

Blessing of Homes at Theophany



In the days following Theophany, the Fathers will be visiting and blessing the homes of parishioners with the newly blessed "Jordan Water". If you wish to have your home blessed please fill out the bottom portion of this page and drop it in the collection basket or drop it off at the rectory office.

HOME BLESSING 2016

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Most Suitable time to visit: Morning ___ Afternoon ___ Evening ___

DATE	TIME	EPISTLE	CANTOR	USHERS	ORGANIST	GREETERS
THUR DEC 24 <i>The Eve of The Nativity</i>	8:00 pm English	Doug Falconer	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Leonard Puchala John Uhryn	Iris Skehar	John Ostrowercha Vicky Ostrowercha
	10:30 pm Ukrainian	Peter Moroz	Colette Karapita	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood		
FRI DEC 25 <i>The Nativity of Our Lord</i>	10:00 am English		Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Henry Shumay Ed Skehar		
SAT DEC 26	5:00 pm English	Tom Abrametz	Peter Kobylka	Ann Musey Jean Kitsch		
SUN DEC 27 <i>Sunday after the Nativity</i>	9:00 am Ukrainian	Lorne Stechyshyn	Ed Pindus	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood		
	11:00 am English	Sandra German	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Emil Strutynski Victor Puchala	Iris Skehar	Fred Schrader Sharla Schrader
SAT JAN 2	5:00 pm English	Dan MacLean	Peter Kobylka			
SUN JAN 3 <i>Sunday before Theophany</i>	9:00 am Ukrainian		Lorne Stechyshyn	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood		
	11:00 am English		Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak		Iris Skehar	Phyllis Lazaruk

ST. MARY'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Церква Матері Божої Неустанної Помочі

Our Mother of Perpetual Help

155 Catherine Street, Yorkton, SK S3N 0B9

VOL. 52, No. 40

PARISH BULLETIN

DECEMBER 25/27, 2015

**Христос Раждається !
Славіте Його !**

**Christ is Born !
Glorify Him !**



The parish community of St. Mary's extends a warm
Welcome - Вітаємо
to everyone who is with us today, especially all Visitors.
We are pleased that you have come to pray with us this Sunday. May the Lord bless You.

Pastoral Care of the Ukrainian Redemptorists

Fr. Bohdan Lukie, CSsR - Pastor
Fr. Raymond Lukie, CSsR - Assistant Pastor
Fr. Methodius Kushko, CSsR - Assistant Pastor

OFFICE HOURS Monday - Friday
9:15 am - 12:00 pm 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

**Office 306-783-4594 Fax 306-782-4214
Info Line 306-782-0654**

SICK CALLS - Anytime

BAPTISMS & MARRIAGES* by Appointment
**Please contact the pastor at least six
months before the wedding date.*

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY
Saturday 5:00 pm English
Sunday 9:00 am Ukrainian
11:00 am English

HOLY DAYS
9:00 am Ukrainian 7:00 pm English

WEEKDAYS
8:00 am Monday - Friday
9:00 am Saturday

Christ is born! Let us praise Him!

Beloved Parishioners and Guests,

For many of us, the holy Christ-mas season causes us to reflect nostalgically back to our childhood to the wonder of the **Christ Child** and the magic of **Christ-mas...**

In my own childhood, growing up on a farm, one of the things we innocently believed, as children, was that while we were all praying at the Midnight Christmas Divine Liturgy, our farm animals - our cattle, sheep and horses - would fall piously to their knees in adoration to welcome the birth of **Our Saviour Jesus**. We thoughty this was absolutely marvelous and we children even gave them extra feed on Christmas morning so they too could happily celebrate with us.

I am now very far from cattle and horses and winter stables; yet this holy festive season still creates a spell of wonder over country and city, over still barns, bathed in the warmth of quiet beasts and over the towering buildings of cities around the world.

I honestly do not know whether the animals fall to their knees in special adoration, but I do sincerely believe that **all creation** gloriously raises a hymn of praise to Jesus Christ who took our flesh and lived our earthly life - that we also could fully participate in His Divine Life.

Let us all faithfully follow the edifying example of the humble shepherds in Bethlehem who, while watching their sheep, exultantly sang our: **"Come, let us adore Him!"** Let each of us, in turn, proclaim, not only during this joyous festive season, but throughout the whole coming year that **Christ is born!**



Христос
Рождається!



CHRIST IS BORN!

May **2016** be a wonder-filled, joy-filled, love-filled and peace-filled **New Year!** Let us all do our very best to ensure this becomes a blessed reality! I heartily promise to do my share! Will you do the same? Of course, I believe you will and thus, we happily perpetuate the **Spirit of Christmas!**

Verily the **Infant Lord Jesus** will embrace you and your family and all your loved ones with His warmest, most generous and loving blessings!

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 4	UCWLC Meeting	7:00 pm
January 4	Knights of Columbus Meeting	7:00 pm
January 5	Vigil of Theophany Solemn Water Blessing & Divine Liturgy	5:00 pm
January 5	Parish Potluck Supper	6:30 pm
January 6	Feast of Theophany	
January 6	Knights of Columbus Bingo	1:00 pm
January 8	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Bingo	7:00 pm
January 11	Cultural Centre Board Meeting	7:30 pm
January 13	Holy Rosary Hour	12:00 Noon
January 18	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Meeting	7:00 pm
January 19	Parish Council Meeting	7:00 pm
January 17	First Solemn Holy Communion Class	9:45 am
January 17	Knights of Columbus Bingo	7:00 pm
January 28	Golden Agers Birthdays and Anniversaries	1:00 pm
January 30	Feast of the Three Holy Bishops - Gregory, Basil & John	
February 2	Feast of Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple	
February 16	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament resumes	

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: st.mary.yorkton@sasktel.net

Pastor: blukie@gmail.com

Web: www.saintmarysyorkton.com

Eparchy of Saskatoon: www.skeparchy.org

Eparchial Pastoral Council - Pat Thompson 306-782-9425

Parish Council President - Geraldine Koban 306-782-0270 Knights of Columbus - Bill Prybylski 306-782-5259

UCWLC - Brenda Pasloski 306-783-4438 UCY -

UCBC - Peter Moroz 306-783-6293 Cultural Centre - Russ Thompson 306-782-9425

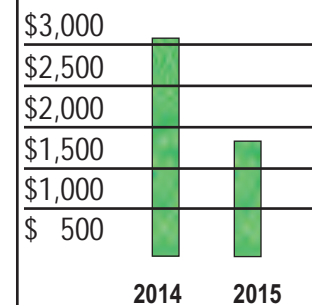
Golden Agers - Verna Moroz 306-783-6293 Cultural Centre Manager - Stan Shymanski 306-782-1010

Young Adult Ministry Office - Phone: 1-204-799-1060

Email: rymcssr@gmail.com Web: www.yorktonredemptorists.com

Co-MISSIONARY FUND 2014 -15

**OUR TARGET FOR THIS
YEAR IS \$3000.00**



Co-Missionary Fund Contributions can be made monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. Our goal is to contribute \$250/month or \$3,000/yr. Please make your cheques payable to "St. Mary's" but memo the cheque *Co-Missionary Fund*.

Christmas Caroling

If you would like the carolers to visit your home please call:

Elsie Stechyshyn (306-783-4862)

or Steve Popowich (306-783-5441)

Anyone interested **going out caroling during the Christmas season may contact **Elsie Stechyshyn or Steve Popowich**



Listen for the UKRAINIAN HOUR

Sundays 3:00 - 4:00 pm Mondays 10:00 - 11:00 pm
on 98.5 the ROCK

SUNDAY COLLECTION DEC. 20 2015	Received in 201 Regular Envelopes	\$ 5,565.00
	Loose Collection.....	\$ 108.00
	Received in 35 Other Envelopes	\$ 1,145.00

UKRAINIAN CHOIR:

- ◆ Thursday, December 24th, Christmas Eve: 10:30 pm Compline & Divine Liturgy
- ◆ Friday, December 25th, Christmas Day, 9-10:30 am: on GX 94 AM radio (<http://cjgx.streamon.fm>)
- ◆ Sunday, January 3, 2:30 pm: carol at Gladstone Senior's Residence
- ◆ Friday, January 8, 7:00 pm: carol at the Bentley
- ◆ Carol at Clements Court: TBA

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Bishop Budka Eparchial Stewardship Society Inc. (BBESSI)



When: Saturday, January 23, 2016

Time: *Registration* - 1:30 pm to 2:00 pm *Annual General Meeting* - 2:00 pm

Where: 210 Avenue M South (Church Auditorium) Saskatoon Saskatchewan

Who: All members of a Ukrainian Catholic parish or mission within the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon who are 18 years of age or older are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.

Purpose: This meeting is being called for the purposes of:

- Approving the Financial Statement Reviewer's Report and the Annual Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015.
- Appointing a Reviewer of our financial records for the next fiscal period
- Approving Bylaws or Amendment to the Bylaws – none to consider for this Annual Meeting.
- Reporting of activities and motions of the Directors to the membership
- Electing Directors
- For transacting such other business as may properly come before an Annual General Meeting.

Access to Documents: The Financial Statements will be posted on the Eparchial website – <http://www.skeparchy.org/events/eparchial-events/bishop-budka-eparchial-stewardship-society-inc.-notice-of-annual-general-meeting-january-23-2016.html>.

You may also pick up copies of the Annual Report and Financial Statements at the Chancery Office at 214 Avenue M South, Saskatoon Saskatchewan. *This information will be available commencing January 8th, 2016.*

2016 CHURCH CALENDARS ARE HERE!!

As a gift to our parishioners, the **New Calendars** are available at the entrances.

Please take only one calendar per family so that all parishioners may receive a calendar.

YORKTON DISTRICT PARISHES

Schedule of Services in the Yorkton Pastoral District

BEAVERDALE	Friday, December 25	10:00 am	Christmas Divine Liturgy
CALDER	Thursday, December 24	9:00 pm	God is with Us & Divine Liturgy
	Sunday, January 31	11:00 am	Divine Liturgy & Water Blessing

**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY**

**DECEMBER 25, 2015
DECEMBER 27, 2015**

*The theme of Sunday is always Resurrection.
We invite you to refrain from kneeling during the Divine Liturgy.*



*Today's special liturgical parts & readings are found in
Tropars, Kondaks, Epistle & Gospel Readings
booklets that are found at the entrances of the church.*

HAPPENING AT ST. MARY'S

THUR	Dec 24	Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord 8:00 pm....."God is with us" Service & Divine Liturgy (Eng) 10:30 pm.....Povecheriye Service & Divine Liturgy (Ukr)
FRI	Dec 25	Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord 10:00 am..... Divine Liturgy
SAT	Dec 26	Feast of the Sobor of the Mother of God 9:00 am..... Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm..... Divine Liturgy
SUN	Dec 27	Sunday after the Nativity / Feast of St. Stephen 9:00 am..... Divine Liturgy 11:00 am..... Divine Liturgy 11:00 am..... Little Angels Class
THUR	Dec 31	7:00 pm..... Divine Liturgy (<i>anticipated for Circumcision/St. Basil's</i>)
FRI	Jan 1	Feast of the Circumcision / St. Basil the Great / New Year 9:00 am & 7:00 pm..... Divine Liturgy 12:00 Noon..... Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Bingo
SAT	Jan 2	9:00 am..... Divine Liturgy Blue Army - First Saturday 5:00 pm..... Divine Liturgy

OFFICE HOURS - the Parish Office will be closed on Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th for Christmas. The Office will close at **3:00 pm** on Thursday, December 31st and will be closed on Friday, January 1st for New Year's Day.

WEDDINGS PLANS ??- If you are planning to be married at St. Mary's or any of the Yorkton District parishes, **please contact Fr. Bohdan (306-783-4594) at least six months before the wedding date.**

HOME BLESSINGS - if you wish to have your home blessed in the new year please fill out the form on the back of the bulletin or a request slip (green) located at the entrances and drop it in the collection plate or drop it off at the parish office.

JUST A REMINDER - All contributions and donations that require a tax receipt for 2015 must be in the Parish Office by **MONDAY, December 28th.**

THE 2016 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES - are available for pickup at the East Entrance.

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

THU Dec 24		<i>Hebrews 1:1-12 ~ Luke 2:1-20</i>
8:00 pm	Vigil of the Nativity - "God is with Us" Service & Divine Liturgy	10:30 pm
FRI Dec 25		<i>Galatians 4:4-7 ~ Matthew 2:1-12</i>
10:00 am	Nativity of Our Lord	
SAT Dec 26		<i>Hebrews 2:11-18 ~ Matthew 2:13-23</i>
9:00 am	Sobor of the Blessed Mother	
5:00 pm	Members & Families.....Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood	

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

Sunday after the Nativity		<i>Galatians 1:11-19 ~ Matthew 2:13-23</i>
MON Dec 28	Martyrs in Nicomedia	<i>James 2:14-26 ~ Mark 10:46-52</i>
9:00 am	Health for John & Hazel Krywulak.....Family	
9:00 am	God's Blessings for the Lukie & Gurica families.....Ollie & Ernie	
TUE Dec 29	Holy Innocents	<i>James 3:1-10 ~ Mark 11:11-23</i>
9:00 am	Health & God's Blessings for Mary F. Lazurko.....N.N.	
9:00 am	Special Intentions.....N.N.	
WED Dec 30	Martyr Anysia	<i>James 3:11-4:6 ~ Mark 11:22-25</i>
9:00 am	God's Blessings for Peter & Anna Gulka.....Mary	
9:00 am	God's Blessings for Frances Shuflita.....Prayer Partner	
THU Dec 31	Venerable Melania	<i>James 4:7-5:9 ~ Mark 11:27-33</i>
9:00 am	Health for Violet Medvid.....St. Nicholas Parish, Insinger	

(anticipated for the Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord/New Year/St. Basil the Great)

7:00 pm	Thanksgiving for Blessings received in 2015	
FRI Jan 1		<i>Colossians 2:8-12 ~ Luke 2:20-21;40-52</i>
9:00 am	Feasts of the Circumcision of Our Lord / New Year / St. Basil the Great	
7:00 pm	God's Blessings for our Parishioners & the Yorkton Redemptorists in 2016	
SAT Jan 2	Saturday before Theophany	<i>1 Timothy 3:14-4:5 ~ Matthew 3:1-11</i>
9:00 am	Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.....Blue Army	
5:00 pm	Members & Families.....Knights of Columbus	

NO ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT from Tuesday, December 22nd until Tuesday, February 9th inclusive. It will resume on Tuesday, February 16th.

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS - If you are paying for this service by cheque, please make your cheque payable to: Ukrainian Catholic Mission

Saint Mary's Building Fund Donations



N.N. \$ 5.00

In memory of Sophie Madarash
Gilles & Lucille Lavallee \$ 75.00

Balance of the Fund to date: \$310,071.92 Thank you very much

Donations may be given anytime.
All funds collected will be used for the future renovations of our church.
Building Fund Envelopes are available at the entrances of the Church

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DONATIONS

Estate of Adella Byblow \$ 2,000.00



A Traditional Ukrainian Christmas Liturgy Broadcast

From St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church
GX94: 940 AM

Christmas Day - Friday, December 25th 9:00 am - 10:30 am

This radio broadcast was recorded by the Ukrainian Four Voice Choir under direction of Colette Karapita. The two hour program will include: The Christmas Compline (Povecheriye), the Divine Liturgy, Ukrainian Carols and Christmas greetings on behalf of the parish.

If you are not in the listening area, tune in to: www.gx94radio.com (<http://cjgx.streamon.fm>)
We hope you will tune in to our program.



EMAIL BULLETIN - If you would like to have the Bulletin emailed to you please send your request to: cssrmonastery@sasktel.net



THEOPHANY WATER BLESSING

Parishioners are reminded to bring their own containers for the blessed water.

**May the Child Jesus of Bethlehem, the little shepherd, bless you
and all who are dear to you this Christmas and throughout the year.
We wish you a blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

**Христос Раждається ! Christ Is Born !
Славте Його ! Let us Glorify Him !**

~The Redemptorists of St. Mary's



Христос Рождається! Славім Його!

Дорогі Парафіяни!



Свята пора Різдва багатьох із нас спонукує ностальгічно згадати своє дитинство, застановитися над чудом **Дитяти Христа** та милуватися чаром **Різдва**.

Коли я в дитинстві виростав на фермі, ми діти невинно вірили, що коли люди молилися в церкві під час північної відправи Служби Божої, наша худоба, вівці і коні падали навколiшки, щоб поклонитися перед новонародженим **Спасителем Ісусом**. Для нас дітей це було чудесне і ми на Різдво ранком все щедро їх годували, щоб вони могли з нами радісно святкувати.

Я тепер є дуже далеко від худоби та коней та зимової стайні але ця святочна пора року все ще кидає чар, як на село так і на місто, як на тихі стайні, які спочивають з тихими тваринами, так і на високі хмародери міста Нью Йорку.

Я справді не знаю, чи тварини падають на Різдво навколiшки але я щиро вірю, що все творіння радісно прославляє Ісуса Христа, який прийняв наше людське тіло і жив земним життям – щоб ми також могли повністю приймати участь у Його божественним житті.

Візьмім собі повчальний приклад з покірних пастушків у Вифлеємі, котрі, поки вони пильнували свої вівці, радісно співали «**Прийдіте поклонімся Господеві Богові**». А ми, зі своєї сторони, проголошуймо не лиш в цю святочну пору але продовж цілого Нового Року, що Христос Рождається!



Бажаю Вам чудового, радісного, мирного та спокійного 2016-го Нового Року, повного щирої любові! Постараймося, щоб ми всі причинилися до здійснення цього бажання. Я обіцяю Вам, що буду робити все у своїй силі, щоб цей Новий Рік був радісний та мирний і прошу у Вас такої самої обіцянки. В цей спосіб ми напевно збережемо дух Різдва!

TUESDAY

JANUARY 5 СІЧНЯ

ВІВТОРОК

THEOPHANY EVE (FAST DAY) НАВЕЧЕРЯ БОГОЯВЛЕННЯ (ПІСТ)

Solemn Water Blessing

Врочисте Водосвяття

Divine Liturgy (Eng)

5:00 pm

Служба Божа (Анг)

Parish Potluck Supper

6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 6 СІЧНЯ

СЕРЕДА

THEOPHANY (JORDAN) - БОГОЯВЛЕННЯ (ЙОРДАН)

Solemn Water Blessing

Врочисте Водосвяття

Divine Liturgy (Ukr)

9:00 am

Служба Божа (Укр)

A Special Invitation to a Beautiful Parish Celebration



Your Presence Is Requested on the Eve of **The Feast of Theophany, January 5th** For Divine Liturgy & The Solemn Blessing of Water Beginning at **5:00 pm** to be followed by a Parish Theophany Supper (Pot Luck) at St. Mary's Cultural Centre (**6:30 pm**)

Kutia will be prepared by the Cultural Centre. Everyone is asked to bring your favorite Potluck Dish to share. Please remember it is a Fast Day.

Thank You...

Thank you to all who participated in the Nativity Play: the children, Scott and Caylee Falconer; Bree and Ryker Klemetski; Rylan, Kaden and Sydney Pihach; Danika Kluk; Deana, Steven and Samuel Stadnyk. Thank you to the parents for all their help; to Lenora Spezowka for providing the props. A special thank you to Fred Schrader for organizing the play, volunteers and obtaining the costumes and to Father Bohdan for his help and support.



"If we keep Christ in our heart, Christmas has no end." God Bless You!



2015 UCBC EPARCHIAL RAFFLE

Congratulations to all winners and a special thank you to all who purchased the tickets. Your support is greatly appreciated by the members of the Saskatchewan UCBC Branches, UCBC Eparchial Executive and the Raffle Committee. Special thank you to all members who sold tickets for their Branch.

Net proceeds raised by this annual raffle are returned to each UCBC Branch within the Eparchy of Saskatoon to be donated towards their charities. Thank you to all for your support.

\$100 - Leah Duthie (Halbrite)
\$100 - Ivar Orenchuk (Regina)
\$100 - Don Chesney (Yorkton)
\$100 - Olga Sakundiak (Yorkton)
\$100 - Melanie Derow (Regina)
\$100 - Brenda Marianchuk (Yorkton)
\$100 - Villeneuve Family (Yorkton)
\$100 - Mr. & Mrs. J. Chrusch (Saskatoon)
\$1000 - Luke Berezny (Regina)

\$100 - Gerald Pozniak (Canora)
\$100 - Carolyn Dribenski (Regina)
\$100 - Liz Matechuk (Canora)
\$100 - Eugene Duchnitski (Yorkton)
\$100 - Paul & Elsie Lazurko (Yorkton)
\$100 - Angela Ostapovich (Yorkton)
\$100 - Tony & Marilyn Skomar (Saskatoon)
\$500 - Iris Skehar (Theodore)

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF SASKATOON УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЄПАРХІЯ САСКАТУНУ

214 Avenue M South Office: (306) 653-0138 Fax: (306) 665-2569

Saskatoon, SK S7M 2K4 Canada email: admin.skeparchy@sasktel.net

personal email: uwitness2bishop@gmail.com

**PASTORAL LETTER of the EPARCH of SASKATOON
ON THE OCCASION of THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 2015**

To the Very Rev. Clergy, Religious, Seminarians and Laity of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Saskatchewan:

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

“What is all blue, but smells like red paint?” Blue paint. (lol) Everyone likes a good riddle.

This simple little riddle, actually touches on something profound about our human nature- that is, paradoxes. Riddles confuse us, but when we finally figure them out we feel better.

Actually, our Eastern tradition excels in focusing on spiritual truths about God that challenge our normal thinking. They seem like riddles that can't be solved with our minds but they are good news and bring joy to our hearts. They actually help us pray with our hearts and not just our minds. By recounting paradoxes of our faith, our minds are silenced when they can't explain the mysteries of God. After all, His ways are unexplainably high above our ways. So, let's ponder more of these paradoxes recounted in our Divine Liturgy during the Christmas season.

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. [Imos of the Nativity]

It really stops me in my tracks when I think of that , “The cave is heaven; or Mary's womb, and now the manger, contains God who can not be contained. This is the very mystery of the incarnation. This year at Christmas, when we contemplate these holy paradoxes (or to use a Greek word, “antinomies”) the Holy Father Pope Francis invites us to contemplate more things that are mysterious, such as God's mercy. God's mercy is not limited to our human thinking and our imperfect concept of mercy. When people encounter you, they will encounter God's mercy and indeed encounter God himself in you. So you ask yourself, “God wants people to encounter Him when they meet me. How will they meet the all-merciful God in me, an unworthy sinner? Now that's a riddle, a paradox and an antinomy!

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus during this Christmas season we find ourselves at the beginning of the Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy initiated by Pope Francis this past December 8th. The purpose of the Holy Jubilee Year, according to the Pope, is to encounter the mercy of God. The primary way we encounter God is through Jesus Christ, the face of the Father's mercy. [Cf. Misericordiae Vultus 1] To Quote His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk and Pope Francis, “A particular requirement of anyone who experiences this Holy Year is to share God's mercy. Our motto this year will be the words “Merciful like the Father” that resonate from the call of our Lord Jesus to his disciples: ***“Be merciful, as your Father is merciful”*** (Lk. 6, 36).

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 – Z namy Boh!” To add to this, one of the important symbols used during the Holy Jubilee Year is that of the holy door. In St. George's Cathedral and other appointed places of worship, a door has been designated through which the faithful are invited to enter. The holy door 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 door becomes a door 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 remind us of the doorway into the stable at Bethlehem where Joseph, Mary and Jesus welcomed all 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 to open the doors of our homes and of our lives to those who seek mercy and love. In St. Matthew's gospel Jesus tells us that when we encounter the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, those in prison – we encounter the Lord in these people. [Cf. Mt. 25:31-40] In fact, from every one of them we will receive His mercy.

Said differently, God continues to pour upon everyone His mercy like a healing ointment. Thus, he asks me to show compassion and mercy to someone else so that I might not only give but equally receive God's mercy from them. For example, I give spiritual direction to Laura and with her permission to share this, she is the one from whom I equally receive inspiration and grace, despite initially thinking I am the one doing a favour. We show mercy and finally God gets our attention through the life of another person so that we are the ones to receive his mercy since every one of us is wounded and is struggling in some way. Whenever mercy is shown it is actually exchanged since both parties encounter God.

This Christmas season, in the spirit of the Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us reach out to those we know and to strangers 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 truly live and experience this paradox, this antinomy, of God using each of us to show His mercy to one another. 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. Then we can truly sing with the angles: ***Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.*** [Lk. 2:14]

Христос Раждається! Славіте Його! Christ is Born! Let us glorify Him!

In Christ,



Most Rev. Bryan Bayda, CSsR Eparch of Saskatoon



**THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH'S AND MUSÉE UKRAINA MUSEUM
INVITE YOU TO THREE SPECIAL EVENINGS OF CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMING
that will be happening at
the Khram of the Nun Martyrs Olympia and Laurentia,
and the Museum on December 25, 26 & 27.**

Each evening will feature special programming and refreshments. Included will be public viewing of the Sr. Theodosia Nativity scenes from different parts of the world.

December 25 – 7:00 pm Religious service at Shrine including opening of Holy Doors of Mercy, followed by unveiling of the Nativity Icon ‘Drummer Boy’ at the Museum at 7:30 pm. The Christmas carol “Little Drummer Boy” performed by Danylo Karnaukh. Poppy seed rolls served.

December 26 – 7:00 pm Christmas Carols performed by Theresa Sokyorka and caroling groups. Kutya served.

December 27 – 7:00 pm Christmas Carols performed by Ukrainian Children's Vocal Ensemble “Spivohrai” and caroling groups. Pampushky served.