to cheer them and to remind them that they are loved and not forgotten. From the youngest to the oldest, each child did their best to fill the gift bags with treats and sweets.



An unexpected treat for the students was the visit by of our Very Rev. Hlib Lonchyna, Apostolic Exarch for Ukrainian Catholics in Great Britain. Bishop Hlib was a former pastor of St. Nicholas parish and holds fond memories of his time here. In his travels to be home with his family, he was able to stop and visit with the children. Though all are too young to remember his service at the parish, one child was able to proudly declare that she knew that Bishop Hlib had performed the marriage of her parents.

Also visiting the parish at this very same time was Sister Luisza, SSMI, Director of Religious Education, visiting from Ukraine. Originally from Brazil, Sr. Luisza has spent over 20 years in education and spiritual service in Ukraine. Sr. Luisza was delighted to speak with the children. She reminded them that the charitable work that they were doing in preparing these gifts was an expression of their love of others and of God.

Bishop Hilb and Sr. Luisza happily fielded many questions from the children. Each wished God's abundant blessings for the students, the religious education teachers, and all their families, and distributed sweets to all.

Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church's Myasopusna Celebration Returns

Dinner tickets are now available for Transfiguration of Our Lord Church's Myasopusna festival, held at the church's banquet hall, in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, on Sunday, February 3, 2013 from noon to 4 pm. The Myasopusna (Meatfare) festival is the parish's annual pre-lenten celebration, preceding the Lenten Great Fast. Dinner (a platter of kobasi, roast pork, varenyky, borscht, blackbread and butter, and a homemade dessert) will be served from 12:30 to 2:00 pm. A variety of Ukrainian crafts, including pysanky, embroidery, woodcrafts, beadwork, and ceramics, will be on display and available for sale or by raffle. Following dinner, live entertainment will include the Holy Year Choir, Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble, and the Saint Mary's Ukrainian Dancers. Dinner tickets are \$13, with an advanced ticket price of \$10, if purchased by January 27. The church hall is located at the corners of Bliss Street and Center Street, in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke. Tickets can be purchased by calling Helen (735-4654) or Geri (824-3880).

Christmas Eve Dinner in Plymouth, PA

On Sunday, January 6, 2012, an Annual Christmas Eve Dinner Celebration was held in SS Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church hall located at 20 Nottingham Street Plymouth, PA. Each year, parishioners coming together to maintain unique Ukrainian Christmas traditions and one of them is Holy Supper. The delicious traditional Christmas Eve Supper was prepared by sisterhood and parishioners.



The rich traditions that place a special religious emphasis on Ukrainian Christmas, the Christmas Eve Supper, or Sviata Vecheria, brought together many parish families to partake in special foods and customs that reach back to antiquity. Father Volodymyr Popyk starts the celebration by leading the assembled gathering in the Lord's Prayer and blessing the food. After enjoying the delicious, homemade food, we all settled down to sing our famous traditional Ukrainian carols to Praise the new born Savior all Nations. It was an unforgettable evening.



Thank God for the birth of your son, Jesus Christ that lit the flame of love and faith in our hearts that will always remind us what Christmas is truly about. Christ is born! Let us glorify Him!

Homemade Pyrohy Sale – Scranton, PA

Sponsored by St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Completely made from scratch - all fresh ingredients. Saturday, January 26, 2013. Pickup beginning at 2:00pm. \$7.00 per dozen.

St. Vladimir Parish Center, 428 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania.
Advance orders accepted no later than Monday, January 21. Call Dorothy at 570 346-4164

New Rectory blessed in Phoenixville, PA

Phoenixville, PA. Sunday, January 6, 2013, at 11 AM, the parish welcomed the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in America, Metropolitan Stefan Soroka of the Philadelphia Archeparchy, to join in the official blessing of the new rectory which was completed recently. He was greeted with a traditional welcome of bread and salt by children in Ukrainian dress. The Divine Liturgy was celebrated in two languages, Ukrainian and English, with the participation of the Metropolitan, pastor Father Stepan Bilyk, and several priests from the area and the Archeparchy. The church a capella choir, under the direction of Marusia Dombchewsky, sang the responses, hymns and carols.



Sunday, Jan 6th, fell on the Feast of the Epiphany. Following the Liturgy, was the Blessing of the Waters. Everyone was invited to bring the blessed water home for use throughout the year.

The Blessing of the Rectory began with a procession from the church to the new parish home and office of the pastor. The guests were able to see the new home during the planned walk-through.



The congregation and guests then returned to the church hall for a reception and celebration. The Ukrainian Catholic Church of Sts Peter and Paul has been serving the Phoenixville and surrounding communities since 1939. The Ukrainian Catholic Church is in union with the Pope and worships in the colorful Eastern Rite tradition. Rev Stepan Bilyk is new to the parish, having been reassigned by the Metropolitan in Aug 2012. He is a married Eastern Rite Catholic priest. He and his wife Olena and two children will reside at the newly blessed residence.



For additional information visit
www.sspeterandpaulukr.com

Parish rectory phone: 610 933-5453;
or email to: sspeterandpaulukr@gmail.com.

Celebrating the Real meaning of Christmas with the Students of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School, Passaic, NJ

The students and teachers of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School in Passaic, NJ have been very busy spreading the Christmas spirit this December. On Wednesday, Dec. 5 – the eve of the Feast of St. Nicholas, the parish's patron saint – they presented their Christmas program to their families and friends. Pastor Fr. Andriy Dudkevych began the evening with a prayer, and Principal Sr. Eliane Ilnitski, SSMI, welcomed everyone with a few thoughts about the spirit of Love in the Christmas season.

The program began with the littlest students from Pre-K and Kindergarten (prepared by teachers Mrs. Lydia Loukachouk, Mrs. Maria Dudkevych, and Ms. Olena Kugnat),

all decked out in their holiday best, singing "Caroling, Caroling" to the accompaniment of bells. They then sang the Ukrainian song "Ishov Mykolay", and recited the poem "Miracles Happen." Next, students from grades 1 and 2 (Mrs. Patricia Balzarek and Mrs. Magdalena Lopata) beautifully sang the Christian song "El Shaddai" and the Ukrainian carol "Vozveselimsia", and recited a poem about the meaning of each letter in the word "Christmas." After them, grades 3 and 4 (teachers Mrs. Karen Savarese and Mrs. Lecia Stec-Peltyszyn) took the stage and presented the short play "Christmas Tree Surprise", in which the heart of a grumpy old



man who has never liked Christmas is touched by the beautiful way in which snowflakes and ice elves decorate the tree in his yard for the enjoyment of some poor children in the neighborhood. Finally, grades 5 through 8 combined their talents for the longer musical play "Let's Try That Again," in which girls preparing the "perfect" Christmas card search for the true meaning of Christmas, in turn focusing on Santa, Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", and a reenactment of the Ukrainian "Sviat Vechir." Each of these attempts comes up short, until they read the Nativity story in Luke, 1:26-38. The play was written by 7th grade teacher Mrs. Monica Child, and additionally prepared by Mrs. Tania Fedak, Mrs. Kathy Janz, and Mrs.

Sonia Lechicky. After all the grades presented their numbers, a student choir sang Leontovych's "Shchedryk", and all the students closed the evening by singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Sister thanked Music teacher Mrs. Olesya Hryvnak for helping prepare the musical numbers and the PTA for preparing the refreshments, as well as everybody who helped with the evening in any way.

On Sunday, Dec. 9, the children's program provided entertainment for the parish Praznyk in honor of St. Nicholas. The hall, packed with parishioners, was warmed by the aroma of good food, the joyous music of children's voices,

(continued on next page)



Celebrating the Real meaning of Christmas with the Students of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School, Passaic, NJ

(continued from previous page)

and the good fellowship of friends and families.

Finally, on Thursday, Dec. 13, the schoolchildren boarded buses to "take the show on the road" to St. Joseph's Adult Care Home in Sloatsburg, NY, where the children performed for the residents. For a moment, the youngest and the oldest were united in the spirit of joy and wonder at the miracle of the Birth. The residents, many of whom were very grateful

to hear Ukrainian carols, rewarded the children with warm applause, and the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate showered them with hospitality. The children went home contemplating a new lesson about the meaning of giving, not from the wallet, but from the heart. Also as tradition St. Nicholas

visited each classroom bringing little gifts to remind each one of the most important

and precious gift which our Father, our loving God gave to us, Jesus, the true gift.



(Sloatsburg, NY)

Pope Benedict XVI appointed an Apostolic Visitor for Greek-Catholic Ukrainians in Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile and Venezuela

Bishop Daniel (Kozlinsky) was born on February 18, 1952 in the city of Paraizo in Parana, Brazil. He studied at the Roman Catholic Diocesan Small Seminary of St. Joseph in Ponta Grotti in Parana as well as in St. Josaphat Ukrainian Seminary in the city of Mallet and at the Basilian School in Curitiba, Brazil. After philosophical and theological studies in Rome and Brazil, in 2006 he received a baccalaureate in youth pastoral care and catechetical studies from the Salesian Pontifical University in Rome.



In June 2007 Rev. Daniel Kozlinsky was appointed auxiliary bishop of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic eparchy in Curitiba, Brazil where he fulfilled the duties of the eparchial synkel and was responsible for the pastoral care in the region of Union de Vitoria. When the former Apostolic administrator of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Eparchy in Argentine Sviatoslav (Shevchuk) was chosen as the Kyiv-Halych Major Archbishop, on June 22, 2011 the Holy Father appointed Bishop Daniel as the Apostolic Administrator.

uk.radiovaticana.va

Christmas at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception December 25, 2012

Watch Videos from Christmas on our blog at www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com



Members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) caroled for Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka at his Residence on the Feast of St. Stephen on December 27, 2012.

Many thanks to all of the groups who caroled to Metropolitan Stefan during this holiday season!

February 2013 - Лютий 2013

Happy Birthday!

З Днем народження!

February 1: Rev. Roman Pitula
February 3: Rev. Evhen Moniuk
February 6: Rev. Robert Hitchens
February 16: Rev. Mr. Donald Latrick
February 19: Very Rev. Archpr. John M. Fields
February 22: Rev. Uriy Markewych
February 26: Rev. T. Frank Patrylak
February 26: Rev. Myron Myronyuk
February 28: Rev. Ivan Turyk

May the Good Lord Continue to Guide You and Shower You with His Great Blessings.
Многая Лита!

Нехай Добрий Господь Тримає Вас у Своїй Опіці та Щедро Благословить Вас. Многая Літа!



Congratulations on your Anniversary of Priesthood!

Вітаємо з Річницею Священства!

February 12: Rev. Ivan Demkiv
(21st Anniversary)
February 14: Bishop John Bura
(42nd Anniversary)
February 27: Rev. Mr. Theodore Spotts
(13th Anniversary)

May God Grant You Many Happy and Blessed Years of Service in the Vineyard of Our Lord!

Нехай Бог Обдарує Багатьма Благословенними Роками Служіння в Господньому Винограднику!

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Articles and photos proposed for publication should be in the Editor's office at least two weeks before requested date of publication. For advance notice of the upcoming events, kindly send one month in advance. All articles must be submitted in both English and Ukrainian languages, THE WAY will not translate proposed articles. All materials submitted to THE WAY become the property of THE WAY.