



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



Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ - December 25th, 2017 A.D.

"Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace!" - 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: Christ Is Born! – Let us glorify Him!

Chrystos Rozhdaiet'sia! – Slavimo Yoho!

Христос Рождается! - Славимо Його!

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 this whole season!

26 December (Wednesday) – Synaxis of the BVM / Собор Богородиці

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy and caroling during this whole special day

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:

First Antiphon

Verse 1: I will confess You, Lord, with all my heart, I will declare all Your wondrous deeds (Ps. 9:2).

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.

Verse 2: In the council of the just and the congregation, great are the works of the Lord, conforming to His will in every way (Ps 110:1-2).

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God O Saviour, save us.



Verse 3: His work is filled with praise and majesty, and His righteousness endures forever (Ps 110:3).

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God O Saviour, save us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Only-Begotten Son.

Third Antiphon

Verse 1 (Soloist): The Lord said to my lord, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies the footstool of your feet” (Ps 109:1).

Troparion (Tone 4): Your Nativity, O Christ our God,* made the light of knowledge dawn on the world;* through it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star* to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness,* and to know You, the Dawn from on high.* Glory to You, O Lord.

Verse 2 (Soloist): The Lord will send you a scepter of power out of Zion; reign in the midst of your enemies (Ps 109:2).

Troparion (Tone 4): Your Nativity...

Verse 3 (Soloist): Yours is the dominion on the day you are given power in his splendor of your holy ones (Ps 109:3).

Troparion (Tone 4): Your Nativity...

At the Small Entrance: Priest: Wisdom! Stand aright!

Entrance Verse (Soloist): From the womb before the daystar I begot you. The Lord has sworn an oath and will not go back on His word: You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek (Ps 109:3-4).

Troparion (Tone 4): Your Nativity, O Christ our God,* made the light of knowledge dawn on the world;* through it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star* to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness,* and to know You, the Dawn from on high.* Glory to You, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Kontakion (Tone 3): The Virgin today gives birth to Him who is above all being; the earth offers the cave to Him whom no one can approach; Angels with shepherds give Him glory, while Magi make their way with a star, for to us is born a little Child, the Pre-Eternal God.

Instead of “Holy God...”: All you, who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia!

Prokimenon (Tone 8): Let all the earth worship You and sing to You; let it sing to Your Name, O Most High (Ps 65:4).

Verse: Shout to the Lord, all the earth, sing now to His name, give glory to His praise (Ps 65:2).

Prokimenon (Tone 8): Let all the earth worship You and sing to You; let it sing to Your Name, O Most High (Ps 65:4).

Epistle: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians: (Gal. 4:4-7)

Brothers and Sisters, *when the designated time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to deliver from the law those who were subjected to it, so that we might receive our status as adopted children. The proof that you are children is the fact that God has sent forth into our hearts the Spirit of his Son which cries out “Abba! Father!” You are no longer a slave but a child! And the fact that you are a child makes you an heir, by God’s design.*



Alleluia (Tone 1): The heavens tell the glory of God, and the firmament declares the work of His hands (Ps 18:2). Day announces its message unto day and night proclaims its knowledge unto night (Ps 18:3).

Gospel: (Mathew 2:1-12)

After Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem of Judea during the reign of King Herod, astrologers from the east arrived one day in Jerusalem inquiring, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.” At this news King Herod became greatly disturbed, and with him all Jerusalem. Summoning all of the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem of Judea,” they informed him. “Here is what the prophet has written: ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the princess of Judah, since from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star’s appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them: “Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report it to me so that I may go and offer him homage too.” After their audience the king, they set out. The star which they have observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house, found the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then, they opened their coffers and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They received a message in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

Instead of “It is truly...”: O my soul, magnify Christ the King born in a manger.

Irmos (Tone 1): A strange and glorious mystery do I behold: the cave is heaven; the Virgin, the throne of the cherubim; the manger, a dwelling place in which is laid Christ, the God Whom nothing can contain. Singing His praises, we glorify Him.

Communion Verse: The Lord has sent deliverance to His people (Ps 110:9). Alleluia! (3x)

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:

Перший Антифон

Стих: Ісповімся тобі, Господи, всім серцем моїм, розповім про всі чуда твої. (Пс. 9:2).

Приспів: Молитвами Богородиці, Спасе, спаси нас.

Стих: На раді праведних і соньмі – великі діла Господні, явлені в усіх волях його.

Приспів: Молитвами Богородиці, Спасе, спаси нас.

Стих: Ісповідування і велич – діло його і правда його перебуває повік віку.

Приспів: Молитвами Богородиці, Спасе, спаси нас.

Слава і нині: Єдинородний Сину:

Третій Антифон

Стих: Сказав Господь Господеві моему: Сиди праворуч мене, поки не покладу ворогів твоїх підніжжям ніг твоїх. (Пс. 109, 1)

Тропар (глас 4): Різдво твоє, Христе Боже наш,* засвітило світові світло розуміння:* в ньому бо ті, що звіздам служили, від звізди навчилися* поклонитися тобі – Сонцю правди,* і пізнавати тебе – Схід з висоти.* Господи, слава тобі.

Стих: Жезл сили пошле тобі Господь від Сіону і володій посеред ворогів твоїх.

Тропар (глас 4): Різдво твоє ...

Стих: З тобою начало в день сили твоєї, у світлостях святих твоїх.

Тропар (глас 4): Різдво твоє ...

Замість «Прийдіть поклоніться Вхідне: Із утроби перед зірницею родив я тебе – клявся Господь і не розкався: Ти єрей повік за чином Мелхіседека. (Пс. 109, 3-4).

Тропар (глас 4): Різдво твоє... **Слава Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові, І нині, і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь.**

Кондак (глас 3): Діва днесь преістотного родить і земля вертеп неприступному приносить.* Ангели з пастирями славословлять,* а волхви зо звіздою подорожують,* бо ради нас родилося дитя мале – предвічний Бог.

Замість “Святий Боже” ми співаємо: Ви, що в Христа хрестилися, у Христа зодягнулися. Алілуя!

Прокімен (глас 8): Вся земля нехай поклониться Тобі і співає Тобі,* нехай же співає імені Твоєму, Всевишній.

Стих: Воскликніть Господеві, вся земля, співайте ж імені його, віддайте славу хвалі його.

Прокімен (глас 8): Вся земля нехай поклониться Тобі і співає Тобі,* нехай же співає імені Твоєму, Всевишній.

Апостол: До Галатів послання Святого Апостола Павла читання: (Гал. 4:4-7)

Браття і Сестри, якже сповнився час, Бог послав свого Сина, що народився від жінки, народився під законом, щоб викупити тих, які під законом, щоб ми прийняли усиновлення. А що ви сини, Бог послав у ваші серця Духа Сина свого, який взиває “Авва, Отче!” Тому ти вже не раб, а син; а коли син, то спадкоємець завдяки Богові.



Алілуя (глас 1): **Стих:** Небеса повідають славу Божу, творіння ж рук його сповіщає твердь.

Стих: День дневі передає слово і ніч ночі об'являє розуміння.

Євангеліє: (Мт. 2, 1-12)

Коли ж народився Ісус у Віфлеємі Юдейським, за днів царя Ірода, то ось мудреці прибули до Єрусалиму зо сходу, і питали: Де народжений Цар Юдейський? Бо на сході ми бачили зорю Його, і прибули поклонитись Йому. І, як почув це цар

Ірод, занепокоївся, і з ним увесь Єрусалим. І, зібравши всіх первосвящеників і книжників людських, він випитував у них, де має Христос народитись? Вони ж відказали йому: У Віфлеємі Юдейським, бо в пророка написано так: І ти, Віфлеєме, земле Юдина, не менший нічим між осадами Юдиними, бо з тебе з'явиться Вождь, що буде Він пасти народ Мій ізраїльський. Тоді Ірод покликав таємно отих мудреців, і докладно випитував їх про час, коли з'явилась зоря. І він відіслав їх до Віфлеєму, говорячи: Ідіть, і пильно розвідайтеся про Дитятко; а як знайдете, сповістіть мене, щоб і я міг піти й поклонитись Йому. Вони ж царя вислухали й відійшли. І ось зоря, що на сході вони її бачили, йшла перед ними, аж прийшла й стала зверху, де Дитятко було. А бачивши зорю, вони надзвичайно зраділи. І, ввійшовши до дому, знайшли там Дитятко з Марією, Його матір'ю. І вони впали ницьма, і поклонились Йому. І, відчинивши скарбниці свої, піднесли Йому свої дари: золото, ладан та смирну. А вві сні остережені, щоб не вертатись до Ірода, відійшли вони іншим шляхом до своєї землі.

Замість "Достойно..." ми співаємо: Величай, душе моя, у вертепі народженого Царя – Христа.

Ірмос (глас 1): Таїнство чудне бачу і преславне: небо – вертеп, престол херувимський – Діву, ясла – вмістилище, в яких возліг невимістимий Христос Бог. Його оспівуючи величаємо.

Причасний: Ізбавління послав Господь людям своїм. Аلیلуя, аلیلуя, аلیلуя.

Замість "Благословенний, хто йде..." ми співаємо: Всесвіт днес радістю сповняється, Христос родився від Діви. (1х)

Замість "Ми бачили світло істинне..." ми співаємо: Всесвіт днес радістю сповняється, Христос родився від Діви. (1х)

Замість "Нехай сповняться уста..." і "Нехай буде ім'я..." ми співаємо: Всесвіт днес радістю сповняється, Христос родився від Діви. (3х)

❖ **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 славилось, 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, talents and treasures, 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, helped with cleaning, and actively participate at 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 all our faithful parishioners celebrating Christmas/Nativity in the Flesh/Birthday of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ today, and to all those parishioners who celebrate their birthdays, heavenly patron's /saint's name-day, wedding anniversaries and any other special anniversaries this week – Многая і Благая Лита!



NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR PARISHIONERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WHO HAVE JOINED US IN CHRISTMAS DIVINE LITURGY. THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING, PRAYING AND CELEBRATING NATIVITY/BIRTHDAY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR TOGETHER AT THE CHUCH TODAY! WISHING ALL OF YOU A BLESSED WITH PEACE, LOVE AND JOY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS!



***Chrystos Rozhdaiet'sia! - Slavimo Yoho!
Христос Рождається! - Славимо Його!***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ keeps blessing and guiding You, Your relatives, friends, neighbours and colleagues with His Divine Love, Peace and Joy at this Christmas Time and throughout New 2019 Year!

With pastoral blessings, prayers and gratitude

sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Pavlo, Dob. Mariia, Nazariy and Veronica Myts

Christ Is Born! - Glorify Him!

❖ **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.

❖ **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@rachelvineyardkelowna.com** or information and registration visit: www.rachelvineyardkelowna.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 / Різдва свічка" Campaign, sponsored by NWEparchy.*

2018/2019 PASTORAL LETTER
**OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CANADA
 ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

**"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth
 peace among those whom he favors!" (Luke 2:14)**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, we do so with a sense of wonder in our hearts. The story of the birth of Jesus serves as a constant reminder of God's love for us.

To express God's boundless love for us, God appears among us in the person of his own son, Jesus Christ. God with us. Emmanuel. And in this we rejoice!

This year, we celebrate Christmas in the context of the 100th Anniversary of the End of World War I. On November 11, 1918, church bells rang out throughout the world as an outpouring of relief that four years of war had come to an end. We remember and honour those who served and sacrificed - millions who gave with their lives - that we might have peace. We remember the joy that peace brought after so much death and destruction.

Peace. Jesus, at his birth, comes into the world as the Prince of Peace, in fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah: "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9: 6).

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He comes into the world as the great peacemaker among humanity.

He teaches in the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5: 9).

At his death, he tells his disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you" (John 14: 27).

On that very first Easter, we are told: "When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'" (John 20: 19).

Alongside other powerful names such as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, and Eternal Father, Jesus is given the title Prince of Peace, indicating one of His many roles - the One who is the leader of peace and offers it to others.

As we celebrate Jesus' birth this Christmas, let us thank God for the gift of peace. And let us honour the Prince of Peace by continuing to be peacemakers in the world, starting within our own families and among our friends and neighbours.

But how can we do so? The story is told about an old rabbi once asked his students how one could recognize the time when night ends and day begins. One student asked, "Is it when, from a great distance, you can tell a dog from a sheep?" "No," said the rabbi. Another student asked, "Is it when, from a great distance, you can tell a date palm from a fig tree?" "No," said the rabbi. "Then," the students asked, "when is it?" The rabbi answered, "It is when you look into the face of any human creature and see your brother or sister there. Until then, night is still with us.

Ah, to see brother or sister in all. This is the call of all humanity. Yet, we live in a world that is all too often filled with horrific examples of communities torn apart: hunger and starvation, ethnic cleansing, segregation, genocide, tougher immigration, and so on.

Still, there is plenty of food and work for everyone in the world if we but share our common wealth and recognize that we are all brothers and sisters. We are not alone but are related with others all around the world. We belong to the family of God, and it is the love of God that binds us together.

This Christmas, we remember those that fought for peace in the world. We remember the joy that peace brought, and pray for peace and a better world - including places where there is conflict today: Ukraine, Syria, the Middle East, and others - when we can truly call each other brother and sister.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, may Christ, truly bless you and your family with peace, love and joy, now and in the New Year!

Christ is Born! Let us Glorify Him!

+Lawrence Huculak, OSBM, Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg
 +Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, Eparch Emeritus of New Westminster
 +Stephen Chmilar, Eparchial Bishop of Toronto
 +Bryan Bayda, CSsR, Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon

+Michael Wiwchar, CSsR, Eparch Emeritus of Saskatoon
 +David Motiuk, Eparchial Bishop of Edmonton
 +Ken Nowakowski, Eparchial Bishop of New



Chancery Office
Eparchy of New Westminster

**PASTORAL LETTER OF THE MOST REVEREND KEN NOWAKOWSKI,
BISHOP OF NEW WESTMINSTER ON THE OCCASION OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 2018
CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**

The unapproachable God, out of mercy, wished to become visible for us. He comes in the flesh, to be born as a human being of the most pure Virgin, in the city of Bethlehem. Therefore, let us hasten with devotion to receive him. [Sessional hymn, pre-feast of the Nativity]

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Where will you be for the Christmas holiday season? I know that this is a question many people ask one another: Are you staying in town, going to visit your family in Saskatchewan or heading off to some white sand beach resort? Often, we find ourselves planning our Christmas holidays months ahead of Christmas. We book tickets and hotel rooms, prepay meals and schedule activities typical for the location.

Then there's the question: Are you ready for Christmas? Usually that means: Did you get all your Christmas holiday shopping done? Are the outdoor lights up before the snow or rain comes? Have you finished baking for the holidays, wrapping and sending off your Christmas gifts? In our busy world these are not unusual questions.

We do need to plan ahead so that we can be with family or make the most of our vacation time away from work or school. But what if in asking ourselves about the where and what of Advent and Christmas, this is what we responded: During Advent I decided to donate to the local food bank, to a charity that really makes a difference in people's lives. I spent time at a retreat or made a day of spiritual renewal. I went to confession so that I can be ready to celebrate the birth of Our Lord. Oh, and where am I going to be on Christmas? In church, of course!

The "where" and "how" of our celebration depends on the "who and why" of Christmas. Our highly commercialized society tries to convince us that we will be fulfilled if we shop, till we drop, and go from party to party, pretending festive joy before the actual feast. We know better! Let's make sure that for us and our families "Jesus is the reason for the season!" Let the "Who" - our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, - the "why" - His entrance into human history at the Nativity, be the center of our celebration. Then the "where" and "how" will fall into place: Christ is born! Glorify Him!

With assurance of my prayerful best wishes and blessings to you and your family, I remain,

Sincerely yours in the Lord,
+Ken Nowakowski
Bishop of New Westminster

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