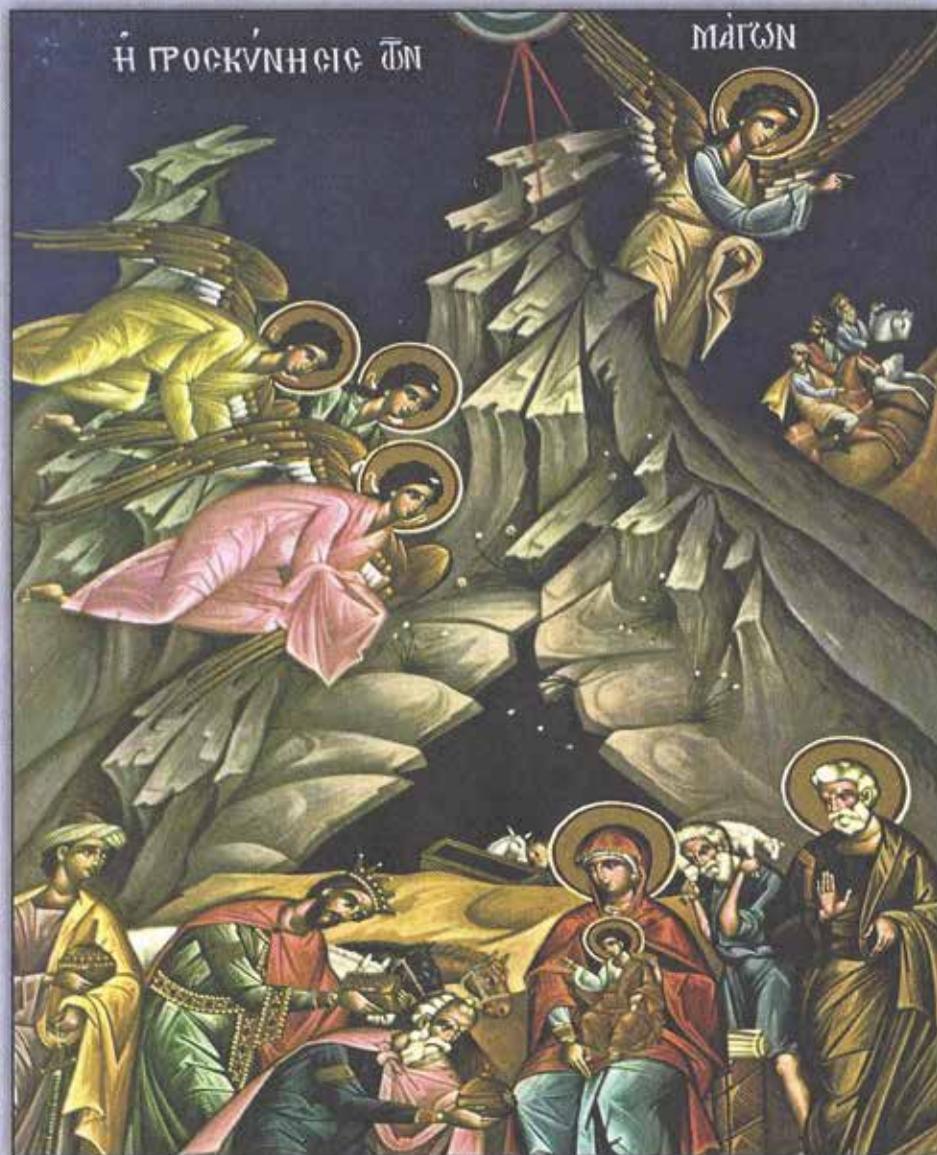


CHRISTMAS, THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD,
GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST



Icon of the Visit of the Magi

December 25, 2016: Christmas -- Birth of Our Lord	
Epistle: Gal. 4: 4-7	
Gospel: Mat. 2: 1-12	
Mon., Dec. 26	Synaxis of the Mother of God (Solemn Holy Day) 9:00 + Philip & Julia Duick (Family)
Tues., Dec. 27	Holy Protomartyr Stephen (Simple Holy Day) 9:00 + Msgr. Stephen Hrynuck (Legate)
Wed., Dec. 28	No Divine Liturgy Today
Thurs. Dec. 29	8:00 + Michael Kolsovsky (Wife Joanne, Children & Grandchildren)
Fri. Dec. 30	8:00 + Anna Chaykosky (Son Nick)
Sat., Dec. 31	No Morning Divine Liturgy 10:30 Confessions 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Mario & Helen Guerrie (John & Joan Demchock)
Sun., Jan. 1	9:00 For Our Parishioners 11:30 + Frank Turko (Gene Turko & Family)

Antiphon 1

I will confess You, Lord, with all my heart,*

I will declare all Your wondrous deeds.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.*

In the council of the just and the congregation,*

great are the works of the Lord, conforming to His will in every way.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.*

His work is filled with praise and majesty,*

and His righteousness endures forever.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.*

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Antiphon 3

*The Lord said to my lord, "Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies the footstool of your feet."*

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 that You, the Dawn from on the high.* Glory to You, O Lord.

*The Lord will send you a sceptre of power out of Sion;
reign in the midst of your enemies.*

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 that You, the Dawn from on the high.* Glory to You, O Lord.

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Entrance

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.

* * * * *

Instead of Holy God:

All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia!
(3)

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

You have put on Christ! Alleluia!

All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia!

* * * * *

Hymn to the Mother of God

O my soul, magnify Christ the King born in a manger. A strange and glorious mystery do I behold:* the cave is heaven;* the Virgin, the throne of the cherubim;* the manger, a dwelling place* in which is laid Christ, the God Whom nothing can contain.* Singing His praises, we magnify Him.

Communion Hymn

The Lord has sent deliverance* to His people.* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

**Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!
Christos Razhdayetsia! Slavite Yeho!**

Another Christmas is here. Let us reflect on the true meaning of this celebration. We will receive gifts, many will receive more than others. But we will receive one gift equally. That is the gift of the Incarnate God. Let us acknowledge this unique gift by participating in as many of the special Christmas Services as possible and

remembering the real reason for the season, and to pray for Peace on Earth!

May the Incarnate Christ, be with each and everyone of you during this holiday season and throughout the year 2017. My prayers for your continued health and happiness.

Christ is Born! -- Glorify Him!
Father Nestor

Properly Receiving Holy Communion

When approaching to receive Holy Communion, do not be afraid to approach the Priest. Father's arms are only so long and when you stand too far away, it is difficult to distribute Holy Communion.

We also remind everyone to tilt your head back and open your mouth WIDE. Please keep your tongue in your mouth. Please do not bite down on the communion spoon. There is no need to say anything since the priest

says the prayer. There is no need to say AMEN as is done in the Roman Catholic Church.

Now finally, a little about the red Communion Cloth. Sometimes the Altar Servers hold it; sometimes Father holds it. When the Altar Servers hold, simply approach (i.e., come close to the Priest). If Father is holding it, simply lift it up to your chin. The purpose of the Communion Cloth is to help prevent accidents.

**Pastoral Message of the Ukrainian Catholic Hierarchy
of the U.S.A. to Our Clergy, Hieromonks and Brothers,
Religious Sisters, Seminarians and Beloved Faithful**

Christ Is Born!

Once again we focus our attention and recall with affection and devotion the marvelous miracle in which “the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us” (Jn. 1:14). The God-Man Jesus, sent by our merciful Father with love to all of humanity, came to save us from sin and from ourselves. Jesus came to empower us to live life to the full. It is little wonder, then, that the Story of Christmas is so appealing to young and old and to rich and poor alike.

Well before December 25th, we become preoccupied with Christmas preparations. Beyond all this, one searches for the true Spirit of Christmas in order to lift our individual and collective spirits to reflect again on the celestial chorus: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all who enjoy His favor” (Lk. 2:14). We can catch a glimpse of the Spirit of Christmas as we savor the fellowship enjoyed by our families whose members gather from far and wide to be together for our Christmas Eve Holy Supper. And yet, such fellowship is but a shadow of that divine fellowship enjoyed by all mankind as a result of the Birth of the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity. “To all who did accept Him He gave power to become Children of God”

(Jn. 1:12) indicates a radical change which this divine fellowship entails: God became human so that human beings might become like unto God.

Therefore, the celebration of Christmas ought to raise certain questions for each one of us. How is my personal life affected? How does the Christmas Event relate to our society with all its challenges? If we travel mentally around the world, what do we see? Violence of all sorts, physical and sexual abuse, violation of the rights of the unborn and defenseless, unconcern for the poor and migrant, abandonment of children and the elderly, the unjust aggressions suffered by Ukraine, the horrific massacres in the Middle East and Africa, are a fraction of our society’s illness which should cause us to wonder if the story of Christmas will ever succeed in getting across to all people its principal message. That message is simply that the salvation of each of us must be through love and in love. This fantastic message of Christmas is, for very many, the greatest secret still yet to be fathomed: God’s love for all has been revealed in the Word made flesh!

This greatest secret revealed in humanity of God’s only-begotten Son is like the sun radiating sunshine to one and all. Likewise, all of us who are re-

ceptive of God's "greatest secret" personified in our Lord Jesus Christ, must show some sort of transformation. That is precisely what is signified in the Christmas Story told over and over again in every language and to all people.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was born in the shadows of an incredulous world. Of all peoples, the Christmas miracle was first announced to shepherds, so-called insignificant people of Bethlehem. Considered to be on the lowest rung of society's rating, those shepherds chosen by God, must have had their self-esteem and self-worth lifted to high heaven when they heard the Good News proclaimed: "Behold I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you: He is Christ the Lord" (Lk. 2:10-11).

Convinced of the great love which Christmas reveals, we receive power to become children of God. Realizing that power from God-made-Man, we can then proclaim by word and example, at home and in society, that which underlines all the fellowship, carol-singing, gift-giving, and merry-making: "Yes, God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not be lost but may have eternal life" (Jn. 3:16). That is why we joyfully and devoutly exclaim, "Christ is born. Glorify Him!"

A blessed and joyous Christmas to all of you. May the mystery of Jesus' Birth bring you the grace to renew yourself and live a God-centered Christian life all through the New Year!

Christ is Born!

+Stefan Soroka (Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians)
Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States

+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM (Eparch of Stamford)

+ Bohdan Danylo (Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma)

+John Bura (author) (Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia)

Very Rev. Richard Janowicz, Apostolic Administrator
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy in Chicago.

Give A Great Gift

Donate Blood in memory of Patrick J. Marcinko, Jr. Celebrate life and make a difference by giving blood. Blood is needed for many different kinds of patients. It could be a young child with a rare blood disorder, a family member fighting cancer, or a friend involved in a car accident. A Community Blood Drive will take place at the Community Room of the Lackawanna Heritage

Apartments (211 Susquehanna Ave.) on Thursday, December 29th from 12 PM to 5 PM. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gas card. This blood drive is sponsored by Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church and Holy Cross Parish, and the Valley Blood Council.

Festival of Christmas Carols

Annual Festival of Christmas Carols will be held on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 3 p.m. at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Con-

ception in Philadelphia. Choirs from different parishes will participate. Everyone is welcome.

Collection Processing Team...

We ask all the members of ALL the Collection Processing Teams to help with this Christmas Weekend's Col-

lection on Monday following the 9:00 Divine Liturgy.

Sunday Collection for December 3 & 4, 2016: \$

Sunday Collection for December 10 & 11, 2016: \$

Sunday Collection for December 17 & 18, 2016: \$

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for Dec. 31, 2016 & Jan. 1, 2017

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Brett Lowe -- Nicholas Chylak	Michael Shumek
9:00 am	Cole Marcinko -- Patrick Marcinko	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Thomas Radle -- Nicholas Muchisky	Frank Lesnefsky

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

The Lord Has Made His Salvation Known to the Whole World

The loving providence of God determined that in the last days He would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ. A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith.

In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not in Judea only, but in the whole world. ... As Isaiah prophesied: the people of the Gentiles, who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and for those who dwelt in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned. He spoke of them to the Lord: The Gentiles, who do not know you, will invoke you, and the peoples, who knew you not, will take refuge in you. ...

This came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognize and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ.

Dear friends, you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

St. Leo the Great

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com