



The Most Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church

Parish Administered by Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts
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Parish Executive Council Chairperson: Mr. Matt Dmyterko; UCWLC President: Mrs. Adelle Dmyterko - Tel: 250-554-3107

Parish Cantor: Mr. Myron Musey  Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster: www.nweparchy.ca



Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord,

God and Saviour Jesus Christ - December 25th, 2016 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 Christ the Lord is born in the history of our people and of His holy Church “for our sake and for our salvation.” In this moment of history, which we are experiencing together, He “is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede,” as we read in the Epistle to the Hebrews (7:25). As then in Bethlehem Jesus needed Mary and Joseph to bring Him into the world of mankind, so today He needs us, Christians of the third millennium, so that through our faith we might bring Him into our world, into present history and culture. Even more, we must bring Christ, born today for our salvation, into the corners of our personal, family, and social life. God wants to enter there and be personally present. However, He

respects our free will and waits for us to be open to Him.

Therefore, it depends on us: to let Jesus Christ into our lives, or to close the door before Him, as was the case with the inns of Bethlehem. Where God is received, there everything is brought to life and is renewed. Those who open their hearts to Him receive hope, a new sense of their own existence, today and for the future.

– (from Pastoral, Christmas Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk)

“...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: Christ is Born! – Glorify Him!

Chrystos Rozhdayet'sia! – Slavimo YoHo! Христос Рождається! - Славимо Його!

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

Liturgical Propers:

Text from "The Divine Liturgy: An Anthology for Worship"; Pg. 755

First Antiphon

Verse 1: I will confess You, Lord, with all my heart, I will declare all Your wondrous deeds (Ps 9:2).

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

Verse 2: In the council of the just and the congregation, great are the works of the Lord, conforming to His will in every way (Ps 110:1-2).

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

Verse 3: His work is filled with praise and majesty, and His righteousness endures forever (Ps 110:3).

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

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

Only-begotten Son...

Third Antiphon

Verse 1 (Soloist): The Lord said to my lord, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies the footstool of your feet" (Ps 109:1).

Troparion (Tone 4): **Your Nativity, O Christ our God,*** made the light of knowledge dawn on the world;* through it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star* to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness,* and to know You, the Dawn from on high.* Glory to You, O Lord.

Verse 2 (Soloist): The Lord will send you a scepter of power out of Zion; reign in the midst of your enemies (Ps 109:2).

Troparion (Tone 4): **Your Nativity...**

Verse 3 (Soloist): Yours is the dominion on the day you are given power in his splendor of your holy ones (Ps 109:3).

Troparion (Tone 4): **Your Nativity...**

At the Small Entrance:

Priest: Wisdom! Stand aright!

Entrance Verse (Soloist): From the womb before the daystar I begot you. The Lord has sworn an oath and will not go back on His word: You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek (Ps 109:3-4).

Troparion (Tone 4): **Your Nativity, O Christ our God,*** made the light of knowledge dawn on the world;* through it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star* to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness,* and to know You, the Dawn from on high.* Glory to You, O Lord.

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

Kontakion (Tone 3): The Virgin today gives birth to Him who is above all being; the earth offers the cave to Him whom no one can approach; Angels with shepherds give Him glory, while Magi make their way with a star, for to us is born a little Child, the Pre-Eternal God.

Instead of "Holy God...": **All you, who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia!**

Prokimenon (Tone 8): Let all the earth worship You and sing to You; let it sing to Your Name, O Most High (Ps 65:4).

Verse: Shout to the Lord, all the earth, sing now to His name, give glory to His praise (Ps 65:2).

Prokimenon (Tone 8): Let all the earth worship You and sing to You; let it sing to Your Name, O Most High (Ps 65:4).

Epistle: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians: (Gal. 4:4-7)

Brethren, when the designated time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to deliver from the law those who were subjected to it, so that we might receive our status as adopted children. The proof that you are children is the fact that God has sent forth into our hearts the Spirit of his Son which cries out "Abba! Father!" You are no longer a slave but a child! And the fact that you are a child makes you an heir, by God's design.



Alleluia (Tone 1): The heavens tell the glory of God, and the firmament declares the work of His hands (Ps 18:2). Day announces its message unto day and night proclaims its knowledge unto night (Ps 18:3).

Gospel: (Mt 2:1-12)

After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem of Judea during the reign of King Herod, astrologers from the east arrived one day in Jerusalem inquiring, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." At this news King Herod became greatly disturbed, and with him all Jerusalem. Summoning all of the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem of Judea," they informed him. "Here is what the prophet has written: 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the princess of Judah, since from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them: "Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report it to

me so that I may go and offer him homage too.” After their audience the king, they set out. The star which they have observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child was.

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house, found the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then, they opened their coffers and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They received a message in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

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

Irmos (Tone 1): A strange and glorious mystery do I behold: the cave is heaven; the Virgin, the throne of the cherubim; the manger, a dwelling place in which is laid Christ, the God Whom nothing can contain. Singing His praises, we glorify Him.

Communion Verse: The Lord has sent deliverance to His people (Ps 110:9). 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 everyone who thoughtfully and generously shared by donating toward Kamloops Food Bank!

* 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, share their time and work at the parish projects, clean the church inside and in the outside by taking away snow from parking lot and sidewalks, putting Christmas lights on the parish rectory, organize socials, 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!

* Sincerest thanks for your warm greetings and good wishes, Christmas cards and very nice, generous gifts. May God bless and keep all of you in His tender care at this Christmas time and always! – With gratitude and prayers sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Pavlo, Mariia, Nazariy and Veronica Myts

CONGRATULATIONS

* May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation in many, happy and blessed years of life and to all our parishioners, guests, visitors, family members and especially everyone who celebrates Birthday of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ today – 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 BEING AND PRAYING WITH US AT THE CHUCH TODAY. WISHING YOU AND ALL YOUR DEAR ONES A BLESSED AND JOYFUL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS!

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.

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR: yourselves, Most Reverend Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, Fr. Steven Basarab, Fr. Edward Evanko, Monsignor Jeremiah Desmond, Fr. Serabion Elmakary, Steve and Bernice Usipuik, Ann Kuz, Ann Derzak, Dave and Mary Emery, Elsie Kinaschuk, John and Mildred Kolody, Joseph Mychaluk, Zonia Rurka, Eugene Palsitt, Adeline Palsitt, Orest Hrycewich, Myron and Myrna Wizniak, Elsie Zachary, Matt Dmyterko, Allan and Sharon Ludwig, Steve and Jesse Pawlyshyn, Joe and Olga Burkatsky, Orest Kociuba, Kalyna Kociuba, Allan Bodnaruk, Maria Chorny, Katrien Sobhy, Marg Musey, Kathleen 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, Theresa Munro, Michelle New, Martin Schinkelwitz, Adam Laniel, Cryss O’Donnell, Rose Ostopowich (Fr. Joe Ostopowich’s mother), Sandra and Mike Jones, members of our parish and those who are not able to join actively in our community, your families, relatives, friends; governments and armed forces, especially the shut-in or those in the hospitals, traveling, working or studying, 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 to all 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.

* **FAITHFUL GIVING...** Remember that we never take a day off or a vacation from God, or from our obligation to attend Divine Liturgy on Sundays. When traveling, working or studying, please, make sure you check out the service schedule for the area churches at our eparchial website: www.nweparchy.ca and attend the Divine Liturgy. Please remember as well, that while

parishioners may be away and on vacation, the parish is not. Expenses continue as they do throughout the year. Please, remain consistent in your gifts to parish. Your weekly Sunday offering is important to our financial well-being. If you are away, we appreciate it when you forward your “make-up” donations. The financial stability of the parish counts on regular Sunday contributions. Please, continue to be generous! **“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*)

* **Sunday** (Dec. 18th) offerings/donations: \$1, 344. 00



* **BE A STEWARD:** Have you ever wondered what more can you do to help our parish? Here are some suggestions: **Steward** of property security; **Steward** of grounds cleaning; **Steward** of cleaning church; **Steward** of church linen; **Steward** of outreach; **Steward** of caring; **Steward** of prayer; **Steward** of service. Quite often, our homebound or senior members, once active in their younger years, want to find purpose in their senior years. It's not only about doing but about “BEING” present to others. Contact Fr. Pavlo OR Mr. Matt Dmyterko for more information. You will be amazed how “BEING” can make a difference.

Remember to Keep Christ in Christmas! The Real Reason for the Season! COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS!!!

As you come home for Christmas, you are cordially invited to celebrate with us the birth of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. For some, our church may be the home of our youth; for others our church welcomes you to join with us as we greet the newborn King-Messiah and experience the joy, peace and love of Our Eternal God being with us. We do sincerely welcome each and every one of you, your families and all your dear ones to join with our parish family in prayerful services this Christmas, New Year and Theophany/Epiphany season celebrations!



***Christmas Candle Eparchial Fundraiser:** Since 2012 our Eparchy has been collecting funds to help underprivileged and orphaned children in Ukraine through our Christmas Candle appeal. Our fundraising program is part of a larger global appeal sponsored by Caritas Ukraine. We have had great momentum over the last few years raising over \$20,000 with support from our BC Parishes as well as Parishes in other Provinces and parts of the United States.

The appeal is once again taking place for the month of December and we encourage everyone to remember these children during our Christmas season with a voluntary donation. Please place your donation in an envelope marked Christmas Candle, with your name and address and include it with the Sunday collection at any Ukrainian Catholic Church in BC or mail to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster. All donations over \$20 are eligible to receive a tax receipt if requested and cheques can be made out to your Parish with Christmas Candle Project in the Memo. If you wish to purchase a candle please contact your parish priest, they are available for a minimum donation of \$5 per candle.

Last year's money raised was used to provide children in Lviv with speech therapy, allowing them to function and communicate normally in society. This year's focus is to support a Hospice in Ivano-Frankivsk that houses orphans, and provides basic necessities, education and life skills to help them integrate into society.

We thank you for your past support and generosity and ask that you again consider supporting this ongoing appeal as part of your Christmas tradition.

Caritas is an organization that is supported and approved by His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk and His Excellency Bishop Ken Nowakowski. 100% of the proceeds go to Caritas Ukraine. For more information, please contact the coordinator Dana Koren Lupynis or Natalia Lupynis at nweparchy.christmascandle@gmail.com

SHARE YOUR HEART

EPARCHY OF NEW WESTMINSTER

VIBRANT PARISH APPEAL

“...We need your urgent and immediate support to guarantee the viability of our Eparchy for future generations of your children and grandchildren. We want to ensure the survival of pastoral services including the celebration of the sacraments in the Ukrainian Catholic tradition, such as Divine Liturgies, Baptism, Marriages, Funerals and the great Feasts, which means so much to us...”

+Ken (Eparchial Bishop of New Westminster)



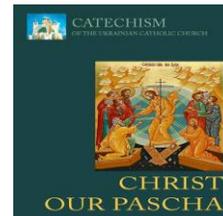
WAYS TO GIVE

- **CHEQUE** (Please make your cheques payable to the Eparchy of New Westminster)
- **BEQUESTS** (You have the ability to leave a legacy that will commemorate your love of God by remembering the Eparchy in your will)
- **GIFT OF PUBLICLY TRADED STOCK** (Please contact the Chancery office for further details on how to make a gift of stock)

FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS THERE WILL YOUR HEART BE ALSO

CONTACT INFORMATION: 502 – 5th AVENUE, NEW WESTMINSTER, BC CANADA, V3L 1S2
TELEPHONE: 604-524-8824 **EMAIL:** new.chancery@gmail.com **WEBSITE:** www.nweparchy.ca

ENGLISH EDITION OF THE CATECHISM *Christ – Our Pascha*: Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church was now been published and is available for purchase. The Catechism was published by the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Synod of Bishops and the Patriarchal Commission for the Catechism of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church. In our parish you can buy a copy for only \$25 CAD. 347 pages plus Byzantine - Ukrainian Icons. Please contact Fr. Pavlo at (250)376-3690.



Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta

come and share a time of spiritual renewal and inspiration for 2017

The Eparchy of New Westminster invites you to join Fr. Brian Kolodiejchuk, MC for an event to learn about the life and legacy of St. Teresa of Calcutta. Fr. Brian was born in Winnipeg and is a Ukrainian Catholic priest. He knew St. Teresa very well and was the postulator for the Cause for Canonization of St. Teresa. Fr. Brian will be sharing interesting insights into the process to have this amazing Catholic nun declared a Saint by Pope Francis. He will share Mother Teresa's message of "love in living action" - especially to the poor - beginning in one's own family, parish community, work, that is, where we are. Fr. Brian will also share some of his experiences as a member of the Missionaries of Charity Fathers.

Victoria: Saturday, January 14, 1-3:30 pm St. Nicholas the Wonderworker Ukrainian Catholic Parish, 1112 Caledonia Avenue, Victoria (call Fr. Yuriy, [250-384-2292](tel:250-384-2292) for tickets and information)

Vancouver: Sunday, January 15 at 1-3:30 pm St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish 550 West-14th Avenue, Vancouver (call Deacon Mykhailo, [604-524-8824](tel:604-524-8824) for tickets and information)

Kelowna: Monday, January 16 at 6:30 – 9:00 pm Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Parish, 1091 Coronation Avenue, Kelowna (call Fr. Andrzej, [250-860-7295](tel:250-860-7295) for tickets and information)

Tickets for the events are \$50. Space is limited and these events are expected to sell out quickly so please arrange to get your tickets early.

* **Looking for a great way to spend New Year's Eve this year?** Join us at St. Ann's Academy Saturday, December 31st from 6:00 to 9:00 pm in the gymnasium for great fun for all ages...games, appetizers, crafts, music...\$25.00 per family or \$10 per person. FMI contact Domenica domenicaspina@yahoo.ca Proceeds to go toward CPPS missions. Tickets are available at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Cathedral parish office, St. Joseph's Christian Store, or St. Ann's Academy office in Kamloops, BC.

* **The Kamloops Pro-Life Society is selling Great Little Coupon Books**, with discount coupons for restaurants and entertainment in Kamloops, a GREAT deal at \$10 each! They make great gifts! Please call Linda at 250-851-8605 or at Saint Joseph's Christian Book Store for your coupon books. Thank you for supporting the Pro-Life Society.



CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

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

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Today our hearts are filled with lightsome Christmas joy. The eternal God becomes man, so that man might be united and reconciled with Him forever. The Son of God becomes the son of the Virgin from Nazareth and allows Himself to be carried in human arms. For us, Christians, this great and unfathomable Mystery of the incarnation of the Son of God is the key to knowing the nature of God and understanding the history of salvation. The Nativity of Christ shows us who God is and who we are to be in relation to Him and to one another.

Gazing upon the pre-eternal God born in a simple stable cave, the Church sings: "From the bosom of the Father You came forth, O Lover of mankind, and in ineffable humility accepted supernatural poverty. You, O Lord, deigned to dwell in a cave, and, as a child, You, the Creator and Lord, are nursed at the breasts. Therefore, led by a star, the Magi bring You gifts, as to the Lord of creation, and the shepherds and angels wonder and cry out: Glory to God in the highest, Who is now coming in the form of a human being, to be born on earth" (Sunday before Nativity, Matins Praises).

In the birth of His Only-begotten Son among us, the almighty Creator of all that is seen and unseen shows us the reality of the most important and deepest truths on how parents are to regard their own child. He treats His creation as a loving Father, who sees to it that His small child has everything necessary for life and for growth to maturity, in His Image and Likeness. And in the figure of the Most Holy Theotokos, He reveals to us the grandeur of a mother, who shares of her own body in order to bring her child into the world, and with tenderness and dedication watches over it, bestowing upon it the highest efforts of her soul, her spiritual world, full of the grace of the Holy Spirit.

The Only-begotten Son of God, "True God from true God," in order to fulfill the will of His Father, chose to be conceived and be carried for nine months in a mother's womb, and to be born in all the frailty and weakness of human nature, "taking on the form of a slave" (see Phil 2:7). He did not merely become a human being, but took upon Himself all human susceptibility and helplessness, and

having become an infant, experienced all the difficulties and dangers associated with human life. In Christ Jesus, God has once and for all taken upon himself the fullness of all that we consider “being Human”—the full measure of human existence with all its greatness, but also all its drama.

Based on this divine-human experience, the Almighty knows about that which hurts in me, why I cry or rejoice. He knows each one of us, because until the end of the world He continues to live with humanity and in humanity. He continues to share in every human suffering, He rejoices in every joy of ours, He continues to die in each human death, He continues to be persecuted and dishonored in each person whom the present world rejects and scorns. Christmas is the birth of God in me, the incarnation of the Son of God in my human history, in my life, no matter how trivial and complicated it may seem to me. Thus, my life, whatever the case, acquires meaning, for that, which is personally mine, has forever become personal for Him!

Today Christ the Lord is born in the history of our people and of His holy Church “for our sake and for our salvation.” In this moment of history, which we are experiencing together, He “is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to intercede,” as we read in the Epistle to the Hebrews (7:25). As then in Bethlehem Jesus needed Mary and Joseph to bring him into the world of mankind, so today He needs us, Christians of the third millennium, so that through our faith we might bring Him into our world, into present history and culture. Even more, we must bring Christ, born today for our salvation, into the corners of our personal, family, and social life. God wants to enter there and be personally present. However, He respects our free will and waits for us to be open to Him.

Therefore, it depends on us: to let Jesus Christ into our lives, or to close the door before Him, as was the case with the inns of Bethlehem. Where God is received, there everything is brought to life and is renewed. Those who open their hearts to Him receive hope, a new sense of their own existence, today and for the future. And on the contrary, where He is rejected or not allowed to enter everything dies, is subject to decay, ruin, and corruption. There one abides under the authority of death, is subject to false gods, violence, and deceit, and in the end loses meaning in his or her life, loses hope in tomorrow, as everything dies before their eyes already today.

So let us celebrate Christ’s Nativity, allowing the Savior who is being born to enter into our intimate selves. Let us wrap Him in the swaddling clothes of our personal, family, and social life. Let us warm Him with our hope, like the wise men who followed the Christmas star. May our everyday life be enlightened by the tender love, that the Divine Babe pours out on us.

In our personal lives let us avoid sin and do good. Let us make an effort, so that our thoughts and life choices be filled with God. Let us live in such a way that our neighbors might see that we are God’s children, following His Word and His Commandments. In difficult times let us not forget that our Lord God loves with His limitless love, which is greater than our mistakes and failures, is stronger than our sins and offenses. Our Creator desires that we always be able to bring this love of His into the lives of others—and to bring it to life in our relationships and in our actions. Christmas is not only an historical event “in the days of Herod, king of Judea” (Lk 1:5). Christmas is a spiritual event of God’s unceasing presence, embodied in every moment and every place, fulfilled for me and in me.

In our family lives, in everything, let us seek to live in love and harmony. Parents, remember that most frequently children create an image of God on the basis of your behavior, your love for one another, your sacrifice, generosity, and joy of life. Teach them to pray with sincerity first of all by your own example. In all remember that your children have been entrusted to you by the very Creator and Heavenly Father, so that you might raise them in love for Him, and for His glory. Especially in these festive days, provide them with wonderful Christmas memories, so they might experience the joy of the Christian life, which allows one to overcome all difficulties and adversities.

In our social life, especially in midst of today’s economic and political challenges, and military conflict, let us remember that God is with us! We are not alone in the pain, suffering, and blood of this war. In His birth our Lord is made incarnate also today, in this historical moment in which we are called to live and die, build and restore, defend our Country from its enemy, and heal the wounds of the past and present. On Christmas Day, it is to us that St. Paul speaks, calling us to holiness of life: “...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph. 3:17–19).

As Christians, we are called today to be like the shepherds in the Gospel, who first received the news of the birth of the Savior, to carry it into the world and share it with our neighbors. In fulfilling this Christmas task, let us fill our homes, churches and our whole land with the singing of our ancient koliada-carol. Today let our koliada resound in all Ukraine and wherever there beats a Ukrainian heart! Let the joy of today’s feast fill us with hope of victory, not ours, but Christ’s, who alone can bring together that, which today seems hopelessly divided, both in Ukraine and throughout the world.

Let us carry the newborn Savior in our caroling to all who today are sad or feel lonely. Let us share our joy and Holy Vigil Supper with those who thirst and hunger for justice and human attention. Let us visit those who are imprisoned, who are far from home or travelling. Let us carry the heavenly light of Christmas to the wounded and the suffering. Let us remember in prayer those held captive, those who suffer abuse and call out to God for the light of hope while under fire in the so-called demarcation line, on the occupied territories of Eastern Ukraine and Crimea. Let us be united in our thoughts and prayers with our soldiers, who are courageously defending our Christmas. Let us not forget about those, who anxiously await their safe return.

Wherever you may be, Dear Brothers and Sisters, from the youngest to the oldest, whether in Ukraine or abroad, from my sincere heart I wish each of you a tasty kutia, a Christmas full of cheer, and a happy and blessed New Year!

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

† SVIATOSLAV

Given in Kyiv at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, on the feast of the Holy and All-Praised Apostle Andrew the First-called, the 13th of December in the 2016th Year of our Lord

**PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CANADA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 2016/2017**

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

Christ is born! Let Us Glorify Him!

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2)*

At the Complines service on the Eve of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we sing out “*Z Namy Boh! God is with us!*” This beautiful hymn evokes in us faith, hope and joy in the awareness that the eternal God loves us so much that He sent His Only-Begotten Son to be with us. God became man, in the person of Jesus Christ, who, in all his works and actions, showed us the unending LOVE and MERCY of His Father.

When Pope Francis opened the Year of Mercy, he expressed his hope that all faithful of the Church would be able to rediscover and experience in their lives this unending love and mercy of God. Reflecting on this past year, however, we see that much has happened that troubles our hearts. We have seen the photos of wildfires destroying thousands of homes in Fort McMurray. We weep for Ukraine, where fighting continues, with staggering loss of life. We sympathize with the millions of refugees who have fled Syria, fearing for their lives. We shudder to think that our own government has recently legalized medically assisted suicide. Perhaps we have personally experienced some tragedy or sadness in our own lives. We may be tempted to ask ourselves: Is God truly with us? If He is, where is His love and mercy?

When God became man – when Jesus Christ was born– it was in a lowly hidden cave in the dark of the night. The light of God-With-Us illuminated that cold dark cave and gave warmth to all those present – Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and even the animals. And so it is today in our troubled world with all its challenges. God has not abandoned us! The light of God-With-Us continues to shine forth in humble surprising ways. We see God’s mercy in the people who, in many and wonderful ways, gave assistance to the victims of the fires in Fort McMurray and in those who offered refuge or assistance to the refugees from Syria. We see it in the actions of our faithful who send help to the families of fallen soldiers in Ukraine and support the chaplains at the front. We see it in our priests who visit the dying and offer them comfort and hope through the Sacrament of Holy Anointing. We see it in those who *pray* for peace in the world and those who strive to *bring* peace, forgiveness and love to others. We see it in priests, nuns and catechists who teach the faithful about God and help them grow in faith. We see it in the humble everyday actions of mothers and fathers who work for a living and care for their children. And we see it in all concrete acts of love offered by ordinary people who heed the words of Jesus Christ: “*When I was hungry, you gave me to eat. When I was thirsty, you gave me to drink. When I was naked, you clothed me. When I was sick or in prison, you visited me.*”

Then let our hearts not be troubled! This Christmas, let us sing out *God is with us!* more fervently than ever! And then let us continue to make it true by allowing the light of Christ to shine through us, in all our words and deeds, so that the Love and Mercy of God may transform our world and bring forth hope, peace and joy.

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ, please accept our greetings and best wishes on this feast of Nativity of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ! May every day of the coming year be filled with His light and peace. Just as a newborn baby brings much joy and love to a family, may the birth of Emmanuel *God-with-us* bring joy and love into your family and your lives.

+Lawrence Huculak, OSBM, Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg
+Stephen Chmilar, Eparchial Bishop of Toronto
+Bryan Bayda, CSsR, Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon
+Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, Eparch Emeritus of New Westminster

+David Motiuk, Eparchial Bishop of Edmonton
+Ken Nowakowski, Eparchial Bishop of New Westminster
+Michael Wiwchar, CSsR, Eparch Emeritus of Saskatoon



**Chancery Office
Eparchy of New Westminster**

**PASTORAL LETTER OF MOST REV. KEN NOWAKOWSKI, BISHOP OF NEW WESTMINSTER
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 2016**

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

“And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:12)

It was with these words that the angel of the Lord who proclaimed the Good News of the Birth of our Saviour to shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem told them how to find him. You can easily imagine that these men who lived in a very real way on the fringes of society, loners, caught in their own thoughts, away from family and friends, must have been very afraid and disturbed by what they had just seen and heard. Yet, we know that at least some of them made their way to find the one who came to offer divine mercy, the Saviour and Lord, who is Mercy!

This past year we had the joyful opportunity to experience and be part of the Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by His Holiness Pope Francis. Although the Jubilee Year came to an end just a few weeks ago, Mercy still is and remains very much part of the Good News. How did you journey through this Year of Mercy? Did it pass you by or did you live it as fully as you were able? God’s love and mercy

is offered to us each and every day of our lives. Mercy comes to us as a kind word, a helping hand, a listening ear. It also comes to us as an innocent child, full of surprise and hope, not forced upon us, but offered to us as God's gift. Often when we receive a gift it is wrapped in festive style. We only discover the contents when we open it and take it into our hands. With the birth of Jesus God's gift of Mercy comes wrapped in the precious humanity of a beautiful Child. Think about it! God places Himself in our hands to show how much He trusts us! Just as the shepherds in those fields so long ago were encouraged to go and seek this Divine Gift, in this Christmas season we too are invited to go, seek out and receive into our hearts and lives the Gift of Mercy which is the Lord himself who becomes one of us.

So, today my dear Sisters and Brothers, having found Jesus let us now sing out loudly with the choirs of angels: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours." (Luke 2:14)

May God bless each and every one of you as you celebrate the birth of our Lord, and may He grant you many graces for 2017!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

+Ken Nowakowski

Bishop of New Westminster

Christ Is Born! – Glorify Him!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, May Our Lord Jesus Christ keep blessing You and all Your dear ones with His Divine Love, Peace and Joy at this Christmas Time and throughout New 2017 Year!

With prayers and gratitude sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Pavlo, Mariia, Nazariy and Veronica Myts

Христос Рождається! - Славимо Його!



Liturgical celebrations during week:

Mon., Dec. 26th (Feast in Honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph)

– 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy: for Christian Families

Tue., Dec. 27th (Feast in Honour of Saint Steven Deacon-Martyr) – 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy: for suffering Christians

Fri., Dec. 30th – 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy: Repose of the soul of Rose Shawchuk

Sat., Dec. 31st – 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy: Repose of the soul of Alphonsus LaSaga

– 4:30 p.m. Vespers: **Thanksgiving for God's blessings and graces received in 2016**

Sunday, Jan. 1st (The Circumcision of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ; Saint Basil the Great; New Year's Day)

– 9:30 a.m. Rosary

– 10:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: **God's blessings for all parishioners.**

Myrovania/Blessing with Holy Oil is after the Divine Liturgy.

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:** six months' notice should be given to the parish priest, and he should be contacted before any other arrangements are made. **Funerals and Memorials:** by appointment.

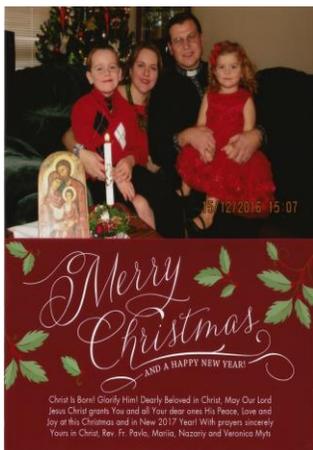
Holy Unction (Anointing of the Sick): Those anticipating surgery, hospitalization or treatments and who would like to receive anointing or to **meet with parish priest, please call or email Fr. Pavlo in advance to arrange a time and a day.**

Basic Guidelines for Reception of Holy Communion:

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."



Christ Is Born! Glorify Him! Dear Beloved in Christ, May Our Lord Jesus Christ grant You and all Your dear ones His Peace, Love and Joy at this Christmas and in New 2017 Year! With prayers sincerely Yours in Christ, Rev. Fr. Pavlo, Mariia, Nazariy and Veronica Myts