

# THE WAY ШЛЯХ

Official Publication of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

VOL. 76 - No. 1

JANUARY 11, 2015

ENGLISH VERSION

## Christmas at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia, PA December 25, 2014

(Photos: T. Siwak)



Rev. Ivan Demkiv, Rev. Joseph Szupa,  
Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka,  
and Deacon Michael Waak.



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka

Watch a video on our YouTube  
Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/thewayukrainian>



# Christmas Eve at the Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA December 24, 2014

(Photos: Lisa Oprysk)



Rev. Joseph Szupa, Rev. Ivan Demkiv and Subdeacon Roman Oprysk



Rev. Ivan Demkiv blesses the bread during the Great Compline, that will be distributed during Myrovannia on Christmas.

## Christmas at Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA January 7, 2015 (Julian Calendar)

(Photos: T. Siwak)



## Sunday after Theophany - January 11, 2015

*When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” (Mt. 4, 12-17)*

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“Reform your lives! The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” These words of Jesus warn us against sleeping our lives away, against spiritual laziness. Like headlines about a disaster on the front page of the newspaper, the words and actions of Jesus are urgent and often unsettling. Our Lord makes it clear that we cannot afford confusion about where we are heading. We must realize that our words and actions of each day, of every moment, have eternal significance.

Sin is incompatible with the Gospel, but Christianity is not a science of escaping as much punishment as possible in the hands of an angry God simply by strict observance of the rules. Christianity is about a relationship, important above all others. Our faith should be our very life, more precious than all other things. We should pray that our lives will be a gift that we return to the Lord in ever greater generosity as we follow our call to heroic holiness. If we cannot say this is true, then we are not the Christians our Lord calls us to be. If we realize that the stakes are eternal, than the words of Christ will not be lost upon us. We will take his words and teachings to heart, as spirit and life. “Reform your lives.”



The Catechism speaks about the way of conversion for Christians. “The first work of the grace of the Holy Spirit is conversion, effecting justification in accordance with Jesus’ proclamation at the beginning of the Gospel: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 4:17) Moved by grace man turns toward God and away from sin, thus accepting forgiveness and righteousness from on high. “Justification is not only the remission of sins, but also the sanctification and renewal of the interior man.” (Council of Trent) (CCC 1989)

Our faith is also one of reaching out, proclaiming Christ to others, inviting others to share the life of Christ. “Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.” Preaching, teaching and proclaiming the fantastic news about the kingdom is not just for the apostles, the pope, bishops, and priests, but for all the baptized. Our life, first given in baptism, by its nature seeks to share itself with others. Faith will not satisfy, will not grow or bring more life, if we are content to keep it inside. True faith seeks generously to be shared with all of the brothers and sisters we meet. Share your faith, be “fishers of men”, and your faith-life will overflow in joy and will surely grow, welling up to eternal life.

# Festival of Carols will be held Sun., Jan. 11 at 3 PM in Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral: Choirs from Ukrainian Catholic, Orthodox and Baptist Churches will Participate

**PHILADELPHIA, PA**—On Sunday, January 11, 2015 choirs from the Ukrainian Catholic, Ukrainian Orthodox, and Ukrainian Baptist churches will join together in presenting a “Festival of Carols” in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia. The program will begin at 3 p.m.

Archbishop Stefan Soroka, of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy (Archdiocese) of Philadelphia, in extending an invitation to everyone to attend, commented, “during this Christmas season, this is a wonderful coming together of the various Ukrainian faith communities in the greater Philadelphia area—Ukrainian Catholic, Ukrainian Orthodox and Ukrainian Baptist under the golden dome of our Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral. We open our doors and invite one and all to enjoy this program of Christmas music”

Besides choirs from the greater Philadelphia area, including the combined choir of the Ukrainian Catholic Immaculate Conception Cathedral and St. Josaphat parishes, the Alexander Koshetz Choir of St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and the Ukrainian Baptist Church Youth Choir, choral groups from New York City, Perth Amboy and Trenton, NJ, Baltimore, Md. and Washington, D.C. will also participate. A total of 17 musical organizations will present the “festival of carols.”

There is no admission charge and tickets are not required. A free will offering will be accepted. Proceeds will be used for medical supplies and treatment for those suffering the wounds from the conflict in eastern Ukraine. The golden-domed Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral is located at 830 North Franklin Street in Northern Liberties.

## FESTIVAL PROGRAM

- Combined choir from Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and St. Josaphat parish, Philadelphia, PA  
*Director: Bohdan Henhalo*
- Youth Choir from Ukrainian Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA  
*Director: Ivan Velenchuk*
- Children’s Choir from Ukrainian Heritage School, Jenkintown, PA  
*Director: Halyna Bodnar*
- Choir from Annunciation of the BVM parish, Melrose Park, PA  
*Directors: Lesya Penkalskyj, Irene Zwarych*
- Choir from the Sts. Peter and Paul parish, Phoenixville, PA  
*Director: Marusia Domchewska*
- Choir from St. Josaphat parish, Trenton, NJ  
*Director: Roman Kuczarsky*
- Alexander Koshetz Choir of St. Volodymyr's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral Philadelphia, PA  
*Director: Karen Melnyk-Ferraro*
- Choir from St. Michael parish, Jenkintown, PA  
*Director: Maria Kaminska*
- Choir of St. Basil Academy, Jenkintown, PA  
*Director: Lesya Penkalskyj*
- Bells of St. Basil Academy, Jenkintown, PA  
*Director: Lesya Penkalskyj*
- Choir from the Assumption of the BVM Parish, Perth Amboy, NJ  
*Director: Alla Korostyl*
- Male Choir “Dzvin”, Philadelphia, PA  
*Director: Nestor Kyzymyshyn*
- Choir from the St. Michael parish, Baltimore, MD  
*Director: Luba Semushchak*
- Leopolis Consort of the Ukrainian Music Institute of America (New York branch) *Director: Andriy Lehky*
  - Bandura Duet “Berehynia”  
*Halyna Bodnar and Julia Stupen’*
  - Choir “Living - SONG”, Washington, DC  
*Director: Oksana Lasovska*
  - Chamber Choir “Accolade”, Philadelphia, PA  
*Director: Bohdan Henhalo*



## Christmas in Olyphant, PA

Christmas Divine Liturgy was held at St. Cyrils and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA. at 9:00 a.m. on Christmas sung by the Choir under the direction of Partrick Marcinko Jr. It was celebrated by Father Nestor Iwasiw. Judy McLane, the NYC Broadway Star of "Mama Mia" (born and raised in Olyphant) was in attendance and joined the choir, along with Rosemary Martynuck, NYC, World renowned Opera Singer.



**Rev. Nestor Iwasiw during the Christmas Liturgy. (Photo by Lauren Telep)**



**Left to right: Rosemary Martynuck, Judy McLane, Victoria Nesevich, Jerome Gawron, Lauren Telep, 2nd Row: Ann Nesevich, John Nesevich and Joe Nesevich.**

## MALANKA 2015

Northeastern Pennsylvania's 11th Annual Ukrainian New Year Dinner Dance -MALANKA - will take place on Saturday evening, January 17, 2015 at the Parish Center of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, 428 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton, PA.

The menu will feature both Ukrainian and American fare catered by Paul Wanas of Accentuate Caterers of Distinctive Events. Cash bar will be available. Door prizes will be awarded. Music for dancing will be provided by the internationally known Ukrainian band "Fata Morgana". Wearing Ukrainian apparel is encouraged.

Tickets \$40.00. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Michael Trusz at 570 489-1256.

Please note that the Divine Liturgy is celebrated at 4:00pm immediately preceding the Malanka. This year the pastor and faithful of St. Vladimir parish are honored to welcome the choir of SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church of Olyphant PA which will sing the liturgical responses. Everyone is welcome.



## Peace Light of Bethlehem - Melrose Park, PA

Twenty one Ukrainian Scouts 'Plastuny' of Philadelphia Share the Peace Light of Bethlehem with Reverend Ihor Royik and the Parishioners of Annunciation of The Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Melrose Park, PA on the eve of the most Holy Night, Christmas Eve. Eighteen of those 'Plastuny' are members of our parish. "The ceremony began with a brief history as follows: In the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, there is a light that has been burning continuously for many centuries. This is the Light of Bethlehem, a symbol of peace, harmony and love for all people. In 1986, Austrian Scouts began spreading the Light around the world. From the beginning, this was an act of charity intended to support poor children and all who need encouragement during this time of Advent. Every year, the Austrian Scouts travel to Bethlehem and transfer the light to a special lantern, which they transport around the world and share with all who await the light of Christ's birth. The Light of Bethlehem has been carried by Ukrainian Scouts, known as Plastuny, for over 15 years. The Plastuny share the Light so that everyone, especially those who are far from their homes during Christmas time, might feel the warmth of the star of Bethlehem. For many, the Peace Light has become a special part of the celebration of Christmas. The faithful are invited to bring the Light into their homes and to use it during Christmas Eve supper. Traditionally, the Peace Light of Bethlehem is kept burning in parish churches until the Feast of the Epiphany, when it is extinguished."

After sharing the history, they sang a beautiful song, after which the Plastuny gave the following blessing 'vinshuvannja':

"We Plastuny share with you today the Peace Light of Bethlehem.

May this Light, and all of God's graces, be with us always.

Every day, every hour, may God bless us, and may all evil perish.

May there be no discord among us, so that we may live in harmony as brothers and sisters.

May God bless us with a brighter future. Amen."

Father Ihor Royik, then lit a church candle from the light of the Peace Light of Bethlehem.

Submitted by pl. rozv. Alanna Watters 1.6.2015



## Bethlehem Peace Light Comes to St. Nicholas Church in Passaic, NJ

In Bethlehem, at the site where Christ was born, burns an everlasting light. This light, which has been burning for centuries, is the symbol of peace, warmth and love.

The sharing of the Bethlehem Peace Light began in 1986 in the Austrian town of Linz. Every year, Austrian scouts light a lantern from this Bethlehem Peace Light and fly it to Vienna, Austria. From there, scouts of many nationalities transport the Light across borders to the various countries of Europe. The Light is passed on from person to person, to all who are awaiting it, but especially those in need of hope and love before Christmas. In many places the Peace Light is delivered to the elderly and sick, bringing hope to those who are often forgotten. The Peace Light has become a Christmas tradition for many and is used to light the candles on Christmas Eve before dinner. They often remain lit through the Feast of the Epiphany.

For the past 17 years, Ukrainian scouts (plastuny) in Ukraine have been transporting the Peace Light via trains, buses, cars and bicycles to churches, schools, hospitals, orphanages, nursing homes and government buildings. When passing along the Light, they sing this traditional song,

“Вогонь любові, вогонь добра,  
Неси у світлі ліхтаря.  
Хай знає кожен Божий дім –  
Ми понесем вогонь, даруючи любов усім.”



Plastuny in Ukraine have passed the light along to the soldiers and volunteers who risk their lives every day for a better future for Ukraine. This year Plastuny all over the world are sharing the Peace Light as a prayer for world peace, and peace in Ukraine. They are sharing the Peace Light, as the people of Ukraine shared the Peace Light during their stand-off at the Maidan last year, with the fervent prayers that people throughout the world unite to end all conflicts.

Seven years ago, the Austrian scouts began to fly the Peace Light to New York, where it is transferred to the lanterns of scouts in the U.S., including Plastuny, in a special ceremony that takes place at Our Lady of the Skies Chapel at the airport. The Peace Light is transported on the plane in two lanterns, in case one gets accidentally extinguished, in a wooden crate buckled onto a seat-back tray. From there, the Peace Light is passed on from person to person, never being extinguished during its travels. In this manner the Light is disseminated throughout the United States and Canada.

On Sunday, December 14th, Plastuny from the Passaic Branch brought the Bethlehem Peace Light to St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Passaic to share it with parishioners. Among these scouts were members of St. Paul the Apostle Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ramsey, N.J. and the Ukrainian Orthodox Holy Ascension Cathedral in Clifton, N.J. who transferred the Peace Light to lanterns which will be brought to their parishes so that this symbol of peace and love can warm their hearts. Fr. Andriy Dudkevych welcomed the Plastuny and transferred the Light to a special candle in church which will burn through the Christmas season and invited all parishioners to bring this light into their homes. The program ended with a moment of silence for all those who have died in Ukraine and other wars this year.

Christina Temnycky, Senior Counselor  
Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Passaic Branch

## A Reflection on “Coming Home for Christmas”

(Ed. note: This is an edited version of an article submitted by Matthew Kenenitz)

This year, with the Archieparchial initiative of “Come Home for Christmas” in mind, I returned to the South Anthracite Protopresbytery in upstate Pennsylvania to enjoy time with family, friends, and the families of several of our Ukrainian Catholic parishes. The thought of driving almost 700 miles from Chicago seemed daunting at first, however, after making the trek, I found this journey to be more beneficial and spiritually uplifting than most journeys I have taken in my life.



**Traditional Ukrainian Caroling at Schuylkill Manor on Christmas Day.**

**Pictured are the carolers at Schuylkill Manor, Pottsville, Pa.: front row (l to r): Michael Spotts, Rev. Deacon Paul Spotts, Donna Spotts; second row: Maria Spotts, Nadya Spotta, Olga Krolick, Anya Spotts, Sarah Halupa, Kelly Huerta, Debra Halupa; third row: John Halupa, Anthony Halupa, Nick Spotts, Matthew Kenenitz, Jonathan Huerta, Dr. Michael Halupa**

I guess what struck me most this year in “coming home for Christmas” was the fact that the Holy Supper on Christmas eve and the caroling Christmas day is not something that the Archbishop or a priest has ever asked these faithful parishioners to do. It is done from the heart, and the importance of maintaining such traditions can be seen through several generations of family members. Witnessing the attendance and actively participating in services in half of our parishes in the South Anthracite Protopresbytery, I felt a great spiritual rejuvenation and warmth. What became real to me was that what we do in regard to our faith comes from our hearts; it is the pure externalization of the love and grace we carry with us from our baptismal promises to beyond our earthly graves.

During one sermon I heard during this Christmas season, the priest challenged all of us—himself included—to ponder the mystery of the devotion of the Mother of God to Her Son, Our Lord, and to contemplate the great sacrifice and willingness the Mother of God shared so that salvation could be possible for all of us. The real story of the Nativity of Christ, juxtaposed to the Hallmark card version, makes the celebration of this feast even more paramount and awesome. The trials of the Holy Family following Christ’s birth echo the trials of orthodox Christians throughout our world today. Even within our own cities, neighborhoods and homes, there are times when we are called upon to defend our faith in the hope of spreading Christ’s message of love.

(continued on next page)



## A Reflection on "Coming Home for Christmas"

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Indeed, this Christmas season gave me the opportunity to reflect on the meaning and warmth of Holy Supper, the significance of actively participating in the liturgical and spiritual life in a vibrant parish that one can call "home," and to share the joy of the Nativity of Christ by visiting and caroling in more than a dozen homes on Christmas day. I, for one, am beyond glad and edified that I returned home for Christmas. It truly is a special time, and I am already looking forward to the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord in December, 2015 in my "home" in the South Anthracite Deanery.

### SUM Carolers Sing for Metropolitan Stefan



**A picture of the carolers from SUM visiting at Bishops' Residence on Dec. 26th. Traditionally, the SUM Carolers are the first group to bring the blessings of the traditional Ukrainian carols to Metropolitan Stefan - a tradition maintained by SUM in these past 14 years with Metropolitan Stefan and even with his predecessor, Archbishop Emeritus Stephen Sulyk. Always a festive visit is enjoyed by all. Their gift of caroling is appreciated and reveals their love for our sacred traditions.**

## Blessed Josaphata Icon and Relic to visit St. Nicholas Parish, Passaic, NJ

The Blessed Josaphata Hordashevska special traveling icon and first class relic of will be visiting our parish from Friday, January 9th to Tuesday, January 13th, 2015. Blessed Josaphata was the foundress of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, the Sisters who teach and serve in our St. Nicholas School and parish. Blessed Josaphata was beatified by St. John Paul II in 2001, during his visit to Ukraine. At least one miracle has been attributed to her intercession leading to her beatification. One more miracle is necessary for her canonization as a saint in the Catholic Church.

The following is a schedule of services during the visit; parishioners and faithful will have an opportunity to venerate the icon and relic after each service.

Fri., Jan. 9th – 10:00 am - Divine Liturgy, welcoming of the icon/relic of Blessed Josaphata

Sat, Jan. 10th – 5:00 pm - Divine Liturgy (Ukr.), presentation on the life of Blessed Josaphata;  
6:00 pm - Recitation of the Rosary

Sun. Jan. 11th – 8:30 am - Divine Liturgy (Eng.), presentation on the life of Blessed Josaphata;  
9:45 am - Recitation of Rosary; 10:30 am – Divine Liturgy (Ukr.), presentation on the life of Blessed Josaphata

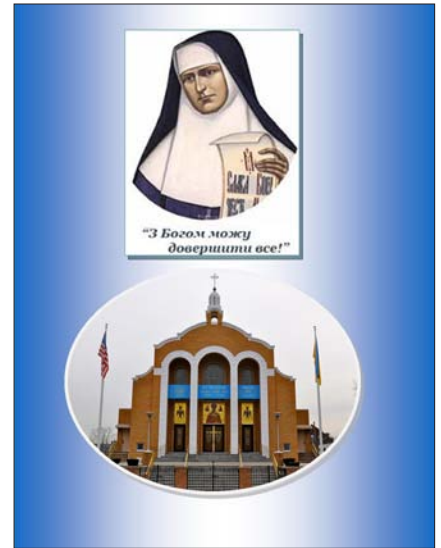
Mon. Jan. 12th – 7:00 pm – Molebin

Tues. Jan. 13th – 7:00 am – Divine Liturgy (Ukr.); 7:00 pm – Molebin

Wed. Jan. 14th - 8:30 am – Divine Liturgy, bi-lingual, farewell departure of the icon/relic of Blessed Josaphata

The pilgrimage icon/relic of Blessed Josaphata has been in the United States since Oct. 5 as part of a worldwide tour to countries where the Sisters are serving. The visit of the icon and relic fills a spiritual need for people in the world, and is a part of her being with our people and her spirit being with those places and the people the Sisters came to serve. It will be in the United States until mid- January 2015 when it will continue its tour around the world to return to Rome in 2017 in time for the 125th anniversary of the founding of the religious order.

The order of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, whose motherhouse is located in Sloatsburg, NY, is the first apostolic women's congregation in the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Founded in Ukraine in 1892, the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate is a Byzantine Ukrainian Catholic congregation of more than 900 sisters and has ministries in 13 countries: Ukraine, Brazil, Canada, Serbia, Slovakia, Poland, Argentina, Italy, Germany, France, England, Australia and the United States. The order's ministries include education, care of the elderly, retreats, sewing vestments and pastoral ministry. (Special thanks to John E. Usalis for portions of this article from the Republican Herald.)

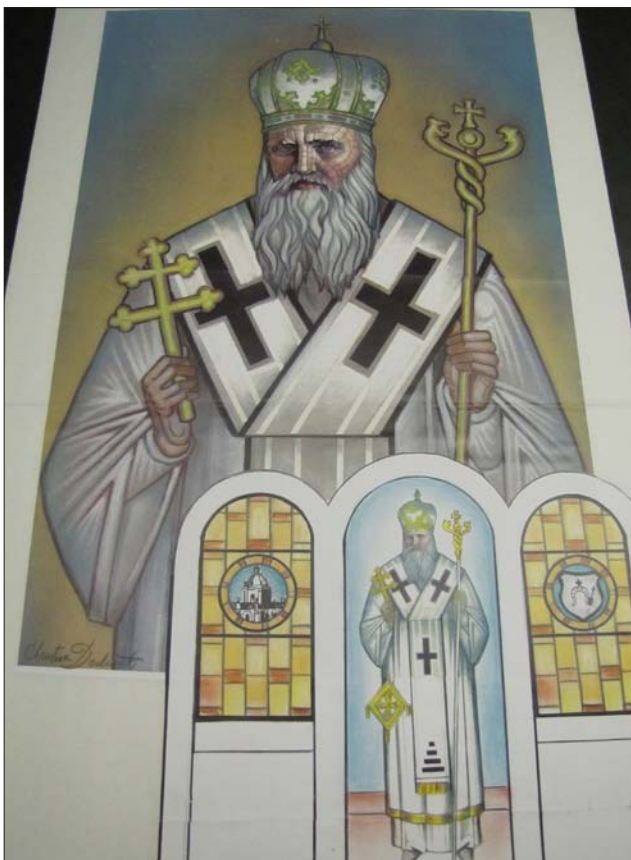


# NEW MOSAICS OF VENERABLE METROPOLITAN ANDREY SHEPTYTSKY AND BLESSED JOSAPHATA HORDASHEVSKA, SSMI FOR CATHEDRAL

Two full sized mosaics of Venerable Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky and Blessed Josaphata Hordashevka, SSMI will be installed in our Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia in Spring, 2015. The mosaics will include a reliquary for relics of both Metropolitan Sheptytsky and Blessed Josaphata for veneration by all.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, is to visit Philadelphia in September, 2015. He has been invited to include a visit to our Cathedral during his short two day visit. In hopeful anticipation of such a visit, we have commissioned these mosaics for the Holy Father to bless. Please pray for this!

The mosaics have been prepared by our world renowned iconographer who has written most of the Cathedral's iconography, Christine Dochwat. The mosaics are being fabricated in Italy by the same firm which has done previous art work in our Cathedral. The cost for each will be approximately \$ 35,000, which is very reasonable for such a significant project. Financial donations are invited from individuals and parishes for this project. Perhaps someone or a group may wish to fund one or both mosaics in memory of a loved one or for a special intention. Please remember the power of the intercession of the saints for our needs! Thank you for your anticipated assistance. Please send donations to Archbishop's Chancery, 827 N Franklin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123. God bless you!



## NEW BELL TOWER FOR CATHEDRAL

The original Cathedral bell named "Stefan" in testimony to our first Ukrainian Catholic Bishop for all Eastern Catholics in USA, the Most Rev. Stephen Soter Ortynsky, OSBM, needs to be relocated from its present location. A new bell tower of our Cathedral is planned to accommodate the bell, to be located to the right of our Cathedral. We welcome your financial donation for this memorial to the founding bishop, clergy, religious and faithful. It is an expression of our heartfelt appreciation for their planting the seeds of faith and the roots of our Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA.

Please help us to meet the costs by sending a donation to the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, 827 N Franklin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123. Your help is needed and appreciated. God bless you richly as you share in celebrating gratitude for our founders.



## LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS SPONSORS ANNUAL LENTEN SPIRITUAL RETREAT

The New Year is just begun with remnants of Christmas celebrations still around us. We have made resolutions and by now some have been broken, with new ones replacing them. While you are still making these resolutions to do better in the New Year, consider adding this one New Year's resolution that will not be broken: mark your calendar and make time to attend a \*Spiritual Retreat, March 20-22nd, 2015\*.

Once again, the League of Ukrainian Catholics will sponsor an Annual Lenten Spiritual Retreat. This year, plan to step away from your daily routine and step into a place of prayer and reflection. The Great Fast (Lent) is quickly approaching, beginning

on February 16th. The Lenten Retreat will be held from Friday evening, March 20 through Sunday morning, March 22nd, the weekend before Flowery Sunday (Palm Sunday), at St. Mary's Villa Retreat Center, Sloatsburg, NY. The cost per person is \$175 for the weekend including meals and accommodations. The program includes presentations, group prayer, a time for private reflection, reconciliation (confession) in preparation for the Great Day (Easter), and fellowship.

This year the Retreat Master will be Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM, of the Holy Dormition Friary, Sybertsville, PA. The theme of the retreat will be, "Fellowship of the Holy Spirit". Repeatedly

in the Divine Liturgy we pray for "fellowship of the Holy Spirit". Fr. Jerome will lead us on an exploration of this "fellowship" from several perspectives including our Lenten repentance, the kingdom of Our Father, and the motherly protection of Mary, whom we will honor that weekend as we pray the Akathist. This theme impels us to open our Bibles (\*please bring one\*!) as we also open the Divine Liturgy for deeper, prayerful awareness and understanding.

Currently, Fr. Jerome is the pastor of St John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Hazleton, PA. For the past five years he has been giving retreats and missions at his current home, Holy Dormition Friary, Sybertsville, PA,

and in parishes across the country, serving in Byzantine Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Melkite, and Roman Catholic jurisdictions. A teacher before becoming a Franciscan friar, Fr. Jerome serves on the board of directors of LifeWrites, a program that uses writing programs to help reach at risk students. In addition to his busy schedule, Fr. Jerome, a trained musician, manages to find time to play violin in the Hazleton Philharmonic.

Registration information is forthcoming so be sure to look for it!



**Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM**

## Super Bowl Sunday Food Fest in Clifton Heights, PA

It's almost that time again- time for Super Bowl Sunday on February 1st and your friends at SS. Peter & Paul are cooking up 3 of your favorite game foods, ready for you to open and enjoy - chicken wings, a kielbasa ring on a bed of sauerkraut, and kielbasa/sauerkraut sandwiches.

The chef at SS. Peter & Paul Church is busily preparing large, juicy, hickory-smoked chicken wings (with Blue Cheese Dressing, Celery Strips and Choice of Honey Mustard or BBQ sauce) for the low prices of: 10 Wings: \$8.00; 20 Wings: \$15; 30 Wings: \$23; 40 Wings: \$28; 50 Wings: \$35.

He's also preparing 4 large, cooked kielbasa links on rolls, with sauerkraut, for only \$15.00 or a ring of kielbasa on a bed of sauerkraut for only \$16.00.

To order your Super Bowl snacks, please email us at SSPeterandPaul@verizon.net or call Kathy at (610) 328-4731 before Sunday, January 25th. Pickup will be at noon on Sunday, February 1st at the church located at 100 South Penn Street in Clifton Heights. Thanks for your generous support!

## St. Mary's Coal Cracker Ball in Bristol, PA

Sunday, January 25, 2015  
2026 Bath Rd, Bristol, PA 19007  
\$25.00 per person BYOB  
1 PM until 5 PM

Includes: table set ups. Complete Ethnic Luncheon with dessert and beverage.

Dancing to "Denny'O and his Polka Band"

Door prizes, chances, 50/50.

Fun, Food, Good time, and Great Dancing.

Please contact Joan (215) 943-1216 or Linda (215) 945-6661 for tickets or information.

Non profit-fundraiser



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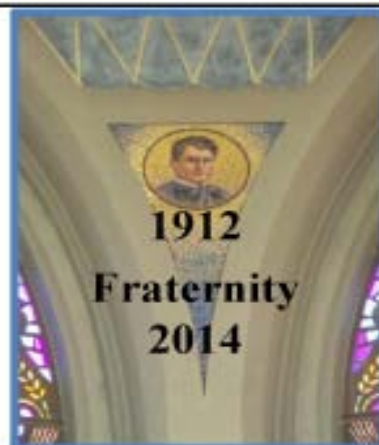
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## LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS GIFT UKRAINIAN SEMINARY

During the recent visit of Rev. Marco Yaroslav Semehen, President of St. Sophia Association in Rome, Italy, two of the National Board officers took the opportunity to personally present him with the Bishop John Stock Burse Award granted by delegate vote from the membership of the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America.

The League of Ukrainian Catholics annually present monetary awards to individuals – seminarians, eparchial clergy, monastics and religious, nominated by their Bishops, Abbots and Provincials, in keeping with their program of promoting Vocations through financial assistance as well as through the prayers of the membership.

The Patriarch Josyf Slipyj Major Seminary of the Ternopil Archeparchy in Ukraine had approached the National Board for financial assistance for twenty five needy seminary students to help cover costs associated with their stay and studies at the Seminary.



The National Board and membership unanimously voted at its 2014 National Convention to gift the Bishop John Stock Burse to the Seminary. Along with the award, Fr. Semehen was gifted with the book entitled "Tireless Worker", a biography of Bishop John Stock, detailing his life and good works.

**Photo: (l to r) Sr. Kathleen, SSMI, Provincial Superior; Marion C. Hrubec, President, National Board, League of Ukrainian Catholics; Fr. Marko Semehen, President, St. Sofia Society, Rome, and Professor, Liturgical Studies, Patriarch Slipyj Seminary Ternopil, Ukraine; Bishop Paul Chomnycky, Eparchy of Stamford, CT; Sr. Tekla, SSMI.**

### Saint Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA parishioners celebrate the Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord

**Photo (l to r): John W. Turko (with candle), David Slachtish (Altar Boy), Rev. Nestor Iwasiw (Pastor), and Father John Wysochansky. (Photo: Lauren Telep.)**



## Sisters Servants Celebrate Metropolitan Stefan's Feast Day

**Sloatsburg, NY** On December 28th, the Sisters Servants joyfully celebrated the feast day of Archbishop Stefan Soroka at St. Mary's Villa beginning with an 11:00 am Divine Liturgy celebrated by Archbishop Stefan. During his homily, Archbishop Stefan eloquently spoke about the holiness, perseverance and witness of his patron saint, St. Stephen and how we all need to strive to emulate his zealous fidelity to Christ. The Divine Liturgy was followed by a festive dinner. Since, the Archbishop's feast day is during the great feast of Christmas, the sisters focused their program on the family members closest to Jesus: Joseph - his foster father; Zechariah - his uncle; Elizabeth - his aunt; John the Baptist - his cousin; Mary - his loving mother. They also included another close family member, Archbishop Stefan and concluded the program with Sr. Kathleen Hutsko, Provincial Superior, presenting Archbishop Stefan with a family photo of the family members of Jesus.



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## Basilian Sisters and Associates Welcome Archbishop Stefan

In anticipation of the Feast of St. Stephen, the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great feted Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka in honor of his patron saint. The Sisters and members of their Basilian Associate Program welcomed the guest of honor to a celebratory dinner at the Fox Chase Motherhouse on Monday, December 15, 2014.

In her greeting, Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, Provincial Superior, extended wishes to the Archbishop for a blessed Christmas and a happy feast day, thanking him for his service to the faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia and for the warm friendship shown to the Basilian community. "The many connections you have made within and beyond the Church have benefited us all and we want you to know of our gratitude and the love that we bear for you."



Archbishop Stefan thanked those gathered for their prayers, gifts and good wishes and commended the Sisters for their good works of the present and sacrifices, labors and difficulties of times past.

The evening continued with the singing of "Many Years" and an informal visit with the guest of honor.

# Christmas Pageant Presented at Mt. Carmel, Pa. Church; Saint Nicholas Visits during the Social after the Program

**Mt. Carmel, Pa.**—On Sunday, December 21, the parish choir and the students of the religious education program presented the Annual Christmas Pageant at Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, celebrating in work and in song the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. A brass ensemble composed of members of the Mt. Carmel Area High School band and the Penn State Blue Band also participated and performed traditional Christmas carols.



**Group Photo of St. Nicholas with Fr. Michael Hutsko and performers of the Christmas Pageant.**

At the end of the pageant, St. Nicholas made his annual appearance and then all enjoyed a social buffet in the parish hall where St. Nicholas greeted the children and made his presentation of gifts.

Each year all parish families, relatives and friends from the Mt. Carmel area are invited and encouraged to attend this annual parish Christmas program.



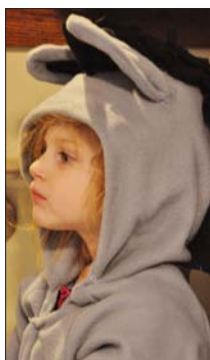
**Three Wise Men check their Smartphone.**



**St. Nicholas arrives at the parish!**



**Brass Ensemble**



**(Photo at left:) A child dresses as a donkey for the Pageant.**



**(Photo at right:) Sr. Natalya, SSMI greets St. Nicholas.**



# **“Metropolitan Andrey -- the precursor of the Second Vatican Council and the current ecumenical movement...” His Beatitude Sviatoslav**

Sunday, 28 December 2014

Metropolitan Andrey talks to people through his whole life. For us he is a pastor, a theologian, an educator, a preacher, one who blesses, a builder, a philanthropist, a diplomat, and a holy teacher of faith. The list of all he has done, will never be exhausted.

In his Pastoral Epistle “May God’s wisdom lead us all”, UGCC Head, His Beatitude Sviatoslav, writes on the occasion of the Year devoted to the memory of Metropolitan Andrey (Sheptytsky). As is known, according to the decision of UGCC Synod of Bishops, November 1, 2014 began the year of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky.

This year marks two anniversary dates: “70 years since the death of the Metropolitan, which has already been commemorated by the Church, and the 150th anniversary of his birth, which we are getting ready to commemorate.”



According to UGCC Prelate, Metropolitan Andrey is an example for all clergy, -- an example of how one can faithfully and generously serve the people of God: “He not only led the Church -- he widened the whole Christian civilization, bringing Christian values into such social spheres as education, scholarship, art, health care, law, etc. And everywhere he truly acted as a servant of God.”

As the Church Head writes in the Epistle, Sheptytsky reformed the liturgical life of the parish communities, with the assistance of his younger brother, Blessed Archmandrite Clement; renewed monastic life according to the ancient Studite rules, founded the eastern branch of the Redemptorists and several other western congregations and new female communities of spiritual life of apostolic dimensions.

The basic concept of UGCC development in the time of Sheptytsky was the issue of a single Kyivan Patriarchate. “The model of church unity, in which there would be acknowledged the leadership of Peter’s successor, was for Metropolitan Andrey a guarantee of the faithfulness to Christ’s will and Evangelical teachings, and simultaneously -- a key to the freedom of the Church from the excessive intrusion of government authorities, which more than once in history transformed itself into the subordination of the Church to political goals,” stated His Beatitude Sviatoslav, adding that Metropolitan Andrey believed that God gave the Ukrainian people a special mission in this case. Therefore, due to his unifying efforts, Bishop Andrey is perceived “truly as a pre-cursor of the Second Vatican Council and the current ecumenical movement, especially in the realm of Orthodox-Catholic relations.”

UGCC Department of Information

Adapted from an article on <http://news.ugcc.ua/news/>

# Dignity Defined

by A.B. Hill

As we ring in the New Year, there is a reason for hope in Pennsylvania – the number of abortions in the state decreased seven percent. The year-end report shows nearly 2,500 fewer abortions occurred in 2013 than in 2012. The total of 32,108 is the lowest number on record to date.

There were also fewer live births in Pennsylvania in 2013, but the decrease was less than two percent. I wish statistics could prove that respect is growing for the dignity of human life in the womb; but numbers alone cannot explain the downward trend in abortions. We can see that more mothers are choosing life for their babies, but the statisticians did not ask them why. Even if they did, would the average person understand what human dignity means?

The dictionary defines dignity as a quality of being worthy of honor or respect. Being worthy means something is good and deserving respect, praise, or attention; having enough good qualities to be

considered important or useful.

If you have ever watched proud grandparents meet their first grandchild, you have seen the kind of praise and attention, and indeed the dignity and respect that all human life deserves.

Respecting human dignity is an important precept of our Catholic faith. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says our dignity as human beings is rooted in our creation in the image and likeness of God. (CCC No. 1700)

“The Gospel of God’s love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel,” wrote Saint John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae*. “In the life of man, God’s image shines forth anew and is again revealed in all its fullness at the coming of the Son of God in human flesh. ‘Christ is the image of the invisible God’ (Col 1:15), he ‘reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature’ (Heb 1:3). He is the perfect image of the

Father.”

The presence of human life makes visible the invisible reality of God’s Holy presence. Every child conceived reflects God’s infinite love, his perfect justice, and his boundless mercy. This is the foundation of our zeal for protecting human life from conception to natural death.

Catholic teaching affirms that every human being has inherent worth simply because they are human, regardless of their characteristics. The Church also affirms that human life begins at conception. The embryo is a new and unique life that must be recognized as a human being who possesses the rights and inherent dignity of a person. Most importantly, this developing human possesses the right to life. If God is worthy of our honor and respect and every human person is made in His image and likeness, then we all have His dignity, no exceptions.

Downward trends in abortion are a good sign. Maybe our culture is

beginning to understand human dignity a bit more. Despite this encouraging decrease, the fact that the lives of over 32,000 babies were destroyed through abortion in 2013 reminds us that much prolife advocacy needs to be done. By the mercy of God and determination, perhaps one day we will ring in a New Year with a 100 percent decrease in abortions.

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Hill is Communications Director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference – the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania’s Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania. Stay up-to-date with Catholic news and issues at [www.pacatholic.org](http://www.pacatholic.org), [www.facebook.com/pacatholic](http://www.facebook.com/pacatholic), and [www.twitter.com/pacatholic](http://www.twitter.com/pacatholic).

(JANUARY 2015)

## Pope Francis opens 2015 with calls for peace

2 January 2015

Celebrating Mass Thursday morning in St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis asked that God "grant peace to our days — peace in hearts, peace in families, peace among nations."

"May there never again be wars, but always the desire and commitment to peace and fraternity among peoples," the pope said in his traditional noontime Angelus address on New Year's Day, delivered before a crowd of more than 100,000 gathered in St. Peter's Square.

"Prayer is at the root of peace," Francis said.

<http://risu.org.ua>



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## Benedictine missionary: "You can't even imagine how many people all over the world are praying now for Ukraine"

2 December 2014

**Anna Romandash**



One might talk a lot about Father Daniel Ange. He is a Benedictine monk, Belgian by his origin, for 8 years he has worked in Rwanda. He founded an international school of prayer and evangelization named "Jeunesse Lumiere" and organizes missions for youth around the world. In his school in southern France, young people come from all over the world to engage in missionary work and simply to learn more about Jesus. The father decided to help young people after eight years in the Alps that he spent lonely, communicating only with God. Now Father Ange travels and works with young people. In particular, he came back to the city to hold retreats and chat with Ukrainian youth and visited the Ukrainian Catholic University.

"It is my great pleasure to visit Ukraine, which I love," says Father Ange, "22 years ago I came here for the first time with a group of forty students who had hardly got a visa. We were very touched by what we saw. Ukraine was only getting up at her feet, and the Church came out from underground at last. For young Frenchmen Ukraine was something new and very strange, because it was only recovering from Soviet life."

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# **Benedictine missionary: “You can’t even imagine how many people all over the world are praying now for Ukraine”**

**(continued from previous page)**

The monk recalls his first visit to the Ukrainian Catholic University that just began to renew. “Standing in the chapel at the UCU, I feel as if heaven and earth are united. After so many years of repression I am happy that the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine is finally free. This is a true resurrection.”

After the first visit to the city, the monk and his community began to work with young people of Ukraine. In particular, several students from the Ukrainian Catholic University came to France for study and took a course of evangelization. This is with these young men that the father builds the missionary community, and then they travel around the world. “There are ten small brotherhoods of young people,” says the Benedictine. “They travel across different countries where they share with people the happiness to be a child of God.”

The priest stresses that he sees the spirituality of young Eastern Europeans, which often young people in the West lack, and which should be expanded: “We got used to hurry up and often do not find even a moment for prayer,” he says. “That’s why we have to become missionaries for those who are currently far from religion.” According to Fr. Daniel, every person who attends church is a kind of messenger for his loved ones or friends, because they be influenced and converted. It is very important now that the wars and conflicts are evolving on religious grounds, and when it is necessary to convince the haters to stop.

“We have a huge problem now because of the war, when Christians get killed for their faith. This is a very big threat, and we even cannot for a moment forget about those martyrs who are suffering in Iraq,” -said the priest. “All that they are demanded is to deny Jesus Christ.” However, says the priest, people do not abandon their faith even under threat of death, and prefer to die for it. “In Ukraine there are thousands of similar martyrs,” continues the priest. “They die protecting you. But you cannot even imagine how many people now around the world are praying for Ukrainians and that the war ended.”

The priest believes that although there are a lot of talks about the war, the main mission of Christians is to be peacemakers. “We, as Christians, have to bring peace and eradicate injustice,” says the priest. “And this peace may be given to us only by Jesus, who was born in a country where war continues.”

The priest is confident that Christians must work for reconciliation with other religions. As Father spoke at the UCU on December 1, he told that Charles de Foucault who devoted all his life to reconcile Catholics and Muslims is remembered in the Roman Catholic tradition. “Charles de Foucault was a hermit in Africa for a long time, and lived in a Tuareg tribe, telling them about Christ,” says Father Ange. “During the unrest in the tribe, the Tuaregs killed him. This was a man who walked a long way to meet Jesus.” The priest believes that Foucault’s desire to reconcile Christians and Muslims required tremendous strength and courage, and that it is exactly what people need now.

<http://risu.org.ua>

# Christmas Epistle of His Beatitude Sviatoslav

Thursday, 25 December 2014

Archbishops and Metropolitans, God-loving bishops, dear brothers and sisters in Ukraine and in settlements around the world. Fear not, for I bring you great joy today in the City of David was born the Savior -- Christ the Lord (Luke 2, 10-11)

Christ is Born!

With these words of the good messenger from heaven, Christ's Church pronounces the salvation news. Today a Savior was born to us: God descended to earth and appeared in a human body in the city of Bethlehem. Heaven and earth rejoice in this; all humans rejoice in the fact that our Creator did not abandon His creation, but came, in order to take on its fate. He became a person in order to share with them their life, its sorrows and joys, its anxieties and insecurities. God becomes one of us, shows himself as our Savior and Redeemer.

We rejoice in the Nativity of Christ because we no longer feel alone and abandoned, we celebrate that God is with us, that He loves us and we see the incarnation of God's love in the newly born Baby Jesus who tenderly rests

in the manger on straw. The mystery of the birth of our Redeemer exposes for us the truth how the great Godly opens to us through the weak human, how the human small and unmeaningful can become the Godly great!

The privilege of being near God's Child had together with the wise men from the east, only those who were not ashamed to be among the needy, the exiled, and the persecuted.

The Holy Gospel tells us that the Lord of the Universe was born in a family of refugees. First through the order of Caesar and then through the blood thirstiness of King Herod, the Holy Family was forced to leave its domicile and to ask for shelter among strangers. So Our God wanted to be born as homeless and a refugee! Due to such strange circumstances of the birth of the Savior, the privilege to be near God's Child had together with the wise men of the east only those who were not ashamed to be next to the needy, the exiled, and the persecuted. In opening to Him the doors of their hearts, their homes, in recognizing the sign of salvation in God who was born in a stable, these people were filled with divine joy during

the darkness of the night. Because the Sacrament of the Nativity is the ability to enter the presence of God and to meet the newly-born Christ through the ability of being nearby: to be next to the one who is powerless and unprotected, the one who suffers from the cold and the lack of the most necessary things.

Ukraine lived through a striking year in which everything was big: hope and sorrow, confidence and disappointment, gains and losses. Also the fear, felt by the Darkness was big, seeing that our passion for the Light may be victorious. And the Darkness sent upon us pain and blood, cripplehood and even death, so that people would be scared enough by these sufferings and turn back quietly to the old path of silent and non-contradictory subordination.

There is no Ukrainian who did not participate in this examination of God's Providence that continues to exist. In some sense we are all today in a risk zone, in the ATO zone. Similarly to the shepherds who in the place where they were leading their herd, heard the song of the angels in heaven and received the news about the birth of the Savior, so does each one of us have

one's place of spiritual adoration, one's blogpost on which one should fulfill one's own Christian and citizen's mission. And even if someone is tired and wants to avoid choices, nevertheless one makes them. Only in this case one's passivity permits one to play for the benefit of evil.

This year, our road to the Nativity was the road towards the wounded and the exiled. Our Church in the practical sense became a field hospital, developed in order to give a refuge to those being chased and to heal the wounds of the victims. However, even after the Maidan, the Church did not relinquish its function as a hospital, since that is its calling. Pope Francis reminds us of this: "I see the Church as a field hospital after a battle."

No one of us was ready for war, yet it lasts, and uninvited breaks into almost every Ukrainian home, especially in the eastern territories of our country. There emerges a danger that human sensitivity to misfortune and suffering of the neighbor will decrease. Christians know that indifference kills no less than the mechanisms of the HRAD artillery. The government's job is to **(continued on next page)**

# Christmas Epistle of His Beatitude Sviatoslav

(continued from previous page)

wisely solve the problem of assisting its suffering citizens. And the job of every Christian -- to be near, to be next to those who are in trouble. It is exactly this Christian unity with the needy that we call solidarity and that makes us stronger. Because it is through this that is seen, and through it is passed, the strength of the incarnated God, the act of the Savior, who was born in order to make us free and unconquerable in God. During Christmas time, each one of us looks up at the sky in the hope that we will see the light of the Bethlehem Star. But the New Year does not promise to be easier, nor will our choices be simpler.

Our greatest task in the Year 2015 is to find the road of civilized development and dignified life. In order to do this, we all have to dress in another garb -- that of a God's person, that is to give up undignified compromises with the evil one. This is a task that belongs to each one of us -- even the one who perceives oneself as the smallest in this world. To position one's life on the side of good, also makes enormous citizenship sense, because when the Ukrainian woman and the Ukrainian man will change,

then the whole country will also change. All together we have to dress it in the new jewelery of effective government structures which will finally cease to be the structures of sin. After all, a government can be a blessing if it becomes a service.

It is impossible to fulfill both tasks, without at least once feeling doubt, without making a mistake, without taking a step backwards. Let us not feel perfect pride --- better let us admit before God our weaknesses and quietly ask: God, help me with my weakness! A quiet person does not lose faith in their strength, because according to the words of Ivan Franko, "feels on his shoulder God's hand."

Therefore, let us remember that doubt, disappointment, revengeful desire to get even with someone who did not fulfill our expectations -- those are instruments with which Darkness most effectively renews its lost positions. Let us not assist Darkness to ruin our chances! Trouble does not lie in the fact that we are not able to do everything. Trouble lies in the fact that we give up.

We have one more tasks which we should never doubt. It is the task of

praying. The Maidan was victorious because people prayed fervently and sincerely. therefore, let us remember. Today, let us not permit that due to a certian kind of "Getting used to war", we weaken the intensity of our prayers. Let us direct all efforts of our soul that in our families and communities there be uninterrupted prayers for Ukraine, that in our government premises, as if in the poor Bethlehem manger, there shine the light of faith, that our hearts be cleansed, that new life be born. And then, possessing God's blessings, we will become the most happy people on earth.

During the dark night of uncertainty and anxiety, there sounds the ancestral carol which blows away all sadness and difficulties... With this Nativity good news, I would like to visit all the homes of good people who receive in their abode the newly-born God and Savior and rejoice in Christ's Nativity! Today we bring the Nativity Greetings to our soldiers who are celebrating this great feast in cold trenches and army shelters on the front lines ready to protect their people with their own bodies. With festive wishes of goodness and

well-being, we visit those who have lost their homes and the warmth of their own family. With the song of angels about peace on earth and glory in the highest, let us visit today those, who are saddened by the loss of family and close ones, those who suffer from wounds, and those who are in captivity or imprisoned.

Just as on this Christmas night, joy overcomes sadness, and heavenly light, the Darkness, so may in his Nativity our Savior fill us with the strength of choosing good over evil, truth over falsehood, and may heavenly peace overcome war.

To all of our faithful in Ukraine and in settlements, I wholeheartedly wish Happy Holydays of the Feast of Christ's Nativity, a delicious kutia, and melodious carols!

Christ is born! Let us glorify Him!

† SVIATOSLAV

Published in Kyiv at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ on the day of St. Mykolay, Archbishop Myr Lykiyskyj, Miracle Worker on December 19, Year of the Lord 2014

<http://news.ugcc.ua>

**OPEN HOUSE  
SLOATSBURG, NY  
February 8, 2015**



**In celebration of the *Year of Consecrated Life*,  
declared by Pope Francis,  
the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate  
invite you to join us for an *Open House*  
at our Motherhouse in Sloatsburg, NY  
on February 8, 2015  
from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**The Afternoon Includes:**

**11:00 am: *Sunday Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's Villa  
celebrated by the Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM  
Lunch follows***

**1:00 pm: *Tour of Motherhouse begins  
A DVD about the Sisters Servants and  
their Foundress, Blessed Josaphata Hordashevka  
Sisters speak about their life and work as Sisters Servants***

**3:30 pm: *Tour of St. Joseph's Adult Care Home and closing service***

**If you would like to celebrate this day with us,  
please call 845-753-2840  
or e-mail [srkath25@gmail.com](mailto:srkath25@gmail.com)  
by February 2, 2015**

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