CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

NATIVITY/CHRISTMAS is a time of mercy.
To be merciful means to love, to have courage, to be generous.

Merry Christmas! - Archbishop Daniel

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ХРИСТОС НАРОДЖУЄТЬСЯ! СЛАВІМО ЙОГО!
РІЗДВО ХРИСТОВЕ є періодом милосердя. Бути милосердним
значить любити, бути сміливим, бути щедрим.

З Різдвом Христовим!
- Архієпископ Даниїл
The Magi/Wisemen

...represent men who through science, reason, and contemplation search out God, as compared to the shepherds who find Christ through divine revelation, being told of His birth by the angels.

The Magi/Wisemen are represented of three ages – a young beardless man, a middle-aged man, and a white-haired bearded elderly man. These details teach that Christ came to save men of all classes, nationalities, and generations.

The Gifts brought by the wisemen consisted of God, Frankincense, and Myrrh. The gold is fit to offer a king, and Christ’s two natures are revealed in the offering of frankincense fit to offer God, and myrrh, for a man who is to suffer and die - since incense is for worship, and only God may be worshipped; and the Myrrh signifies that the Lord will offer Himself for sacrifice, the dead were anointed with myrrh.
PATRIARCHAL PROCLAMATION FOR CHRISTMAS 2019

+Bartholomew
By God’s Mercy Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch
To the plenitude of the Church

Grace, mercy and peace from the newborn Savior Christ in Bethlehem
Beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord,

Having once again arrived at the great feast of the Lord’s Nativity, we glorify with hymn and spiritual song the One who emptied Himself for our sake and assumed our flesh so that He might redeem us from captivity to evil and open the gates of paradise to the human race. The Church of Christ rejoices as it liturgically experiences the whole mystery of Divine Economy and receives a foretaste of the glory of the eschatological kingdom, offering a good and godly witness to faith, hope and love in the world.

The character of the Church, while “not of this world,” does not isolate the Church from historical and social reality, but inspires and strengthens its witness. The Church, then, ever in reference to the eternal destiny of man, serves his existential needs, pouring out, like the Good Samaritan, “oil and wine” on his wounds, becoming a “neighbor” for everyone “who falls among thieves” (cf. Luke 10.25–37), healing contemporary “cultural illnesses” and illuminating people’s minds and hearts. As the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the faithful, spirituality means witnessing in word and deed to the hope that is in us and has nothing to do with barren introversion. The Holy Spirit is the giver of life, the source of goodness, the bestower of gifts, life and light. The Christian is a human being that is afire, loves God, humanity and beauty, active and creative.

The Gospel of the Nativity is again heard this year in a cultural environment where supreme value is attributed to “individual rights.” Self-centeredness and the deceit of self-realization diminish social integrity, weaken the spirit of fellowship and solidarity, and objectivize interpersonal relations. Unrestricted emphasis on economy and secularization deepen the existential vacuum and lead to the diminishment of man’s creative forces.

The Church cannot possibly ignore these developments, whose consequences are primarily endured by our youth through the enchanting mechanism of technology and the manifold promises of “false paradises.” The Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church (Crete, 2016) emphatically invited our youth “to become aware that they are bearers and at the same time the continuation of the ancient and blessed tradition of the Orthodox Church,” to actively participate in the life of the Church, “to courageously preserve and dynamically cultivate the eternal values of Orthodoxy in order to convey the life-giving witness of Christianity.” (Encyclical, § 8–9)

In this same spirit, adhering to the exhortation of the Holy and Great Council but also in light of the recent election and enthronement of the new Archbishops of America, Australia and Thyateira-Great Britain for three large Eparchies of the Ecumenical Throne in the Diaspora, we declare 2020 as the “year of spiritual renewal and due concern for the youth,” inviting all our clergy and faithful to participate in and support this inspiring effort.

We aspire to the advancement of a “dialogical pastoral ministry” with imagination and vision, with unshakable faith in the eternally flowing grace of God and confidence in the power of human freedom. This pastoral ministry is centered on human persons and must turn young people away from “seeking their own interests” and “pleasing themselves” to a love that “does not seek its own” and “is pleasing to God,” from “material goods” to “the only One who is good,” from “endless needs” to the “one thing that alone is needed,” thereby contributing to the promotion of everyone’s charismas. Our truly free self is born by offering our self.

The foundation of the Christian conscience’s awakening remains to this day the experience and understanding of the meaning of Christian worship as well as its communal, Eucharistic and eschatological character. Young people must recognize that the Church is not a “union of Christians” but the “Body of Christ.” We call the reverend clergy of the Holy Great Church of Christ throughout the world to a “kenotic” pastoral mobilization. We should not wait for our young men and women to come to us, but we should reach out to them ourselves, not as judges but as friends, in imitation of the “good shepherd,” who “gives his life for his sheep” (John 10.11). A shepherd is always vigilant and on guard, aware of the pastoral needs of the youth and their social environment in order to act accordingly. His pastoral intervention draws inspiration and direction from the tradition of the Church, offering young people not merely “support” but the “truth” of freedom “to which Christ has set us free.” (Gal. 5.1)

With these thoughts, we devoutly worship the Holy Child of Bethlehem and wish all of you from the festive Phanar a blessed Holy Twelvetide as well as a fruitful new year of our Lord, invoking on you the life-giving grace and great mercy of our Savior Christ, who condescended to the human race, the “God with us.”

Your fervent supplicant before God

+Bartholomew of Constantinople
Today, the Holy Orthodox Church radiantly celebrates the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the hearts of all of us are filled with great and incomprehensible joy; God in the flesh appeared on earth. All humanity had anticipated this event since the time of Adam and Eve. As the prophets of the Old Testament proclaimed: “Behold the Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Immanuel” which is translated, “God is with us” (Isaiah 7:14). The Lord sends redemption to His people (Psalm 110:9). The salvation of the human race cannot be achieved by human forces and for this reason it is necessary for God to come into the world.

Mankind, which had been dwelling in gloom and in the realm of sin, darkness and despair, has received good news and is filled with joy because the Savior of the human race is born - God is with us! The Son of God is on earth! He is born of the Virgin Mary as a little Baby! The Son of God becomes the Son of man and through the Incarnation takes on human flesh in the person of the newborn Christ. Divine and human nature are united unconfusedly, inconvertibly, indivisibly, inseparably. The Lord becomes like one of us, in everything like us, except He is without sin. God is humbled in the person of the newborn Christ the Saviour. As the Apostle Paul writes: “He made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of man.” (Philippians 2: 7)

Some people are born into riches, others are born in poverty; some people try to live with God and in holiness; other people live in sin and forget about God. Later, death takes away one and all. Since the creation of the world, everything in it is repeated and there is nothing new under the sun. But today we are celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the birth which St. John of Damascus spoke about “This is the only new occurrence under the sun. The Son of God is born of the Virgin Mary.” This Divine providence for us people and for the sake of our salvation is wonderful and incomprehensible because He is born. He, Who created all things and has no beginning or end, is born. The Son of God also becomes the Son of man. The immortal unites with the mortal, the uncreated with the created, to save men from their sins and to grant them salvation.

And how prepared was mankind to welcome and give gifts to the Newborn Savior? We hear the answer in the words of the Kondak on Christmas Day: “the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable one.” In the city of Bethlehem there was no room for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ; no hotel had taken in the Virgin Mary and the righteous Joseph for
the night. The Little Jesus is born in a poor manger because He has no place among men. The King of the world is not born in royal palaces, not in rich houses, but in poverty and humility, in a cave where animals are kept. The Lord came into this world not just so we could serve Him, but so He could serve all of us. He was not interested in political power, nor wealth, nor glory; He remained untouched by all the temptations and benefits of this world; He did not come here to possess them. He came to conquer this world with all its corrupt values, to overcome sin and death. And He has conquered these, conquered them with the greatest power that no one, except the fullness of God, will ever have. This power is love. His love for us even overcame death. The Son of God descends to the earth because God so loved us all “that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

In our time, very often there is no place for the Lord in the lives of many people, in families, in society, in nations and states. Creation does not need its Creator; humans build paradise on earth without God, but in the end, without God, human life becomes hell, dominated only by sin, hopelessness, and death. But the Son of God is born to give us hope that we are not alone, we are not abandoned, we are not orphans, but that God is with us! The heart of every faithful believer is filled with great joy because the Savior is born. He came into the world to sacrifice Himself for us. He alone can bring salvation to all humanity and cleanse us from our sins and overcome death.

Today the heavens and the earth rejoice; the angels in heaven declare: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men.” (Luke 2:14). The poor shepherds were the first to honor, to worship the Newborn Savior. We shall also send our hearts and prayers to the cave of Bethlehem, so that the little Christ will also bless us, fill us with His abundant graces and generosity, with peace and joy, and grant us spiritual and bodily powers to live with and for Him.

We sincerely greet the pious Ukrainian people in Ukraine and all those dispersed throughout all the corners of the earth - in the United States, Canada, Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand and South America - with a joyous Nativity Feast, and we prayerfully wish that the New Year, 2020, will be peaceful and blessed by the Lord.

With Archpastoral blessings,

+ YURIJ - Metropolitan Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
+ ANTONY – Metropolitan Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, South America and Diaspora
+ JEREMIAH – Archbishop Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America
+ DANIEL – Archbishop Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora
+ ILARION – Bishop Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
+ ANDRIY – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
Сьогодні Свята Православна Церква урочисто святкує Різдво Господа і Спаса нашего Ісуса Христа, серця всіх нас переповнені великою і незбагненою радістю, Бог явився на землі во плоті, що подію очікувало все людство від часів Адама і Єви, про неї провіщали пророки Старого Заповіту: «Ось Діва в утробі прийме і народить Сина і дадуть Йому ім’я Еммануїл, що означає: з нами Бог» (Іс. 7:14), бо визволення послав Господь народу Своєму (псалом 110:9), бо спасіння людського роду не могло здійснитись людськими силами, для цього потрібно було пришестя у світ Бога.

Людство, яке перебувало в царстві гріха, темряви і відчая отримало радісну звістку, що народився Спаситель людського роду, що з нами Бог! Син Божий на землі! Він народжується від Діви Марії як маленьке Дитятко! Син Божий стає і Сином людським, приймає людську плоть через втілення, в особі Новонародженого Христа людська і божественна природа з’єднуються незлитно, нероздільно і нерозлучно. Господь стає як один з нас, стає у всьому подібним нам крім гріха. В особі Новонародженого Христа Спасителя Бог принижується, як пише апостол Павло: «принизив Себе Самого, прийнявши образ раба, зробивши подібним до людей, і з вигляду став як чоловік» (Флп 2:7) ради нашого спасіння.

Люди народжуються одні в багатстві, інші народжуються в бідності, одні люди стараються жити з Богом і в святості, інші люди живуть в гріху і забувають за Бога, а потім смерть забирає одних і інших. Від створіння світу, все у цьому світі повторюється і немає нічого нового під сонцем. Але сьогодні ми святкуємо народження Господа нашого Ісуса Христа, про народження якого святий Іоан Дамаскин говорить, що ця подія «тільки єдина нова під сонцем». Син Божий народжується від Діви Марії. Дивний і незбагнений Промисел Божий про нас людей і ради нашого спасіння. Бо народжується Цей, який сотворив всі і все, народжується Цей, який немає ні початку і ні кінця, Син Божий стає і Сином людським, Безсмертне з’єднується з смертним, Несотворенне з сотворенним, щоб спасти людей від їх гріхів і дарувати спасіння.

А що приготовило людство подарувати Новонародженому Спасителю? «Земля вертеп Неприступному приносить» чуємо ми слова відповіді в кондаку в день свята Різдва. У місті Віфліємі не знайшлось місця для народження Господа нашого Ісуса Христа, ні в один готель не прийняв Діву Марію і праведного Йосифа, щоб навіть
Христос Родждається! Славімо Його!

З архипастирським благословенням,

+ Юрій – Митрополит Української Православної Церкви в Канаді
+ Антоній – Митрополит Української Православної Церкви США, Південної Америки та Діаспори
+ Єремія – Архієпископ Української Православної Церкви в Канаді
+ Даниїл – Архієпископ Української Православної Церкви США та Діаспори
+ Іларіон – Єпископ Української Православної Церкви в Канаді
+ Андрій – Єпископ Української Православної Церкви в Канаді
NEW 2020 YEAR GREETING OF METROPOLITAN ANTONY, PRIMATE OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA

Beloved in Christ:

It gives me great pleasure to reach out to all clergy and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA via Internet and offer prayers and best wishes for a Happy and Blessed New 2020 Year of our Lord!
The celebration of the New Year is a joyous opportunity for all of us in our communities to gather with loved ones and to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, while prayerfully looking forward into the New Year of blessings and opportunities.
During this Sacred Season of the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord, let us cast our eyes upon Christ our light – the God of glory and light, the God who constantly lightens our way. As we celebrate the great light of Christ among us, let us also give thanks for the other lights that have touched, lit up, and enlightened our own lives. We are blessed to be illumined by the light of other people: those who give us joy, challenge us, and sometimes call us to conversion. Each person who has touched our heart is a point of light for which we are grateful.
Among all the lights, the light of Christ remains the light of the world. It is because of his light that all the other smaller lights can glow and give us hope.
I pray that God will shower abundant blessings on you and your loved ones at this special time as well as throughout the coming year.
With cordial greetings and the assurance of my prayers, I remain
Sincerely yours in Christ,
+Antony, By the Grace of God, Metropolitan of the UOC of the USA

NEW 2020 YEAR GREETING OF METROPOLITAN ANTONY, PRIMATE OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA

Привітання митрополита Антонія, Предстоятеля Української Православної Церкви США з нагоди Нового 2020 року

Улюблені в Христі:

Мені приємно звернутися до всього духовенства та вірних Української Православної Церкви США через засоби електронного спілкування та запевнити Вас усіх в молитвах та найкращих побажаннях з нагоди Нового 2020 року Господнього!
Святкування Нового року - це радісна можливість для всіх нас у наших громадах зібратися з близькими людьми, котрі відзначають звершення минулого року, молитовно очікуючи благословень та можливостей у Новому Році.
Під час цього святого сезону святкування Різдва нашого Господа, споглядайте духовними очима на Христа - наше Світло - Бога слави, який постійно освітлює наші шляхи. Коли ми святкуємо велике Христове Світло між нами, складаємо подяку і за інші життєві вогники, які туркнулися, запалили і просвітили наше власне життя. Ми благословленні у житті можливістю бути освіченім світлом інших людей: тих, хто дарує нам радість, кидає виклик нам, а іноді і закликає нас до навернення.
Я молюся, щоб Бог в цей особливий час, а також протягом усього наступного року, наділив Вас та Ваших рідних Своїми рисними благословеннями.
З сердечною привітанням та запевненням у своїх молитвах, я залишаюся щиро Ваш у Христі,
+ Антоній, Милістю Божою, митрополит УПЦ США
My dear friends in Christ:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!  З НОВИМ РОКОМ!

We stand at the gateway to a brand New 2020 Year of our Lord. It's time to look back, look forward, and mostly to live in the present moment.

I hope that you are all filled with optimism for the future, while being content with the present. If you renew your faith in the guiding hand of the Lord’s Divine Providence, and trust Him, then you will find that all your concerns will fade away and angelic peace will take its place.

On behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Members of the Council of Metropolia and Consistory, I wish you health, love, and happiness in this New Year and beyond. God bless you always!

+Daniel, by the Grace of God Archbishop and brother in the Lord

 Мої дорогі друзі в Христі,

Ми стоїмо на порозі нового 2020 року Божого. Настав час озирнутися назад, заглянути вперед, а в основному, достойно перебувати в сьогоденні.

Я сподіваюся, що всі Ви наповнені оптимізмом на майбутнє, задовольняючись сьогоденням. Якщо Ви відновите свою віру в Боже Провидіння, і довіритеся Господеві котрий завжди піклується Вами, тоді Ви зумієте усвідомити, що вся трівога даремна і ангельський мир займе місце переживань.

Від імені Високопреосвященного Митрополита Антонія, Членів Ради Митрополії та Консисторії бажаю Вам здоров’я, любові і щастя в цей Новий рік. Нехай Бог благословить Вас завжди!

+Даниїл, Ласкою Божою Архієпископ та брат у Христі
Standing tall and majestic, the newly erected Christmas tree stretched out its green branches, as if reaching up towards the beautiful icon of the Protection of the Mother of God which hung on the wall above it. This tree followed the centuries-old tradition, which began with the “Jesse Tree”, of decorating homes during the Christmas Season.

The Sunday before the Nativity, the Reading is from the Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 1:1-25) which lists the genealogy of Christ. As far back as Byzantine times, these ancestors of Christ, as well as the prophets who foretold of the Virgin Birth, were depicted on the ornaments of the “Jesse trees” that were placed in churches during the Nativity Season. Traditionally an icon of the Prophet Jesse (who was the father of David) was placed towards the bottom, on the top would be a star, and in the middle of the tree would hang an icon of Christ blessing with His two hands.

The tree which was located in the atrium of the Consistory Offices at the Metropolia Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, in South Bound Brook, New Jersey, would be no different, as it too would be decorated with a myriad of icons and symbolic ornaments.

As the sun began to set outdoors, the lights within the atrium began to twinkle, and the halls began to echo with happy voices. With smiles and joyous laughter, the hierarchs, clergy, staff and faithful who had gathered for the annual event of decorating the official tree, made their way in to the atrium carrying packages, boxes and envelopes which held tiny treasurers within.

This was the second year that His Eminence Archbishop Daniel petitioned the tiniest of his flock, the children of the parishes, to create the ornaments that would decorate the Christmas Tree that graced the Atrium and greeted the guests who visited the Metropolia Center during the Christmas Season.

Fulfilling their hierarch’s request were the children of:

- St. Michael’s parish, Woonsocket, RI
- Assumption of the Virgin Mary parish, Northampton, PA
- The Pasakas and Hlushko families, NJ
- St. Volodymyr Cathedral, Chicago, IL
- St. Mary Dormition parish, Jones, OK
- Sts. Peter and Paul, Palos Park, IL
- St. Vladimir Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA
- St. John the Baptist parish, Portland, OR
- St. George parish, Yardville, NJ
- All Saints parish, New York, NY
- Sts Peter and Paul mission, West Islip, NY

As the staff of the Consistory, decorated the tree with lovingly handmade wooden ornaments, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, President of the Consistory and Prime Hierarch of the Western Eparchy, scurried up the ladder to place the shining star atop the tree. With laughter and joy the plain green tree began to drip with ornaments – sparkling pasta stars, popsicle stick wooden churches, saints, prophets, snowmen, angels and bedazzled spiders with their golden webs.

Within minutes the tree proudly stood displaying the efforts of the children who painstakingly and lovingly created the tiny masterpieces that now decorated its stately branches. Standing back to admire the beautiful tree, everyone began pointing out their favorite ornaments, smiling and contemplating the creativity of young minds, and tiny hands.

We invite you to come and see the tree in person at the Metropolia Center atrium. You will be struck by its beauty, by the unique ornaments, and the creativity. Come and witness the love of the children which surround you, who fill your parishes, and fill our hearts with joy.
A sense of wonder and awe filled the mission community of the Four Holy Evangelists of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in Bel Air, MD as His Eminence Archbishop Daniel visited the mission for the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (according to Gregorian Calendar) and for the ordination to the Holy Priesthood of Deacon Charles Sanderson on December 25, 2019.

A faith-filled congregation celebrated the Nativity of Christ with the hierarch and witnessed as Fr. Charles received the grace of the Holy Priesthood from the hands of one of the spiritual fathers of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. Greeting newly-ordained Fr. Charles, Archbishop Daniel, reminded him of the words of St. Polycarp, who said that “a priest must stand at the altar in such a way that the people do not see him, but they see Christ.”

Speaking in the presence of several clergy, Rev. Fr. Gregory Czumak (pastor of Four Holy Evangelists Ukrainian Orthodox mission in Bel Air, MD), Very Rev. Fr. Petro Landvytovych (pastor of St. Sophia Church in Kyiv, Ukraine), Very Rev. Fr. Orest Poukhalsky (pastor of Sts Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Glen Spay, NY), Very Rev. Fr. Stepan Bilogan (clergyman of Sts Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox mission in West Islip, NY), Fr. Charles promised to serve as a shepherd of souls, not just in his obedience, but also by worthily living out the sacred calling of the priesthood through teaching the faith, faithfully celebrating the Holy Mysteries, sharing God’s mercy with the people entrusted to his care, and above all, to become more united with Christ every day of his life.

In the homily, while addressing Fr. Charles and everyone in attendance, Archbishop Daniel reflected on the Holy Mystery of Priesthood and stated: “May the Holy Eucharist that you will celebrate always fill you with wonder and awe, immense gratitude and love - a living icon - as Christ passes through your hands, and your voice and your heart.”

The priestly ministry is “painstakingly and prayerfully painted, with each stroke expressing something of the mystery of God and His saving love as you absolve people from their sins and break open the Word and make the Eucharist present,” he said.

“At the Eucharistic table – the sacred Altar … you will find the strength to live out your call to holiness, and the strength for pastoral ministry,” Vladyka Daniel said in the homily. “It is also here that you will fall in love with Christ in a deeper way. You are not called primarily ‘to do’ but ‘to be.’ People will come to you because they know that you ‘taste and see the goodness of the Lord.’”

Distributing the Holy Eucharist to the faithful in attendance, Fr. Charles prayerfully recited the prayer of Communion, thus calling the congregation in attendance to submit themselves to the Grace of the Holy Spirit.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Rev. Fr. Gregory Czumak, pastor of the parish community, greeted everyone in attendance with the glorious feast of the Nativity of our Lord.

Following the veneration of the Nativity of our Lord icon and the blessing from the hands of the newly ordained priest Charles, the entire congregation was treated to a Christmas luncheon in honor of Fr. Charles, his wife Melania and their son George.

Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan
Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church is a small parish community of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA with the history of over 92 years of spiritual ministry among the faithful of Ukrainian and Slavic descent in Johnstown, PA Metropolitan area.

On January 5, 2020 – Sunday Before Nativity of our Lord, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel visited the parish family in Johnstown for the Eucharist celebration. In his sermon remarks to the congregation and the pastor of the parish community Fr. Mark Phillips, Vladyka reflected on the Genealogy of Christ, asking the congregation to look carefully into the names of the family members of the Savior, while trying to identify themselves with the family of Christ.

“It’s a message in the picture that the Bible paints for us this morning, a picture which includes you. Look carefully, you may see your face somewhere in one of the corners, or somewhere in the background.

I don’t know if you can see that it is a picture. A portrait actually. It is a portrait of the family of Jesus Christ. Parents, grandparents - all his ancestors right back to Abraham. 3 groups of 14 names here, and with those people come their stories, stories that are told in earlier chapters of the Bible - plainly told, nothing held back…”

During the Litany of Fervent Supplication, His Eminence chanted special petitions for the wellbeing of the members of the US Armed Forces in the Middle East and throughout the world.

Following the conclusion of the Liturgy, Archbishop led a formal parish meeting of the congregation, addressing vital pastoral issues in the life of the community.
THE CELEBRATION OF NATIVITY/CHRISTMAS FOCUSES ON THE MANIFESTATION OF
CHRIST TO THE WORLD

Our Invitation to do so Continues, as Archbishop Daniel Celebrates Nativity
of Christ at St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bayonne, NJ

With the chiming of bells and chanting of the Nativity Carols, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel entered through the doors of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bayonne, NJ for the celebration of the Glorious Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on January 6-7, 2020 (according to Julian Calendar).

The parish temple was prayerfully overwhelmed by the presence of the faithful of the Church who joined their spiritual father and hierarch for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ. Assisting the archbishop at the altar were Very Rev. Fr. Myroslav Schirita – pastor of the congregation and Rev. Fr. Vasyl Pasakas, pastor of the Nativity of the Birth-Giver of God Ukrainian Orthodox Church in South Plainfield, NJ, as well as Deacon Yuri Bobko of the Three Holy Hierarchs Chapel of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary of the UOC of the USA.

In his homily, Vladyka Daniel exhorted the faithful to follow in the path of Christ and said that, “Things like Christmas trees, stars, carols give us happiness superficially, but we must celebrate Christmas meaningfully and feel it within us by following the teachings of Jesus Christ. Give space in your hearts, open the doors of your houses for others.” He added, “Remember - our Savior Jesus Christ gave us the message of love, brotherhood and peace. We must live together as God’s children. Christ died for us, which indicates how much he loves us, and so we must love each other. We must make real Christ’s message in our daily life, live like Him, follow Him and abolish any sense of social/moral/political discrimination between the children of God. We must treat everyone equally…”

He further said that “in this modern world we forget our duties, we do not get time to pray, we do not know who is our next door neighbor… We go to the church and go back home and sit inside our houses without helping the needy…”

While concluding the archbishop said, “Christmas is a time to spread joy, peace and harmony but how much joy we are spreading around us has to be introspected. Do not harden your heart, be more human and help the poor and the needy and celebrate a true Christmas”. The hierarch also wished everyone a very happy and peaceful new year.

Once the liturgical celebration concluded, the chanters of St. Sophia parish and the faithful in attendance prayerfully sang carols in Ukrainian, English and Romanian languages, while Archbishop Daniel, assisted by Fr. Myroslav Schirita and Fr. Vasyl Pasakas anointed the faithful and offered them prayerful greetings.

The early hours of Christmas afternoon arrived, yet the faithful remained at the parish hall of St. Sophia parish to proclaim the great feast of the Nativity to the world, by sharing with each other traditions of caroling and a festive luncheon. -Photos by Olha Bobko
Every Christmas/Nativity of our Lord season it is our mission, as a Church, to honor the gift that God gave us in Christ the Savior – Emmanuel – GOD is WITH US child through our efforts to Give as well to those that are in need around us.

The parishes of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA as well as Central Organizations of the Church have opened their hearts to various charitable ministries of our local communities and offered Nativity/Christmas Gifts to the shut ins of the local nursing homes, children hospitals of our communities, Church sponsored orphanages, housing for the elderly in the War Zone of Eastern Ukraine.

While it's important to serve the needs of those around the world, we feel it is equally important to serve the organizations and ministries in our own backyard. As you look through these images of carolers, and Christmas gifts delivery services to the ailing children of medical institutions in Albany, NY, elderly in Oklahoma, Cleveland and New Britain, CT Metropolitan areas or homeless in Detroit, MI, offer prayers of gratitude to Almighty God for the efforts of our Church’s parish communities and families that have offered themselves unconditionally in the service of others.

We are grateful to the membership of St. Andrew’s Society who through their donations touched hundreds of homeless and elderly people on the streets of Kyiv, Ukraine – proving food and warm drinks to those in need through the efforts of the Office of Social Services of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine (Roman Kholodov – coordinator). Moreover, we are grateful for the donations of funds to the Orphanage Diaper Project of the Church and for the financial offerings that have enabled UOC of the USA to sponsor additional Special Education teaches in Znamyanka Orphanage in Ukraine. The wheelchair for Julia from Znamyanka orphanage arrived right on Christmas Day, thus easing her pain of physical infirmity.

To all of you, clergy and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA – Thank You for the Gift of LIFE this Nativity of our Lord season. God bless you!

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У часі Різдва Господнього нашим завдання, як Церкви, повинна бути подякувати за дари, які Бог дає нам через Христа Спасителя - Еммануїла - з нами БОГ – а ми, завдяки нашим старанням, можемо допомогти тим, хто в потребі навколо нас.

Важливо допомагати потребам людей у всьому світі, але ми вважаємо, що так само важливо є допомагати організаціям та установам на наших теренах. Переглядаючи ці світлини колядників та доставки різдвяних подарунків хворим дітям у
медичних установах в Олбані, штат Нью-Йорк, пристарілим в Оклахомі та Клівеланді, або бездомним в Детройті, штат Мічіган, змушує нас посилити молитву подяки Всемогутньому Богу за старання парафіяльних громад нашої Церкви та родин, які безумовно допомагають у слугуванні іншим.

Ми вдячні членам товариства Святого Андрія, які своїми пожертвами торкнулися життя сотень бездомних та літніх людей на вулицях Києва, Україна - подаючи їжу та теплі напитки тим, хто в потребі, стараннями Управління соціальних служб Православної Церкви України (Роман Холодов - координатор). Більше того, мы вдячні за пожертву коштів на акцію у Церкві “Підгузники для сиріт” та за фінансові пожертви, які дали змогу УПЦ США спонсорувати додаткові співпрацюванні уроки в дитячому будинку Знам'янка в Україні. Інвалідне крісло для Юлі з дитячого будинку “Знам’янка” прибуло на Різдво, тим самим полегшивши її біль від фізичної немощі.

Усьому духовенству та парафіянам Української Православної Церкви США - Дякуємо за ДАР ЖИТТЯ у цей Різдвяний період. Нехай вас Бог благословить!
His Eminence Archbishop Daniel traveled to Munich, Germany in order to preside over the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Holy Priesthood of Very. Rev. Fr. Valentyn Smoktunowicz, pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Parish in Munich, Germany. The prayerful celebration took place over the weekend of 10-12 January, 2020. Clergy from various parts of Germany, Belgium, Ukraine and Poland arrived Munich in order to honor Fr. Velentyn on his anniversary. The event brought together members of all parish organizations, representatives of the Ukrainian Diplomatic community and Diaspora, as well as guests from Poland and Ukraine, all of whom participated in the Holy Eucharist.

Welcoming Archbishop Daniel to the temple for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist – true Thanksgiving, representatives of the local community asked the hierarch to remember in his prayers their pastor, who 30 years to date was ordained at Sts Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox parish – a location, where years ago was established the housing for the Displaced Persons, following the World War II.

During the homily Vladyka Daniel vividly described the origins of Fr. Velentyn’s vocation and drew particular attention to the importance of the priesthood as a gift from Christ for the Church community. The Priesthood of Fr. Smoktunowicz is notably associated with Sts Peter and Paul Parish where he has served for over thirty years, first as a deacon and assistant pastor, and after a few years as its pastor. It is no wonder that the parish community became like a second family for Fr. Velentyn, whose members gathered in great numbers at the ceremony on the day of celebration. Their esteem became evident particularly toward the end of the Liturgy when all communities, associations and parish organizations, visitors and clergy, if even in a few words, expressed their gratitude for the years they spent together with
Fr. Valentyn, for his friendship and his pastoral care.

Following the sermon and the Litany of Fervent Supplications, Archbishop Daniel led a very emotional Memorial Service for the fallen passengers and crew of the UIA Flight 752, that was shot down by Iranian Military, thus tragically killing 176 people. Vladyka called it a tragedy and compared it to the act of terror – as numerous children, parents, husbands and wives were left without their loved ones due to the careless act of the perpetrators of the air catastrophe.

Following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Archbishop Daniel spoke on behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, and presented Fr. Valentyn with a medal of Christ the Savior – one of the original medals that was established by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora, honoring individual clergy and parishioners for their dedication to the ministry of the Church in Diaspora.

Consul General of Ukraine in Munich Yurij Yarmilko and his wife Lubov greeted Fr. Valentyn on behalf of the Ukrainian diplomats and presented him with a memorable gift.

After the Liturgy, everyone went to the local Bavarian restaurant to continue celebration of the jubilee and to take commemorative photographs with Fr. Valentyn. Everyone enjoyed the evening which was additionally serenaded with music on the harmonica by Perlyna Female Vocal Group that treated everyone in attendance to a wreath of musical Christmas carols. The jubilee celebration lasted late into the evening and left many warm memories in the hearts of both parishioners and guests.

*Photos by Anastasia Smoktunowicz*
One of the most joyful spiritual events at our Metropolia Center during the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the annual CAROLING FOR CHRIST concert sponsored by the UOC of USA Consistory and the St. Andrew School of Ukrainian Studies centered in the Ukrainian Cultural Center. This year was no exception with the sixth annual concert presented on 11 January with the participation of parishes and their schools from New York City and New Jersey.

The Staff of St. Andrew Ukrainian School, once again, did a wonderful job of decorating the stage for the concert under the leadership of the school’s Director, Yaroslava Danyschuk. Fr. Vasyl Pasakas, Executive Secretary to Archbishop Daniel, President of the Consistory and Metropolitan Antony, Prime Hierarch of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, served as the very talented organizer of the annual caroling event, leading to a beautiful presentation with attention to every detail.

There were over one hundred participants in the concert who performed to the delight of two hundred parishioners, parents, grandparents and guests of the of the performers – both students and adults. Parishes represented in the program were: St. Andrew Memorial Church, South Bound Brook, NJ, St. Panteleimon Parish, Brooklyn, NY, St. George Parish, Yardville, NJ, St. Andrew Parish, Jamaica, NY, and Holy Trinity Cathedral, Broome St., New York City and Seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary, Metropolia Center, South Bound Brook, NJ.

The concert began with an opening prayer offered by Fr. Pasakas, who introduced the Host for the Concert, Oksana Danchenko, from Holy Trinity Cathedral, New York City.

The first performers were from St. Andrew Ukrainian School of the Ukrainian Cultural Center with a presentation entitled “Above the Manger the Bright Star Enlightened the Whole World”. The student performers were from classes grades five through twelve. They wore traditional Nativity costumes around the Manger of the Christ Child and the joy and innocence on their faces reflected that same joy and innocence of the Shepherds, the Wise Kings and even the animals that surrounded the newborn Christ Child at His Incarnation – God becoming man – over 2,000 years ago. The Director of the Ukrainian School is Yaroslava Danyschuk and the leaders for the performance were teachers Oksana Nalivayko, Natalia Moroz and Halyna Bohutska.

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Yaroslava Danyschuk and the leaders for the performance were teachers Oksana Nalivayko, Natalia Moroz and Halyna Bohutska.

The next performers were Church School students from St. Panteleimon Parish, Brooklyn, NY where Fr. Vasyl Shak serves as Pastor. The students also presented a Nativity “Vertep” with traditional carols “Boh Sya Rozhdaye”, “Spy Isuse Spy”, “Dobryj Vechir Tobi”, Nova Radist Stala” “Nebo i Zemiya” under the direction of Christina Pendorak.

Participating from St. Andrew Parish, Jamaica, NY, Pastor, Fr. Ion Protaesa, was Maria Busa, a professional soprano who sang two pieces: “O Holy Night” by Adolphe Adam and “Ave Maria” by Pietro Mascagni.

The Ukrainian Studies School of St. George Parish, Yardville, NJ next performed under the watchful eye of the parish priest, V. Rev. Petro Levko. The students also performed several traditional Ukrainian carols around a “Manger Scene (Vertep)” under the direction of their teachers: Halyna Grygirchuk, Natalia Romaniuk and Jaroslava Holyk.

Students from Holy Trinity Cathedral in New York City appeared next, accompanied by their Priest, V. Rev. Todor Mazur, presented “Anhelyata”, singing several carols under the artistic direction of their teachers, Olenka Hoshovska and Okcana Danchenko.

Many of the students of St. Sophia Seminary were still in Ukraine visiting families when the Caroling for Christ Concert took place, but some had already returned and although they were not at full force with all their singers, the
students present performed beautifully. Deacon Sviatoslav Got, Deacon Yuri Bobko, Yaroslav Bilohan, Maxim Zhuravchyk and Andrij Vatrych sang three carols “Nebo i Zemlya” (Heaven and Earth), “Tam Vysoko v Czym Nebi” and “Dobryj Vechir”.

Delighting the audience next were three soloists from St. Panteleimon Parish, Brooklyn. Victoria Tychynska sang “Khay Isus Male Dytja” and “Novyj Rik Pryjshov na Ukrainu”. Julia Ilitych sang “Last Christmas” and “Rizdno Chrystove”. Victoria and Julia then performed a duet with the piece “Ukraina Kolyaduye”. Finally, Dmyto Mischenko beautifully performed “Tykha Nich – Silent Night”.

The final presentation for the concert, which has been a tradition of “Caroling for Christ” throughout all six years of its existence was the “Vertep” performed by the adults and children of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Broome Street, New York City along with their priest, V. Rev. Todor Mazur. This program has been performed all throughout the New York area, most noteworthy at Rockefeller Center before the great New York City Christmas Tree on our Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. It is a program, which, although performed in Ukrainian, is easily understood as the Nativity Story by the hundreds of people who pause to enjoy it. It is a beautiful and professional presentation by all volunteers and was greatly appreciated by our traditional ‘CAROLING FOR CHRIST” audience.

At the end of the concert, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony joined the performers on stage and expressed his gratitude and that of His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, who was representing the Metropolitan at Church Events in our Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy in Diaspora in Munich, Germany. With the assistance of Fr. Pasakas, the Metropolitan presented “Hramoty – Certificates of Blessing” to all the participating groups in the Concert. He stated that each and every year, the CAROLING FOR CHRIST CONCERT gets bigger and better and he invited them all back next year and that they will be able to remain for the beautiful photograph of all participants at the end of the program.

We thank all this year’s participants in our annual concert. We missed some of our traditional participants due to other commitments, but we hope that they will be back with us next year for the Glory of God and to share His Love for all who hear their God-Given talent.

CHRIST IS BORN! LET US GLORIFY HIM!
NOW AND FOREVER... A NEW PRIEST IS ORDAINED AND ‘SENT ON MISSION’ TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

In a day of great joy – January 18, 2020, Deacon Yurii Bobko, a native of Kozova, Ukraine was ordained to the Holy Priesthood of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA by Archbishop Daniel at St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church in South Bound Brook, NJ.

Seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary chanted the responses of the Divine Liturgy while clergy, family and friends from tri-State area attended the ordination.

In his homily, the archbishop told Deacon Yurii that, to him and through him, the Lord will continue to fulfill his promise to be a Good Shepherd, one who knows his people and cares for them.

A candidate for the priesthood, no matter his age, can easily identify with Prophet Jeremiah’s words: “Ah Lord God, I do not know how to speak. I am too young.” However, Archbishop Daniel stated that God’s response is very reassuring: “I know you well! Before I formed you in the womb I knew you... I will be with you.”

Quoting Metropolitan Antony, Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, Vladyka Daniel stated that a priest must always remember God’s call: “We are called by God and we are called to be with Christ, united with Him. It is precisely this ‘life in Christ’ that ensures our service is effective and fruitful.”

The archbishop emphasized to the candidate to the Holy Priesthood to remember that he has been called by God every day and hour of his priestly service. “Deepen your understanding of your call by God through daily prayer!”

Archbishop Daniel continued, “When I lay my hands upon you, I will call down the GRACE of the Holy Spirit upon you — not to honor or reward you with an exalted position — but to enable you to serve others faithfully after the model of the Good Shepherd.”

In the Gospel reading from St. John, at the moment of establishment of the Holy Eucharist, our Lord prayed that His heavenly Father will consecrate his disciples “in the truth. Your words are truth. As you sent me into the world, so I send them into the world.”

Archbishop Daniel lamented that we live in a time of chaos and polarization, of “fake news” and distorted information for partisan purposes.

“Yurii, my spiritual son,” he stressed, looking directly at the deacon, “As a priest, as a missionary disciple, you are to lead your people in faithfully and...
boldly proclaiming the truth of the Gospel. Bring the Light of Christ into the darkness and shadows of our world. The Holy Spirit will empower you to do this. The Mother of God and the Mother of the Church, will be with you, showing you the way to faithful discipleship as a priest!"

Trembling in the fear of God and with tears in his eyes, after the Great Entrance, Deacon Yurii was brought forth to the Royal Doors by the deacons, from where serving clergy presented him as a worthy candidate in front of His Eminence Archbishop Daniel. Clergy in the altar of St. Andrew’s Church led the candidate for the ordination in prayerful chanting and veneration of the corners of the Sacred Altar of the Church, each time presenting him to the bishop for a blessing.

At the sacred moment of ordination, Deacon Yurii was led by the archbishop to the corner of the altar, where he knelt before it and placed his hands on it, thus promising obedience to the Church and the ordaining bishop. The archbishop placed his hands in silence upon Deacon Yurii’s head. With this laying of his hands Archbishop Daniel passed the Grace of the Holy Spirit through the Apostolic Succession.

As all those gathered exclaimed in unison AXIOS the newly ordained was found worthy of being vested in priestly garments in following order: sticharion, epitrachelion, belt, cuffs, phelonion, cross and sluzhebnyk (service book).

Immediately following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Archbishop Daniel, assisted by the concelebrating clergy, led the Service of the Great Blessing of Water on the Eve of the Great Feast of Theophany of our Lord.

Having presented the Certificate of ordination to the newly-ordained priest Yurii, Vladyka Daniel greeted everyone in attendance, but especially the parents of Fr. Yurii (who live in Ukraine) and were going to listen and view the Liturgy via technological device because of their inability to be present physically at the service.

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, who was in attendance, greeted the newly-ordained priest Yurii and assured him of his daily prayers and parental spiritual love, instructing the new priest to pray for his ordaining bishop as a new spiritual bond was formed between the archbishop and Fr. Yurii at the moment of ordination.

At the conclusion of the service, Fr. Yurii expressed his sincere gratitude for the love and support shown to him on this special day and throughout the last six years as a student at St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary of the UOC of the USA.

While at the luncheon, Mr. John Holowko, representing Mrs. Karen Ferraro, president of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the UOC of the USA, presented a check in the amount of $2,500 for the needs of the Seminary to the hierarchs.

Being ordained to the Holy Priesthood means that you act in the Name of Christ - as Christ Himself. You are the Christ to people and they come for confession as they would to Christ, and receive Holy Communion from priest’s hands as they would from Christ’s. This is what Fr. Yurii was found worthy of in his congregation. Now he is to serve in the image of Christ to the faithful and to those who are in need to be brought to salvation.

The Liturgy was followed by a luncheon at the Seminary building for all those in attendance prepared by the Seminary chef pani Maria Morozovska with the assistance of pani-matka Oksana Pasakas, pani-matka Olena Shak and pani-matka Olha Bobko.

Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan
The Chicago winter of 2019-2020 threatened us with an early snow just to let us enjoy many sunny and summery warm days later on. At least until the Feast of Theophany.

On the Eve of Theophany (18 January, 2020), the snow and ice fell and the temperature dropped to negative 15 with wind chills. It didn’t stop the faithful of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish family to come for a triple celebration of this weekend: Feast of Theophany, 60th birthday of parish Choir director of many years Subdeacon George Cepynsky and baptism of his first grandson Leonard Cepynsky.

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, president of the Consistory and Archbishop of the Wester Eparchy of the UOC of USA along with a parish pastor Fr. Vasyl Sendeha led the faithful in the Divine Liturgy.

As a very cold, wintery Sunday morning let a few rays of sun through the thick blanket of fluffy clouds, the faithful and guests of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish family were filling the temple.

The temple with the sea of lit candles, burgundy-red poinsettias and sparkling lights of Christmas decorations was warmly welcoming everyone. The crowd grew larger and larger to the point of standing room only.

His Eminence under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit captured the attention of everyone present during the Liturgy. Even the youngest ones in attendance quieted down and listened to their spiritual father preach. Starting his sermon from something so material and earthly as wrinkled down $20 bill to something so spiritual and important as worthiness of each and everyone’s life and soul. His zealous words of encouragement sparked many fires in the hearts of his audience. His Eminence Daniel is truly gifted. Gifted with the grace of God and influenced by the Holy Spirit!

As the time came for the kiss of peace during Liturgy, His Eminence Daniel reminded everyone present of the meaning of kiss and embrace as well as importance of it during Liturgy. Eager children beautifully sung the prayer of “Our Father” in Ukrainian language as well as sung along with the church choir in English language. We could hear some great talents at work there. It’s our hope and joy to see them in the adult choir someday.

The two lines for Holy Eucharist seemed unending, as faithful following the children approached to receive “the Holy of Holies” and to be united in Christ and through Christ with God and one another.

The Divine Liturgy was followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters on the Feast of Theophany. The prayers were read, the Old Testament readings were chanted. The dipping of triple candles, exclamations for the dissent of the Holy Spirit upon the waters by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, the gazing of kids in ought brought so much spiritual joy and uplifting. You could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

As water was blessed, Archbishop Daniel made sure that each and everyone in attendance was truly blessed with the newly sanctified water. You could tell that this is His favorite time of the year as many people were drenched with Holy Water.
The celebration of the special Sunday continued with honoring of Subdeacon George Cepynsky on his 60th birthday with birthday greetings and special medal of St. Petro Mohyla of the Council of Bishops of the UOC of the USA. This unique medal is presented in the Life of UOC of USA to the individuals for their work within the church. Subdeacon George has been directing choir and putting together huge amount of music for church services at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish faithfully close to 20 years.

After honoring Subdeacon George, everyone present was honored to witness and participate in the Holy Mystery of Holy Baptism of Leonard Cepynsky, first grandson of Subdeacon George.

The parish community and the family and guests of Cepynsky family were united in prayer as a little baby Leonard was baptized and enlisted into the body of the church as a warrior of Christ equipped with the virtues and protected by the Grace of the Holy Spirit.

Festive environment moved from the Church temple into the Hall, where parishioners with guests enjoyed a Nativity play performed by the Children of Jr. UOL chapter at the parish.

Everyone in attendance caroled along with children filled with joy of the Nativity season. Special thanks to Vitalii Kylyk and Pani-matka Olenka Sendeha for organizing the Nativity play.

The celebration continued with delicious banquet offered in honor of Subdeacon George’s Birthday and Baptism of Leonard. People enjoyed the fellowship, and no one seems to rush home as the short wintry Sunday was coming to an end. Truthfully a great day celebrated at Sts. Peter and Paul in Palos Park, IL.

By Fr. Vasyl Sendeha
Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan and Donna Nevels
“During the Sacred season of St. Philip’s (Pre-Nativity) Fast, it is a wonderful time to do a spiritual inventory - to partake in the Holy Mystery of Repentance. Because in the Confession we find that our Lord is there — waiting to forgive us. Waiting to show us His infinite mercy and give us the strength of His grace.”

Archbishop Daniel

“Під час цього Святого періоду Пилипівки (посту на передодні Різдва) варто зробити духовну «ревізію», приступити до Святої Тайни Покаяння. Бо в Сповіді ми знаходимо Христа, Який очікує надати нам прощення. Торкається нас Своїм Милосердям та благословляє Своєю Ласкою.

— Архієпископ Даниїл
ARCHBISHOP DANIEL PARTICIPATES IN THE DELEGATION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS FOR THE NATIONAL PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON, DC

Ukrainian Orthodox Christians from across the country joined thousands of other Americans in demonstrating their pro-life convictions during the annual March for Life January 23-24, 2020 in Washington, D.C.

Joining the Orthodox hierarchs and Christians from across the country, Archbishop Daniel, who was among the marchers and led the representatives of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, said: “Year after year, we march with thousands of other pro-life Americans. And every year I long for the day when we won’t have to do so. I pray for the day when the most vulnerable are protected and women and children, born and unborn, are valued such that marching for life will seem as unnecessary as marching for gravity.”

The March for Life has been held every year since 1974, one year after the Supreme Court legalized abortion throughout the country in the Roe v. Wade decision Jan. 22, 1973.

On Thursday evening, January 23, 2020, Archbishop Daniel joined the delegation of Orthodox hierarchs of the Assembly...
of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, which was led by Bishop Apostolos of Medeia for the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The Orthodox hierarchs in attendance, representing Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (Bishop Apostolos of Medeia), Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (Archbishop Daniel), Orthodox Church of America (Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop Melchisedek, Archbishop Michael, Archbishop David, Bishop Daniel, Bishop Paul) prayed in attendance of the Prayer Vigil for Life, titled: “For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life.” The prayer service was served by Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann, Archbishop of Kansas City, chairman of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

Seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary (Subdeacon Mykola Zomchak, Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan, Subdeacon Myroslav Mykytyuk, Seminarians Andrii Vatrych and Maksym Zhuravchyk) joined the archbishop at the Basilica on the campus of the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, during which some 20,000 people of various age and ethnicity gathered for prayer vigil.

The National Prayer Vigil for Life has been an important tradition at the Basilica. It was first held in 1979. Over the years, the event grew and grew, and now, attendants overflow from the Great Upper Church of the Basilica into the Crypt Church, Memorial Hall and side chapels, while hundreds of clergy concelebrate the National Prayer Vigil.

Reflecting upon the words of welcome of the Catholic hierarchs, Vladyka Daniel stated:

This prayer service - Vigil for Life is important because it proclaims the sanctity of all life from conception to
natural death. It is important to care for the unborn, because we believe that life begins at conception, and in this moment, a child, a living human being, is formed in the mother’s womb. If we do not protect a vulnerable child, all of God’s children, regardless of age, are in danger of being eliminated when someone declares that the individual life is no longer useful, productive or needed.

I am thankful for the thousands that gather for the March for Life at the National Mall, as they loudly proclaim that all life is precious, and the unborn, who cannot protect themselves, must be protected by us.

Let us remember that each of us can and should continue to pray and work to ensure the protection of all life, not just every January in Washington, DC, but throughout the course of the year from wherever we are from.

Following the conclusion of the service, Archbishop Daniel lead a walking tour of the Campus of the Catholic University of America for the students of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary of the UOC of the USA.

Moreover, in the evening hours of the day, the delegation of the UOC of the USA traveled to Union Station in Washington, DC in order to visit the national historic monument dedicated to the victims of Geneocidal Famine in Ukraine.

Photos by Subdeacon Mykola Zomchak and Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan
Ukrainian Orthodox Christians from across the country joined thousands of other Americans in demonstrating their pro-life convictions during the annual March for Life Jan. 24, 2020 in Washington, D.C.

Joining the Orthodox hierarchs and Christians from across the country, Archbishop Daniel, who was among the marchers and led the representatives of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, said: “Year after year, we march with thousands of other pro-life Americans. And every year I long for the day when we won’t have to do so. I pray for the day when the most vulnerable are protected and women and children, born and unborn, are valued such that marching for life will seem as unnecessary as marching for gravity.”

The March for Life has been held every year since 1974, one year after the Supreme Court legalized abortion throughout the country in the Roe v. Wade decision Jan. 22, 1973.

President Donald Trump became the first President to ever address the March
for Life in person. At the 47th annual March for Life, he spoke for just over 13 minutes to a very enthusiastic crowd gathered on the National Mall.

The President began by calling it a “profound honor” to attend, saying, “We’re here for a very simple reason: to defend the right of every child, born and unborn, to fulfill their God-given potential. For 47 years, Americans of all backgrounds have traveled from across the country to stand for life, and today, as President of the United States, I am truly proud to stand with you....”

President Trump pointed out that the pro-life movement is growing younger — and increasingly female, as well. And importantly, he noted that the pro-life movement is not motivated by hatred, but “by pure, unselfish love.”

Young people are the heart of the March for Life, and it’s your generation that is making America the pro-family, pro-life nation. The life movement is led by strong women, amazing faith leaders, and brave students who carry on the legacy of pioneers before us who fought to raise the conscience of our nation and uphold the rights of our citizens.

You embrace mothers with care and compassion. You are powered by prayer and motivated by pure, unselfish love....

“Every child is a precious and sacred gift from God,” he said. “Together we must protect cherish and defend the dignity and the sanctity of every human life. When we see the image of a baby in the womb, we glimpse the majesty of God’s creation. When we hold a newborn in our arms, we know the endless love that each child brings to a family. When we watch a child grow, we see the splendor that radiates from each human soul. One life changes the world....”

President Trump was joined on stage by Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah), March for Life president Jeanne Mancini, Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.), and others.

Other speakers at the rally included political figures from both Republican and Democratic parties: the First Lady of Louisiana, Donna Bel Edwards; House Minority Whip Rep. Steve Scalise (R-La.); Louisiana State Sen. Katrina Jackson (D); U.S. Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.); and Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the pro-life group Susan B. Anthony List and co-chair of the Trump 2020 campaign’s pro-life coalition.

Following the speeches from the rally’s main stage, the march proper began, progressing up the National Mall towards the Supreme Court.

Carrying the giant March for Life banner at the front of the crowd is regarded as a privilege, bestowed on a different group each year.

The theme of the 2020 march, “Life Empowers: Pro-Life is Pro-Woman,” was chosen to mark the centennial anniversary of women’s right to vote in the United States with the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920. The march’s theme was chosen to counter the narrative put forward by abortion supporters that the practice “empowers” women.

The Orthodox hierarchs in attendance, representing Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (Bishop Apostolos of Medeia), Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (Archbishop Daniel), Orthodox Church of America (Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop Melchisedek, Archbishop Michael, Archbishop David, Bishop Daniel, Bishop Paul), and Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (Bishop Thomas) led a Service of Supplication for an end to Abortion prior to the formal joining of Orthodox representatives in the annual March for Life.

Seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary (Subdeacon Mykola Zomchak, Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan, Subdeacon Myroslav Mykytyuk, Seminarians Andrii Vatrych and Maksym Zhuravchyk) joined the choir of St. Tikhon’s Orthodox Seminary (OCA) in chanting responses to the Supplication Service and signing of sacred hymns throughout the March.

Speaking to the representatives of several parishes of the UOC of the USA, Vladyka Daniel said the march “provides an opportunity to support a holistic, biblical view from birth all the way to the last seasons of life.”
While local parishes may wonder how they can contribute to the pro-life cause, “coming out here gives a tangible sense” so Christians can return to their local churches and “be re-motivated to stay true” and support the sanctity of human life.

Linda Hnatow, parishioner of Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Wilmington, DE, said, “every human life is important.”

“I think [the march] is a really important thing to be a part of and wanted to show my support.”

Rev. Fr. Oleg Kravchenko, recent graduate of St. Sophia Seminary and pastor of Holy Assumption Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Northampton, PA, said of his first time at the march, “I think it’s important to me to be able to go back to my parishioners and say, ‘This is what is happening in our world around us. This is how people are trying to influence their elected officials.’

“And hopefully in the future maybe we can have some more Ukrainian Orthodox Christians come up here and participate, … It is important for us to participate in the March for Life and to help increase awareness among Orthodox Christians about the March for Life and motivate them to participate in it.”

“If you look around the march, it’s heavily Catholic, and it historically has been,” Archbishop Daniel said. “And so I think it’s important for us to join with groups like the Catholic Church in a situation like this where we can say, ‘Listen, we’re on board. We shall work together... to try to make a difference and try to stem the tide of abortion.”

After the rally, the crowd marched on Constitution Avenue from a site on the national mall to the Supreme Court building on Capitol Hill.

*Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan and Subdeacon Mykola Zomchak.*
Because I am Christian First, because I am alive,
LIFE IS SACRED.

Because I am human,
"It is HEROISM to protect HUMAN LIFE!"

- Archbishop Daniel

"Захист ЛЮДСЬКОГО ЖИТТЯ - це ГЕРОЇЗМ!"

- Архиепископ Даниил
Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Romans 8:28

Many Years! Многа Нима!
SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF METROPOLITAN ANTONY’S ENTHRONEMENT

Seven years ago His Eminence Metropolitan Antony was formally Enthroned as the 4th Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in St. Andrew the First Called Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Silver Spring, MD.

In the presence of 20 hierarchs, representing various Orthodox jurisdictions of North America and representatives of Catholic and other Christian communities, His Eminence received his Archpastoral staff of the Prime Hierarch of the Church.

On January 30th His Eminence Metropolitan Antony celebrates his Name’s Day (St. Anthony the Great) and his birthday.

On behalf of the clergy, members of the Council of Metropolia, the Consistory and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA we pray that our Lord will grant him peace, safety, honor, health and length of days “rightly teaching” the word of God’s truth.

Axios! Eis polla eti despota!
God grant you many and blessed years!
Многая і благая літа!

ЮВІЛЕЙ ІНТРОНІЗАЦІЇ МИТРОПОЛИТА АНТОНІЯ

Сім років тому назад відбулася офіційна інтронізація Високопреосвященого Митрополита Антонія як четвертого митрополита Української Православної Церкви США в Українській Православній Катедрі Св. Андрія Первозваного у м. Сілвер Спрінг штату Меріленд.

У присутності 20 ієрархів з різних православних юрисдикцій Північної Америки та представників Католицьких та інших християнських громад, владика Антоній прийняв Архипастирський жезл Первоієрарха нашої Церкви.

30 січня Високопреосвященіший Митрополит Антоній святкує свої іменини (Св. Антоній Великого) та день народження.

Від імені всього духовенства, Ради Митрополії, Консисторії та вірних Української Православної Церкви США ми молимося, щоб Господь дарував йому мир, захист, здоров’я та довгих днів “правдиво навчити” слова Божої істини.

Аксіос! Іс пола еті деспота!
Многая і благая літа!
The year 2013 celebrated the enthronement of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, as the 5th Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

This year, on January 26, 2020, the 7th anniversary of the Enthronement of Metropolitan Antony was celebrated at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in New York City, NY where Eucharistic Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving was served on this occasion. It was presided over by Metropolitan Antony, who celebrated together with Archbishop Daniel and the members of the clergy from NY Metropolitan area.

In the conclusion of Liturgy, Metropolitan Antony was congratulated by Archbishop Daniel, Very Rev. Fr. Todor Mazur (pastor of Holy Trinity UOC Cathedral), Very Rev. Fr. Volodymyr Muzychka (pastor of St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in NY City), Very Rev. Fr. Vitaliy Pavlykivsky (pastor of All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox parish in NY City), Rev. Fr. Orest Poukhalskyy (pastor of Sts Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Parish in Glen Spay, NY), parishioners of all NY Metropolitan area parishes and received lots of wishes and flower bouquets by the youth and the faithful, etc.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the clergy, faithful and the choir – all in unison chanted GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS, honoring their spiritual father.

Responding to the words of greetings and prayerful chants, Vladyka Metropolitan Antony thanked his spiritual family for the daily prayers and their presence in his life, as he continues to faithfully serve our Lord’s flock.

While at the Cathedral’s Hall, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and those in attendance were treated to a festive luncheon, prepared by the ladies of the cathedral community. Very Rev. Fr. Todor Mazur served as Master of Ceremonies, and by welcoming everyone in attendance Fr. Todor shared a biographical sketch of Metropolitan's life path. Once a deliciously prepared lunch was served, the entire congregation was treated to several performances, among which was a Christmas Play – Vertep, presented by the youth of the Cathedral.

While the formal reception of the afternoon came to conclusion, Metropolitan Antony remained surrounded by his clergy and faithful who one by one approached to greet their spiritual father on their behalf and on behalf of the parishes, which they represented. Many Blessed Years – Metropolitan Antony!

Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan
AXIOS! Metropolitan Antony presided over the Celebration of the Divine Liturgy at St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church (South Bound Brook, NJ) on the feast of St. Anthony the Great- the patron saint of His Eminence, thus also marking 73 birthday celebration! Many blessed years, Master!

ДОСТОЙНИЙ! Митрополит Антоній відслужив Божественну Літургію в Українській Православній Церкві-пам'ятнику св. Андрія Первозванного (Савт Бавнд Брук, Н. Дж.) у день свого покровителя - преподобного Антонія Великого, одночасно відзначаючи 73 річницю Дня Народження! Многії літа, владико!
CAN YOU SPOT THE 5 DIFFERENCES?
What three gifts did they bring and what did each one signify?
1.
2.
3.

What is the symbolism of the various ages of each man?

What is the difference between the way the shepherds and the magi “found” God?

Unscramble each of the clue words.
Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.


Weaver, Sophie Jennah baptized and chrismated on November 23, 2019 in Holy Ghost Church, Coatesville, PA. Child of Benjamin F. Michael Weaver and Anne Louise Stever. Sponsors: David Cameron Weaver Sr. and Pauline Caroll Stever. Celebrated by Fr. Nicholas Dilendorf.


Donald P. Larrick and Linda Thompson in St. Vladimir Parish, Ambridge, PA, on November 9, 2019, witnessed by Shawn West and Patricia West. Celebrant: Michael Kochis.


Haiviak, Stella of Sharpsville, PA on November 10, 2019 at the age of 91 years, officiating clergy Fr. Andrew Gall of St. John the Baptist Parish, Sharon, PA.

Kuscht, Anna of Rochester, NY on May 7, 2019 at the age of 88 years, officiating clergy Rev. Igor Krekhovetsky of St. Mary the Protectress Parish, Rochester, NY.

Pedosiuk, Anna of Rochester, NY on October 15, 2019 at the age of 91 years, officiating clergy Rev. Igor Krekhovetsky of St. Mary the Protectress Parish, Rochester, NY.

"Ascend, my brothers, ascend eagerly. Let your hearts resolve be to climb. Listen to the voice of the one who says: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of our God’ (Isa. 2:3). Who makes our feet to be like the feet of the deer, ‘Who sets us on the high places, that we may be triumphant on His road.’"

"We are made from out of God’s love and we are made to live in His love. And, we have available to us in every moment the gifts of God’s grace to live as we know we ought to live.”


may god grant to them many happy and blessed years!

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony  January 26, 2013

V. Rev. Myron Mykhaylyuk  January 2, 1977
V. Rev. Pavlo Bodnarchuk  January 3, 1993
V. Rev. Orest Poukhalskii  January 9, 2000
Rev. Andriy Matlak  January 9, 2013
V. Rev. Roman Yatskiv  January 14, 1989
V. Rev. Ion Proteasa  January 19, 1992
V. Rev. Gerald Ozlanski  January 25, 1987
V. Rev. Nicholas Klodnicki  January 28, 1984
V. Rev. Stepan Bilogan  January 28, 2001
V. Rev. Myroslav Schirta  January 30, 1998
Protopresb. Taras Chubenko  February 3, 1980
Rev. Vasyl Dovgan  February 12, 2013
V. Rev. Oleh Hucul  February 12, 1995
V. Rev C. (Gus) Christo  February 17, 1991
V. Rev. Volodymyr Muzychka  February 22, 1982
V. Rev. Rostyslav Tsapar  February 24, 2002
Dn. Valentine Olynyk  February 9, 2019
Archbishop Wolodymyr (Didowych) – January 20 1990

JANUARY

28th 1942 - PROTOPRIEST ISIDORE KOSTIUK
27th 1955 - PROTOPRIEST JOSEPH BODNAR
6th 1958 - PRIEST STEFAN VULCHYN
9th 1968 - PROTOPRESBYTER JOHN SAWCHUK
9th 1968 - PROTOPRESBYTER LEV WESOLOWSKY
26th 1974 - PROTOPRESBYTER ALEXANDER DOWHAL
9th 1984 - PROTOPRIEST MYKOLA UHORCZAK
28th 1990 - PROTOPRESBYTER JURIJ HULEY
17th 1996 - PROTOPRIEST TYT MELNYCHUK
13th 1996 - PRIEST GREGORY WOLKOWYNSKY
19th 1999 - PROTOPRIEST MYKOLA HODYNSKY
10th 2002 - PROTOPRESBYTER PETRO BUDNYJ
73rd Annual UOL Convention
Hosted by: St. Vladimir Jr. & Sr. Chapters of Philadelphia, Pa
July 22nd-26th, 2020
Crowne Plaza Hotel of King of Prussia

"For we walk by faith, not by sight" - 2 Corinthians 5:7
St. Sophia Seminary UOL Chapter is sponsoring a soup luncheon to benefit the Soup Kitchens in Ukraine (in conjunction with the National UOLs “Souper Bowl Sunday” Fundraiser and St. Andrews Society).

Soup Luncheon will begin immediately following the Divine Liturgy at the Pokrova Sisterhood Social Hall of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church (South Bound Brook, NJ).

Free will donation - All proceeds to benefit the soup kitchens in Ukraine.

Супний Обід розпочнеться відразу після Літургії в залі Сестрицтва Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці при Українській Православній церкві-пам'ятнику св. Андрія Первозванного (Саут Баунд Брук, Н. Дж.). Всі отримані добровільні пожертви будуть направлені на діяльність благодійних ідалень в Україні.
Ukrainian Orthodox Church
Camping Ministry

All Saints
Camp 2020

#ASC2020

June 13-16
St. Nicholas Special Needs Family Camp (All Ages)

June 21 - July 3
Diocesan Church School Camp (Ages 9-13)

July 5-18
Teenage Conference (Ages 13-18)

July 27-31
Mommy/Daddy + Me (Ages 4-8 + Parent(s))

August 23-27
Clergy Family Retreat

September 4-6
Family Fest (All Ages)

Join the Team!

All Ages (14+)
Available (Weekly, Weekends)
Interests (Program, Facilities, Food Service)
Paid + Volunteer

For information on programming, job opportunities and registration:
www.uocyouth.org
www.allsaintscamp.org

Follow us on Facebook:
UOC Office of Youth Ministry
All Saints Camp
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA

MINISTRY
GET INVOLVED • GROW TOGETHER

WWW.UOCOFUSA.ORG/OFFICES

GET INVOLVED!
LET'S GROW TOGETHER

CONSIDER UTILIZING YOUR TALENTS
IN GROWING THE CHURCH
## FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

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<td>Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs: St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom</td>
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<td>Meatfare Sunday, of the Last Judgment</td>
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"If there were no tribulation, there would be no rest; if there were no winter, there would be no summer..."  
- St. John Chrysostom

"Якщо б не було смертку, то не було б і помічі; якщо б не було зими, то не було б і літа..."  
- св. Іоан Златоустий
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Get involved in the life of your Church!
The success of all Church sponsored events depends upon your active participation!

SOUPer Bowl Sunday
February 2, 2020

ALL SAINTS CAMP
JUNE 13-16: St. Nicholas Special Needs Family Camp
JUNE 21-JULY 3: Diocesan Church School Camp (9-13)
JULY 5-18: Teenage Conference (Ages 13-18)
JULY 27-31: Mommy/Daddy + Me (Ages 4-8 + parent/s)
AUGUST 23-27: Clergy Family Retreat
SEPTEMBER 4-6: Family Fest (all ages)

Start of GREAT LENT
March 2

73rd UOL Convention
July 22-26, 2020
Philadelphia, PA

PASCHA
April 19, 2020

HOLY LAND Pilgrimage
November 8-22, 2020

ST. THOMAS Weekend
April 25-26, 2020
South Bound Brook, NJ

UOCofUSA
uocofusa.org