



1948-2018 - celebrating its 70 years
Dormition of the Mother of God
Ukrainian Catholic Church
Українська Католицька Церква
Успення Пресвятої Богородиці



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Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster: www.nweparchy.ca



31st Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday before Christmas – December 23rd, 2018 A.D.

***"The proud, the arrogant, can't understand life
because they're incapable of lowering themselves."*** - teaches Pope Francis

THE VIBRANT PARISH - A PLACE TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST: Through the Word, the Holy Mysteries & Prayer, Serving One's Neighbour, Leadership, Fostering & Serving Unity and Missionary Spirit – Pastoral Letter of

His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk

"All the challenging circumstances of our life on earth – these are for us an invitation to active love, which is an expression of living faith!" - Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk

"The Vibrant Parish"

"Всі ці прикрі явища нашого земного життя – це для нас запрошення до чинної любові, яка є виявом живої віри."

- Пастирський Лист Блаженнішого Святослава Шевчука "Жива Парафія"

Christian Greetings: Glory to Jesus Christ! – Glory to Him Forever!

Slava Isusu Chrystu! – Slava na Viky!

Слава Ісусу Христу! – Слава на Віку!

Christ is among us! – He is and will be!



Liturgical and Sacramental celebrations during week:

Please, remember to keep Jesus Christ in Christmas!

He is the only true reason for the season!

24 December (Monday) – CHRISTMAS EVE / НАВЕЧІР'Я РІЗДВА
(according to New, Gregorian Calendar)

3:30 PM – Great Compline Service followed by the Divine Liturgy of John Chrysostom, Myrovania/Blessing with Holy Oil (**Service in Penticton, BC**)

9:00 PM – Great Compline Service followed by the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, Myrovania/Blessing with Holy Oil (**Service in Kelowna, BC**)

25 December (Tuesday) – NATIVITY OF OUR LORD / РІЗДВО ХРИСТОВЕ

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy; Myrovania/Blessing with Holy Oil (**Service in Kelowna, BC**)

26 December (Wednesday) – Synaxis of the BVM / Собор Богородиці 10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

27 December (Thursday) – First Martyr Stephen / Первомученика Стефана 10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

Saturday, Dec. 29th – 3:40 p.m. Lectio Divina / Bible Studies: (**Studies and Service in Penticton, BC**)

– **4:00 p.m.** The Divine Liturgy: **God's blessings for all parishioners**

Sunday, Dec. 30th – 8:15 a.m. Rosary: *(in English language)*

– **9:00 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: **God's blessings for all parishioners.** *(in English language)*

– **11:00 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: **God's blessings for all parishioners.** *(in Ukrainian language)*

Panahyda (1st year memorial anniversary) service for repose of the soul of Mr. Orest Kociuba *(Requested by Mrs. Patricia Rattee)*

Pastoral and Sacramental Ministry: Baptisms: by appointment. **Funerals and Memorials:** by appointment.

Marriages: six months' notice should be given to the parish priest, and he should be contacted before any other arrangements are made. **Holy Unction** (Anointing of the Sick): Those anticipating surgery, hospitalization or treatments and who would like to receive anointing (by appointment, any time) **Reconciliation:** on Sundays and Holy Days: before Liturgies and other days, by appointment.

Holy Communion: for the sick, by appointment, any time * **Please, contact Fr. Pavlo if you want to have the Divine Liturgies celebrated in your special (such as: In thanksgiving for favours received, the Infirm, General Intentions, the Deceased, Help of the Holy Spirit, for the Travelers, etc.) intentions.**

Liturgical Propers in English language:

Tone 6, text from book “*The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*”; pages 101-103

Epistle: A reading from the *Letter of Saint Paul to the Hebrews*: (Heb. 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40)



Brothers and Sisters, by faith Abraham sojourned in the promised land as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs of the same promise; for he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose designer and maker is God.

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac; he who had received the promises was ready to sacrifice his only son, of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your descendants be called.” He reasoned that God was able to rise from the dead, and so he received Isaac back as a symbol. By faith Isaac invoked for Jacob and Esau blessings that were still to be. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped God, leaning on the head of his staff. By faith, Joseph, near the end of his life, spoke of the Exodus of the Israelites, and gave instructions about his burial. By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after his birth, thereby disregarding the king’s edict, because they saw that he was a beautiful child.



What more shall I recount? I have no time to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, did what was just, obtained the promises; they broke the jaws of lions, put out raging fires, escaped the devouring sword; through weak they were made powerful, became strong in battle, and turned back foreign invaders. Women received back their dead through resurrection. Others were tortured and would not receive deliverance, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Still others endured mockery, scourging, even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, sawed in two, put to death at sword’s point; they went about garbed in the skins of sheep or goats, needy, afflicted, tormented. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered about in deserts and on mountains, they dwelt in caves and in holes of the earth. Yet despite the fact that all of these were approved because of their faith, they did not obtain what had been promised. God had made a better plan, a plan which included us. Without us, they were not to be made perfect.

Gospel: (Matthew 1:1-25)

A family record of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez was the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram. Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon. Salmon was the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed was the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa. Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amos, Amos the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile. After the Babylonian exile Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor. Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud. Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary. It was of her that Jesus who is called the Messiah was born. Thus, the total number of generations is: from Abraham to David, fourteen generations; from David to the Babylonian captivity, fourteen generations; from the Babylonian captivity to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, an upright man unwilling to expose her to the law, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream and said to him: “Joseph, son of David, have no fear about taking Mary as your wife. It is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child. She is to have a son and you are to name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.” All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin shall be with child and give birth to a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel,” a name which means “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke he did as the angel of the Lord had directed him and received her into his home as his wife. He had no relations with her at any time before she bore a son, whom he named Jesus.

Our Eparch, Bishop Ken is requesting that at the conclusion of every Divine Liturgy we say an additional prayer for Peace in Ukraine until the end of the war. **For peace in Ukraine, let us pray: Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.**

❖ **Basic Guidelines for Reception of Holy Communion:** You are a member of the Catholic Church (faithful of the Orthodox churches are very welcome to receive Holy Communion); 2) You have participated in the Sacrament of Confession at least during the Easter or Christmas seasons this past year if not more frequently; 3) You attend Divine Services regularly; 4) Your lifestyle is consistent with the teaching of the Catholic Church; 5) You have kept the Liturgical fast – no food at least one hour prior to the Divine Liturgy (water and medicine does not break the fast). 6) You have been in church from the beginning of the service, or at least heard the Gospel. 7) To the best of your ability, you are in the state of Grace. *If for any of these or other reasons you cannot receive Holy Communion, you are very welcome to come for a blessing. Please indicate to the priest that you would like to receive his blessing.*



VIBRANT PARISH PRAYER: O Lord Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, as you once gathered lost sheep that they might hear Your voice and be your flock, so also today graciously look down from heaven upon our parish community, and send down on it your Holy Spirit, that it might be a place to receive the joy of Your Good News. Strengthen us with your presence, and always gather us together in prayer. Grant us the spirit of serving others, so that in our parish all might encounter You, the merciful God. Bless our spiritual leaders with Your wisdom, and inspire us to generously give of our time, talents and treasure for the building up of Your Kingdom. Unite us in peace and harmony, as befits Your community of love. Instill in us a missionary spirit, and let our parish community shine with the light of the Gospel, with prayer and good works, inviting all to share in the divine life, so that Your Name, O Saviour, may be praised, together with Your eternal Father, and Your most-holy, good and life-giving Spirit. Amen.



Літургійні частини Українською мовою:

Глас 6, текст з книги "Божественна Літургія Святого Івана Золотоустого"; ст. 100-102

Апостол: До Євреїв послання Святого Апостола Павла читання: (Євр. 11:9-10, 17-23. 32-40)

Браття і Сестри, вірою Авраам перебував у обіцяній землі, як у чужій, живучи у наметах з Ісааком та Яковом, спадкоємцями, як і він, тієї самої обітниці. Бо чекав міста з непохитними основами, якого Бог будівничий і засновник. Вірою Авраам, поставлений на пробу, приніс у жертву Ісаака; і то єдиного приніс у жертву сина, він, що обітниці одержав, до якого було сказано: «Від Ісаака тобі народиться потомство», думаючи, що Бог має силу і з мертвих воскресити; тому його й одержав назад, як символ. Вірою Ісаак благословив Якова та Ісава на майбутнє. Вірою Яків, перед смертю, благословив кожного з синів Йосифа і поклонився, спираючись на кінець палиці своєї. Вірою Йосиф, вмираючи, загадав про вихід синів Ізраїля і розпорядився про свої кості.



Вірою батьки Мойсея, як він народився, три місяці його ховали, бо бачили красу дитини, і не злякалися царського наказу. І що ще скажу? Часу не вистане мені, коли заходжуся розповідати про Гедеона, про Варака, про Самсона, про Єфту, про Давида й Самуїла та пророків, що вірою підбили царства, чинили справедливість, обітниць осягнули, загородили паці левам, силу вогню гасили, вістря меча уникали, ставали сильні, будиши недолугі, на війні проявили мужність, наскоки чужинців відбивали. Жінки діставали назад своїх померлих, які воскресали. Інші загинули в муках, відкинувши визволення, щоб осягнути ліпше воскресіння. Інші наруг і бичів зазнали та ще й кайданів і в'язниці; їх каменовано, розрізувано пилюю, брано на допити; вони вмирали, мечем забиті; тинялися в овечих та козячих шкурах, збідовані, гноблені, кривджені; вони, яких світ був невартий, блукали пустинями, горами, печерами та земними вертепами. І всі вони, дарма що мали добре засвідчення вірою, не одержали обіцяного, бо Бог зберіг нам щось краще, щоб вони не без нас осягли досконалість.

Євангеліє: (Мт. 1, 1-25)

Родовід Ісуса Христа, сина Давида, сина Авраама. Авраам був батьком Ісаака, Ісаак – Якова, Яків – Юди і братів його. Юда був батьком Фареса та Зари від Тамари. Фарес був батьком Есрома, Есром – Арама, Арам – Амінадава, Амінадав – Наасона, Наасон – Салмона, Салмон – Вооза від Рахави, Вооз – Йовед від Рути, Йовед – Єссея, Єсей був батьком царя Давида, Давид – Соломона від жінки Урії. Соломон же був батьком Ровоама, Ровоам – Авії, Авія – Асафа, Асаф – Йосафата, Йосафат – Йорама, Йорам – Озії, Озія – Йоатама, Йоатам – Ахаза, Ахаз – Єзекії, Єзекія – Манасії, Манасія – Амоса, Амос – Йосії, Йосія – Єхонії і братів його за вавилонсько-го переселення. А після вавилонського переселення в Єхонії народився Салатїїл, у Салатїїла – Зоровавел, у Зоровавела – Авїюд, в Авїюда – Еліяким, в Еліякіма – Азор, в Азора – Садок, у Садока – Ахим, в Ахима – Еліюд, в Еліюда – Єлезар, в Єлезара – Маттан, у Маттана – Яків, у Якова – Йосиф, чоловік Марії, з якої народився Ісус, що зветься Христос. Покоління жє всіх було: від Авраама до Давида чотирнадцять, від Давида до вавилонського переселення чотирнадцять і від вавилонського переселення до Христа – покоління чотирнадцять.

Народження Ісуса Христа відбулося так: Марія, його мати, була заручена з Йосифом; але, перед тим, як вони зійшлись, виявилось, що вона була вагітна від Святого Духа. Йосиф, її чоловік, будиши праведний і не бажавши її ославити, хотів тайкома її відпустити. І от, коли він це задумав, ангел Господній з'явився йому уві сні й мовив: "Йосифе, сину Давида, не бійсь узяти Марію, твою жінку, бо те, що в ній зачалось, походить від Святого Духа. Вона породить сина, і ти даси йому ім'я Ісус, бо він спасе народ свій від гріхів їхніх." А сталося все це, щоб здійснилось Господнє слово, сказане пророком: "Ось, діва матиме в утробі й породить сина, і дадуть йому ім'я Еммануїл, що значить: З нами Бог." Прокинувшись від сну, Йосиф зробив, як звелів йому ангел Господній: прийняв свою жінку; та не спізнав її, аж поки породила сина, і він дав йому ім'я Ісус.

❖ **JOIN OUR CHOIR:** Do you enjoy singing? Please consider joining our Dormition Parish Choir and remember that we are looking for new members! Contact Mrs. Lesia Achtymichuk for more information and details. **Volunteers for Sunday coffee socials and clean-ups are needed** – please continue putting your name on the calendar posted in the church hall. If you can help out, please, let us know. Your help is truly appreciated!



Молитва Живої Парафії: Господи Ісусе Христе, Пастирю Добрий, як колись Ти пригорнув заблуканих овечок, щоб вони пізнали Твій голос і були Твоїм стадом, так і сьогодні глянь ласкаво з небесних висот на нашу парафію та зішли на неї Твого Святого Духа, щоб вона була місцем пізнання радості Доброї Новини. Скріплюй нас Твоєю присутністю та єднай нас кожночасно в молитві. Даруй нам духа служіння ближньому, щоб у нашій парафії кожний міг зустріти Тебе, милостивого Бога. Благослови наш духовний провід Твоєю мудрістю і дай, щоб ніхто з нас не шкодував ні часу, ні талантів, ні матеріальних дібр для розбудови Твого царства. Єднай нас у мирі та злагоді, щоб ми були Твоєю спільнотою любові. Всели в нас місійного духа, щоб ми стали тим світилом євангельського слова, молитви і добрих діл, що кличе кожного до участі в Божественному житті, щоб славилося, Спасе, Твоє Ім'я з безначальним Твоїм Отцем та пресвятим, благим і животворящим Твоїм Духом нині, і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.



>>>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH! ЩИРО ВАМ ДЯКУЄМО! <<<<

Gratitudes to all our parishioners, guests, visitors and all people of the good will who by their kindness share time, volunteer and organize coffee and socials, make donations, came and helped to make perogies this past week, knowingly and unknowingly for the other people thoughtfully care and help our parish community, parishioners welcoming our guests and visitors, volunteered sharing time and care helping to change liturgical linens, contributed and organized Christmas Flowers donations, attended and contributed with their time, talents and treasures at our parish Christmas carolling practice, helped with cleaning, and actively participated different parish projects and programs, looking after and graciously supporting our Christian, Catholic Church community! May the Almighty God bless and abundantly reward your time, care and generosity! **“Remember, O Lord, those who bear fruit doing good works in Your holy churches and remembering the poor. Send down Your mercy upon all of us!”**

(A Prayer from the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom)

Every parishioner is personally responsible before God for our spiritual home-parish-church!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation in many, happy and blessed years of life to Mrs. Nina Sora on her birthday (Dec. 16th), Mrs. Olga Kudeba on her birthday (Dec. 23rd), Mrs. Lesia Tomashevskya on her birthday (Dec. 24th), and to all those who celebrate their birthdays, heavenly patron's /saint's name-day, wedding anniversaries and any other special anniversaries this week – Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WELCOME TO OUR PARISHIONERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WHO HAVE JOINED US IN THIS DIVINE LITURGY. THANK YOU FOR PRAYING WITH US AT THE CHUCH TODAY! WISHING YOU A BLESSED, RESTFUL WEEKEND AND FRUITFUL, HEALTHY AND SAFE WEEK! EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME TO COME AND PARTICIPATE IN OUR PARISH COFFE AND FELLOWSHIP AT THE CHURCH HALL TODAY FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY!

❖ **Christmas Visitations and Carolling** starting at 11:00 am on Wednesday of Dec. 26th, 2018 A.D. All English and Ukrainian speaking parishioners wishing to participate at our parish Christmas carolling visitations or to be visited, please contact Mrs. Olena Fedorov, Dob. Marichka or Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts. Please, sign up.

❖ **Great Blessing of the Water, Christmas and Theophany lunch** is on Sunday, Jan. 6th, 2019 A.D. Please, sign up. ‘



❖ **KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS’** - as part of our parish fundraiser these special magnets are available for purchase at a donation of \$ 5.00. By placing on our cars, a magnet KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS, prepared by the Knights of Columbus, we evangelize silently and verbally through this wonderful symbol. In addition, by purchasing this magnet we also support our parish, since all money collected in our parish for these magnets are donated by the Knights of Columbus to our parish.

❖ **PLEASE, REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:** yourselves, Most Reverend Bishop-Emeritus Severian Yakymyshyn, Lucy D., Janet F., Alex R., Volodymyr P., Ivan L., Ray Saranchuk, Cameron V., Rose Ostopowich, Keyton A., Ric B., Rocio A., Kit C., Shirley C., Peter Dranchuk, Sandra Sh., Patricia U., Olga Kuzyk, Anthony and Victoria Huziak, George and Mary Dashkewtych, Olga Romanyshyn, Myron Stec, Kay Ilnitski, Kalyna Kociuba, William Shuya, Bronie Huska, Peter Huska, Stanley and Roma Nowakowski (Bishop Ken's parents), Barbara and Vincent Pasternak, Dorothy Scott, Lorraine Turcotte, Dr. Nadia Popil, the Hillman Family, Ann Boitson, Sandra Shynkaryk, John and Ann Bulych, all members of our parish and those who are not able to join actively in our community, your families, relatives, friends; governments and armed forces, especially the shut-in or those in the hospitals, traveling, working or studying, nursing and senior homes, those seeking God's answer to their prayers or those rejoicing with God's answer; those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries; those called to their eternal reward and for the family they leave behind; widows and widowers, orphans, homeless and all people who have asked us pray for them. Please, also in your kindness keep praying daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Remember to ask for special blessings to all Christian families! **REMINDER** for families of individuals, who are admitted to hospital - If you or a family member is admitted to hospital and you wish to have a priest visit, please be sure to have someone call our parish rectory office to make this request. Your pastor may have no other way of knowing that you are in hospital, as privacy legislation. **SPIRIT OF CHRISTIAN AWARENESS: Dear parishioners, if our brother / sister in Christ, who usually sits next to you, is not in the Church today, please phone him / her and ask how he / she is doing. Let him / her know that our parish community misses him / her very much!**

❖ *We also pray for the people of Ukraine, that with the help of the Holy Spirit, they may obtain social peace, political harmony and economic stability: Lord, hear us and have mercy.*

❖ **BOX FOR USED CHURCH BULLETINS** – since our Sunday bulletins contain Sacred Scripture readings & icons, they need to be disposed of properly/respectfully after use. Please do not throw them into the garbage but recycle them after shredding if possible. In order to assist with this request, we have provided a special box for used bulletins at the church entrance.

❖ **A SPECIAL REQUEST:** After each Divine Liturgy and every church service, please, keep silence in the House of the Lord as some of the faithful are still praying at the church. As well, please, do not forget close all Liturgy and/or hymnbooks and return them to their proper place. Also, please do not leave any church bulletins or any other material in the pews. Let each of us do our part to be true stewards of our parish church by helping to keep the church building clean and neat. Thank you very much!



❖ **If somebody needs a hardworking, loving, caring a good Christian housekeeper, please, talk to Elena after the church service today.**

❖ **BE A STEWARD:** Have you ever wondered what more can you do to help our parish-church? Here are some suggestions: Steward of property security; Steward of grounds cleaning; Steward of cleaning church; Steward of church linen; Steward of outreach; Steward of caring; Steward of prayer; Steward of service. Quite often, our homebound or senior members, once active in their younger years, want to find purpose in their senior years. It's not only about doing but about "BEING" present to others! **Please, feel very welcome to participate in our church choir singing, reading of the Epistles and others inspiring Bible texts, holding the candles during the Gospels readings, processions, welcoming, parish cleaning, projects, etc.** **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** to help out with weekly cleaning in the church and organizing of coffee social after the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, work-bees, etc. If you can help out, please, let us know. Please, Contact Mr. Neil Lalach or Fr. Pavlo for more information. You will be amazed how "BEING" can make a difference at our spiritual, parish life!

❖ **A SPECIAL REQUEST:** After each Divine Liturgy and every church service, please, keep silence in the House of the Lord as some of the faithful are continue praying at the church. As well, please, do not forget close all Liturgy and/or hymnbooks and return them to their proper place. Also, please do not leave any church bulletins or any other material in the pews. Let each of us do our part to be true stewards of our parish church by helping to keep the church building clean and neat. Thank you for your Christian understanding and cooperation very much!

❖ **FAITHFUL GIVING** ... Please, remember that we never take a day off or a vacation from God, or from our obligation to attend Divine Liturgy on Sundays and Holy Days. **When traveling, working, participating in different sport's tournaments, activities or studying, please, make sure you check out the service schedule for the area churches at our eparchial website: www.nweparchy.ca and attend the Divine Liturgy.** Remember as well, that while parishioners may be away and on vacation, the parish-church is not. Expenses continue as they do throughout the year. Please, remain consistent in your gifts to parish. Your weekly Sunday offering is important to our financial well-being. If you are away, we appreciate it when you forward your "make-up" donations. The financial stability of the parish counts on regular Sunday contributions. Please, continue to be supportive and generous! "Remember, O Lord, those who bear fruit doing good works in Your holy churches and remembering the poor. Send down Your mercy upon all of us!" (*Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*)

❖ **Glasses Prescription Box for Ukraine** is placed and located at the left side by the entrance to the parish hall. Please, feel free to participate in and support this important project.

❖ **Please, share to Kelowna Food Bank.** A special box is located at the church vestibule.

Ideas to help to prepare for the Nativity of Jesus Christ

- Clean house together in preparation for the Nativity of Jesus Christ.
- Sing a well-known song together that speaks of the coming of the Messiah.
- Make an ornament for your family Christmas tree.
- Offer a prayer of thanks for someone who went out of their way to make your day better.
- Look at everything your family does to prepare for Christmas and how you can all share these tasks.
- As a family, go without snacks or even a meal. Contribute the money saved to a local soup kitchen or food pantry.
- Bake and decorate Christmas cookies as a family. Keep half and give the rest away.
- Donate a package of heavy-weight socks to your local homeless shelter.
- Locate Israel and Bethlehem on a globe or world map. Pray for peace in the land and continent of Jesus' birth.

Remember to Keep Christ in Christmas! The Real Reason for the Season!

❖ **Ukrainian Catholic Church interactive map:** as Christmas season is approaching some of you will be travelling and visiting your friends and families not only in Canada. So, we want to ensure that you can find a Ukrainian Catholic parish in different parts of the world. Please check out this interactive map of our parishes throughout the world where you can find parish near you: <http://map.ugcc.ua/>

❖ **Rachel's Corner:** "I said her name out loud for the very first time. I have not been to confession in 10 years and I thought I was fine. What a gift I have been given going to confession now. I am so happy now. I am at peace and more importantly, now I know my child is at peace. I am empty of all pain. Now I can begin to forgive myself." - *Testimonial from retreat.* Do you know what it would feel like to feel peace again? Your Rachel's Vineyard™ team understands that yearning and invites you to join them on the next retreat. The gift of His mercy and peace is awaiting you **Healing after Abortion Ministry** 250-762-2273 info@rachelsvineyardkelowna.com or information and registration visit: www.rachelsvineyardkelowna.com, Facebook: **Rachel's Vineyard Kelowna**



❖ **Since 2012 our Eparchy has been collecting funds to help underprivileged and orphaned children in Ukraine through our Christmas Candle appeal.** Since 2012 our Eparchy has been collecting funds to help underprivileged and orphaned children in Ukraine through our Christmas Candle appeal. Our fundraising program is part of a larger global appeal sponsored by Caritas Ukraine. We have had great momentum over the last few years raising over \$20,000 with support from our BC Parishes as well as Parishes in other Provinces and parts of the United States.

The appeal is once again taking place for the month of December and we encourage everyone to remember these children during the Christmas season with a voluntary donation. Please place your donation in an envelope marked Christmas Candle and include it with the Sunday collection at any Ukrainian Catholic Church in BC. Donations over \$20 are eligible to receive a tax receipt if requested and cheques can be made out to your Parish with Christmas Candle Project in the Memo.

We thank you for your past support and generosity and ask that you continue supporting this appeal as part of your Christmas tradition. Caritas is an organization that is supported and approved by His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk and His Excellency Bishop Ken Nowakowski. 100% of the proceeds go to Caritas Ukraine. For more information, please contact the coordinators Dana Koren Lupynis or Natalia Lupynis at nweparchy.christmascandle@gmail.com and follow us on Facebook at Caritas "Christmas Candle / Різдвяна свічка" Campaign, sponsored by NWEparchy.



NATIVITY (CHRISTMAS) PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV



**Most Reverend Archbishops and Metropolitan, God-loving Bishops,
Very Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics, Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters, in Ukraine and
throughout the world**

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his nameshall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ([Isaiah 9:5](#))*

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Beloved in Christ!

Today heaven and earth is filled with the light of joy and peace. Angels and men, all creation welcomes Christ the Saviour born in human flesh. All of us together with the shepherds and wise men hasten to the poor stable-cave to join Mary and Joseph in venerating the incarnate God, who rests on hay in a manger. We hasten to receive the love and peace that the Lord brings into a world of hate and violence.

The Gospel narrative of the Nativity conveys to us the Good News proclaimed by the angel: “And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger” ([Luke 2:12](#)). In the Christmas carols and services of this mystical night we hear of a mighty heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” ([Luke 2:14](#)). All of humanity, in awaiting the birth of the Saviour, had hoped for the beginning of a new era in human history—a new time when the Messiah as Prince of Peace would restore harmony to human relations, would abolish all forms of violence of men against men; not as a victor in war, like his ancestor David, but as the Son of God, conquering the very reason for wars and hostility—human sin, that evil which is the greatest disfigurement of paradisiacal happiness.

Human beings are created by God for peace which is a sign of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit (see [Galatians 5:22-23](#)). In spite of our nature, fallen through sin, human beings invariably seek this peace, even though we may not always know how to achieve it. For this very reason our Divine Liturgy, after calling for the establishment and strengthening of the blessed Kingdom of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, immediately invites us to pray for peace from on high for the entire world and the well-being of God’s holy churches. Indeed, today’s feast proclaims to us that Christ is the Prince of Peace and that the might of God is revealed in peace.

When we hear the word “prince,” we immediately think of a person who has authority and power. We encounter many “princes,” good and bad, in various spheres of human life: politics, employment, family, and even church life. However, from the Gospel perspective and in light of the example of Christ as Prince of Peace, it becomes evident that divine authority is expressed through service, and divine power is found in the infinite and unconditional, faithful, and sacrificial love of the Lord for His creation.

A human being can live in peace and become a servant of peace only when he or she receives the Prince of Peace, newly-born today, into their hearts, into their internal spiritual world, into their personal and social life. Saint Paul writes in his epistle to the Ephesians: “He is our peace” ([Ephesians 2:14](#)). Therefore, the greatest expression of God’s universal might, the manner in which the Prince of Peace manifests His power and authority, is not in the humiliation of others through injustice and violence, but in serving others out of unconditional love for the sake of peace!

At times in our daily lives it may seem to us that the one who is powerful is the one who is able to humiliate another. However, in reality such an expression of power is violence. Therefore, standing before the manger of the Prince of Peace, we begin to understand that violence is always the argument of a weakling, of one who wishes to appear powerful. It is the behaviour of a coward, who simply fears the other, no matter how weak.

Christ endured violence from the very moment of His birth. King Herod, whom history calls great, in reality was a little coward: he feared for his authority, he perceived himself a failure in the face of God as a powerless Child. In order to retain authority and the riches entailed in it, he resorted to violence: commanding the death of the little ones of Bethlehem, the children of his own people! The peace of God, on the other hand, is always mightier than human violence, and that is why He is always victorious.

Only the powerless and weak in spirit adopt a strategy of insidious attack, aggression, or blind violence as a method of ensuring one’s authority, being incapable of convincing or leading others any other way. In contrast, human frailty, vested in Divine power, often becomes the pledge of true victory and a lasting peace. Let us recall what the Lord revealed to the Apostle of the nations: “My power is made perfect in weakness” ([2 Corinthians 12:9](#)). The weakness of God is mightier than the appearance of human power. Herod was buried not long after the birth of our Lord Jesus, while Christ, the Prince of Peace, is alive—yesterday, today and forever! (see [Hebrews 13:8](#)).

Beloved in Christ! To celebrate Christmas is to be filled with peace from heaven and to say “no” to violence. Let us receive the newly-born Saviour as Prince of Peace in our families and become, following the example of St. Joseph and Mary the Theotokos, bearers and custodians of peace. Let us avoid all forms of violence—in word and deed—especially in our family circle, in relations between husband and wife or parents and children. Let us reject the culture of death which allows for the killing of the innocent unborn and, as we see in some countries of the world, encourages the gravely ill or elderly to shorten

their life under the guise of a so-called “sweet death,” which is nothing more than an offense against God and a crime against the sanctity and inviolability of human life.

Let our ancient Christmas carols resound in our schools and educational institutions, safeguarding our children from events of violence. In societies where we live, let us not permit the presence of blind physical or moral violence on the political battleground. Representatives of political forces who encourage violence and foment conflicts are in reality spiritual weaklings, and they will never be capable of serving the common good of our people. Wherever we live, whether in Ukraine, which in the near future will be electing a president and parliament, or in the countries where our people have settled, let us support those who aspire elected office not in order to rule others, but in order to serve. Let us support those who resist violence and seek to establish the peace of God, a peace that is just and lasting.

Let us celebrate Christ’s Nativity today and bring forth the joy and peace that comes from heaven. Let us conquer violence and fear, both in our personal lives, and on all the fronts of this war, whose consequences profoundly affect each and every one of us. Let us counter foreign aggression, as do those who defend our native land in Ukraine’s East, with the sacrifice of our love, in active solidarity with the victims of aggression. Let us be persistent in prayer, calling for the peace of God upon our land, in our families and hearts! May the words of the prophet Isaiah be fulfilled for us: “Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders; you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise” ([Isaiah 60:18](#)).

Beloved Brothers and Sisters! With this Christmas letter I greet all of you who today, as domestic Church, receive the new-born Christ into your families—parents and children, the elderly and youth. I hasten to share the good news of joy and peace with those, who labour abroad—far away from their home and loved-ones. I embrace those brothers and sisters who have been forced to migrate, who miss their native lands, and all, who today carry on their bodies and in their hearts the wounds of war and violence.

With the Nativity of Christ, I especially greet our soldiers, the defenders of peace and victors of war. My thoughts and prayers go to the cold prisons, where our prisoners of war and of conscience continue to suffer; to the hospitals, where our wounded in battle for our nation regain their health; to the homes, where Ukrainians afflicted with grief mourn the loss of their loved-ones because of the war. The Lord of peace is with us! May the Christmas star shine upon us with its light, and in every home the words of our carol-song resound clearly:

*Ангели співають:(The Angels sing:)«Слава» восклицаютъ, (Exclaiming “Glory!”)
На небесах і на землі (Inheaven and on earth)
Мир проповідують.(Proclaiming peace.)*

I wish all of you the authentic joy that is given to the children of God, a cheerful celebration of Christ’s Nativity, and a happy, peaceful and blessed New Year!

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

† SVIATOSLAV

Given in Kyiv

at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, on the day of our father St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the 19th (6th) of December in the 2018th Year of our Lord



РІЗДВЯНЕ ПОСЛАННЯ БЛАЖЕННІШОГО СВЯТОСЛАВА

**Високопреосвященним і Преосвященним Архiepіскопам та Митрополитам,
боголюбивим єпископам, всечесному духовенству,
преподобному монашеству, возлюбленим братам і сестрам,
в Україні та на поселеннях у світі сущим**

*Бо хлоп’ятконам народилося, сина нам дано; влада на плечах у нього;
і дадуть йому ім’я: Чудесний поради́к, сильний Бог,
Отець довічний, Князь миру (Іс. 9, 5).*

Христос народився! Славимо Його!

Дорогі в Христі!

Сьогодні небо і земля сповнюються світлом радості та миру. Ангели й люди, усе сотворіння вітає народженого в людському тілі Христа-Спасителя. Усі ми разом із пастирями та мудрецами спішимо до вбогого вертепу, щоб разом із Марією та Йосифом вклонитися воплоченому Богові, який спочиває в яслах на сні. Спішимо прийняти любов і мир, які Господь приносить із собою у світ ненависті та насильства.

Евангельська розповідь про Різдво Христове передає нам вустами ангела Благую Вість: «... ось вам знак: Ви знайдете дитя сповите, що лежатиме в яслах» (Лк. 2, 12). У різдвяних колядках і богослужіннях цієї таїнственої ночі чуємо, як велика сила небесного війська хвалить Бога й промовляє: «Слава на висотах Богу й на землі мир людям його вподобання» (Лк. 2, 14). Цей ангельський спів про славу на висотах і мир на землі сповіщає нам, що здійснилося пророцтво Ісаї про Месію – Князя миру (Іс. 9, 5). Усе людство, очікуючи народження Спасителя, сподівалося на початок нової ери у своїй історії, – нового часу, коли Месія, як Князь миру, поверне гармонію в стосунки між людьми, усуне всяке насильство людини над людиною; уже не так, як Його прабатько Давид, буде переможцем у війні, але як Син Божий здолає саму причину воєн і ворожнечі – людський гріх, оте лихо, що є найбільшим спотворенням райського щастя.

Людина створена Богом для миру, що є ознакою присутності й дії Святого Духа (пор. Гал. 5, 22-23). Незважаючи на свою впаду через гріх природу, людина постійно прагне цього миру, хоч не завжди вміє його досягнути. Невипадково наша Божественна Літургія, закликаючи до встановлення і укріплення благословенного Царства Отця, і Сина, і Святого Духа, відразу молиться за мир з висот для всього світу і добрий стан святих Божих Церков. Саме нинішнє свято нам сповіщає, що Христос – Князь миру і що Божа могутність об'являється в мирі.

Утім, коли ми чуємо слово «князь», відразу думаємо про людину, яка має владу і силу. Ми зустрічаємо «князів», добрих і злих, у різних сферах людського життя: політично-суспільній, трудовій, сімейній і навіть церковній. Однак з евангельської перспективи та у світлі прикладу Христа як Князя миру, стає очевидним, що Божа влада – це служіння, а Божа сила – це безмежна і безкорислива, вірна і жертвна любов Господа до свого створіння.

Людина зможе жити в мирі і стати служителем миру для інших лише тоді, коли прийме народженого сьогодні Князя миру у своє серце, у свій внутрішній духовний світ, в особисте і суспільне життя. Святий Павло пише в Посланні до ефесян: «Він наш мир» (Еф. 2, 14). Отож найвищий прояв Божої всемогутності, прояв сили і влади Князя миру – це не приниження іншого через несправедливість і насильство, а служіння ближньому в безкорисливій любові задля миру!

Часом у щоденному житті нам видається, що сильним є той, хто може принизити іншу людину. Однак насправді такий прояв сили – це насильство. Тож стоячи перед яслами Князя миру, ми починаємо розуміти, що насильство – це завжди аргумент слабкого, який хоче видати себе за сильного, це поведінка боягуза, що просто лякається іншої людини, навіть найслабшої.

Христос зазнавав насилля практично з моменту народження. Цар Ірод, якого в історії називають великим, насправді був малим боягузом: боявся за свою владу, почувався невдахою перед обличчям Бога у немічній Дитині. Щоб утримати владу і пов'язане з нею багатство, вдався до насильства: наказав убити вифлеємських малят, дітей власного народу! Та Божий мир завжди сильніший за людське насилля, тому саме він перемагає.

Стратегію підступного нападу, агресії чи сліпого насильства як шляху до запевнення своєї влади обирає безсилий і слабодухий, бо нічим іншим не може переконати чи повести за собою. Натомість запорукою справжньої перемоги і тривалого миру часто стає людська слабкість, одягнена в Божу силу. Згадаймо, як об'явив Господь Апостолові народів: «Моя сила виявляється в безсиллі» (2 Кор. 12, 9). Немічне Боже є сильнішим від позірно могутнього людського. Ірода незадовго після народження Господа Ісуса поховали, а Христос – Князь миру – живий вчора, сьогодні і навіки! (див. Євр. 13, 8).

Дорогі в Христі! Святувати Різдво – це сповнюватися миром із небес і сказати «ні» насильству. Приймемо новонародженого Спасителя як Князя миру в наші родини і станьмо, за прикладом святого Йосифа та Богородиці Марії, носіями і хранителями миру. Уникаймо будь-якого насильства – у словах і вчинках – передусім у родинному колі, у стосунках чоловіка і жінки чи батьків і дітей. Відкидаймо культуру смерті, яка допускає вбивство невинних ненароджених і заохочує, як це буває в деяких країнах світу, важкохворих або старших людей вкорочувати собі віку під маскою так званої «солодкої смерті», що є насправді нічим іншим, як викликом проти Бога і злочином проти святості й недоторканності людського життя.

Нехай залунає прабатьківська колядка в наших школах та інших навчальних закладах, запобігаючи проявам насильства серед дітей. У суспільстві, в якому живемо, не дозволяймо, щоб сліпе фізичне чи моральне насильство було засобом політичної боротьби. Представники політичних сил, які заохочують до насильства і розпалюють конфлікти, насправді є слабодухими і ніколи не будуть здатними послужити спільному благу нашого народу. Хоч би де ми жили: в Україні, яка в недалекому майбутньому обиратиме президента і парламент, чи в країнах наших поселень – підтримуймо тих, хто йде до влади не з метою панування, а щоб служити і має силу протистояти насиллю, утверджуючи справедливий і тривалий Божий мир.

Святуймо сьогодні Різдво Христове та будьмо носіями небесної радості й миру, перемагаймо насильство і страх, як в особистому житті, так і на всіх фронтах війни, наслідки якої кожний із нас сьогодні дуже глибоко переживає. Чужоземній агресії протиставмо, як це роблять захисники рідної землі на Сході України, жертвність нашої любові, дієву солідарність із жертвами агресії, витривалість у молитві, якою спільно прикликаймо Божий мир на нашу землю, у наші родини і серця! Нехай сповняться на нас слова пророка Ісаї: «Не чути буде більше про насильство

в твоїм краю та про спустошення й руїну в твоїх межах. Ти зватимеш твої мури спасінням, славою – твої ворота» (Іс. 60, 18).

Дорогі браття і сестри! Оцим різдвяним словом вітаю кожного з вас, батьків з дітьми, старших із молоддю, що сьогодні, як домашня Церква, приймає до своїх родин новонародженого Христа. Спішу з благовістю радості й миру до тих, хто є на заробітках – далеко від свого дому та від близьких, обіймаю вимушено переселених братів і сестер, що тужать за рідною стороною, та всіх, хто сьогодні носить на своєму тілі й у душі рани війни та насильства.

Особливо вітаю з Різдвом Христовим наших військових, які є оборонцями миру та переможцями війни. Лину думками та молитвою до холодних тюрем, де страждають наші військовополонені й в'язні сумління, до лікарень, де одужують поранені в боях за нашу Батьківщину, до домівок, де вбиті горем українці переживають втрату своїх рідних внаслідок війни. Господь миру є з усіма нами! Хай різдвяна зоря сяє нам своїм світлом, а в кожній хаті дзвінко лунає пісня-коляда:

*Ангели співають:
«Слава» восклицают,
На небесах і на землі
Мир проповідують.*

Усім бажаю справжньої радості дітей Божих, веселих свят Різдва Христового та щасливого, мирного і благословенного нового року!
Христос народився! Славимо Його!

† СВЯТОСЛАВ

Дано в Києві, при Патріаршому соборі Воскресіння Христового,
у день Святого отця нашого Миколая, архієпископа Мир Лікійських, чудотворця, 19 (6) грудня 2018 року Божого



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If you wish your business to be advertised at our church bulletin, please, let us know by contacting the parish office.

❖ **Bequests and Wills:** Leaving a bequest is a process of giving a donation through your will. It is simply a distribution from your estate to a charitable organization through your last will and testament. It can be as small or as large a donation as you wish. It is important that you talk to your lawyer about the process.

In your kindness please remember Resurrection of Jesus Christ Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Penticton, BC and Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kelowna, BC in your bequests and wills. If anyone wishes to make such a bequest in their will, the following clause may be included or added to a will: "I give, devise, and bequeath to Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church at 1091 Coronation Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7A8 or to Resurrection of Jesus Christ Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Penticton, BC, the sum of \$ _____ (or ____% of my estate), to be used for the benefit of the church/parish and it's needs and pastoral ministry."

