

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 2018

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

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

DATE	TIME	EPISTLE	CANTOR	USHERS	ORGANIST
SAT DEC 23	5:00 pm English	Peter Kobylka	Saturday Evening Group	John Ostrowercha Vicky Ostrowercha	
SUN DEC 24 <i>Eve of the Nativity</i>	10:00 am			Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood	
	7:00 pm English	Eleanor Shumay	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	John Uhryn Leonard Puchala Carl Pacholka	Iris Skehar
	9:30 pm Ukrainian	Lorne Stechyshyn	Ed Pindus	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood	
MON DEC 25 <i>The Nativity of Our Lord</i>	10:00 am			Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood	
SAT DEC 30	5:00 pm English	Sr. Suzanne Kokuruds	Saturday Evening Group	Ann Musey Jean Kitsch	
SUN DEC 31 <i>Sunday after the Nativity</i>	9:00 am Ukrainian	Harry Kardynal	Ed Pindus	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood	
	11:00 am English	Len Niedzielski	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Len Niedzielski Betty Niedzielski	Iris Skehar
SAT JAN 6	5:00 pm English		Saturday Evening Group	Dennis Benko Lionel Fedorowich	
SUN JAN 7 <i>Sunday after Theophany</i>	9:00 am Ukrainian			Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood	
	11:00 am English	Toni Gromnisky	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Jerry Gromnisky Steven Hryniw	Iris Skehar



THANK YOU: to our Sacristans, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Children of Mary, Cantors, Choirs, Ushers, Readers & Organist for assisting at & enriching our Divine Liturgies! *May God Bless you abundantly!*

ST. MARY'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Церква Матері Божої Неустанної Помочі

Our Mother of Perpetual Help

155 Catherine Street, Yorkton, SK S3N 0B9

Vol. 54, No. 45

PARISH BULLETIN

DECEMBER 24/31, 2017

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
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

WEEKDAYS

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

**Христос Раждається ! Славите Його !
Christ is born ! Let us praise Him !**

This week we joyously celebrate the **Birth-Day** of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus – and now we hopefully continue for the next couple of weeks in a festive mood - reminding one another, over and over again, of God's Goodness to all of us! How very much we are encouraged to perpetuate the **“Spirit of Giving”** - especially the **“giving of ourselves”** as did Jesus!

It truly is wonderful and heart-warming to experience so many people praying and celebrating on Christmas Eve/Day. Of course, we are always happy to see our **'regulars'** but especially supremely delighted with many guests who join us for our **Nativity** services. We pray and hope that they are all welcomed warmly and thus wish to join us again and again. We must constantly be a **“welcoming family of God”** here at St. Mary's!

May I also append a special and sincere word of **Gratitude** and **Appreciation** to all who took precious time out to wonderfully beautify our church and monastery for all the Christmas festivities – the flowers, the trees, the lights, the Nativity scenes and all the church decorations! Truly you all are most gracious in your generosity and in your love of St. Mary's!

And another word of **'thanks'** for the many beautiful cards, the warm greetings, the kind words, the gifts of love that you share with us, your pastors, at this joyous time of year. You are so very good to us and may we, in turn, share your goodness and generosity with others.

Let us continue to daily sing our beautiful and thought-provoking Christmas carols and to pass on this heart-warming tradition to all our “little ones”. Remember **“Faith, Love and Joy are not taught, but caught!”** Be **'on fire'** with your love for Jesus and burn ever so brightly wherever you are!

May 2018 be a wonderful, joyful, peaceful and loveful New Year! Let us all do our very best to ensure this! I promise, I do promise to do my share. Will you do the same? Together we all thus perpetuate the spirit of Christ-mas now, and always!



Христос Раждається! Славите Його!!!

Світлий день Христового Різдва стоїть перед нами. Світлий день свobodного життя нашого народу і церкви надходив і далі триває.

А з нагоди Різдв'яних Свят, в імені парафії, бажаю Вам, Вашим родинам, та знайомим великої радості та любови. Нехай Благословення Вифлеємського Дитяти Ісуса й Господа Нашого зворушить Ваші серця в цю пору, коли Божий люд відзначає нового Христового Різдва!

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 8	Cultural Centre Board Meeting	6:00 pm
January 8	Knights of Columbus Meeting	7:00 pm
January 14	First Solemn Holy Communion Class	9:45 am
January 15	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Meeting	7:00 pm
January 16	Parish Council Meeting	7:00 pm
January 16	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Bingo	7:00 pm
January 25	Golden Agers Birthdays and Anniversaries	1:00 pm
January 26	Knights of Columbus Bingo	7:00 pm
January 27	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Bingo	1:00 pm
January 28	First Solemn Holy Communion Class	9:45 am
January 30	Feast of the Three Holy Bishops - Gregory, Basil & John	
February 2	Feast of Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple	
February 3	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Bingo	1:00 pm
February 3	Knights of Columbus Bingo	7:00 pm
February 5	UCWLC Meeting	7:00 pm
February 12	First Day of Great Lent	
February 13	Holy Rosary Hour	12:00 Noon

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 Geraldine Koban 306-782-0270
PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Gwen Bilyk 306-782-4093
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - Dave Spelay 306-782-5320 **UCWLC -** Doreen Rathgeber 306-782-1527
UCBC - Larry German 306-782-2461 **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

SUNDAY COLLECTION DECEMBER 17, 2017	Received in 188 Regular Envelopes	\$ 4,380.00
	Loose Collection	\$ 146.00
	Received in 24 Other Envelopes	\$ 317.00

COVENANT OF CARE ABUSE AND MISCONDUCT PROTOCOL

The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon Covenant of Care Abuse and Misconduct Protocol is designed to ensure that all allegations of physical and sexual abuse and other misconduct are handled responsibly, transparently and with all due care and attention. To speak to someone about a concern please contact your Pastor, Parish Coordinator of Care (PCC) **Geraldine Koban** at 306-782-0270 or **Deb Larmour**, Eparchial Coordinator of Care at (306)653-0138 ext. 228 or email: covenantofcare@skeparchy.org

More information is available on the Eparchial Website, www.skeparchy.org





CHRIST THE TEACHER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS DECEMBER 22ND - JANUARY 3RD

SUPPORT SCSBA'S SCHOOLS YOU CAN BELIEVE IN FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Help ensure Catholic education is available to all who choose it, no matter the reason, for future generations. Donate to support the legal appeal of the Theodore court-case ruling and keep resources in our classrooms. A permanent reversal through the appeals process (which will likely go to the Supreme Court of Canada) is needed to maintain funding for all who choose Catholic faith-based education. Donate through to January 31, 2018! Province Wide: Either drop off a cheque at your local division office, local school or go online at www.catholicedspirit.ca.



Visit the Cantors' Corner on our Eparchial Website:

www.skeparchy.org . . . If you have not already discovered this on our website, please click on the icon on our homepage and discover the Propers for the Liturgical Year on a monthly basis as taken from the translation and music of Father John Sianchuk, CSsR, which is more widely used in our Eparchy. The new project, late December through March, is a "work in progress". We are again asking for your feedback. Please email me throughout this trial period at ivannah@sasktel.net with your feedback and comments.

- Just me, Father Ivan Nahachewsky

Planning to get married in 2018? Congratulations!

The Eparchy of Saskatoon Marriage Preparation Program "Crown them with Honour and Glory" will take place in Saskatoon on *Saturday March 24, 2018, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm* at the Chancery Office, 214 Ave M South. At this one day intensive course you will be immersed in the beauty and richness of our unique wedding ceremony and learn within that context some of the keys to a happy lifelong marriage.



Please speak immediately with your Pastor Fr. Bohdan about your plans.

For more information and to register for the course email Deborah Larmour at uwitness2family@skeparchy.org

YORKTON DISTRICT PARISHES

Schedule of Services in the Yorkton Pastoral District

****Please note: this schedule is subject to change, please check regularly****

BEAVERDALE	Monday, December 25	10:00 am	Christmas Divine Liturgy
CALDER	Monday, December 25	10:00 am	Christmas Divine Liturgy
	Sunday, January 7	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy & Water Blessing
MELVILLE	Sunday, December 24	5:30 pm	God is with Us & Divine Liturgy
	Sunday, January 7		Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY

DECEMBER 24, 2017

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

DECEMBER 31, 2017

*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 the Tropars, Kondaks, Epistle & Gospel Readings booklets that are found at the entrances of the church.

THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AT ST. MARY'S

SUN (DEC. 24)	10:00 am.....	Divine Liturgy (<i>Sunday Obligation</i>) Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord
	7:00 pm.....	"God is with us" Service & Divine Liturgy (Eng)
	9:30 pm.....	Povecheriye Service & Divine Liturgy (Ukr)
MON (DEC. 25)		Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord
	10:00 am.....	Divine Liturgy
TUE (DEC. 26)		Feast of the Sobor of the Mother of God
	9:00 am.....	Divine Liturgy
WED (DEC. 27)		Feast of St. Stephen
	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy
	1:00 pm.....	Knights of Columbus Bingo
THU (DEC. 28)	10:30 am.....	Divine Liturgy at Gladstone Seniors' Residence
SAT (DEC. 30)	9:00 am.....	Divine Liturgy
	5:00 pm.....	Divine Liturgy
SUN (DEC. 31)	9:00 am.....	Divine Liturgy
	11:00 am.....	Divine Liturgy
MON (JAN. 1)		Feast of the Circumcision / St. Basil the Great / New Year
	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy
TUE (JAN. 2)	1:30 pm.....	Divine Liturgy at Queen Elizabeth Court
WED (JAN. 3)	11:00 am.....	Divine Liturgy at Yorkton Crossing
THU (JAN. 4)	10:30 am	Divine Liturgy at Yorkton & District Nursing Home
FRI (JAN. 5)		Vigil of Theophany (Epiphany)
	6:30 pm	Solemn Water Blessing & Divine Liturgy
SAT (JAN. 6)		Feast of Theophany (Epiphany)
	9:00 am.....	Divine Liturgy & Water Blessing
	5:00 pm.....	Divine Liturgy

PARISH OFFICE HOURS - The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th for Christmas Holidays and on Monday, January 1st for New Year's Day.

2018 CHURCH CALENDARS

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.

JUST A REMINDER...

All contributions and donations that require a tax receipt for 2017 must be in the Parish Office by:

Wednesday, December 27th.



DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Sunday before the Nativity *Hebrews 11:9-10;17-23;32-40 ~ Matthew 1:1-15*

10:00 am Sunday Divine Liturgy

7:00 pm **Vigil of the Nativity - "God is with Us" Service & Divine Liturgy** 9:30 pm

MON Dec 25 *Galatians 4:4-7 ~ Matthew 2:1-12*

10:00 am  **Nativity of Our Lord**

TUES Dec 26 *Hebrews 2:11-18 ~ Matthew 2:13-23*

9:00 am  **Sobor of the Blessed Mother**

WED Dec 27 *Acts 6:8-15;7:1-5;47-60 ~ Matthew 21:33-42*

9:00 am  **St. Stephen, First Martyr**

THU Dec 28 *Martyrs in Nicomedia* *Hebrews 10:35-11:7 ~ Mark 9:10-16*

8:00 am God's Blessings for MaryJane Tomcala.....Fran Uhryn

8:00 am Health & God's Blessings for Fr. Bohdan Lukie, CSsR.....Albin & Elsie Zayshley

FRI Dec 29 *Holy Innocents* *Hebrews 11:8-16 ~ Mark 9:33-41*

8:00 am Health & Spiritual Welfare for John & Sarah Popowich.....N.N.

8:00 am Health for the Lukie and Gurica families.....Ollie & Ernie

SAT Dec 30 *Saturday after the Nativity* *1 Timothy 6:11-16 ~ Mathew 12:15-21*

9:00 am God's Blessings for the Redemptorist Fathers.....Henry & Mary

5:00 pm Thanksgiving for blessings in 2017 and Good Health in 2018.....N.N.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Sunday after the Nativity *Galatians 1:11-19 ~ Matthew 2:13-23*

MON Jan 1 *Colossians 2:8-12 ~ Luke 2:20-21;40-52*

9:00 am  **Feasts of the Circumcision of Our Lord / New Year / St. Basil the Great**

TUE Jan 2 *Pope Sylvester* *Hebrews 12:25-28,13:22-25 ~ Mark 10:2-12*

8:00 am Health & Salvation for Brothers, Sisters and families.....Family

8:00 am Health & God's Blessings for Mike Hajewich & Peter Hajewich.....N.N.

WED Jan 3 *Prophet Malachias & Martyr Gordius* *James 1:1-18 ~ Mark 10:17-27*

8:00 am +Fr. Peter Pidskalny, CSsR.....St. Nicholas Parish, Insinger

8:00 am +Fred Bodnaryk.....Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood

THU Jan 4 *Synaxis of 70 Apostles* *James 1:19-27 ~ Mark 10:17-27*

8:00 am +Judith Fedorowich.....Vince Fedorowich

8:00 am +Mary Lazurko.....Rob & Rochelle Walter

FRI Jan 5 *1 Corinthians 9:19-27 ~ Luke 3:1-18*



6:30 pm **Vigil of Theophany & Solemn Water Blessing**

SAT Jan 6 *Titus 2:11-14;3:4-7 ~ Matthew 3:13-17*

9:00 am  **Feast of Theophany of Our Lord - Jordan**

5:00 pm Health for Fr. Bohdan Lukie, CSsR.....Blue Army

Saint Mary's Building Fund Donations



In Memory of Fred Zwirsky

Roger & Doreen Rathgeber	\$200.00	Kevin & Shelly Kluk	\$ 25.00
Darcy & Darci Romanuk	\$ 25.00		

Balance of the Fund to date: \$ 323,345.22 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

In Memory of Fred Zwirsky

Darrell & Linda Zaba	\$ 50.00	Albin & Elsie Zayshley	\$ 20.00
Athen & Emily Gazdewich	\$ 20.00	Bob & Kathy Rusnak	\$ 20.00
Matt Novak	\$ 20.00		

Thank you very much

CHURCH DONATIONS

To ensure that your donation is properly recorded and acknowledged, please mark your envelope and the memo line on your cheque **"In memory of..."** or **"On the occasion of..."**

A TRADITIONAL UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS LITURGY BROADCAST



From St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church

GX94: 940 AM

Christmas Day - Monday, December 25th at 9:00 am

The 90 minute 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.

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

In accordance with the New **Eparchial Stipend Schedule (effective November 1, 2017), the recommended **stipend (offering)** for a Divine Liturgy Intention is now **\$20.00**.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

There will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from Tuesday, December 12th until Tuesday, February 20th. It will resume on Tuesday, February 27th.

Offering Envelopes



2018 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES

ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP AT THE EAST ENTRANCE.



Because of the changing times and after some discussion, it has been decided that the Eparchial News will no longer be published in the fashion it has been over the years. I personally wish to thank the individuals, parishes and organizations who supported the publication financially over the years, particularly while I was the editor. - Fr. Yurij Lazurko

The Future of the Eparchial News - Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR



A little history . . . With the blessings and leadership from the late Bishop Basil Filevich, and the determination of two faithful servants, William Berezny and Deacon Yurij Lazurko (and their families), December 1990 saw the birth of the Eparchial News with the first Christmas edition. Today, 27 years later, we bid farewell to the Eparchial News as we have grown to know it. However, I would be remiss in only discussing the future of the Eparchial News without first expressing our most sincere gratitude to William and Father Yurij for their hard work and perseverance in bringing this publication to fruition. Furthermore, I wish to thank Fr. Yurij who continued to believe in the importance of this publication to the faithful in our Eparchy for these past 27 years. He truly was the "chief cook and bottle washer" of the Eparchial News, serving as co-editor, editor and courier, seeing to it that each of the publications always got delivered to all the parishes in our Eparchy. All this was done with no cost to the Eparchy. **TRULY A LABOUR OF LOVE!** We also express our gratitude to Дорободійка (Dobrodijka) Dorothy and the Lazurko family for their support to Fr. Yurij's work with the Eparchial News. May God Bless you Father Yurij, good and faithful servant of our Eparchy!

And now, what about the future . . . Chatting face to face with the Coordinator of the Communication Office of the Eparchy Chris Pidwerbeski the other day, different trends became apparent about communication in the Eparchy. I was surprised to learn the growing numbers of people accessing our Eparchial website, over 3.3 million hits this year to date, with over 80,000 visitors (first time visitors), and over 140,000 visits (people who return frequently). A recent meeting of the Communication Office with the web designer, Whole Wheat Web Design, and various staff and volunteers who contribute to social media, news and event stories to our websites, as well as to parish bulletins, brought to light the new challenges faced in keeping people informed. The news that reaches the faithful of the Eparchy of Saskatoon currently comes in various formats.

Websites, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Livestream, etc., have made the sharing of news more accessible as to how it is shared and with whom. Further, the methods available to share news have diversified. The various methods or formats for news have become more commonplace. For example, with some ease, video can be livestreamed, which offers people not able to attend an event in person the option of participating in it more personally by seeing and hearing a great deal live on a device such as cell phone, computer or tablet.

Others may prefer a news column style approach to the news, with a reporter who attended the event and covers it with photos as well as an intentional selection of highlights of the story. Some readers enjoy the summary of the event and the suggested significance of what took place. The perspective of the reporter comes through in the story. What the Eparchy needs is people who are willing to capture various aspects of what is happening in their parishes, districts and/or in the Eparchy, and then write about it, and then submit it to our Communications Office. This familiar relationship can be comforting to some when they turn their attention to what is the latest news out there. This is more significant when we hear that the Prairie Messenger will soon stop print and recent decisions about regularly printed news in the Moose Jaw area as well, to cite a couple of examples.

My concern is for the catechetical and faith-forming role that the written print has played in the lives of the faithful over the years. After all, good reporting of Catholic and Christian news should not be limited to merely informing people about events. It should have the intention of stirring something in the heart of the person digesting it, calling them to reflect on something that is meaningful, challenging (disturbing or comforting) and then evoking a response in the reader or viewer. News in the Eparchy should have the intention of evangelizing and forming those who access it.

The Eparchial News will continue online in some manner so that people from across the Eparchy can access it for its summarizing and celebration qualities. This can easily be downloaded and printed for those who prefer to handle the paper copy to read the Eparchial News. As we transition into a new chapter of an ever-changing aspect of what it means to be a missionary disciple, sharing news and passing it on again, we will become vibrant followers of Christ, which is everyone's vocation and responsibility.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR

THEOPHANY WATER BLESSING

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



St. Michael's Camp would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
We look forward to seeing you at camp in 2018.

WINTER CAMP DATES

- ◆ Little Mikes Family Camp: February 16-19
- ◆ Youth Camp: February 19-24

SUMMER CAMP DATES

- ◆ Teen: July 1-6
- ◆ Youth: July 8-14 & 15-21
- ◆ Day Camp: July 23-26.
- ◆ Little Mikes Family Camp: July 26-29

For more information, email us at info@stmichaelscamps.com or call Tracie Bugera @ 306-533-8229

INVITATION TO CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS AT MUSEE UKRAINA MUSEUM AND THE KHRAM (SHRINE) OF THE NUN MARTYRS OLYMPIA AND LAURENTIA.

The Sisters of St. Joseph 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 at 7:00 pm - Religious service at Shrine followed by a Christmas program at the Museum at 7:30 pm and refreshments.

December 26 & 27 at 7:00 pm - Christmas program and refreshments at Musée Ukraina Museum. The Shrine will be opened for those wishing to view the Nativity scenes.



"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign unto you; you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:11-12

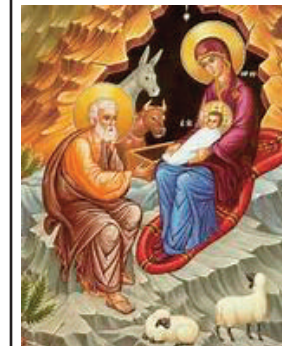
Христос Раждається! Славіме Його!
Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

May you be blessed with the gifts of faith, hope and love, and the wisdom to share these gifts with all we meet in the New Year!

Bishop Budka Eparchial
Stewardship Society Inc. (BBESSI)
Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy
of Saskatoon



CHRIST IS BORN!



Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! Angels with shepherds glorify Him! The wise men journey with a star! Since for our sake the Eternal God was born as a Little Child!

Kondak of Christmas

Wishing you and your loved ones a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous 2018

**With prayers and blessings,
Sr. Marijka, Sr. Georgia and Sr. Bonnie**



CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

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

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. 2 Cor. 8:9

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Beloved in Christ!

Today once again we share the unspeakable joy of the Holy Nativity, which fills the heart of each believer. The Son of God became one of us, having taken as His mother a Virgin from Nazareth. The Son of the Pre-eternal and Almighty God, the Creator of all that is visible and invisible, was born in a poor stable cave and personally experienced all human misery. This is not merely some historical event from long ago, this is our reality as well. In this event that took place in Bethlehem more than two thousand years ago we recognize God's infinite love for the human race, for all time: ***“For God so loved the world, that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life”*** (Jn 3:16).

Gazing upon the newborn Saviour, lying in a simple stable cave, on hay in a manger, we sense how Divine wisdom exceeds human wisdom. In the light of the Christmas star, human power, glory, and wealth seem empty, fleeting, and insignificant. Christ, the Son of God, became poor and helpless for us. He abandoned heavenly glory in order to be born among humans—deprived, having no place to lay His head, as we sing in our traditional carol: ***“not in a royal palace, but among cattle....”*** For us He becomes poor, having been rich, so that we might become rich in his poverty (see 2 Cor 8:9). Taking human misery and frailty upon Himself, the Son of God raises us poor humans to our Lord's grandeur. Indeed, the poor shepherds of the Bethlehem and its surroundings are the first to receive this good news of salvation, proclaimed to us today by the Angel of the Lord: ***“And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!’”*** (Lk 2:12-14). Christmas, it would seem, brings about an exchange of gifts: God descends from heaven to earth, so that mankind might ascend into heaven; the Son of God becomes poor, so that we might all be enriched.

Today we live in a world where, in the words of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, the pursuit of material enrichment frequently grows into a ***“new idolatry of money,”*** and ***“the economy lays bare... a lack of real concern for human beings; man being reduced to one of his needs alone: consumption”*** (Evangelii gaudium, 55). And yet, the angel of the Nativity directs his message to the poor and calls upon them, and us as well, to praise God, in Whom we find hidden the true and eternal wealth of humankind. In being united with Christ, ***“in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”*** (Col 2:3). Christians appear before the world ***“as poor, yet making many rich, as having nothing, yet possessing everything”*** (2 Cor 6:10)! And thus, in the Nativity, this wealth—a life with God and in God—comes to us and becomes a source of our joy and hope, which we exchange with one another.

In the midst of the misery and challenges of the present day, we should recognize that there are many forms of poverty—spiritual, cultural, educational, civilizational, and only then—material. The poverty of the present world is frequently not material, but spiritual. Thus, in a certain sense, today's ***“new rich”*** in Ukraine may, in fact, be spiritually and culturally poorer than beggars. On the other hand, this spiritual poverty, that is, this distance of the powerful of this world from God, frequently creates social injustice, disastrous abuse of authority, corruption and misuse of resources, given for the common good.

In this situation it is not enough for the rich to share a portion of the crumbs from their table as a form of help for the poor. What is needed is a change of the human heart, an opening which will allow Divine light and grace to enter. For the one who claims to be a saviour of the poor, but does not have God in his or her heart—such a person carries empty ideologies which only exploit human suffering for political gain, but in reality, are unable to end it. In such circumstances the poor become poorer while the rich continue to prosper. Only those who have become rich in God can transform their own lives and contribute to the creation of a just society, having the human being at its centre rather than profit, the common good rather than egotistical interests of particular groups or clans.

In His Nativity Christ makes us all rich, fills us and raises us out of all forms of poverty, for Christ is born in Bethlehem in order to make every person His brother, His sister—a child of God and sharer of eternal divine blessings. That is why Christmas is the feast of solidarity for all humankind, even for those who cannot bear the gifts of gold of this world, for it enriches all with ***“a gift more precious than myth: the faith of the heart and sincere love,”*** as we sing in our Ukrainian carol.

Beloved in Christ! In order that we may worthily celebrate Christmas, with those who suffer from all forms of poverty let us share of the riches that are ours—our spiritual gifts above all, and then material gifts. May our ancient carol-koliada, which greets the king in a poor stable cave, be a Divine covenant for us, to approach the poor and share with them the riches of our holy faith. Let us lean down before Christ, present in our impoverished brothers and sisters, allowing them to experience the closeness of God, Who embraces all with His endless mercy and unconditional love. Let us greet with carols our soldiers, wherever they may be—in their homes, having fulfilled their sacred duty to defend their country, in their military units, at the front. Let us visit those who were wounded in battle, let us receive into our hearts the pain of the poor and the needy, for in doing so we will receive Christ with the Most Holy Family, enriching our own homes, our families, and the society we live in with endless divine treasures, ***“where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal”*** (Mt 6:20). This is what the Holy Church encourages us to do in singing: ***“Let us meet Him with pure hearts and with good works. Let us prepare ourselves now through the Holy Spirit to greet Him who is coming to His own people as He himself had willed. He is being born in Bethlehem, so that through His compassion He might bring back all of those who were exiled from life in Paradise”*** (Sunday before the Nativity, Stikhera from Vespers).

Dear Brothers and Sisters, with a sincere heart I wish each of you, from the youngest to the oldest, from the richest in Divine gifts to the poorest, in Ukraine and abroad—the true joy of children of God, a tasty kutia, a Christmas full of cheer, and a happy, peaceful, and blessed New Year!

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

† SVIATOSLAV

***Христос Раждається ! Славте Його !
Christ is Born ! Glorify Him !***

As we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord, may the deep joy and peace of His birth be celebrated in your homes this Christmas. May the Blessing of Emmanuel fill your heart and the hearts of those in your family with joy and gladness this Christmas and strengthen you to witness for Christ in the New Year.



***Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR,
Bishop Emeritus Michael Wiwchar, CSsR,
Clergy, Religious Members and all the faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon.***

