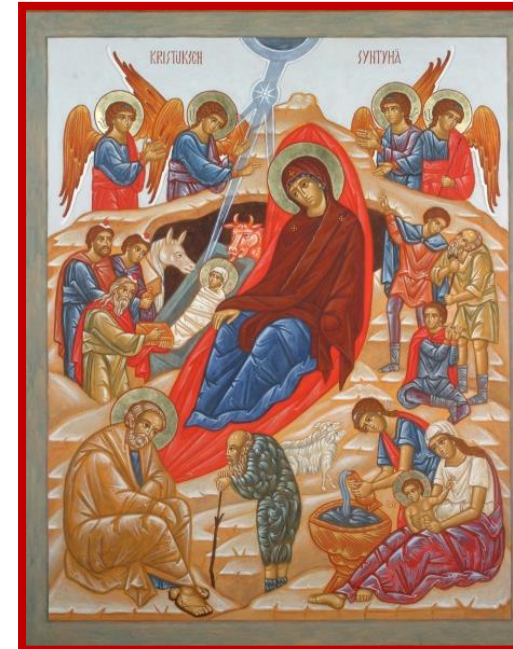


EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS PARISH UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

13753 - 108TH AVENUE, SURREY, BC V3T 2K6
PARISH ADMINISTERED BY: REV. ANDRII CHORNENKYI

УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА
ПАРАФІЯ ВОЗДВИЖЕННЯ ЧЕСНОГО ХРЕСТА

PARISH BULLETIN № 53. DECEMBER 24/25, 2015 A.D.



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

The Angels sing!

The Archangels blend their voices in harmony!

The Cherubim hymn their joyful praise!

The Seraphim exalt His glory!

All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the
Godhead here on earth, and man in heaven. He who is
above, now for our redemption dwells here below;
and he that was lowly is by divine mercy raised....

Since therefore all rejoice, I too desire to rejoice. I too
wish to share the choral dance, to celebrate the
festival. But I take my part, not plucking the harp, not
shaking the Thyrsian staff, not with the music of
pipes, nor holding a torch, but holding in my arms the
cradle of Christ. For this is all my hope, this my life,
this my salvation, this my pipe, my harp. And bearing
it I come, and having from its power received the gift
of speech, I too, with the angels, sing: Glory to God in
the Highest; and with the shepherds: and on earth peace to men of good will.

(John Chrysostom, Homily on Nativity)

Dear Parishioners and Guests, the Baby of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, was born today. May the beautiful moments of this Holy Night bring a touch of heaven to your hearts. May the gifts that only Christ can give be yours this Christmas season, and may His Love, Joy, and Peace continue to be abundantly yours throughout each day of the New Year. May you and your loved ones have a Memorable and Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Father Andrii and Family

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND GUESTS WHO HAVE JOINED US TODAY
COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP ARE IN OUR PARISH HALL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY

First Antiphon

Verse: I will confess You, Lord, with all my heart,* I will declare all Your wondrous deeds.

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

Verse: In the council of the just and the congregation,* great are the works of the Lord, conforming to His will in every way.

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

Verse: His work is filled with praise and majesty,* and His righteousness endures forever.

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

Third Antiphon

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

Refrain: 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: The Lord will send you a scepter of power out of Zion; reign in the midst of your enemies.

Refrain: 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: Yours is the dominion on the day you are given power in his splendour of your holy ones.

Refrain: 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.

Instead of “Come let us worship...”: 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.

Troparion: 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 ... Now...: 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 preeternal God.

Instead of “Holy God...”: All you, who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia! **(3x) Glory be ... now...** You have put on Christ! Alleluia! All you, who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia!

Prokeimenon Let all the earth worship You and sing to You; let it sing to Your Name, O Most High. **verse:** Shout to the Lord, all the earth, sing now to His name, give glory to His praise.

A Reading of the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Galatians (4:4-7): *Brethren*, when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are

Антифон 1

Стих: Ісповімся тобі, Господи, всім серцем моїм, розповім про всі чуда твої.

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.

Антифон 3

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

Приспів: Різдво твоє, Христе Боже наш,* засвітило світові світло розуміння:* в ньому бо ті, що звіздам служили, від звізди навчилися* поклонятися 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.

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

Стих: З тобою начало в день сили твоєї, у світлостях святих твоїх (Пс 109,3).

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

Замість «Прийдіте поклоніться»: Із утроби перед зірницею родив я тебе – клявся Господь і не розкаювся: Ти єрей повік за чином Мелхіседека (Пс 109.3-4).

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

Слава Отцю,...і на віки вічні. Амінь: 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 Трисвятого: Ви, що в Христа хрестилися, у Христа зодягнулися. Алилуя! **(х3) Слава Отцю, .., і на віки вічні. Амінь.** У Христа зодягнулися. Алилуя! Ви, що в Христа хрестилися, у Христа зодягнулися. Алилуя!

Прокімен: Вся земля нехай поклониться тобі і співає тобі,* нехай же співає імені твоему, Всевишній (Пс 65,4).

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

До Галатів послання Апостола Павла читання: (4,4-7): Браття і Сестри, якже сповнився час, Бог послав свого Сина, що народився від жінки, народився під законом, щоб викупити

children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Alleluia (Tone 1)

verse: The heavens tell the glory of God, and the firmament declares the work of His hands.

verse: Day announces its message unto day and night proclaims its knowledge unto night .

Gospel: (Matthew 2:1-12): *When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the time of King Herod, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.*

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

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

Instead of “We have seen the true light...” All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is born of a Virgin (1x)

Instead of “May our mouths be filled...” All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is born of a Virgin (3x)

Instead of “Blessed be the Name of the Lord...” All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is born of a Virgin (3x).

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ☼ **SUNDAYS DONATION:** December 13th, 2015 - \$ 480
- ☼ **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – will take place on **Thursday, JANUARY 21th, 2016**, at 7:00pm
- ☼ **ANNUAL PARISH GENERAL MEETING** will take place on **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21TH, 2016**. The meeting will follow the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. **On that Sunday we will celebrate only one Divine Liturgy (Bilingual). PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING.**

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.

Алилуя (глас 1)

Стих: Небеса повідають славу Божу, творіння ж рук його сповіщає твердь (Пс 18,2).

Стих: День дневі передає слово і ніч ночі об’являє розуміння (Пс 18,3).

Євангеліє: (Мт 2,1-12): *Коли Ісус народився у Вифлеємі Юдейським, за днів Ірода царя, мудреці прийшли в Єрусалим зо Сходу і спитали: “Де цар юдейський, що оце народився? Бо ми бачили його зорю на сході й прийшли йому поклонитись.” Почувши це цар Ірод, стривожився, і ввесь Єрусалим з ним. Зібравши всіх первосвящеників та книжників народних, він випитав у них, де Христос має народитися. Вони йому сказали: “У Вифлеємі Юдейським, бо так написано пророком: І ти, Вифлеєме, земле Юди, нічим не менша між містами Юди, бо з тебе вийде вождь, що буде пасти мій народ, Ізраїля.” Тоді Ірод, покликавши тайкома мудреців, випитав у них пильно про час, коли зоря з’явилась, і відіслав їх у Вифлеєм, кажучи: “Ідіть та розпитайтесь пильно про дитя, і коли знайдете, сповістіть мені, щоб я теж пішов йому вклонитись.” Вислухали вони царя і пустилися в дорогу. І ось зоря, що її бачили на сході, йшла перед ними, аж поки не підійшла й не стала зверху, де було дитятко. Побачивши зорю, зраділи радістю вельми великою. Увійшли до хати й побачили дитятко з Марією, матір’ю його, і, впавши ниць, поклонились йому; потім відкрили свої скарби й піднесли йому дари: золото, ладан і миро. І попереджені вві сні до Ірода не завертати, пустились іншою дорогою у край свій.*

Замість Достойно: 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 невмістимий Христос Бог. Його оспівуючи величаємо.

Причасний Ізбавління послав Господь людям своїм (Пс 110,9). Алилуя (х3).

Замість “Ми бачили світло істинне...”: Всесвіт днесь радістю сповняється, Христос родився від Діви. (х1)

Замість “Нехай сповняться уста...” Всесвіт днесь радістю сповняється, Христос родився від Діви (х3)

Замість “Нехай буде ім’я...” Всесвіт днесь радістю сповняється, Христос родився від Діви (х3).

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ☼ **UCWLC - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will take place on Tuesday, January 12th, 2016. The meeting will follow the Divine Liturgy which starts at 10:00 a.m.
- ☼ **“CHRISTMAS GIFT”** is a free will offering taken up during the Christmas season which is shared equally between the Bishop and the Parish Priest. Please note that Revenue Canada does not allow Income Tax receipts for gifts to clergy.

✿ **CAROLING.** On Sunday, December 27, the children from the Eparchial Ukrainian School will come to our parish to share a joy of Christmas through the caroling. The children will join at 12:15pm. It is a fundraising event, so please be generous.

✿ **EPARCHIAL CHRISTMAS CANDLE PROJECT.** Since 2012 our Eparchy of New Westminster has been collecting funds to help disadvantaged 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 \$19,000 with support from our BC Parishes as well as Parishes in other Provinces and parts of the United States. This appeal will again take place in December 2015 and we encourage everyone to remember these Children during our Christmas season with a voluntary donation. Please place your donation in an envelope marked Christmas Candle, with your name and address and include it with the Sunday Collection at any Ukrainian Catholic Church in BC or mail it to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster. All donations over \$20.00 will receive a tax receipt and cheques can be made out to Eparchy of New Westminster with Christmas Candle Project in the memo. Candles will also be available for purchase at all the Ukrainian Catholic Parishes in BC for a minimum donation of \$5.00 per candle. We Thank You for your past support and ask that you again consider supporting this ongoing Eparchial appeal and lighting these candles as part of your Christmas Eve celebrations.

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 Dana Koren Lupynis at nweparchy.christmascandle@gmail.com

✿ **PLEASE REMEMBER** the sick and infirmed of our Parish in your prayers: JANETTE OUCHARECK, JO OSTROWERCHA, LANCE DE SILVA, HENRY MARTIN, MARY SHEMLEY, MIKE HAWKEN, VICTORIA HITCHIN, MARY LITWIN, STELLA SYRNYK PEGGY MCDONALD, ERNEST PYLYPOW, BRITTANY AND HER CHILD and those who have asked us pray for them. Let us also remember our sisters and brothers in Ukraine, those throughout the world in our prayers and those who are celebrating birthdays in the month of November!

✿ **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONTHLY MEETING** – will take place on TUESDAY, JANUARY 12th, at the parish hall at 7:00 p.m.

✿ **REMINDER FOR FAMILIES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.**

If you or family member is admitted to hospital and you wish to have a priest visit, please be sure to have someone call the rectory to make this request. Your pastor may have no other way of knowing that you are in hospital, as privacy legislation restricts the information that can be given to him by the hospital.

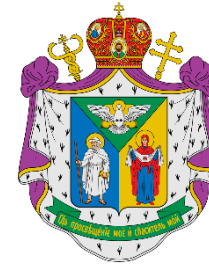
✿ **SPECIAL PETITION DURING THE DIVINE LITURGY:**

- We also pray to be blessed with generous hearts to contribute to our Bishop's initiatives and programmes, such as: the support of parishes, the education of parishioners, and the formation of seminarians, Lord hear us and have mercy.

NEWS

CHRISTMAS LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

December 11, 2015



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! (Lk 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-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 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*



MOST REVEREND BISHOP KEN (NOWAKOWSKI) CHRISTMAS LETTER

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, prefeast of the Nativity]

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus during this Christmas season, we find ourselves at the beginning of the Extraordinary Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy initiated by Pope Francis this past December 8th. The purpose of the Holy Jubilee Year, according to Pope Francis, is to encounter the mercy of God. And the primary way we encounter God is through Jesus Christ, the face of the Father's mercy. [Cf. Misericordiae Vultus 1]

Our rich and meaningful Ukrainian Christmas traditions call our attention to the birth in Bethlehem of the Son of God. The liturgical texts, the carols and greetings, the special foods and decorations help remind us that "God is with us!" With the coming of Jesus Christ onto this earth with a human body, we have been given tangible proof of the love and mercy of our God.

One of the important symbols used during the Holy Jubilee Year is that of the "Holy Door". In our Eparchy we will designate three churches where our faithful are invited to enter the church: Holy Eucharist Cathedral parish in New Westminster, St. Nicholas the Wonderworker parish in Victoria and The Holy Dormition of the Mother of God parish in Kelowna. If you are unable to make a pilgrimage to one of these three Holy Doors during the Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy, then I would invite you to go to the nearest Roman Catholic Church in your area that has designated Holy Doors. The Holy Doors stands as a symbol of the extraordinary pathway towards salvation that is offered to the believers, through prayer, penitence, and works of mercy. The Holy Doors become doors of mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instills hope.

At Christmas time the Holy Doors reminds us of the doorway into the stable at Bethlehem whereby the shepherds and magi entered to find the Christ Child, the long awaited Messiah. All were welcome to enter through the door way into the stable: the poor and the rich, peasant and lord, saint and sinner. And so we are challenged by our faith in Jesus Christ to respond to those who stand at the threshold of our homes and of our lives and who seek our mercy and love. Our Christian faith calls upon us to open the doors of our homes and of our lives and welcome them just as Mary and Joseph did in the stable of Bethlehem.

This Christmas season, in the spirit of the Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us reach out to the strangers and to those in need, be they from Ukraine or from Syria, be they in prisons or homeless on the streets, be they sick or jobless, be they alone and near death. Let us show by our good

deeds and by our love that we share with them the mercy of our Heavenly Father who shares with us his love and goodness. And let us repeat the praise of the angels as they sang at the birth of Christ: ***Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.*** [Lk. 2:14]

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

NEWS

BLESSED TERESA OF CALCUTTA TO BE MADE A SAINT

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta is to be made a Saint. Pope Francis on Thursday authorized the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to promulgate a decree regarding a miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Teresa (nee Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu), Vatican Radio informs.

Blessed Teresa, known around the world as Mother Teresa was born August 26, 1910 and died September 5, 1997. She was foundress of the Congregation of the Missionaries of Charity and the Missionaries of Charity.

Other decrees authorized by the Holy Father concerned the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Giuseppe Ambrosoli, professed priest of the Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus; born July 25th, 1923 and died March 27, 1987;

The heroic virtues of Servant of God Adolfo (nee Lanzuela Leonardo Martínez), professed religious of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools; He was born on November 8, 1894 and died March 14, 1976;

The heroic virtues of Servant of God Henry Hahn, Laico; born August 29, 1800 and died on March 11, 1882.

The Pope's approval for these decrees came during a private audience with Cardinal Angelo Amato SDB, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Ahead of Christmas, Pope Francis spoke on the surprise of God and his great gift in sending Jesus Christ to save mankind. "God gives us all of Himself by giving His one and only Son, who is all his joy – and only with the heart of Mary, the humble and poor daughter of Zion, become the Mother of the Son of the Most High, that we can rejoice and be glad for the great gift of God and for His unpredictable surprise... So let it be with the birth of Jesus – the gift of gifts – the undeserved gift that brings us salvation, that it might also make us feel this wonder in meeting Jesus"

Pope Francis said that the Church is also a place for wonder. "To look on her with the wonder of faith means not just considering the Church only as a religious institution – which the Church is – but to feel her as a mother who, despite her warts and wrinkles – we have so many! – lets the contours of the bride beloved of and purified by Christ the Lord shine through."

PRAYER FOR THE VIBRANT PARISH

O God, Creator of Heaven and Earth! Because of your indescribable love for us, you sent your Only-Begotten Son, Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ - The Way, The Truth, and The Life - and our Salvation. In His name, we turn to You. Strengthen our hearts and minds in Christian love and in unity of purpose as we strive to build a Vibrant Parish. Give us the grace to model our lives according to the Word of God. Instill in us the desire to pray and to celebrate the Holy Mysteries as one Christian Family in our Parish Community. Inspire us to follow Your great command to be a servant to the less fortunate among us! Grant this, O Lord, through the mercies and love for mankind of Your Only-Begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your All-Holy, Good and Life-Giving Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen!

HOLY MYSTERIES (SACRAMENTS)

CONFESSION: on Sundays and Holy Days: 30 min before Liturgy
other days, by appointment
HOLY COMMUNION: for the sick, by appointment, any time
BAPTISM: by appointment
MARRIAGES: by appointment
FUNERALS: by appointment

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK DECEMBER 24– DECEMBER 27

DEC 24TH (THURSDAY) - CHRISTMAS EVE*

- **7:30 pm** - Great Compline with Lytiya (*Bilingual*)
- **8:30 pm** - Divine Liturgy (*English*) - (Children's pageant). Blessing with Holy Oil.
(*On this day we are obliged to abstain from all meat products)

DEC 25TH (FRIDAY) - CHRISTMAS DAY

- **11:00 am** - Divine Liturgy (*Ukrainian*). Blessing with Holy Oil.
(Opportunity for Confession (beginning at 10:30 am))

DEC 26TH (SATURDAY) - SYNAXES OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

-**10:00 am** - Divine Liturgy (*Bilingual*)
(Opportunity for Confession (beginning at 9:30 am))

DEC 27TH (SUNDAY) – FIRST MARTYR STEVEN

-**09:00 am** - Divine Liturgy (*English*)
-**11:00 am** - Divine Liturgy (*Ukrainian*)

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