



The Most Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church

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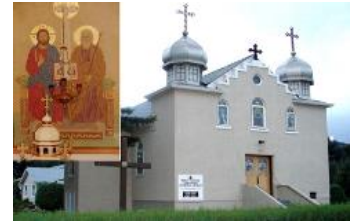
Parish Executive Council Chairperson: Mr. Matt Dmyterko

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Parish web-site: <http://kamloops.nweparchy.ca/>

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster: www.nweparchy.ca



SUNDAY before CHRISTMAS – December 20th, 2015 A.D.

THE VIBRANT PARISH - A PLACE TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST: Through the Word, the Holy Mysteries & Prayer, Serving One's Neighbour, Leadership, Fostering & Serving Unity and Missionary Spirit –Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, as you once gathered lost sheep that they might hear Your voice and be your flock, so also today graciously look down from heaven upon our parish community, and send down on it your Holy Spirit, that it might be a place to receive the joy of Your Good News. Strengthen us with your presence, and always gather us together in prayer. Grant us the spirit of serving others, so that in our parish all might encounter You, the merciful God. Bless our spiritual leaders with Your wisdom, and inspire us to generously give of our time, talents and treasure for the building up of Your Kingdom. Unite us in peace and harmony, as befits Your community of love. Instill in us a missionary spirit, and let our parish community shine with the light of the Gospel, with prayer and good works, inviting all to share in the divine life, so that Your Name, O Saviour, may be praised, together with Your eternal Father, and your most-holy, good and life-giving Spirit. Amen.



Today's Feast of the Holy Fathers remembers all those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood and those who spoke of his birth as a man. This Sunday is part of the Forefeast of the Nativity, which strictly speaking begins on December 20th.

One of the important purposes of Matthew's genealogy: to identify Jesus as the true Messiah, the One Who, as predicted in the Old Testament would be born of a virgin and would be the fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham and David by God. It gives us the history of the true Christmas, the human side of

the... of our nature. Adam rejoices today, since he is the foundation and the strength of the wise Forefathers; Abel leaps for joy as well. Enoch is glad; Seth and Noah dance together. The praiseworthy Abraham sings with the Patriarchs. Melchizedek now sees from on high the birth without a father." – (from Great Vespers)

"...Open the doors of your hearts and your homes to Christ, allow His Holy Spirit to transform you, purify and strengthen you in God's love!" – Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk "The Vibrant Parish"

"...Відчиніть двері своїх душ і домівок Христові, дозвольте Його Святому Духові вас перемінити, очистити і скріпити Божою любов'ю!" –Пастирський Лист Блаженнішого Святослава Шевчука "Жива Парафія"

Christian Greetings:

Glory to Jesus Christ! – Glory to Him Forever! Slava Isusu Chrystu! – Slava na Viky!
Слава Ісусу Христу! – Слава на Віки!

Christ is among us! – He is and will be!

Liturgical Propers:

Troparion (Tone 5): Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, and born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to suffer death and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Troparion (Tone 2): Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flames, the three holy youths rejoiced as by the water of rest, and the prophet Daniel was revealed shepherding lions like sheep. Through their intercession, O Christ God, save our souls.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion (Tone 6): Armed by the Being that defies description, you defied the man-made idol, O thrice blessed youth. In the midst of the unbearable flames you stood and cried out to God: “In Your mercy, O gracious One, hasten and come to our aid,” for You can do whatever You will.

Prokimenon (Tone 4): Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name for ever. (Dn 3:26).

Verse: For You are righteous in everything that You have done to us (Dn 3:27).

Prokimenon (Tone 4): Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name for ever. (Dn 3:26).

Epistle: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Hebrews: (Heb. 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the promised land as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs of the same promise; for he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose designer and maker is God.

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac; he who had received the promises was ready to sacrifice his only son, of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your descendants be called.” He reasoned that God was able to rise from the dead, and so he received Isaac back as a symbol. By faith Isaac invoked for Jacob and Esau blessings that were still to be.

By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped God, leaning on the head of his staff. By faith, Joseph, near the end of his life, spoke of the Exodus of the Israelites, and gave instructions about his burial. By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after his birth, thereby disregarding the king’s edict, because they saw that he was a beautiful child.

What more shall I recount? I have no time to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, did what was just, obtained the promises; they broke the jaws of lions, put out raging fires, escaped the devouring sword; through weak they were made powerful, became strong in battle, and turned back foreign invaders. Women received back their dead through resurrection. Others were tortured and would not receive deliverance, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Still others endured mockery, scourging, even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, sawed in two, put to death at sword’s point; they went about garbed in the skins of sheep or goats, needy, afflicted, tormented. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered about in deserts and on mountains, they dwelt in caves and in holes of the earth. Yet despite the fact that all of these were approved because of their faith, they did not obtain what had been promised. God had made a better plan, a plan which included us. Without us, they were not to be made perfect.



Alleluia (Tone 4): O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have told us the work You did in their days (Ps 43:2). You saved us from our oppressors and put to shame those who hate us (Ps 43:8).

Gospel: (Matthew 1:1-25)

A family record of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez was the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram. Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon. Salmon was the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed was the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa. Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amos, Amos the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile. After the Babylonian exile Jechoniah was the

father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor. Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud. Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary. It was of her that Jesus who is called the Messiah was born. Thus the total number of generations is: from Abraham to David, fourteen generations; from David to the Babylonian captivity, fourteen generations; from the Babylonian captivity to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, an upright man unwilling to expose her to the law, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream and said to him: "Joseph, son of David, have no fear about taking Mary as your wife. It is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child. She is to have a son and you are to name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins." All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin shall be with child and give birth to a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel," a name which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke he did as the angel of the Lord had directed him and received her into his home as his wife. He had no relations with her at any time before she bore a son, whom he named Jesus.

Communion Verses: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. (Ps 148:1). Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; praise befits the righteous. (Ps 32:1). Alleluia! (3x).

Our Eparch, Bishop Ken is requesting that at the conclusion of every Divine Liturgy we say an additional prayer for Peace in Ukraine until the end of the war. For peace in Ukraine, let us pray: Our Father ... Hail Mary ...

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

GRATITUDE

* to all our parishioners, guests, visitors and all people of the good will who by their kindness, time, donations, knowingly and unknowingly, organize and lead praying with rosaries, attend services during the week, work at the parish projects, clean the church, prepare coffee and sweets, plow the snow, look after and graciously support our Christian, Catholic parish community! Thank you very much! May the Almighty God generously bless and reward your care, time and generosity!

“Remember, O Lord, those who bear fruit doing good works in Your holy churches and remembering the poor. Send down Your mercy upon all of us!” – (Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom)

CONGRATULATIONS

May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation in many, happy and blessed years of life to Mrs. Anna Kuz on her birthday (Dec. 20th), to Mrs. Shauna Flodstrom on her birthday (Dec. 23rd) and to all our parishioners, guests, visitors, family members and all those who celebrate their birthdays, name-days, wedding anniversaries and any other special anniversaries this week – Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR PARISHIONERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WHO HAVE JOINED US IN THIS DIVINE LITURGY. THANK YOU FOR PRAYING WITH US AT THE CHUCH TODAY. WISHING YOU A BLESSED WEEKEND AND FRUITFUL, HEALTHY AND SAFE WEEK! EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR PARISH SOCIAL AT THE CHURCH HALL TODAY!

Special Petitions:

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

* We also pray for the people of Ukraine, that with the help of the Holy Spirit, they may obtain social peace, political harmony and economic stability: Lord, hear us and have mercy.

III. REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR: yourselves, Most Reverend Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, Fr. Steven Basarab, Fr. Serabion ElMakary, Steve and Bernice Usipuik, Ann Kuz, Ann Derzak, Dave and Mary Emery, Elsie Kinaschuk, John Kolody, Joseph Mychaluk, Zonia Rurka, Eugene Palsitt, Adeline Palsitt, Orest Hrycewich, Myron and Myrna Wizniak, Bill and Elsie Zachary, Matt Dmyterko, Allan and Sharon Ludwig, Jesse Pawlyshyn, Joe and Olga Burkatsky, Orest Kociuba, Kalyna Kociuba, Allan Bodnaruk, Maria Chorny, Katrien Sobhy, Marg Musey, Jacob and Ann Dressler, Rosemary Pellizzon, Bronie Huska, Peter Huska, Mary Borrett, Stanley and Roma Nowakowski (Bishop Ken's parents), Larry and Valray Necember, Lawrence and Ping Beaton, Red Mackay, Les Blain, Theresa Munro, Michelle New, Randy Hamilton,

Adam Laniel, Cryss O'Donnell, Rose Ostopowich (Fr. Joe Ostopowich's mother), members of our parishes and those who are not able to join actively in our community, your families, relatives, friends; especially the shut-in or those in the hospitals, nursing and senior homes, those seeking God's answer to their prayers or those rejoicing with God's answer; those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries; those called to their eternal reward and for the family they leave behind; widows and widowers, orphans, homeless and all people who have asked us pray for them. Please, also in your kindness keep praying daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Remember to ask for special blessings for Christian families!

REMINDER for families of individuals, who are admitted to hospital - If you or a family member is admitted to hospital and you wish to have a priest visit, please be sure to have someone call our parish rectory office to make this request. Your pastor may have no other way of knowing that you are in hospital, as privacy legislation.



(Vatican Radio) Pope Francis requested the ancient Ukrainian icon "Doors of Mercy" to be brought to the Vatican for the opening of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. This icon, which combines both Western and Eastern traditions, is particularly symbolic and encourages all Christians to unity and peace for the sake of charity.

The Icon was met at the airport by the Ambassador of Ukraine to the Holy See, Tatyana Izhevskaja; and Ambassador of Poland to the Holy See, Piotr Nowina-Konopka; and representatives from the Vatican.

The image of the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ, which dates from the seventeenth century, comes from the cathedral of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in the Polish city of Jaroslaw. The icon, which takes its name from the Byzantine Lenten liturgical text, "Open the Doors of Mercy to me, O Mother of God." is considered miraculous and was given a crown by Saint John Paul II in 1996.

A copy of the icon is also found in the Argentinian church belonging to Pope Francis' former spiritual director, Ukrainian Catholic priest Fr. Stephan Chmil, who was later, made a bishop. <http://en.radiovaticana.va>

IV. Please, share to Kamloops Food Bank. Special boxes are located at the entrance to the church.



V. "Christmas Candle" - "Різдвяна свічка" Eparchial Fundraiser: - as part of a global fundraising program sponsored by Caritas, our parish makes available for sale special Christmas Candles. The funds collected from this fundraiser will be used entirely to help needy, disadvantaged, disabled and orphaned children in Ukraine. Suggested donation for a candle is \$5.00.

VI. Thursday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve - is a day of strict fasting from meat and dairy products (applies to those without various dispensations). Everyone is invited to take part in a spiritual preparation for Christ's Nativity according to their abilities.

VII. Parish Family Calendar: If you would like to be included in our Parish Family Calendar of Birthdays, Name-Days and Anniversaries celebrations, please put your birth date in the calendar at the table near the front door of the church. Each week, we will list those who are celebrating their birthdays in our bulletin so that we can celebrate these happy occasions together!

VIII. Sunday (Dec. 13th) collection: \$ 423.00 CAD



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

(unofficial translation)

To the Most Reverend Archbishops and Metropolitans, God-loving bishops, honourable clergy, reverend religious, and beloved brothers and sisters in Ukraine and throughout the diaspora

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased (Luke 2:14)

Christ is born! Let us glorify Him!

The evangelist Luke proclaims the words spoken by the angel who appeared to the shepherds: "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the

city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” (Luke 2: 10-11) The joy of the Nativity of Christ, the good news of the birth in human flesh of the Son of God Himself, is like a powerful beam of eternal sunlight that descends today from heaven to earth.

Christ is born! These are the words with which the heavenly powers gladdened the hearts of the shepherds who stood watch over their sheep. *Christ is born!* These tidings transformed night into day, sadness into consolation, waiting into the fulfilment of hope. *Christ is born!* This joy, which comes down from Heaven, inspires a person to act: to seek the Eternal God in a new-born babe, to serve Him as a neighbour, and to share this joy with others.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased.

These are words from the Heavenly Liturgy, in which the angelic choirs praise God for His love towards His people. As participants and witnesses of this supernatural reality, the shepherds learn the true reason for the joy of Christmas. The Saviour has been born; in Him is disclosed the very core of our faith – faith in God’s merciful love towards His creation, which makes us people upon whom His favour rests.

So it is that this heavenly hymn relates to each one of us! The angels glorify God on high for the simple reason that He eternally bestows His good will upon His people, that is, He desires for them what is good. He is our highest benefactor. The eternal active love of God the Father flows throughout the history of the whole world and is incarnated in the person of His beloved Son, who is born today in Bethlehem. The Evangelist John teaches us about the good will of God in these words: “the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins.” (1 John 4: 9-10)

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace...

Peace is one of the essential expressions of God’s love for His people. No wonder the Old Testament prophets foretold that the coming of the Messiah on earth would bring peace on earth, grant people the gifts of love and justice, eliminate all evil and hatred, and restore harmony throughout the world. And so today we hear that Christ, the Prince of Peace, the Eternal King, upon whose shoulders rests all authority and honour, is the very same One of whom Isaiah spoke, now born at last. The peace, which the Lord brings, does not mean a temporary truce or a simple absence of war. A person obtains true peace only by reconciling with God and personally uniting with Him. The new-born Jesus unites and reconciles within Himself both God and mankind. As a result of this union and reconciliation, Christ becomes the source of peace in the whole world. The Apostle Saint Paul teaches us this about Christ – “For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility” (Ephesians 2:14)

How long God’s people awaited this peace, which Christ brought with His Nativity! With what eagerness the shepherds hastened to Bethlehem, and with what persistence the wise men from the East journeyed to the place of His birth. But how they must have been awed by the fact that they found that long-awaited peace, not in an earthly ruler, not in the cleverness of a skilled diplomat, not in the power of a well-formed army, but in a fragile new-born homeless infant. And what’s more, the foretold Prince of Peace, upon the moment of His birth, was forced to become a displaced person, a fugitive fleeing to escape the persecution of King Herod. This Wondrous Divine Wisdom, through the Mystery of the Nativity, teaches us that God’s love, heavenly peace and glory come only when we humble ourselves before the least one among us, and that only in serving the needy will we meet God.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!

With God’s help, we have lived through yet one more year – one more year of war. The suffering of our people has not ended; our trials have not come to an end. But we have survived and we carry on. To the surprise of the whole world, we have survived in the midst of immeasurable pain, loss of blood, and tears. In a war situation we’ve had to rethink the value and meaning of the words "peace" and "mercy", "courage" and "humanity", "allegiance" and "responsibility." We have learned that such zeal is found in prayer. By releasing the power of prayer, together with the whole world, we sincerely and persistently continue to entreat God for peace.

The road to peace has become for us the road to our neighbour. We are learning to be in solidarity. We are learning to recognize the needs of our soldiers at the front as our needs. We are learning to be concerned about the pain of those who have lost family members and friends, and the pain of the wounded and imprisoned, as if it were our own pain. In the midst of ever greater needs, economic hardships, corruption still present everywhere and lack of effective political management, we have not lost compassion for our neighbour, but have become more responsible and bolder in defending dignity. We continue to share with those in need: what we have, what we know and can do, what we believe in – and what we are. The way to our victory in Christ is that which unites, reconciles and makes us community. Solidarity, compassion and trust give us hope in God and reveal to us the true road to peace.

It is in this nationwide solidarity in faith, hope and love that we feel the active presence of God among us and His real birth in our homeland. The path to our neighbour has become for millions of Ukrainians the path to God's love. We might say that in this wondrous good will of God for us, in this solidarity, we have discovered the key to victory, for, as the Apostle Paul teaches us: "When God is with us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

Let us celebrate this Christmas together with those who have become displaced, those who have lost their loved ones, their possessions and their homes. In this Holy Year of the Mercy of God, may the doors of our homes, open to the needy, be, in the words of Pope Francis, the doors of the mercy of God. Hence whoever walks through them may experience the flow of God's merciful love, love which forgives our sins, heals the wounds of our souls and bodies, transforms sadness into joy, and makes all that is weak strong and invincible.

By welcoming the refugees, the poor and the suffering, we welcome into our homes, into our families and into our communities the Son of God Himself- the Font of God's peace. Let us not ask what language they speak, what church they attend, or what beliefs they hold. Rather let us be interested in what hurts them, where their loved ones are, and how we may help them. With our prayers and acts of mercy let us approach together with them the manger in which Christ is resting. It is in them, precisely, that we will be able to welcome the new-born Saviour. And it is precisely in this way that we will enter into reconciliation with God and with our brothers and sisters, and bring God's peace to our greatly suffering Ukrainian land.

On this joyful bright feast of the Nativity of Christ, I wish to express to all of you, dearly beloved in Christ, heartfelt greetings. I desire to convey this joy to every home, to the dugouts at the front, to the hospitals where the wounded are recovering, to the dwelling places of hundreds of thousands of displaced brothers and sisters, to those in Ukraine, and those in the diaspora- to all I desire today to send a word of comfort and hope, the source of which is the birth of the Saviour.

With the good news of the Nativity of Jesus Christ, I wish to visit those of you who have opened the doors of your hearts to God and neighbour, and I wish to pass through the Doors of Mercy together with you in this Holy Year. While sharing the joyful news of the birth of Christ-God, I long to shake the hands of our brave soldiers who safeguard our Christmas, to comfort the sorrowful, to wipe the tears of those who are weeping, to strengthen the faith of those who doubt that good will triumph over evil.

Standing today before the altar of God, I sense an extraordinary solidarity with the vast family of our particular Church, which has gathered together around the Lord's Table here on earth and in God's glory on high. May the new-born Saviour hear all our prayers, keep our nation and our leaders in peace and wellbeing and bestow upon them His heavenly blessing.

Wishing you a blessed Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, a tasty kutia and a happy new year!

Christ is born! Let us glorify Him!

† SVIATOSLAV

Issued in Kyiv, at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, on the feast of the praiseworthy First-Called Apostle, Saint Andrew, and the beginning of the Jubilee Year of Divine Mercy, December 13, 2015

Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg
Українська Католицька Архиепархія Вінніпегу

**PASTORAL LETTER OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CANADA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 2015/2016**

December 8, 2015

To the Very Reverend Clergy, Monastics and Religious Sisters, Seminarians and Laity of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada:

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

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

It is the middle of the night. You are sound asleep in bed. Suddenly you are awakend by knocking at the door. Who could it be at this hour? Could it be refugees from Syria fleeing their war torn homeland? Could it be an ex convict

released from the local prison with no place to go? Could it be a stranger from Ukraine claiming to be a long lost relative? Could it be an older man with a young wife about to give birth, but for whom the health care system has no bed?

If we get up and open the door to our home, how will it change our lives?

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

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

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

In one liturgical verse we hear Mary speaking to Jesus just after his birth: ***Having learned that You were to be born a King, O Son, the kings from the East come to You, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Behold them standing before the doors; bid them enter to gaze upon You, held in my arms as a child, even though You are older than ancient Adam.*** [Aposticha, prefeast of the Nativity]

One of the important symbols used during the Holy Jubilee Year is that of the holy door. In cathedrals and other appointed churches a door is designated through which the faithful are invited to enter the church. The holy door stands as a symbol of the extraordinary pathway towards salvation that is offered to the believers, through prayer, penitence, and works of mercy. The holy door becomes a door of mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instills hope.

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

Come and make haste to enter, said the Virgin to the magi, and behold Him who is invisible is now visibly manifest and has become a child. They came eagerly and worshipped Him, bringing gifts in fulfillment of the divine prophecy. [Aposticha, prefeast of the Nativity]

The Lord Jesus was with us on the earth in human form for only 33 years, before returning to his heavenly Father. And now how is his presence tangible to us? In St. Matthew's gospel Jesus tells us that when we encounter the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, those in prison – we encounter the Lord in these people. [Cf. Mt. 25:31-40]

We do not have to look far to find the Lord Jesus. He is in those around us. When they come to the doors of our lives, we are given the choice to either open our doors of mercy and receive them, or to keep them closed and shuttered, saying there is no room in our inn, just as Mary and Joseph discovered in Bethlehem. [Cf. Lk. 2:7]

This Christmas season, in the spirit of the Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us reach out to the strangers and to those in need, be they from Ukraine or from Syria, be they in prisons or homeless on the streets, be they sick or jobless, be they alone and near death. Let us show by our good deeds and by our love that we share with them the mercy of our Heavenly Father who shares with us his love and goodness. And let us repeat the praise of the angels as they sang at the birth of Christ: ***Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.*** [Lk. 2:14]

The Blessing of the Lord be upon you!

+Lawrence Huculak, OSBM Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg
 +David Motiuk, Eparchial Bishop of Edmonton
 +Stephen Chmilar, Eparchial Bishop of Toronto
 +Ken Nowakowski, Eparchial Bishop of New Westminster
 +Bryan Bayda, CSsR Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon
 +Michael Wiwchar, CSsR Eparch Emeritus of Saskatoon
 +Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM Eparch Emeritus of New Westminster



Liturgical celebrations during week:

Tue., Dec. 22nd – 9:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: **Williams Family**

Wed., Dec. 23rd – 9:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: **Mark Hohmann**

Thur., Dec. 24th - 3:30 pm - **Christmas Eve (Sviatyi Vecheer)**

Great Compline Service followed by the Divine Liturgy. Myrovania/Blessing with Holy Oil.

Fri., Dec. 25th - 10:00 am - **NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST**

The Divine Liturgy. Myrovania/Blessing with Holy Oil.

Sat., Dec. 26th – 10:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *Feast in Honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph*

Sunday, Dec. 27th, 2014 – 9:30 a.m. Rosary (Eng.) (*Feast in Honour of Saint Steven Deacon-Martyr*)

– 10:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: **God's blessings for all parishioners.** (Eng./Ukr.)

Please, contact Fr. Pavlo if you want to have the Divine Liturgies celebrated in your special (such as: In thanksgiving for favours received, the Infirm, General Intentions, the Deceased, Help of the Holy Spirit, for the Travelers, etc.) intentions.

Pastoral Ministry and Sacraments:

Reconciliation: on Sundays and Holy Days: before Liturgies and other days, by appointment.

Holy Communion: for the sick, by appointment, any time.

Baptisms: by appointment.

Marriages: please make an appointment to meet with the parish priest. **Funerals and Memorials:** by appointment.

Holy Unction (Anointing of the Sick): Those anticipating surgery, hospitalization or treatments and who would like to receive anointing, please contact Fr. Pavlo to arrange a time.

Basic Guidelines for Reception of Holy Communion:

1. *You are a member of the Catholic Church (Orthodox faithful are welcome to receive Holy Communion);*
2. *You have participated in the Sacrament of Confession at least during the Easter or Christmas seasons this past year if not more frequently;*
3. *You attend Divine Services regularly;*
4. *Your lifestyle is consistent with the teaching of the Catholic Church;*
5. *You have kept the Liturgical fast – no food at least one hour prior to the Divine Liturgy (water and medicine does not break the fast).*
6. *You have been in church from the beginning of the service, or at least heard the Gospel.*
7. *To the best of your ability, you are in the state of Grace.*

If for any of these or other reasons you cannot receive Holy Communion, you are very welcome to come for a blessing. Please indicate to the priest that you would like to receive his blessing.

Bequests and Wills: Leaving a bequest is a process of giving a donation through your will. It is simply a distribution from your estate to a charitable organization through your last will and testament. It can be as small or as large a donation as you wish. It is important that you talk to your lawyer about the process.

In your kindness please remember The Most Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kamloops, BC in your bequests and wills. If anyone wishes to make such a bequest in their will, the following clause may be included or added to a will: "I give, devise, and bequeath to The Most Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church at 109 Tranquille Road, Kamloops, BC V3B 3E8 the sum of \$____ (or ____% of my estate), to be used for the benefit of the church/parish, it's needs and pastoral ministry."

