



# THE WAY ШЛЯХ

Official Publication of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

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ENGLISH VERSION

## **PASTORAL MESSAGE OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE U.S.A. TO OUR CLERGY, HIEROMONKS AND BROTHERS, RELIGIOUS SISTERS, SEMINARIANS AND BELOVED FAITHFUL**

CHRIST IS BORN!

The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ this year will be celebrated within a Holy Year announced by Pope Francis. This extraordinary jubilee is dedicated to Divine Mercy. It began on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8th) and will conclude on November 20th, 2016. Our Holy Father expressed the hope that the whole Church will find “the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the Mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give



consolation to every man and woman of our time”. Pope Francis calls us to enter a journey that begins with a spiritual conversion. He calls all of us to live this year in the light of the Lord’s words: “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful”. (Luke 6:36)

The story of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ gives us glaring hints at how we might accept God’s mercy, how we may live it and how we witness it to the world which surrounds us.

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# PASTORAL MESSAGE OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE U.S.A.

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God's mercy is evident in how he intervened with the birth of His only begotten Son, Jesus in a time equally difficult and challenging as today. Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room in the Inn. God's love for humanity could not be curtailed by the busyness of that world. God's mercy is not withheld. Is there room in our hearts for Jesus amidst the busyness of today's demands and schedules? Are we aware of how much God's mercy surrounds us?

We are struck with the obedience of the shepherds who respond to the angel instructing them to seek the newborn King. We witness the serenity and peace of seeking Jesus in their simplicity and obedience. The three kings or astrologers seek Jesus and are clever enough to deceive Herod in avoiding telling him of the whereabouts of the newborn Jesus. Dedication to seek the truth of the Gospel and avoiding those who might derail us from meeting Jesus is exemplified. We come to understand what assists

us in understanding and accepting God's mercy.

God's presence and mercy was not desired by the authorities in Jesus' time. You will remember how Herod ordered the slaughter of all children under the age of two in his efforts to rid himself of Jesus' presence. The world today is filled with incidents and societal efforts to rid our surroundings of God's presence amidst us. Egoistic authorities attempt to exert domination over others to advance specific ideologies and the building of empires. We see this in our native Ukraine, in Syria and its neighboring countries, and in other parts of the world. We are humbled by today's witnesses and martyrs of faith who defend the rights of believers. They reveal the heavenly Father's mercy and summon our imitating them in our expression of mercy.

Joseph obediently listened to a warning given in a dream and protected Jesus and his mother Mary by fleeing into Egypt. We are called to understand the plight of

today's refugees in light of our witnessing God's mercy showered upon Joseph, Mary and Jesus who themselves were refugees. Our response to the plight of refugees should be no less than that which our heavenly Father showered upon the Holy Family.

Pope Francis speaks to us of a journey leading to spiritual conversion. Recall Jesus as a boy becoming lost as the Holy Family made a journey through the desert. His parents found Jesus in the temple teaching others. When you and I lose sight of our purpose in life or lose our way in the busyness and temptations of the world, we can find Jesus Christ, in His Holy temple, His Holy Church. God's mercy is present in and through His Holy Church and its ministers. Jesus is among us! God's mercy awaits to be generously poured out upon you as you enter into a deeper journey of faith. That journey ought to begin with availing oneself of the Sacrament of Reconciliation often. God's mercy is revealed as He listens to the outpouring of

your sorrows and sins. In His love for you, expressed through His priest, God reveals His understanding and love for you. God directs you to renewed life in Him in the compassionate advice offered by the priest and in the penance given. God's mercy is poured out upon you as you receive absolution of your sins.

Pope Francis asks that the door of every home become "the door of mercy". Ensure that the door of your home, the door of your Church, and the door of your heart all richly reflect openness to reveal the mercy of your heavenly Father. Express God's mercy by inviting and showing others whom you know, and strangers amidst you to God's Holy Door, the door leading to God's mercy.

We join our Holy Father in entrusting this Holy Year to the Mother of Mercy, "that she may turn her gaze upon us and watch over our journey". The door of the hearts and minds of your bishops of our Ukrainian Catholic

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# PASTORAL MESSAGE OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE U.S.A.

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Church in USA are open widely, expressing our love and appreciation for all in our Church. We remember you in our prayers humbly offered to Jesus Christ, as together, we celebrate His birth. May each of us grow in

our openness to receiving God's mercy. May we embrace the challenge to be as merciful as our heavenly Father. May we rejoice in offering rich testimony and witness to God's mercy in the life of the world.

We joyfully impart our episcopal blessings upon all as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and enter this jubilee year enthusiastically seeking our spiritual conversion.

+Richard Seminack  
Eparch of St. Nicholas in  
Chicago

+Paul Chomnycky,  
OSBM  
Eparch of Stamford

+ Bohdan Danylo  
Eparch of St. Josaphat in  
Parma

+John Bura  
Auxiliary Bishop of  
Philadelphia

Christ is Born!

+Stefan Soroka (author)  
Archbishop of  
Philadelphia for  
Ukrainians

Metropolitan of Ukrainian  
Catholics in the United  
States

Christmas 2015



## To Metropolitan Stefan and all our readership,

The entire staff of "The Way" greets all on this joyous  
Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

May the guiding light of the Bethlehem Star  
lead us to The Way of Christ -  
the path to salvation.

Therefore, let us all sing the Christmas carol,  
Boh Predvichny - God Eternal:

God Eternal is born today  
He came down from above  
To save us with His love  
Christ is Born! Christ, the Son of God.



# NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS - DECEMBER 25, 2015

MATTHEW 2:1-12

*When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, Magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw His star at its rising and come to do Him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, and by no means least among the rulers of Judah, since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the Magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the Child. When you have found Him, bring me word, so that I too may go and do him homage. After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising proceeded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the Child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and upon entering, they saw the Child with Mary His Mother. They prostrated themselves and did Him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their country by another route.*

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## HOLY SUPPER

Holy Supper is a tradition celebrated in Ukrainian homes on Christmas Eve. The house is especially clean. Festive clothing is worn. The table is set with embroidered linen, the finest china, and candles. Under the table and under the tablecloth some hay is strewn.

An extra setting is placed in honor of all the deceased members of the family. Kolach (the Christmas bread) is placed in the center of the table. This bread is braided with three rings symbolizing the Blessed Trinity, and circular rings, symbolizing the never-ending Eternity of God. A Didukh, sheaf of wheat stalks, is placed under the icons in the house. The stalks of grain represent all the family members and ancestors, whose spirit, it is believed, joins in the holy day festivities.

With the appearance of the First Star in the evening sky, Holy Supper begins with the singing of "God Eternal." The task of sighting the first star is assigned to the youngest family members, the children. Proshpora (bread) dipped in honey is given by the head of the household to each family member with the words: "CHRIST IS BORN!" And the response is: "GLORIFY HIM!" The communal sharing of bread and honey dates back to pre-Christian (pagan) times.

Kutya, boiled kernels of wheat with poppy seed and honey, is the main dish of the meal. In the Carpathian Mountains, bobalky (baked bread dough in small circular form) may be served instead of boiled wheat kernels with poppy seed and honey.

Soup such as meatless borshch (beet soup) is served. Various types of fish, such as herring and fried fillet, may be prepared. Varenyky (pyrohy) of different varieties, with potato, cheese, cabbage, or lekvar filling may be served. Meatless holubtsi (stuffed cabbage) is another dish. Garlic is also eaten with the meal. Fruit compote (uzvar) is served last with any other desserts, such as pampushky and beverage.



## Christmas Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav

**To the Most Reverend Archbishops and Metropolitans, God-loving bishops, honourable clergy, reverend religious, and beloved brothers and sisters in Ukraine and throughout the world.**

*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!* (Luke 2:14)

**Christ is born!  
Let us glorify Him!**

The evangelist Luke proclaims the words spoken by the angel who appeared to the shepherds: "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2: 10-11)

The joy of the Nativity of Christ, the good news of the birth in human flesh of the Son of God Himself, is like a powerful beam of eternal sunlight that descends today from heaven to earth.

**Christ is born!** These are the words with which the heavenly powers gladdened the hearts of

the shepherds who stood watch over their sheep. **Christ is born!** These tidings transformed night into day, sadness into consolation, waiting into the fulfilment of hope. **Christ is born!** This joy, which comes down from Heaven, inspires a person to act: to seek the Eternal God in a new-born babe, to serve Him as a neighbour, and to share this joy with others.

*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased.*

These are words from the Heavenly Liturgy, in which the angelic choirs praise God for His love towards His people. As participants and witnesses of this supernatural reality, the shepherds learn the true reason for the joy of Christmas. The Saviour has been born; in Him is disclosed the very core of our faith – faith in God's merciful love towards His creation, which makes us people upon whom His favour rests.

So it is that this heavenly hymn relates to each one of us! The angels glorify God on high for



the simple reason that He eternally bestows His good will upon His people, that is, He desires for them what is good. He is our highest benefactor. The eternal active love of God the Father flows throughout the history of the whole world and is incarnated in the person of His beloved Son, who is born today in Bethlehem. The Evangelist John teaches us about the good will of God in these words: "the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins." (1 John 4: 9-10)

*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace...*

Peace is one of the essential expressions of God's love for His people. No wonder the Old Testament prophets foretold that the coming of the Messiah on earth would bring peace on earth, grant people the gifts of love and justice, eliminate all evil and hatred, and restore harmony throughout the world. And so today we hear that Christ, the Prince of Peace, the Eternal King, upon whose shoulders rests all authority and honour, is the very same One of whom Isaiah spoke, now born at last. The peace, which the Lord brings, does not mean a temporary truce or a simple absence of war. A person obtains true peace only by reconciling with God and personally uniting with Him. The new-

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# Christmas Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav

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born Jesus unites and reconciles within Himself both God and mankind. As a result of this union and reconciliation, Christ becomes the source of peace in the whole world. The Apostle Saint Paul teaches us this about Christ – “For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility” (Ephesians 2:14)

How long God’s people awaited this peace, which Christ brought with His Nativity! With what eagerness the shepherds hastened to Bethlehem, and with what persistence the wise men from the East journeyed to the place of His birth. But how they must have been awed by the fact that they found that long-awaited peace, not in an earthly ruler, not in the cleverness of a skilled diplomat, not in the power of a well-formed army, but in a fragile new-born homeless infant. And what’s more, the foretold Prince of Peace, upon the moment of His birth, was forced to become a displaced person, a fugitive fleeing to escape the persecution of King Herod. This Wondrous Divine Wisdom, through

the Mystery of the Nativity, teaches us that God’s love, heavenly peace and glory come only when we humble ourselves before the least one among us, and that only in serving the needy will we meet God.

*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!*

With God’s help, we have lived through yet one more year – one more year of war. The suffering of our people has not ended; our trials have not come to an end. But we have survived and we carry on. To the surprise of the whole world, we have survived in the midst of immeasurable pain, loss of blood, and tears. In a war situation we’ve had to rethink the value and meaning of the words “peace” and “mercy”, “courage” and “humanity”, “allegiance” and “responsibility.” We have learned that such zeal is found in prayer. By releasing the power of prayer, together with the whole world, we sincerely and persistently continue to entreat God for peace.

The road to peace has become for us the

road to our neighbour. We are learning to be in solidarity. We are learning to recognize the needs of our soldiers at the front as our needs. We are learning to be concerned about the pain of those who have lost family members and friends, and the pain of the wounded and imprisoned, as if it were our own pain. In the midst of ever greater needs, economic hardships, corruption still present everywhere and lack of effective political management, we have not lost compassion for our neighbour, but have become more responsible and bolder in defending dignity. We continue to share with those in need: what we have, what we know and can do, what we believe in – and what we are. The way to our victory in Christ is that which unites, reconciles and makes us community. Solidarity, compassion and trust give us hope in God and reveal to us the true road to peace.

It is in this nationwide solidarity in faith, hope and love that we feel the active presence of God among us and His real birth in our homeland. The path to our neighbour has become for millions

of Ukrainians the path to God’s love. We might say that in this wondrous good will of God for us, in this solidarity, we have discovered the key to victory, for, as the Apostle Paul teaches us: “When God is with us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)

Let us celebrate this Christmas together with those who have become displaced, those who have lost their loved ones, their possessions and their homes. In this Holy Year of the Mercy of God, may the doors of our homes, open to the needy, be, in the words of Pope Francis, the doors of the mercy of God. Hence whoever walks through them may experience the flow of God’s merciful love, love which forgives our sins, heals the wounds of our souls and bodies, transforms sadness into joy, and makes all that is weak strong and invincible.

By welcoming the refugees, the poor and the suffering, we welcome into our homes, into our families and into our communities the Son of God Himself- the Font of

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# Christmas Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav

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God's peace. Let us not ask what language they speak, what church they attend, or what beliefs they hold. Rather let us be interested in what hurts them, where their loved ones are, and how we may help them. With our prayers and acts of mercy let us approach together with them the manger in which Christ is resting. It is in them, precisely, that we will be able to welcome the new-born Saviour. And it is precisely in this way that we will enter into reconciliation with God and with our brothers and sisters, and bring God's peace to our greatly suffering Ukrainian land.

On this joyful bright feast of the Nativity of Christ, I wish to express to all of you, dearly beloved in Christ, heartfelt greetings. I desire to convey this joy to every home, to the dugouts at the front, to the hospitals where the wounded are recovering, to the dwelling places of hundreds of thousands of displaced brothers and sisters, to those in Ukraine, and those in the diaspora— to all I desire today to send a word of comfort and hope, the source of which is the birth of the Saviour.

With the good news of the Nativity of Jesus Christ, I wish to visit those of you who have opened the doors of your hearts to God and neighbour, and I wish to pass through the Doors of Mercy together with you in this Holy Year. While sharing the joyful news of the birth of Christ-God, I long to shake the hands of our brave soldiers who safeguard our Christmas, to comfort the sorrowful, to wipe the tears of those who are weeping, to strengthen the faith of those who doubt that good will triumph over evil.

Standing today before the altar of God, I sense an extraordinary solidarity with the vast family of our particular Church, which has gathered together around the Lord's Table here on earth and in God's glory on high. May the new-born Saviour hear all our prayers, keep our nation and our leaders in peace and wellbeing and bestow upon them His heavenly blessing.

Wishing you a blessed Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, a tasty kutia and a happy new year!

**Christ is born!  
Let us glorify Him!**

**+ Sviatoslav**

Issued in Kyiv, at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, on the feast of the praiseworthy First-Called Apostle, Saint Andrew, and the beginning of the Jubilee Year of Divine Mercy December 13, 2015

[http://archeparchy.ca/news\\_details.php?news\\_id=294](http://archeparchy.ca/news_details.php?news_id=294)

Plan to attend the **2016 WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER** to celebrate

## Women as Caregivers:

### Spiritual, Pastoral and Practical Matters

*Come pray, reflect and grow while being enlightened and strengthened through the scriptures and listening to other women caregivers as they share their experiences.*

*This year's Women's Day of Prayer will be held on:*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2016**

*at the*

**Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of  
the Holy Family**

*4520 Harewood Road, Northeast  
Washington, D. C.*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2016**

*at*

**St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic  
Church**

*430 North Seventh Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania*

*Our day begins with Divine Liturgy (11:30 a.m. at the Shrine of the Holy Family;*

*10:30 a.m. at St. Vladimir's).*

*Lunch and the program follow the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.*

*Additional details will be forthcoming.*

# Come and see the Traditional Ukrainian Christmas Display at the Treasury of Faith Museum

Courtesy of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Inc.  
Branch 88, Philadelphia Regional Council

**TREASURY OF FAITH MUSEUM**  
810 North Franklin Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19123  
(215) 627-3389



## **TRADITIONAL UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS DISPLAY SCHEDULE 2015-2016**

Sunday, December 20, 2015 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm  
Special instructions for children (catechism)

Sunday, December 27, 2015 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

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Sunday, January 3, 2016 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Sunday, January 10, 2016 - 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm (before the Christmas concert)





## METROPOLITAN ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA

Ukrainian Catholic

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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19123-2097

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No. 665/2015 O

*This Number Should be Prefixed to Your Reply*

Office of the Metropolitan

December, 2015

### CONFRONT THE DEFICIT

I want to share with you, the clergy and faithful of our Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, of a troubling situation facing us. We are beginning to operate with annual deficits; that is not being able to meet the increasing costs facing the administration and operation of our archeparchy. I want to provide some information on the situation and offer a proposal to deal with the deficit.

Part of the deficit is due to a good thing – the development of new missions and parishes. This is a central mission of our Church and is an investment for our success in fulfilling our mission to evangelize. The Archeparchy needs to be able to fulfill this mission zealously.

Costs of maintaining buildings are rising for all of us. It will be an increasing cause of our annual deficits. The maintenance of our buildings in Philadelphia – the Cathedral, Cathedral Rectory, Cathedral Hall, Chancery, the former convent and former school buildings, and the Bishops' Residence all have increased considerably. All of the buildings are now in good repair and are sound structures. However, we have too many buildings to maintain. There is considerable underutilized space in the buildings next to our Cathedral. This is simply beyond our continued ability to maintain financially.

I propose adapting available space in the former convent building and in the school building to accommodate both the Cathedral Rectory and the Chancery operations. Some accommodating and down-sizing will be required. Yet, it is very feasible. All of our operations would thus be located in the Cathedral complex of four buildings, securely fenced in and with parking. Such a move would free up the existing Cathedral Rectory and the Chancery Building for rental income. This income would cover the deficit and provide necessary operating income without having to tax the parishes with additional burdens. We have not placed an increase on parish taxes since 2005. We well understand that parishes are also facing escalating costs of maintenance and operation.

Such a move will require some funds to cover some required upgrades to the existing buildings. An elevator needs to be installed in the school building to facilitate handicap access. We will have to do this at some time soon in any case. Handicap access to the Cathedral Rectory will be via a new ramp. The area of the school building where Chancery facilities will be located will need the installation of telephone and computer access. These are one-time costs. The cost for such a move is estimated at \$500,000.

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# CONFRONT THE DEFICIT

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The potential income from rental of the Cathedral Rectory and Chancery complex is estimated to be in excess of \$ 300,000 annually. It makes sense to adapt and make the move. The alternative of meeting deficits by raising taxes on parishes or selling assets would be of short term benefit. This move would generate a source of income beyond our existing capabilities.

We have already begun the process. The existing museum has been consolidated onto one floor. The Cathedral Rectory is in the process of moving into the former convent building. Its current space will be prepared for rental. We need to progress immediately with the installation of an elevator for the school building, the most costly need.

My simple and heartfelt request of our parishes and of our faithful and friends of the Archeparchy is this. Please help us by offering a generous donation to our campaign to **“CONFRONT THE DEFICIT”**. Let’s be a part of responding to this challenge with a solution which will help for many years to come. Your response will enable us to be the Church we are called to be by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your anticipated understanding and for your generous support enabling our moving forward! God bless you in ways only He can!

*Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka*



**Chancery**

To donate make checks payable to: Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia  
827 North Franklin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

To donate on the web using PayPal, please visit our website and select the option to support the  
Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

<http://www.ukrarcheparchy.us/index.php?categoryid=105>

*Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

**METROPOLITAN STEFAN'S SCHEDULE  
DECEMBER, 2015**

**DECEMBER**

- 1 MEETING AT TREASURY OF FAITH MUSEUM REGARDING SPECIAL UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS DISPLAY.
- 2 MEETING OF COLLEGE OF CONSULTORS OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA.
- 3 ATTENDED VIEWING AT FUNERAL, WOODSTOWN, NJ
- 4 MEETING WITH ARCHITECT PLANNING FOR HANDICAPPED ACCESS AT SCHOOL BLDG.  
MEETING OF TRIBUNAL OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC ARCHEPARCHY.
- 9 DIVINE LITURGY FOR BENEFACTORS OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA ON FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF ST. ANNE.
- 10 STAFF PRE-CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION.
- 13 DIVINE LITURGY AT ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, FRACKVILLE, PA.  
AFTERNOON – PARTICIPATION IN PARISH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT.
- 14 CLOSING OF PURCHASE OF RESIDENCE FOR PRIEST FOR HOLY MYRRH-BEARERS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, SWARTHMORE, PA.
- 15 DIVINE LITURGY AND FESTAL CELEBRATION WITH SISTERS OF ORDER OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT, FOX CHASE, PA.
- 16 MEETING WITH INSURANCE BROKERS REGARDING PROPERTY AND LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR ARCHEPARCHY AND ALL PARISHES.
- 19 VISIT WITH 385 STUDENTS AND STAFF OF UKRAINIAN HERITAGE SCHOOL AT UKRAINIAN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL CENTER, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
- 21 TRAVEL TO ST. JOSAPHAT UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC SEMINARY.
- 22 MEETING WITH BISHOP BORYS GUDZIAK, HEAD OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, BISHOP JOHN BURA (ARCHIEPARCHIAL AMBASSADOR), UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN USA STRATEGY IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.
- 24 5:00 PM “SVIAT VECHIR” WITH PHILADELPHIA CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS.  
9:00 PM HIERARCHICAL CHRISTMAS DIVINE LITURGY AT UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
- 25 9:00 AM HIERARCHICAL CHRISTMAS DIVINE LITURGY AT UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
- 26 SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS – DIVINE LITURGY AT UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
- 27 9:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY AT UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, PHILADELPHIA, PA.  
FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN, PROTOMARTYR, FESTAL CELEBRATION WITH CLERGY AND THEIR FAMILIES.
- 28 CELEBRATION OF ST. STEPHEN WITH SISTERS SERVANTS OF MARY IMMACULATE, DIVINE LITURGY FOLLOWED BY FESTAL DINNER.

## The Icon of the Nativity of Christ

Icons have a long history in the Byzantine tradition, especially in Ukraine. They can be paintings on wood plaques or on plaster walls, mosaics of stone or tiles, or enamel work on metal. Some might feel that icons do not compare in beauty to realistic paintings or other works of art, but that is exactly why icons are different and special in their own right.

The icon is meant to be a representation of a sacred subject—it is meant to reflect truths not of this world; because of this, icons could not be expected to look life-like. Whatever the subject of the icon, it is a symbol of something in the spiritual realm—it is not beautiful for the sake of beauty alone, as many life-like paintings are, but only in a way that aids in its depiction of spiritual beauty. Because the icon is made to help the viewer see Divine reality, because it is meant to be looked upon as a religious image, it does not emphasize the carnal or physical world. In fact, in its abstractness, its starkness, its singularity, and its somber use of color, the icon is purposely avoiding the representation of “real life”—and when one

understands the purpose of the icon, one can better appreciate the solemn spiritual truths which it is depicting.

As part of this tradition of iconography, the Nativity icon usually represents certain facts surrounding the Birth of Jesus Christ. Although different nativity icons will at a glance seem to vary, if one examines them as a whole, there are several of the same symbolic representations expressed on all of them.

Nativity icons are meant to show two things to the viewer: first, that the Birth of Christ was a real event—one that happened here on earth; and second, the effect that this miraculous event, that is the fact that Jesus, who is God and therefore Divine, also became man with His birth, had on the world and on all creation.

The Birth of Christ is a celebration of joy. The fact that God became man and entered into our human life is seen in the Icon of the Nativity. Wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger is the Christ Child. All the details of the Icon relate to His



presence. This presence shines radically with the black opening of the cave in which He was born. This contrast is often seen in the Fathers’ writings in terms of the spiritual light of Christ’s birth radiating through the shadow of death encompassing man. The black mouth of the cave, then symbolically, is precisely this fallen world in which the “Sun of Righteousness” has dawned, this wilderness which the “Light of Wisdom” has illumined.

The Virgin Mother is shown half-sitting, supported by

a hammock-type bed used by the early Jews in their travels. Striking is the absence of the usual sufferings of childbirth which is iconographically seen to be an indication of the virgin-birth of Christ.

As in the Gospel, all mankind is called to this event. The Wise Men represent the learned and astute, and the shepherds represent the humble of this world. A multitude of Angels give glory to God and announce this good news to mankind.

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# The Icon of the Nativity of Christ

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In the Icon, several episodes are grouped together and shown simultaneously. In the bottom left corner, Joseph sits in painful thought, while the Devil, under the guise of an old and bent shepherd, suggests new doubts and suspicions to him. In the opposite corner, two women are seen bathing the new-born Infant, to show the real humanity of Jesus.

All of creation takes part in the birth of the Savior. In the cave, the Infant lies guarded by an ox

and a donkey. While the Gospels do not speak of them, all icons of the Nativity portray them because of the manifest fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, "An ox knows its owner, and an ass its master's manger." (Is. 1: 3) The mountainside is a backdrop to the event. While it bears little correspondence to the terrain of Bethlehem in Judea, it parallels a line from the prayer of the Prophet Habakkuk: "God comes from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Haran. Covered are the heavens with His glory,

and with His praise the earth is filled." (Heb. 3: 3)

One final detail is the tree painted across from the image of Joseph, included not only in its own right as an offering to Christ, but also as a symbol of the Tree of Jesse. In the words of the Prophet Isaiah, "But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him." (Is. 11: 1-2)

The Icon of the Nativity

calls us to praise and glorify the Birth of Christ. With the hymns of Vespers we too say: "What shall we bring to You, O Christ, Who, for our sake, was born on earth as man? Every creature brings thanks to you: Angels their songs; the heavens a star; Wise Men gifts; Shepherds amazement; the earth a cave; the wilderness a manger; but we -the Virgin Mother."

Adapted from "God-with-us" icon packet

## Parishioners from Berwick, PA Decorate a tree for "TreeFest"



Parishioners of SS Cyril and Methodius Church in Berwick, PA once again sponsored and decorated a Christmas tree at the annual TreeFest held at the Caldwell Consistory in Bloomsburg, PA. The parish has participated in the project each year since 2010. The tree, decorations, food and gifts placed under it goes to a needy family in Columbia County once the festival is completed the week after Thanksgiving. This year there were 130 trees displayed. The theme of St Cyril's tree was "Pray for Peace in Ukraine" and featured blue and yellow decorations, topped with a three dimensional trizub. Pictured in front of the tree (forming a semi-circle starting from the rear-left) are Patrick McLaughlin, Joseph Roll, Gina McLaughlin, Marjorie Matash, Joanne Serafin, Janina Everett, Jane Keefer, and Stephen Matash.

# Frackville church hosts annual Candlelight Christmas Pageant

BY JOHN E. USALIS,  
Republican Herald

**FRACKVILLE** — The true meaning of Christmas was on display at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church on Sunday, December 13, 2015, as parish children were part of a living Nativity performance.

The parish held the 12th annual Candlelight Christmas Pageant, which was told mostly by children and a few adults playing the parts of those who were part of the biblical story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

The children played the main parts, telling the story from when Mary received the announcement from the Archangel Gabriel that she would bring into the world the Messiah, who would be named Jesus, to the visit by the three Magi or "Wise Men" bringing their gold, frankincense and myrrh as gifts to the newborn king.

The pageant, under the direction of Donna Spotts and Tanya Meridionale, had a special guest with the attendance of Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian



**Candlelight Christmas Pageant at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, Frackville on Sunday, December 13, 2015. (Photo: DAVID MCKEOWN)**

Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia and spiritual head of all Ukrainian Catholics in the United States.

The cast processed through the church and took their positions before the iconostasis, or icon wall, as a brass ensemble played "O Come, All Ye Faithful."

Narrator Sofiya Pitula told the Christmas story, reading a portion of the story as the children portrayed the particular scene. The first scene was Mary, portrayed by Pam Mrocicka, being visited by the Archangel Gabriel, played by John Meridionale, with Mary being joined by Joseph,

portrayed by Petro Pitula.

"And it came to pass in those days that the angel, Gabriel, was sent from God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth," Sofiya Pitula said, reading a passage from the Bible. "He came to a virgin named Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph of the House of David. And appearing to her, the angel said, 'The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.' Mary was troubled at the sight of him, and by his words. And the angel said to her, 'Do not fear, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you shall conceive and bring forth a son, and you shall

call him Jesus.' "

Between each narration, Christmas carols were sung by the cast and the audience, making the program an interactive one. There were also a performance by students from Deb Kosick's Music Studio singing a Ukrainian carol called "Vo Vifleyemee Ninee Novina."

"The shepherds rose to follow the star as it shone in the East, when suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly hosts, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth,

**(continued on next page)**

# Frackville church hosts annual Candlelight Christmas Pageant

(continued from previous page)

good will toward me!’ ” Sofiya Pitula said.

Mary and Joseph sat near the manger with baby Jesus, portrayed by Evan Mroczka, in it. Angels, shepherds and the Magi, portrayed by Nicholas Meridionale, Logan Ludwig and Michael Spotts, visited the holy family.

Following the singing of “Silent Night,” Sofiya Pitula said, “Although hundreds of years have passed, we still celebrate the birthday of that babe of Bethlehem and the wonderful happiness of the first Christmas still lives in our hearts. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders and his name shall be called wonderful, counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

As everyone in the church sang “Boh Predvichny” (Eternal God) in English and Ukrainian, candles held by everyone were lighted and the lights in the church were dimmed.

“It’s hard to find the words to say thank you for all those performers, all

those professionals, for all these years in dedicating your time, efforts and your professionalism in showing us this beautiful program about Christ’s birth, about Christmas, and sharing the words of Christ around the world starting with us,” the Rev. Roman Pitula, pastor, said.

Pitula welcomed Soroka to the podium to speak in the filled church.

“We heard the children sing so beautifully and thank you for expressing that which you sang, to see what we are called to see and hear what we’re called to hear in the Nativity story,” Soroka said. “This fine pageant by all of you children helps us to come to understand the real invitation of celebrating Christmas.”

Soroka said God invited so many to be part of the coming of Christ into the world, including Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the Magi.

“In your beautiful special way, in your simplicity and your kindness, even in the way you jostle around while you’re playing, you children you help us, you



**Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka speaks during the Candlelight Christmas Pageant. (Photo: DAVID MCKEOWN)**

remind us, as grown-up on the invitation of our Lord to come to know this Jesus,” Soroka said. “And this is my prayer for all of you children, for all of us, that this pageant be a reminder to us of how God wants to intervene in each of our lives to remind us how much he wants us to seek this Jesus in our lives, to seek him in our prayers, to seek in this holy temple, and to pray with one another, to seek him in those we love and those we have forgiven, to share our lives and show mercy to them, to celebrate the gift of life.”

Also participating in the pageant were Sarah Halupa as the star holder; shepherds, Nicholas Ludwig, Ryan Ludwig, Henry Evans, Evan Damiter, Yuri Pitula, Logan Damiter, Dominik Boxer and

Brandon Fetterolf; angels Carlee Smulligan, Emma Fetterolf, Sara Boxer, Isla Evans and Victoria Mroczka; villagers Maria Spotts and Nicole Merchlinsky; and guitar accompaniment by Stephen Mazur.

At the end of the pageant, people moved to the parish hall for a covered dish social, which was offered free. Homemade hot foods, sides and desserts were available. At the end of the meal, Saint Nicholas arrived and took his place at the front of the hall, where he visited with the children and distributed gifts. Deacon Paul Spotts presented gifts to many volunteers in the parish.

<http://republicanherald.com/news/frackville-church-hosts-annual-candlelight-christmas-pageant-1.1982955>

## Hillside, NJ children inspire St. Nicholas

**Hillside, NJ** – St. Nicholas was very pleased with the children and parishioners of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hillside (Union County), NJ on Sunday, December 6, 2015. Although he really enjoyed the children's entertainment program performed in his honor, St. Nicholas was most pleased to learn that the children asked their Religious Education instructors to reverse their decision to give the children a "day off" from their regular Sunday Religious Education classes.



St. Nicholas was inspired by the children's love of their faith and the children's passionate request to have their classes despite a very busy Sunday.

The children honored St. Nicholas by presenting the following bilingual holiday entertainment program:

- A Special Village performance (Julia and Emilia Pelesz; Matthew & Elisabeth Dolowy; Julianna, Ariana & Nicholas Shatynski; Kathryn Homann; Peter & Arthur Hrycak; Julia & Sophia Boney; Ashley and Nichole Santoro; Emilie; Nika Yanchak, and Nadya Howansky – under the artistic direction of Christine Bohacz)
  - Christmas music performed on the flute, piano, violin, clarinet, guitar and saxophone
  - Several vocal selections of Christmas melodies



Rev. Vasyl Vladyka, Parish Administrator, led the attendees in prayer and koliady. Russ Pencak served as liaison to St. Nicholas. Mike Szpyhulsky served as emcee.

Additional photos can be found on the parish website [www.byzcath.org/ImmaculateConception](http://www.byzcath.org/ImmaculateConception)



## Northeastern Pennsylvania's Malanka 2016

Northeastern Pennsylvania's 12th annual MALANKA is scheduled for Saturday evening, January 16, 2016 from 6:00pm to 12:30am at St. Vladimir Parish Center, 728 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton. The festive evening will include a generous Ukrainian and American dinner buffet catered by Paul Wanas of Accentuate Caterers, cash bar, complimentary bubbly toast and dancing to the popular Ukrainian orchestra "Fata Morgana". Door prizes will be awarded.



Tickets are \$45.00 per person and can be obtained as by contacting Michael Trusz, Ticket Chairman at 570 489-1256 or via one's parish: SS. Cyril and Methodius, Berwick and St. Nicholas, Glen Lyon - Janina Everett 570 759-2824; St. Vladimir, Edwardsville, SS. Peter & Paul, Wilkes-Barre, Holy Transfiguration, Hanover/Nanticoke and SS. -Peter & Paul, Plymouth - Andrew Jamula 570 822-5354; SS. Cyril and Methodius, Olyphant and SS. Peter and Paul, Simpson - Sandra Berta 570 383-9487; St. Michael, Scranton - Vera Krewsun 570 961-1795; St. Vladimir, Scranton - Shirley Nidoh 570 344-5359.

No tickets will be sold at the door, therefore advance reservations are required. Wearing Ukrainian apparel is encouraged. Doors will open at 5:45pm. Divine Liturgy at 4:30pm

## St. Nicholas visits parish in Washington, DC

On December 6, the St. Josaphat Council 7530 Knights of Columbus hosted a special event to welcome St. Nicholas to the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family in Washington, DC. St. Nicholas recounted his life, explained his legacy, and distributed gift bags to the children of the parish and their families.

**Pictured with St. Nicholas are Fr. Mark Morozowich, Fr. Robert Hitchens, and Fr. Wasyl Kharuk.**



**ЗАПРОШУЄМО  
НА  
НОВОРІЧНУ  
ЗАБАВУ**

що відбудеться  
**31 ГРУДНЯ 2015**  
у залі  
УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ КАТОЛИЦЬКОЇ ЦЕРКВИ СВЯТОГО АРХИСТРАТИГА МИХАІЛА  
за адресою:  
1700 Brooks Blvd. HILLSBOROUGH, NJ 08844

і розпочнеться о 8.00 вечора  
на вас чекають:  
СМАЧНІ СТРАВИ, РОЗВАГИ ТА ТАНЦІ  
З ГУРТОМ  
**"НОВИЙ ДЕНЬ"**

Вступ - \$75.00 від особи (\$85.00 - після 15 грудня)  
Діти 13-18 років %45.00  
до 12 років \$15.00



За квитками і додатковою інформацією звертайтеся до:  
(917)-355-5434 - Надія Гакало  
(908)-448-8466 - Марія Вовк  
(609)-933-8966 - Тая Шимків


**РІЗДВ'ЯНО-НОВОРІЧНА ПРОГРАМА**  
вокально-інструментального ансамблю  
**ВАТРА**  
**"Від МИКОЛАЯ до ЙОРДАНА"**

керівник – Андрій КУЧЕРЕПА  
соліст – Володимир ПИТЕЛЬ

Бере участь бандурист  
**Остап СТАХІВ**



**Українська Католицька Церква Успіння  
Пресвятої Богородиці**  
шкільний зал  
684 Alta Vista Place, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861  
**СУБОТА, 2 СІЧНЯ - початок о 6:00 год вечора**  
Квитки на концерт можна придбати при вході  
Вступ - \$25; діти (6-12) - \$15  
телефон для довідок 732-826-0767



**"The Way"  
Holiday Schedule**

The first 2016 issue of "The Way" will be the January 10, 2016 Issue.

Visit our website, blog, or Facebook page for any news or updates.  
<http://www.ukrarcheparchy.us>

Sponsored by Ukrainian Assumption Church

**New Years Eve  
Zabava**

Fabulous buffet dinner served all evening in New Jersey's BIGGEST & BEST Hall!

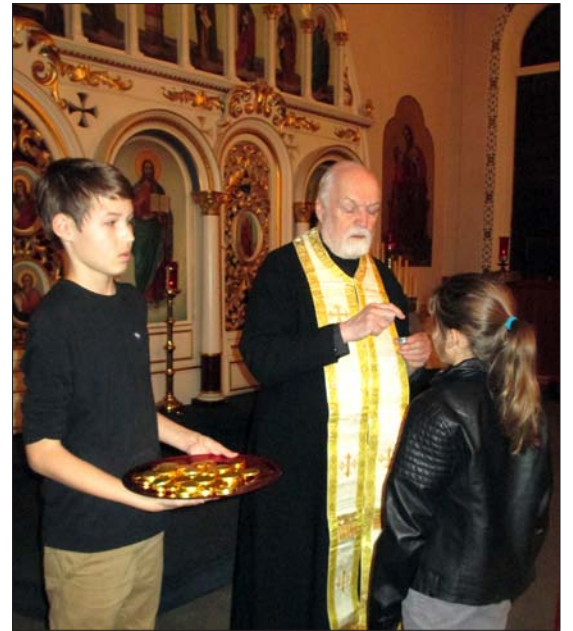
Thursday  
December 31, 2015  
at 8:00 p.m.

**Music by "Anna-Maria"**

Tickets - \$80.00 per person  
Children (5-12) - \$40.00  
Tickets after Dec. 25, - \$90.00  
For Tickets Call:  
732-826-0767 or 202-368-2408  
Assumption Catholic School Auditorium  
380 Meredith St., Perth Amboy, NJ 08861  
No refunds - No tickets at the door

## Students from Northampton, PA learn about St. Nicholas

Religious Education Students attended a St. Nicholas discussion with Father David Clooney at St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Northampton PA. The children also received their "gold" coins from Father Clooney!



## Annual Christmas Play in Northampton, PA

Religious Education Students at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Northampton, PA held a Christmas Play on Tuesday, December 8, 2015.

Father David Clooney attended the Christmas Play along with Parents and Grandparents of the Religious Education Students; it was a "full house." After the Christmas Play, everyone enjoyed homemade cookies and juice. The event was a huge success.



**Fr. David Clooney poses for a picture with the Religious Education Students after the Christmas Play.**

# St. Nicholas visits St. Anne's Parish in Warrington, PA

## WARRINGTON, PA -

On Sunday, December 6, 2015 the children of St Anne Ukrainian Catholic Church Religious Education Program under the direction of Adrienna Wilbourne and Samantha Drob presented their annual Christmas Pageant to our Parish Family. The children were wonderful and made us laugh and we saw how they truly enjoyed themselves too. Afterwards, everyone walked over to our Activity Center and awaited the arrival of St. Nicholas. Everyone was so happy to hear that St Nicholas was able to take time out of his busy schedule to visit our Parish Family. He spent time with each child and then presented them with beautiful ornaments. He then stopped to talk to everyone as he left to continue his trip to visit other Parishes. We all then enjoyed the delicious foods prepared by our Parish Family members. It was the biggest turnout we've ever had which has grown every year. A great time was had by all and everyone left with happy memories! Father Vasil was thanked for being our wonderful Priest and always supporting our Parish Family with his advice and kind words.

Submitted by Helene Zadworniak Michalko



**Fr. Vasil Bunik poses for a picture with the Religious Education Program performers after the Christmas Pageant.**



**St. Nicholas arrives!**



**Potluck Luncheon**

## Ukrainian Scouts bring "Peace Light" to Perth Amboy

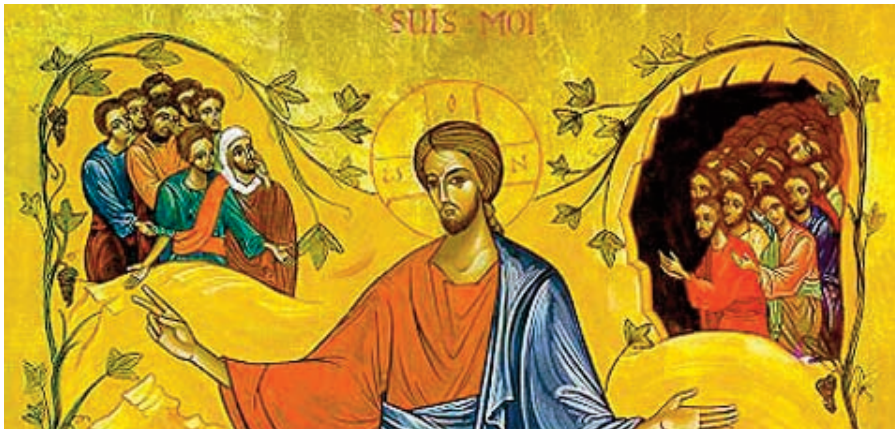


Peace Light from Bethlehem was brought to Assumption Church in Perth Amboy, NJ on Saturday, December 5th, 2015 by the "Plastuny" and "Sumivtsi" (Ukrainian Scouts). After the Liturgy a short explanation about the history of the flame was given by Plastunka Larissa Wowk. In her presentation she mentioned that the flame was lit earlier this month from oil lamps in Bethlehem at the Grotto of the Nativity, the place where tradition holds that Jesus was born and where oil lamps are said to have been kept burning continuously for over 1,000 years.

## Children welcome St. Nicholas to Perth Amboy, NJ

On Sunday December 6, 2015 following the 9:00 AM and the 11:30 AM Liturgy, St. Nicholas made his annual visit to the children of the Assumption Parish in Perth Amboy, NJ. The event was held at the church hall, which was filled 82 excited youngsters with their families and friends. The visit started with children welcoming St. Nicholas by singing the traditional St. Nicholas Song, "O kto, kto Nikolaja l'ubit". Before distributing his gifts, St. Nicholas encouraged all the children to be good, to obey their parents, to remember to say their prayers and to come to church on Sundays. We thank St. Nicholas for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit the children.





A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE SOUTH ANTHRACITE DEANERY YOUTH

# Illuminated Church Youth Chatter

December, 2015

This Publication, a Gift to the Youth and Young Adults of this Deanery, is, I hope, interesting to you and will help you grow in your relationship with God. Please send your comments and ideas for future issues. Thank you to everyone who submitted suggestions for the title to this publication--20 great titles were received. The one chosen is a combination of 2 submissions: **Church Chatter** by Alan Evens and **Youth Illuminations** by *no name*. Together, the first letters form the word **ICYC** (*Jesus*).  
*Sr. Natalya, SSMA* [sisternatalya@gmail.com](mailto:sisternatalya@gmail.com)

## Bringing Our Gifts to the Cave



God's time is different from our time. We think in terms of linear time - things begin and end at a particular time, but in God's time, there is no beginning or end. Therefore, all things can happen at the same time in God's time and so, we can become part of the events in the life of Jesus. We do not simply remember, but we are present, along with all the generations that were and that will be.

When we look at the Icon of the Nativity, we see all the things that we read about in the Gospels are visible at the same time: Jesus in the cave, the shepherds in the fields, the Wise Men coming to visit the child, the midwives, and even Joseph trying to understand the event.

We are told that on the holy night when Our Lord was born, all creation participated in the wonder of His birth by giving a gift to Him.



The earth gave Him a cave in the wilderness.



The heavens gave Him a star.



The animals gave Him their warmth.



The angels gave Him their song of thanks.



The poor shepherds gave Him their praise and amazement.



The magi brought Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, though they did not perceive the mystery of these gifts. Gold represented His royalty; frankincense - the dignity of His divinity; and myrrh - His death.



Finally, humanity gave His Mother - the Virgin Mary.

Now this is the question for each of us: **'As we enter into this season of the Nativity of Our Lord, how will we participate in the feast? What will we give to the Child born on this holy night?'**

St. Isaac the Syrian, in the 7th century, makes these suggestions in his Nativity Sermon. They are as appropriate today as they were during his lifetime.

*"This Nativity night bestowed peace on the whole world - So let no one threaten;*

*This is the night of the Most Gentle One - Let no one be cruel;*

*This is the night of the Humble One - Let no one be proud.*

*Now is the day of joy - Let us not revenge;*

*Now is the day of Good Will - Let us not be mean.*

*In this Day of Peace - Let us not be conquered by anger.*

*Today the Bountiful impoverished Himself for our sake; So, rich one, invite the poor to your table.*

*Today we receive a Gift for which we did not ask - So let us give alms to those who implore and beg us.*

*This present Day cast open the heavenly doors to our prayers - Let us open our door to those who ask our forgiveness.*

*Today the DIVINE BEING took upon Himself the seal of our humanity, in order for humanity to be decorated by the Seal of DIVINITY."*

Our world, today, is in need of gentleness, humility, joy, good will, peace, generosity, forgiveness, love.

Is it possible for us to choose to bring these gifts to the cave, when we visit the New-born Lord on Christmas during this year of Mercy? And, are we willing to live these gifts during the new year? Our challenge is to find ways to share these gifts with one another - in our families, in school, at work, wherever we go. This can be our way of making the world a better place in 2016.

(continued on next page)

**Christmas Trivia**



In England, Christmas was banned for a time by the Puritan Oliver Cromwell in 1649 who outlawed both Christmas carols and Christmas celebrations. This ban lasted until 1660. Even in the Colonies, it was illegal in Boston to observe Christmas from 1659 to 1681.



Traditionally, Christmas carols were sung outside of church and not brought inside until St. Francis of Assisi introduced the idea of bringing them into the church as part of the worship services, during the late 13th century.



The word "noel" is derived from the French saying "Les bonnes nouvelles" meaning "the good news." The first noel, then, was the good news that Jesus, our Savior, is born.



The word "holly" is rooted in the word "holy." The Christmas holly decoration represents Christ's crown of thorns and the red berries, His very own blood.



In 1914, during WWI, a "Christmas Truce" was declared between the British and the Germans. This began when troops on both sides took Christmas Eve off from the war and began singing Christmas carols. They came out to greet each other, shake hands and even exchange cigarettes as gifts.

For more information and/or questions, please contact any of our South Anthracite Parishes:

Mt. Carmel - Centralia [www.sspeterandpaulmc.org](http://www.sspeterandpaulmc.org)

Shenandoah - St. Clair [www.first-ukrainian.com](http://www.first-ukrainian.com)

Minersville - Middleport  
St. Nicholas Church  
415 N. Front St. Minersville, PA 17954  
570-544-4581

Frackville -Maizeville [www.stmichaelucc.com](http://www.stmichaelucc.com)

Shamokin [www.transfigurationchurchshamokin.com](http://www.transfigurationchurchshamokin.com)

McAdoo - Hazelton  
Patronage of the Mother of God Church  
210 W.Blaine St. McAdoo, PA 18237  
570 -929-2804

**The Icon of the Nativity of Our Lord**

In the center of the icon, the blackest part, we see the Baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes. Into the darkness of a world that did not know God, Christ - the Light of the World, was born. The manger looks more like a tomb than a crib and the swaddling clothes more like the wrapping of a mummy than a baby. This reminds us of the reason that the Son of God was born into the world - to save us by His death. Next to the manger lies the Mother of God, facing us and drawing us to Her Son.

In the cave, looking on, are a donkey and an ox, and, even though they are just animals lacking the intelligence of people, they know that the Messiah has been born and so, there is a slight smile on their faces. The star above, shines on the place where the Messiah was born. All creation rejoices.

At the bottom left we see Joseph being tempted by Satan, to doubt that Jesus is the Son of God. On the left, he Magi (Wise Men) are shown coming to worship Christ, bringing Him their special gifts. The hosts of angels worship Christ from above, and announce His coming to the shepherds, who is facing the angels on the right side of the icon. At the bottom right, the midwives are shown bathing the Christ Child, to show that He is indeed human.



**Tropar of Christmas:**

Your Birth, O Christ Our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge, for through it, those who worshipped the stars have learned from a star to worship You, the Sun of Justice, and to recognize You as the Orient from on high: Glory be to You, O Lord.

**Attention Teens: Grade 8 - High School Seniors**



**Faith  
Lights  
Our  
Way**

*We will meet on Sunday, January 3rd, 2016*

*Weather permitting, we are planning to go snow-tubing.*

*Details will be available in your parish, closer to the date.*

*Any Questions – Call Sr. Natalya (570)544-3639*

*There are many 'odd' holidays that are celebrated everyday. We have never heard of most of these 'holidays'. Some are fun, but all can allow us an opportunity for kindness.*

**Celebrate:**

**Dec. 16 -- 16 National Chocolate Covered Anything Day**

**Dec. 17 - National Maple Syrup Day**

**Dec.18 - Bake Cookies Day**

**Dec. 20 -Go Caroling Day**

**Dec. 25 - Christmas Day**

**Dec. 27 - Make Cut Out Snowflakes Day**

**National Fruitcake Day**

**Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve**

**Dec. is also: Universal Human Rights Month**

**Men's Tie Month**

*How will you like to celebrate?*

# *Come Home for Christmas*

## *Поверніться додому на Різдво!*



### *Parish Schedules of Liturgical Services*

#### *for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*

As you come home for Christmas, you are invited to celebrate with us the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For some, our church may be the home of your youth; for others our church welcomes you to join with us as we greet the newborn King and experience the joy of Our Eternal God being with us. The following Christmas liturgy schedules are those that were shared by our churches inviting you to join with their parish families this Christmas season.

May you have a Holy and Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

***Christ Is Born!      Glorify Him!***

### ***Розклад літургійних служб для парафій***

#### ***на празник Різдва нашого Господа і Спаса Ісуса Христа***

Оскільки всі ви збираєтеся вдома на Різдво, ми запрошуємо вас відсвяткувати з нами народження нашого Господа і Спаса Ісуса Христа. Для де-кого наша церква може бути домом його юності; інших церква запрошує приєднатися до привітання новонародженого Царя і пережити радість перебування з нами нашого Предвічного Бога. Нижченаведеного різдвяного літургійного розкладу дотримуються більшість наших церков, які запрошують вас до своїх парафіяльних родин у цей різдвяний час.

Бажаємо вам побожного й благословенного Різдва та щасливого Нового Року!

***ХРИСТОС РАЖДАЄТЬСЯ!      СЛАВІМ ЙОГО!***



**Cathedral of the Immaculate  
Conception**

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

830 North Franklin Street

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

9:00 PM — Great Compline followed by Hierarchical  
Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

9:00 AM — Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

4:30 PM — Divine Liturgy (for Sunday)

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas—  
Feast of St. Stephen**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr/Eng)

11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

**Saint Nicholas Church  
Wilmington, Delaware**

801 Lea Blvd.

**Thursday, Christmas eve, December 24**

9:00 PM — Great Compline

9:30 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

9:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**National Shrine of the Holy Family  
Washington, D.C.**

4250 Harewood Road, NE

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

4:30 PM — Children's Procession and Vespers and  
Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

10:00 PM — Great Compline followed by Divine  
Liturgy (Ukr/Eng).

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr./Eng.)

**Saturday, December 26, Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr./Eng.)

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**St. Michael the Archangel Church  
Baltimore, Maryland**

2401 Eastern Avenue

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

10:00 PM — Great Compline followed by Divine  
Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saint Basil Church  
Chesapeake City, Maryland**

231 Basil Avenue

**Thursday, Christmas Eve, December 24**

4:00 PM — Great Compline

4:30 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

4:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Ss. Peter and Paul Church  
Curtis Bay, Maryland**

1506 Church Street

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

8:00 PM — Great Compline followed by Divine  
Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Holy Trinity Church**  
**Silver Spring, Maryland**

16631 New Hampshire Avenue  
Wednesday, Christmas Eve January 6

9:00 AM — Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil the Great  
(Ukr.)

Thursday, Christmas Day, January 7

10:00 AM — Great Compline (Ukr.)

11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

Friday, January 8 Synaxis of the Mother of God

6:30 PM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

Saturday, January 9 Feast of St. Stephen

9:30 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**Assumption of the B.V.M. Church**

**Bayonne, New Jersey**

30 East 25<sup>th</sup> Street

Friday, Christmas Day, December 25, 2012

8:30 AM — Great Compline

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God

5:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas

Feast of St. Stephen

9:20 AM — Divine Liturgy

**St. Mary Church**

**Carteret, New Jersey**

717 Roosevelt Ave.

Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24

9:00 PM — Great Compline and Divine Liturgy

Friday, Christmas Day, December 25

10:30 AM. — Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God

5:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas

Feast of St. Stephen

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**St. Michael Church**

**Cherry Hill, New Jersey**

675 Cooper Landing Road

Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24

8:00 AM — Royal Hours (Eng.)

10:00 PM — Great Compline (Ukr./Eng.) with Litya

10:30 PM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

Friday, Christmas Day, December 25

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

Saturday, Dec. 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God

7:00 PM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas

Feast of St. Stephen

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**Saint Vladimir Church**

**Elizabeth, New Jersey**

309 Grier Avenue

Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24

8:30 PM — Great Compline and Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

Friday, Christmas Day, December 25

11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

Saturday, Dec. 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas

Feast of St. Stephen

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**St. Nicholas Church**

**Great Meadows, New Jersey**

329 Route 46

Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24

8:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

Friday, Christmas Day, December 25

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

Saturday, Dec. 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God

4:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas

Feast of St. Stephen

8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**St. Michael the Archangel Church**

**Hillsborough, New Jersey**

1700 Brooks Boulevard

Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24

9:00 PM — Great Compline (Ukr.)

10:00 PM — Christmas Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

Friday, Christmas Day, December 25

11:00 AM — Christmas Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

Saturday, Dec. 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God

8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas

Feast of St. Stephen

8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**Immaculate Conception Church  
Hillside, New Jersey**

**Bloy St. & Liberty Ave**

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

9:00 PM— Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:30 AM— Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

9:00 AM—Divine Liturgy

**Saints Peter and Paul Church  
Jersey City, New Jersey**

**30 Bentley Avenue**

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

10:00 PM— Great Compline

10:30 PM— Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

11:00 AM— Christmas Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of**

**God**

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

8:00 AM. — Divine Liturgy

11:0 AM— Divine Liturgy

**St. Nicholas Church  
Millville, New Jersey**

**824 Carmel Road**

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

3:30 PM— Great Compline

4:00 PM—Divine Liturgy (Ukr./Eng.)

**Saturday, December 26, 2014 – Synaxis of the**

**Theotokos**

4:00 PM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

**St. John the Baptist Church  
Newark, New Jersey**

**719 Sanford Avenue**

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

7:45 AM — Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

5:00 PM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

10:00 PM — Great Compline, Christmas Caroling,  
Confessions

11:00 PM —Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

8:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of**  
**God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr./Eng.)

7:00 PM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr./Eng.)

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

8:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

9:30 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

11:30 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Church**

**New Brunswick, New Jersey**

**80 Livingston Avenue**

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

7:45 AM — Great Compline (Ukr.)

8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of**

**God**

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**St. Nicholas Church  
Passaic, New Jersey**

**60 Holdsworth Court**

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

10:00 PM — Great Compline

10:30 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Friday Christmas Day December 25**

8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of**

**God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

5:00 PM — Vigil Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

8:30 AM. — Divine Liturgy

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Assumption of the BVM Church**  
**Perth Amboy, New Jersey**  
684 Alta Vista Place

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

5:00 PM — Children's Divine Liturgy (Eng.)  
10:30 PM — Great Compline (Eng.)  
11:00 PM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)  
11:30 AM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr/Eng)  
5:00 PM — Vigil Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**  
**Feast of St. Stephen**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr/Eng)  
11:30 AM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

**Saint Paul Church**  
**Ramsey, New Jersey**  
79 Cherry Lane

**Friday, Christmas Day December 25**

12:00 noon — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**  
**Feast of St. Stephen**

12:00 noon — Divine Liturgy

**St. Stephen Church**  
**Toms River, New Jersey**  
1344 White Oak Bottom Road

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

8:00 PM — Great Compline - Divine Liturgy  
(Ukr./Eng.)

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)  
10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr./Eng.)

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**  
**Feast of St. Stephen**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)  
10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**Saint Josaphat Church**  
**Trenton, New Jersey**  
1195 Deutz Avenue

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

9:00 PM — Great Compline  
10:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy  
4:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**  
**Feast of St. Stephen**

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saint John the Baptist Church**  
**Whippany, New Jersey**  
60 North Jefferson Road

**Thursday, Christmas Eve, December 24**

9:15 PM — Great Compline (Ukr.)  
10:00 PM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

8:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)  
10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)  
5:00 PM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**  
**Feast of St. Stephen**

8:45 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)  
11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Eng./Ukr.)

**Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church,**  
**Berwick, Pennsylvania**  
706 Warren Street

**Thursday, Christmas Eve, December 24**

9:00 AM — Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil  
10:00 PM — Great Compline & Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 – Synaxis of the Mother of God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy  
5:30 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**  
**Feast of St. Stephen**

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**St. Josaphat Church  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania**

1826 Kenmore Avenue

**Thursday, Christmas Eve, December 24**

10:00 AM — Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil  
9:00 PM — Great Compline, Caroling and Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

9:00 AM — Matins for the Nativity, Caroling Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy  
6:30 PM — Vespers Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**  
10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Church,  
Bristol, Pennsylvania**

2026 Bath Road

**Thursday, Christmas Eve, December 24**

9:30 PM — Great Compline  
10:00 PM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr./Eng.)

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr./Eng.)

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr./Eng.)  
4:00 PM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**  
9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)  
11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Eng.)

**Saints Peter and Paul Church  
Bridgeport, Pennsylvania**

519 Union Avenue

**Thursday, Christmas Eve, December 24**

8:30 PM — Great Compline  
9:00 PM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God**

**God**  
8:00 AM — Divine Liturgy  
6:00 PM — Vigil Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**  
9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Assumption of the B.V.M. Church  
Centralia, Pennsylvania**

North Paxton Street

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God**

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**  
11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**St. Vladimir Church  
Edwardsville, Pennsylvania**

70 Zerby Avenue

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

7:30 PM — Great Compline & Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God**

6:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**  
10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saint Michael Church  
Frackville, Pennsylvania**

Oak and Second Street

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

8:00 PM — Great Compline with Lytiya  
followed by Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God**

**God**  
4:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas -**

**Feast of St. Stephen**  
10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**St. Nicholas Church  
Glen Lyon, Pennsylvania**

153 East Main Street

Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24

8:00 PM — Great Compline & Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God

11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas

Feast of St. Stephen

8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**St. Michael Church  
Hazleton, Pennsylvania**

74 North Laurel Street

Friday, Christmas Day, December 25

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 26, Synaxis of the Mother of  
God

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas -

Feast of St. Stephen

8:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saint Michael Church  
Jenkintown, Pennsylvania**

1013 Fox Chase Road

Wednesday, Christmas Eve January 6

8:00 PM — Great Compline

9:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

Thursday, Christmas Day, January 7

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

Friday, January 8 Synaxis of the Mother of God

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

Saturday, January 9 Feast of St. Stephen

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

Sunday, January 10 Sunday after Christmas

8:15 AM — Divine Liturgy

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**St. Andrew Parish Mission  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania**

601 East Delp Road

*Faithful are invited to attend services at  
Nativity of the BVM Church, Reading, Pennsylvania*

**Presentation of Our Lord Church  
Lansdale, Pennsylvania**

1564 Allentown Road

Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24

7:00 PM — Christmas Matins & Divine Liturgy

Friday, Christmas Day, December 25

11:30 AM — Christmas Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God

11:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas

Feast of St. Stephen

11:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saint John the Baptist Church  
Maizeville, Pennsylvania**

Main Street

Friday, Christmas Day, December 25

8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God

8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas -

Feast of St. Stephen

8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Patronage of the Mother of God  
Church**

**McAdoo, Pennsylvania**

210 West Blaine Street

Thursday, Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

10:00 PM — Great Compline and carols

11:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

Friday, Christmas Day, Dec. 25

11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 26, Synaxis of the Mother of  
God

11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

5:00 PM — Vigil Divine Liturgy for Sunday after  
Christmas

Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas -

Feast of St. Stephen

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Patronage of the Mother of God  
Church**

**Marion Heights, Pennsylvania**  
145 Melrose Street

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

10:00 PM — Great Compline and Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas -  
Feast of St. Stephen**

8:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary Church**

**Melrose Park, Pennsylvania**  
1206 Valley Road

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

1:00 PM -2:00 PM — Confessions

9:00 PM — Great Compline followed by Divine  
Liturgy (Ukr/Eng).

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Eng. )

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr/Eng).

5:00 PM — Divine Liturgy (Eng).

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr/Eng).

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy (Eng).

**Nativity of the BVM Church**  
**Middleport, Pennsylvania**

Kaska Street

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

8:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

7:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**St. Nicholas Church**  
**Minersville, Pennsylvania**

415 North Front Street

**Thursday, Christmas Eve, December 24**

8:00 PM — Divine Liturgy with children's program

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

4:30 PM — Vigil Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

9:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saints Peter and Paul Church**  
**Mt. Carmel, Pennsylvania**

131 North Beech Street

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

7:30 PM — Great Compline followed by Traditional  
Christmas Caroling

8:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

8:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

4:00 PM — Vigil Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

9:15 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Transfiguration of Our Lord Church**  
**Nanticoke, Pennsylvania**

240 Center Street

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

8:00 PM — Great Compline and Divine Liturgy.

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:30AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

6:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**St. John the Baptist Church  
Northampton, Pennsylvania**

1343 Newport Avenue

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

5:00 PM — Vigil of Christmas Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of**

**God**

8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

5:00 PM — Vigil Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church  
Olyphant, Pennsylvania**

135 River Avenue

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

9:00 PM — Compline

10:00 PM — Christmas Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

9:00 AM — Christmas Divine Liturgy

11:30 AM — Christmas Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of**

**God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

4:00 PM — Vigil Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

11:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**St. Vladimir Church  
Palmerton, Pennsylvania**

101 Lehigh Avenue

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

9:00 PM — Great Compline Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of**

**God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

9:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Christ the King Church  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

1629 West Cayuga Street

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:00 AM — Compline Christmas Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of**

**God**

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**St. Nicholas Church  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

871 North 24<sup>th</sup> Street

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

8:00 AM — Compline Christmas Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of**

**God**

8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saints Peter and Paul Church  
Phoenixville, Pennsylvania**

472 Emmett Street

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

5:00 PM — Great Compline followed by Christmas  
Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

11:00 AM — Christmas Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of**

**God**

11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

4:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy



**Saints Peter and Paul Church  
Plymouth, Pennsylvania**

20 Nottingham Street

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

5:00 PM — Great Compline followed by Christmas  
Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

8:30 AM — Christmas Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

4:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**St. Michael Church**

**Pottstown, Pennsylvania**

427 West Walnut Street

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

8:30 AM — Great Compline followed by Christmas  
Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Nativity of the Blessed Mother Church  
Reading, Pennsylvania**

630 Laurel Street

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

9:00 PM — Great Compline

9:45 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

5:00 PM — Vigil Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

12:00 PM—Farewell Divine Liturgy (Final Divine  
Liturgy at Laurel Street Church)

**Saturday, January 2**

1:00 PM — Consecration of New Church

**Sunday, January 3**

1:00 PM — First Divine Liturgy in New Church  
(Hierarchical)

**St. Nicholas Church**

**Saint Clair, Pennsylvania**

North Morris Street

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

8:00 AM — Vespers and Divine Liturgy

7:30 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

8:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

5:30 PM — Vigil Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Ascension of Our Lord Church**

**Sayre, Pennsylvania**

108 North Higgins Avenue

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

12:00 noon — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas Feast  
of St. Stephen**

12:00 noon — Divine Liturgy

**St. Vladimir Church,**

**Scranton, Pennsylvania**

430 North 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

9:30 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

4:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Transfiguration of Our Lord Church  
Shamokin, Pennsylvania**

North Shamokin Street

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

7:00 PM — Great Compline and Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

9:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

6:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

9:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**St. Michael Church**

**Shenandoah, Pennsylvania**

114 South Chestnut Street

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

4:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

3:30 PM — Vigil Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saints Peter and Paul Church  
Simpson, Pennsylvania**

43 Rittenhouse Street

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

4:00 PM — Great Compline and Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

8:00 AM — Divine Liturgy.

**Holy Myrrh Bearers Eastern Catholic  
Church**

**Swarthmore, PA 19081**

900 Fairview Road

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

4:00 PM — Vigil Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

5:00 PM — Vigil Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**St. Anne Church**

**Warrington, Pennsylvania**

1545 Easton Road

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

4:00 PM — Children's Divine Liturgy

10:00 PM — Christmas Matins & Divine Liturgy with  
Myrovania

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

9:00 AM — Christmas Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas Feast  
of St. Stephen**

7:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Holy Ghost Church**

**West Easton, Pennsylvania**

315 Fourth Street

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

8:00 PM — Divine Liturgy (English)

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

6:00 PM — Divine Liturgy (English)

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

9:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)

11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (English)

**Saints Peter and Paul Church  
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania**

635 North River Street

**Thursday, Christmas Eve December 24**

10:30 PM — Great Compline and Divine Liturgy

**Friday, Christmas Day, December 25**

10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of  
God**

4:00 PM — Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 27 Sunday after Christmas**

**Feast of St. Stephen**

8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Front Royal Mission  
Front Royal, Virginia**

4 Family Life Lane

**Friday, Christmas Day December 25**

11:30 AM — Divine Liturgy

**Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary Church**

**Manassas, Virginia**

6719 Token Valley Road

**Thursday, Christmas Eve, Dec 24**

7:30 PM — Great Compline

8:00 PM — Divine Liturgy (Eng)

**St. John the Baptist Church  
Richmond, Virginia**

1307 Lakeside Avenue

**Friday, Christmas Day, Dec 25**

10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy (Ukr/Eng)



**Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols**

**Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 3:00 PM**

**Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception**

**830 North Franklin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123**

**Фестиваль Українських Різдвяних Колядок**

**Неділя, 10-го січня 2016 року о 3-й годині пополудні**

**Катедра Непорочного Зачаття**

**Філадельфія, ПА**



**Nativity of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church,  
Reading, PA, is moving!**

A tentative date for the Blessing of the new Church is Saturday, January 2, 2016 at 1PM (504 Summit Avenue, Reading, PA). The first Divine Liturgy will be on Sunday, January 3, 2016 at 1PM. Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka will be the main celebrant at the first Divine Liturgy in our new church! All are invited to this historic event!  
<https://www.facebook.com/NativityBVMchurchReading>

## East Meets West

Through the generosity of the Ukrainian Community Foundation of Philadelphia, Saint Basil Academy received a grant for the funding of Icon writing classes and a class trip to New York to visit the Ukrainian Museum and Ellis Island. The Ukrainian Community Foundation, located in Philadelphia, provides support for specific initiatives of cultural, educational, social service and religious organizations that seek to serve the Ukrainian-American community in Philadelphia.

Sister Susanne Matwiyiw, OSBM, Art Instructor at Saint Basil Academy, is the director of the art grant and has begun to teach her students the art of iconography. Starting from the basics, Sister has the student prepare a sketch of the icon they wish to write. Choices of subjects include icons of the Blessed Mother, Christ or the Archangels Gabriel and Michael. Once having chosen their subject, Sister Susanne instructs them step-by-step in the writing of the icon. She also shares the theological and spiritual significance of each icon with her students. "I have wanted to do this project for years, but if it is done correctly it is cost prohibitive. I thank God for the grant from the Ukrainian Foundation that made this experience possible," said Sr. Susanne. She continued, "The students are deeply touched by the project. There is a prayerful silence while they work and when they get stuck they ask God to guide their hand. The girls are finding inside themselves a talent they did not know they had and the deeper understanding of Eastern spirituality they are gaining is a benefit that cannot be measured as either a current or lifelong value."

The students in both the Art I and Art II classes, as well as the upper level independent art students, are taking part in the icon experience. Siena Wanders, a freshman, reflected, "I am not Ukrainian but I like learning the culture and how important icons are in the Eastern tradition." Siena continued, "When I researched icons online to find one that I wanted to do, I thought, I can never do that! But Sister taught us every step one at a time." She concluded, "I also



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## East Meets West

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really liked learning about the meaning of the colors in making icons.”

Ms. Gwen Cote Principal and initiator of the grant application, commented, “ This project has the ability to reach down and touch the very soul of the students. It is impressive to watch the students working on their icons. There is an attitude of prayer in the room and the quality of the results is awe-inspiring. The icons hold spiritual beauty that comes from the heart of the students and their icons will no doubt be a lifelong treasure.”



This is just one of the many ways that the east meets the west at Saint Basil Academy. Saint Basil Academy is a private college preparatory high school for girls located in Montgomery County. The school was founded in 1931 by the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great. Nurtured by the spiritual and cultural richness of its Ukrainian Catholic heritage, the Academy provides a diversified curriculum that respects the individual needs. Enrollment is open for the 2016-2017 class. Contact the Admissions Office at the Academy (215-885-3771) to reserve a seat.

<http://www.stbasilacademy.org/>



### THE PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATION

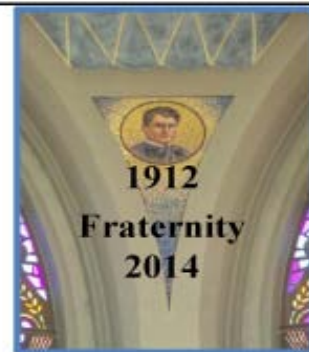
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# For Life and Liberty Half a World Away

12/1/2015

Knights in Ukraine find fruitful ground for expansion and key roles serving Church and society

by Bryan Bradley

When he was a young pastor, Archbishop Stefan Soroka of Philadelphia (Ukrainian) was impressed by how a new Knights of Columbus council energized the faith and leadership of many men.

“The power of fraternal prayer and works of charity in an atmosphere of unity with patriotic love of God, Church and country transformed these men,” he recalled in a homily during the Supreme Convention in Philadelphia last August. “This in turn inspired these Knights and their families to reach out in service to the needs of others.”

Today, as head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholics in the United States, Archbishop Soroka is thrilled to see a similar transformation underway in Ukraine, the land of his father’s birth. This time, though, it is about giving a boost of Christian life not to just one parish, but to a country of more than 40 million people after 70 years of Soviet oppression

and 25 more of mainly oligarchical misrule.

Members and councils have multiplied in Ukraine since the Order established a formal presence there over two years ago. And as the country struggles with pro-Russian rebels and vestiges of corruption to consolidate recent democratic gains, local Church leaders say the Knights showed up with material and spiritual assistance when it was most needed.

“The presence of the Knights of Columbus in Ukraine seems to me the action of Divine Providence,” said Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki of Lviv, in western Ukraine. “They’ve come with so much help in the struggle with the many difficulties.”

## **CALLED TO BE PRESENT**

The origin of the Knights’ expansion into Ukraine goes back to 2005 at the 123rd Supreme Convention in Chicago. It was there that Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, then major archbishop (now emeritus) of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, appealed for a “transplanting” of the Order to Ukraine.

The Knights’ way of practically living the faith

was needed to help heal “deep wounds” in Ukrainian society, the cardinal said. Communist persecution, he added, could not kill the faith in people’s hearts, but it did largely eliminate it from habits of daily life.

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson took the request seriously, according to Supreme Director Larry W. Kustra of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Beginning in 2009, the Supreme Council, with assistance from Knights in Poland, laid the groundwork for the Order’s expansion, while Kustra was tasked with preparing a team to conduct degree ceremonies in the Ukrainian language. It helped that Manitoba had nine Ukrainian Greek-rite K of C councils, though none of the Ukrainian speakers had any degree experience, Kustra said.

During an initial trip to Ukraine in the spring of 2012, the team initiated Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, who succeeded Cardinal Husar in 2011 as head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, together with Archbishop Mokrzycki, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Ukraine and former personal secretary of St. John Paul II. The team also gave presentations

on the Order to priests and groups of laymen.

They returned to Ukraine in May 2014, this time initiating several dozen men in Lviv and in the capital, Kyiv. Now with a critical mass, the first councils could be formed. The supreme knight announced the Order’s formal start in Ukraine and Lithuania at the 131st Supreme Convention in San Antonio in August 2013. It was the first international expansion since councils were chartered in Poland in 2006.

Major Archbishop Shevchuk welcomed the news as bolstering the ability of Ukraine’s Catholic communities — including roughly 5 million Greek-rite Catholics and 1 million Latin-rite Catholics — to help renew Christian life in the country.

“The cherished and practiced ideals of the Knights of Columbus resonate deeply in the soul of a Church and a people experiencing a vivid resurrection in its spiritual and moral life,” the major archbishop said in a video address to the convention.

The Greek-rite St. Volodymyr Council 15800

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# For Life and Liberty Half a World Away

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in Kyiv and Latin-rite John Paul II Council 15801 in Lviv were established in September 2013. On Nov. 6, Major Archbishop Shevchuk celebrated a Divine Liturgy to commemorate the historic expansion. In his homily, he reflected on the Order's mission, and said, "We rejoice that knighthood is taking root in the life of our Church."

Later that month, the approximately 125 members in Ukraine were caught up in dramatic historical events that would put their newly forged commitment to the Order's principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism to the test.

## TRIAL BY FIRE

On Nov. 21, 2013, just weeks after Bogdan Kovaliv and Youriy Maletskiy became the charter grand knights of the first K of C councils in Kyiv and Lviv, respectively, protesters filled Maidan Square in Kyiv to start a "revolution of dignity" against corruption and Russian influence, and in favor of European integration.

Amid freezing temperatures and police repression, the so-called Euromaidan movement

suffered dozens of casualties before the old authorities ceded power in March 2014. Since that time, violence has continued as a result of Russia annexing Crimea and separatists in eastern Ukraine fighting to break away.

Members of Council 15800, meeting just five blocks away from Maidan during the protests, set to work tending the wounded, providing food and warm clothes, interceding for those who were arrested, and assisting families of people who died. Knights also set up a prayer tent at Maidan to offer spiritual support, thus bolstering the Christian presence of those struggling bravely for change. Knights from Lviv traveled 300 miles (500 km) to assist these efforts.

According to Kovaliv, no one hesitated to offer aid. "Volunteerefforts, solidarity and support for those in need all demonstrate the Knights of Columbus principles for action," he said. "And these initiatives probably helped the active development of the Order."

Meanwhile, awareness of the Knights grew in Ukraine. Seven new councils in six cities have

been added over the past two years.

"At first, it was a little difficult, but after many, many presentations, and after giving a lot of information to the priests and the bishops, we now have 400 Knights in this country, and I hope we'll soon have 500," said Maletskiy, noting that plans are underway to charter additional councils.

The Knights of Columbus is unique in Ukraine for uniting Greek-rite and Latin-rite Catholics in charitable, fraternal and spiritual activities. For historical reasons, the two communities have tended to stay apart, with little interaction and, at times, an element of mistrust.

Serving as a force for Church unity in Ukraine was always an objective for the Knights, and the joint initiation of the archbishops for the two rites set the tone, according to Kustra. Now the Order's principle of unity is teaching men to work together in specific projects.

"By simply being together, we start to remove the misgivings in the minds of some people," Maletskiy said. "The Knights of Columbus is

definitely helping people to understand better and begin to show publicly that we are the same Church and we take part in the same Catholic work."

## VITAL ASSISTANCE

The work of the Knights for the Church and the people of Ukraine has been intense at both the local and international levels. Supreme Knight Anderson touched on this reality when he said at this year's Supreme Convention that the Order's members "are committed to defending life and liberty for all: for those on the margins of our communities, and for those on the margins half a world away."

Ukraine has been a country in transition since the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991. It has worked slowly to develop better medical care, for example, and build a basic social safety net. Recent unrest, with recurring fighting in the east, has hit the already struggling country hard. Inflation is running above 50 percent, and the World Bank says that the economy contracted some 15 percent this year. An estimated 3 million people have fled their homes.

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# For Life and Liberty Half a World Away

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In response, spiritual support has not been lacking. Knights the world over responded generously to the supreme knight's February 2014 call to pray for peace in Ukraine in solidarity with Pope Francis and the country's Catholic bishops.

As this prayer campaign has continued, material help has also been crucial. "The Ukrainian government is very poor these days and cannot provide any significant social help. For many people, the only thing they have left is to rely on mercy," Archbishop Mokrzycki said in August, adding that the local Knights, with help from abroad, "are surrounding them with care in the daily struggle for survival."

Knights in Ukraine have raised money locally and channeled donations from Chicago, Philadelphia and elsewhere to buy medicine and equipment for hospitals. They have also purchased and distributed 1,500 wheelchairs through the Knights' partnership with the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation and have provided aid to a children's hospital in Lviv.

Local Knights have likewise assisted Caritas

and clothes for the needy and helping to transport materials and volunteers. And they have helped refurbish abandoned homes for refugees and visited troops at Easter, bringing care packages and cheer. A delegation from Ukraine even joined the 57th Annual Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Last February, the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund disbursed \$400,000 for charitable efforts in Ukraine. The country's Greek-rite Church and Latin-rite Church each used half of the funds to provide emergency food, medicine and shelter for refugee children and families.

In November, the Supreme Council announced a second gift of the same amount for the Church's continued efforts assisting refugees in Ukraine.

As in every jurisdiction, the Knights in Ukraine also actively serve their local churches. They assist in parish liturgies and with practical needs, like repairs, and even helped build a village church. At the consecration of the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection in Kyiv in 2013, Knights provided an honor guard.



**Grand Knight Bogdan Kovaliv (left) and members of St. Volodymyr Council 15800 distribute food to families in Kyiv last spring. (Photo by Alexander Dvernitsky)**

"They're showing themselves as real Catholic role models," Kustra said. "Men and their families are becoming stronger in their faith, living their faith. And society in Ukraine is benefitting from the charity works. Given the political situation in the country, they're doing really well."

The supreme director and past state deputy is not sure if he will be making any more trips to Ukraine, though he expects the degree ceremonies that he helped adapt will be getting a lot more use there. And he certainly feels enriched and inspired by the Ukrainians he has gotten to know.

"To have the opportunity to go over and bring the Knights of Columbus and

make a bit of history for the Order really affected us all," Kustra said. "It's been the experience of a lifetime."

BRYAN BRADLEY is a member of St. Ignatius Council 15900 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

[http://www.kofc.org/un/en/columbia/detail/printer\\_friendly/life-liberty-half-world-away.html](http://www.kofc.org/un/en/columbia/detail/printer_friendly/life-liberty-half-world-away.html)

*This article appeared in the DECEMBER 2015 issue of Columbia magazine and is reprinted with permission of the Knights of Columbus, New Haven, Conn.*



## Students from Philadelphia's Roman Catholic High School Attend Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral

**Philadelphia, Pa.**--Students from Roman Catholic High School in Philadelphia visited the golden-domed Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Wednesday December 9, 2015 and experienced the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of the Conception of St. Anne. Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka was the main celebrant. Concelebrants were Very Rev. Joseph Szupa, Cathedral Rector, who was also the homilist, Rev. Roman Sverdan and Rev. D. George Worshak.

During his Homily, Father Szupa welcomed all the students and related the story of Joachim and Anna and the miraculous conception of their child, Mary, the Mother of God. For many years, Anna was barren and they were not able to conceive a child. Archangel Gabriel appeared separately to both Joachim and Anna informing them how Anna was to conceive a child. Joachim and Anna met each other at the Golden Gate of Jerusalem, upon learning that she will bear a child and name her Mary. The name Anna comes from the Hebrew word meaning "grace." From her conception Mary was filled with every Grace of the Holy Spirit and at the Annunciation, when Archangel Gabriel appears to her, greets her with the salutation "Hail Mary full of Grace."

After the Divine Liturgy, Father Pasiecznyk gave a tour of the Cathedral to the visiting students, answering their questions during his presentation. At the conclusion of the tour, the high school students were able to visit various areas of the cathedral, taking pictures of the iconostas, the replica of the Shroud of Turin and other icons and liturgical items.



**Communion**



# Philadelphia Religious Leaders Council Offers Strong Support to Public Officials and Faith Communities Who Answer the Call to Welcome and Take in Persecuted Syrian Refugees

**Philadelphia, Pa.**-- The Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia adopted a statement December 4, 2015 strongly supporting public officials and religious communities who welcome and take in refugees from Syria.

The Religious Leaders Council, founded and staffed by the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia, represents 32 religious traditions and denominations within the Philadelphia community. Archbishop Stefan Soroka, of Philadelphia and Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States is a member of this council.

In the statement, the religious leaders state: "We are united in our call to protect the refugee and the immigrant.

"We agree with Pennsylvania's Governor, Tom Wolf, in wanting Pennsylvania 'to continue to build on its rich history of accepting immigrants and refugees from around the world.'

"We offer our strong support to public officials and faith communities

who have answered the call to take in refugees. "

The statement follows:

## **Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia Statement on the Syrian Refugee Crisis adopted on December 4, 2015**

*We are religious leaders representing 32 faith communities and more than two million constituents in the greater Philadelphia area, and we are united in our call to protect the refugee and the immigrant. When we look within our religious traditions, many of us find the inspiration – if not the moral mandate – to address this humanitarian crisis: whether from the biblical commandment not to ignore the suffering of a neighbor, the spiritual understanding of oneness with all those who suffer, or a theological commitment to welcoming the stranger.*

*We agree with Pennsylvania's Governor, Tom Wolf, in wanting Pennsylvania "to continue to build on its rich history*

*of accepting immigrants and refugees from around the world."*

*We offer our strong support to public officials and faith communities who have answered the call to take in refugees. Each generation faces an opportunity to live up to the moral principles that have made our*

*nation great. At times we have succeeded, and at times we have failed. The current debate about whether to welcome persecuted Syrian asylum seekers whose lives are in danger is a historic test. We pray that our leaders will meet the challenge of this day with generosity and courage.*

### **The Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia**

#### **Co-Conveners:**

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput - Archdiocese of Philadelphia  
Bishop Claire Schenot Burkat - Southeastern PA Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America  
Imam Anwar Muhaimin - Quba Masjid  
Rabbi David Straus - Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Phila.

#### **Members:**

Rabbi David Ackerman - Rabbinical Assembly, Philadelphia Region  
Lt. Colonels Janet & Stephen Banfield - Salvation Army of Eastern Pennsylvania & Delaware  
Rev. Luis A. Cortés, Jr. - Hispanic Clergy of Philadelphia & Vicinity  
Bishop Clifton Daniel - Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania  
Christie Duncan-Tessmer - Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends  
Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell - Delaware Valley Association of Reform Rabbis  
Dr. Gity Etamad - Philadelphia Baha'i Community  
Rabbi Albert E. Gabbai - Congregation Mikveh Israel  
Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr. - Philadelphia Leadership Foundation  
Rev. Terrence D. Griffith - Black Clergy of Philadelphia & Vicinity  
Bishop Peter Hwang - Council of Korean Churches of Greater Philadelphia  
Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram - African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Bishop Peggy Johnson - Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, The United Methodist Church  
President Bokin Kim - Won Institute of Graduate Studies  
Elder Milan Kunz - The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints  
Rev. Steven B. Lawrence - Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia  
Rabbi Jill Maderer - Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia  
Imam Muhammad Abdur-Razzaq Miller - Mosque of Shaikh M.R. Bawa Muhaiyadeen  
Father Mina Mina - St Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church  
Kavneet Singh Pannu - Philadelphia Sikh Society  
Father Emmanuel Pratsinakis - Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey  
Rev. David Pyle - Joseph Priestley District, Unitarian Universalist Association  
Imam Asim Abdur-Rashid - Majlis Ash-Shura of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley  
Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace - Presbytery of Philadelphia, Presbyterian Church USA  
Imam Mohamed Shehata - Al-Aqsa Islamic Society  
Archbishop Stefan Soroka - Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia  
Rabbi Elyse Wechterman - Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Rev. William Paul Worley - PA Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ  
*In Formation*

The Religious Leaders Council is coordinated by the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia  
Contact: Rev. Nicole D. Diroff, [ndd@interfaithcenterpa.org](mailto:ndd@interfaithcenterpa.org), 215-222-1012  
100 W Oxford St, Suite E-1300, Philadelphia PA 19122, [www.interfaithcenterpa.org](http://www.interfaithcenterpa.org)

**December 14, 2015 marked the 15th Anniversary of the passing of His Beatitude Myroslav Ivan Lubachivsky. He died on December 14, 2000 at the age of 86. May God grant rest to the soul of His servant in the place where all of the saints abide!**



## **“BE KNIGHTS OF GOD’S MERCY” – HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN UKRAINE**



On December 2, 2015 in the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Our Lord, His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, celebrated the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy for the Assembly of the Knights of Columbus, a group of Catholic men, in Ukraine. UGCC press release

Translated into English from an article on <http://catholicnews.org.ua>



### **From the “God is with us Prayer”**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light.  
A Light will shine upon you who dwell in the shadow of death.  
For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.

And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called the great Council of Angels,  
Wonderful Counselor  
The Mighty God, the Ruler, the Prince of Peace, the Everlasting Father.

## Ukrainian Icon “Doors of Mercy” brought to Rome for Jubilee

December 8, 2015

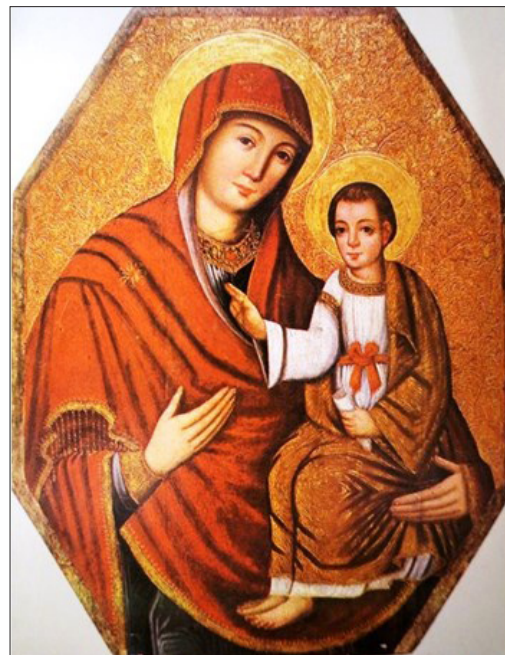
(Vatican Radio) Pope Francis requested the ancient Ukrainian icon “Doors of Mercy” to be brought to the Vatican for the opening of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. This icon, which combines both Western and Eastern traditions, is particularly symbolic and encourages all Christians to unity and peace for the sake of charity.

The Icon was met at the airport by the Ambassador of Ukraine to the Holy See, Tatyana Izhevskaya; and Ambassador of Poland to the Holy See, Piotr Novina-Konopka; and representatives from the Vatican.

The image of the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ, which dates from the seventeenth century, comes from the cathedral of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in the Polish city of Jaroslaw. The icon, which takes its name from the Byzantine Lenten liturgical text, “Open the Doors of Mercy to me, O Mother of God.” is considered miraculous and was given a crown by St. John Paul II in 1996.

A copy of the icon is also found in the Argentinian church belonging to Pope Francis’ former spiritual director, Ukrainian Catholic priest Fr. Stephan Chmil.

[http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/12/08/ukrainian\\_icon\\_doors\\_of\\_mercy\\_brought\\_to\\_rome\\_for\\_jubilee/1192753](http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/12/08/ukrainian_icon_doors_of_mercy_brought_to_rome_for_jubilee/1192753)



**The ancient Ukrainian icon “Doors of Mercy,” from the Polish city of Jaroslaw. - RV**

## Pope Francis opens Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica, opens Jubilee



**Pope Francis opens the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica. - ANSA**

December 8, 2015

(Vatican Radio) Pope Francis on Tuesday opened the Holy Door in St. Peter’s Basilica, inaugurating the Jubilee of Mercy. The ceremony took place after he celebrated Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in St. Peter’s Square.

The rain did not keep the people away: Over 50 thousand arrived, including the President and Prime Minister of Italy, Sergio Mattarella and Matteo Renzi; as well as King Albert II of Belgium with Queen Paola.

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## Pope Francis opens Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica, opens Jubilee

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Pope Francis, during his homily, highlighted the primacy of grace.

"Were sin the only thing that mattered, we would be the most desperate of creatures," Pope Francis said. "But the promised triumph of Christ's love enfolds everything in the Father's mercy...The Immaculate Virgin stands before us as a privileged witness of this promise and its fulfillment."

The Holy Father went on to say the Holy Year is "itself a gift of grace."

"To pass through the Holy Door means to rediscover the infinite mercy of the Father who welcomes everyone and goes out personally to encounter each of them," he continued.

Pope Francis concluded his homily by saying "as we pass through the Holy Door, we also want to remember another door, which fifty years ago the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council opened to the world."

Pope Francis said the anniversary cannot be remembered only for the legacy of the Council's documents, but must also remember the "encounter" which happened at the Council.

"The Jubilee challenges us to this openness, and demands that we not neglect the spirit which emerged from Vatican II, the spirit of the Samaritan, as Blessed Paul VI expressed it at the conclusion of the Council" – he said – "May our passing through the Holy Door today commit us to making our own the mercy of the Good Samaritan."

After Mass, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door to St. Peter's, where he was met by his predecessor, Pope emeritus Benedict XVI, whom he embraced.

The Jubilee will continue this Sunday, when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door in his Cathedral, St. John Lateran, and bishops around the world open Holy Doors in their own Cathedrals, and other designated Churches.

[http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/12/08/pope\\_francis\\_opens\\_holy\\_door\\_at\\_st\\_peters\\_basilica/1192816](http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/12/08/pope_francis_opens_holy_door_at_st_peters_basilica/1192816)



**During his general audience on Wednesday, Pope Francis brought a flower to the Ukrainian icon "Doors of Mercy".**  
<https://www.facebook.com/VaticanRadioEnglish/>

## New UGCC Diocese in Ukraine

11 December 2015

On Friday, December 11, 2015, the Vatican announced that the Holy Father blessed the decision of the Synod of Bishops on the establishment of Kamyanets-Podilsk diocese with its headquarters in the city of Khmelnytsky, by its separation from territory of Ternopil-Zboriv Archdiocese and subordinating to this Metropolitan See.



Note that the jurisdiction of the former Ternopil-Zboriv diocese now embraces the territories of Khmelnytsky region according to the decision of the Synod of Bishops, held in September 2003. In 2011 this diocese was elevated to the dignity of the archdiocese and the Metropolitan See. The pastoral care in Khmelnytsky region had been provided by that time through Kamyanets-Podilsky and Khmelnytsky deaneries.

[http://risu.org.ua/en/index/all\\_news/catholics/ugcc/61903/](http://risu.org.ua/en/index/all_news/catholics/ugcc/61903/)

## THE NEW NUNCIO ARRIVED IN UKRAINE

16 December 2015

On December 15 his Excellency Claudio Gugerotti, newly appointed Apostolic Nuncio in Ukraine, arrived to Kyiv, informs Credo.

At the airport the papal envoy was welcomed by the representatives of the Catholic Church in Ukraine: His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk - Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, His Eminence Petro Malchuk - Archbishop of Kyiv-Zhytomyr diocese of the Roman Catholic Church, and His Excellency Milan Shashik - Bishop of

the Mukachevo Greek Catholic eparchy.

Then the Apostolic Nuncio visited former head of the UGCC, archbishop-emeritus Cardinal Lubomyr Husar and asked him for a blessing.

On the meeting with the employees of the Apostolic Nunciature papal envoy, who speaks good Russian, said that he has such a large team of collaborators for the first time, so hopes to fulfill his mission successfully.

[http://risu.org.ua/en/index/all\\_news/catholics/apostolic\\_nunciatura/61950/](http://risu.org.ua/en/index/all_news/catholics/apostolic_nunciatura/61950/)



## January 2016 - Січня 2016

### Happy Birthday!

#### З Днем народження!

January 9: Very Rev. Archpr. Daniel Gurovich  
January 12: Rev. Vasyl Sivinskyi  
January 19: V. Rev. Archimandrite Joseph Lee  
January 21: Rev. Taras Lonchyna  
January 28: Rev. Mr. Theodore Spotts

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

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



### Congratulations on your Anniversary of Priesthood!

#### Вітаємо з Річницею Священства!

January 5: Rev. Volodymyr Popuk  
(19th Anniversary)  
January 8: Rev. Oleksandr Dumenko  
(15th Anniversary)  
January 9: Rev. Orest Kunderevych  
(18th Anniversary)  
January 17: Rev. Paul Wolensky  
(22nd 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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# THE WAY ШЛЯХ



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