

Sacred Heart Parish Ituna

December 24, 2021

Христос Родився! Christ is Born! Славте Його! Glorify Him!



My dear parishioners of the Ituna and Wynyard Ukrainian Catholic districts:

I want to begin my Christmas message this year with this quote from the author W. C. Jones: "The Joy of brightening others' lives, bearing each others' burdens, easing each others' loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of the holidays."

We all know that these past couple of years have been difficult for all of us in our society because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people whom we know have become ill and some have even lost their lives because of this virus. Others have had economic hardships because of loss of business income, and churches have been hit hard with a significant decrease in attendance and donations from the crisis COVID has caused. Also the social isolation created by the COVID pandemic has caused a great increase in addictions, mental health issues, and a general sense of fear in our society because of COVID.

And yet, through all of these issues in the world, we still have the opportunity to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, that is Christmas. Christmas is still a time for us to remember the great gifts God has given us in our life: the gift of family, the gift of friendships, the gift of our Church communities. But as we already discussed, not everyone around us is going to feel that same joy and happiness during this Christmas season.

The Christmas season is also a time where we all have the opportunity to pray for those who are in distress, to visit or talk to those who are lonely and troubled, to share our excess resources with those who have very little. Indeed as the quote above suggests, we have the opportunity to brighten others' lives, to help one another with their burdens, to ease each others' troubles, to bring the joy of Christ's birth to every single person we meet! It is the little things we can do for one another that can cause the greatest joy, the little sacrifices we can make to ensure that others are cared for in their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Treating everyone with respect, having a smile when we meet others, saying a prayer for those who are in difficulty, doing little acts of kindness for one another, are all simple actions we can take that won't be too burdensome to our own lives.

So yes, Jesus came down from heaven to be born on this earth to give everyone peace and joy and happiness, from the poorest shepherd to the richest Wise Men. We too can do the same for each other this Christmas season by not ignoring the needs of others around us, but instead giving a helping hand whenever we are able to through our prayerful and generous Christian virtues that we should all be practicing every day of our lives.

May God grant you a joyful and peaceful Christmas season as we celebrate the Birth of Christ and share the gladness and excitement that this Feast Day brings to those around us.

The Peace and love of Christ be upon all of you during this blessed time of Christmas!

Fr Basil, Angela, and Samuel Malowany

**PASTORAL LETTER
FROM THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CANADA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 2021-2022**

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

Christ is Born! Let Us Glorify Him!

Dearly Beloved in Christ!

“The earth offers a cave to the Inaccessible.” Kontakion of the Nativity

The *Kontakion* of the Nativity of the Lord heralds a true paradox. It reminds us of the sharp contrasts we find in the human condition. The Indescribable, Eternal and Inaccessible God, is humbly born in a cave. The Incarnation of the Son of God comes about in a place barely fit for animals. Today, we find it hard to believe that any person could be born outside of a hospital or a home, and yet the Creator of the Universe embraces humanity in the midst of inhospitable indignity.

In this world we don't have to look far to find human indignity. Human tragedy is all around us. Physical, emotional and spiritual injustice is the content of many news stories. And in the midst of these stories often there is a ray of light in the darkness, a person who shines and restores our hope in human dignity. Worldwide, in Ukraine, or in our own homes in Canada, the Holy Spirit is waiting to break through to others with good news. Each of us would do well to ask God that question, "Lord, how do you want to use me in sharing this news?"

The good news is that despite our hearts being similar in some ways to the inhospitable cave, Jesus wants to dwell there. Our openness to this profound mystery requires quiet time for prayer far from distractions, away from the numerous demands that contemporary society places on our attention. In the stillness of our hearts God will speak. God will give each of us the grace to say "yes" together with the Holy Family. Jesus is born in the manger of a humble heart filled with love. He is born in every thought and action that honours the Heavenly Father and hearts that treat those created in His image with dignity. This is the good news we share on this Feast. And by praying together as families and participating in the Holy Mysteries, especially in the Eucharist, we are lifted up and confirmed as beloved children of God.

Therefore, let us intercede in prayer and perhaps take positive steps toward solutions to the many inhumane things we encounter in life. Let us learn from St. Joseph as Jesus did, developing a sense of obedience to His Heavenly Father, through the example of Joseph's obedience to God. Let us learn from Mary, the Mother of God, as Jesus did, developing a sense of profound love and compassion through his earthly experience of a mother's love. Let us allow the Christ in us to be a light of wisdom and compassion to others. And as our society today continues to struggle with the COVID pandemic, let us always be mindful of the wellbeing of others.

This Christmas, may our celebration of our Lord's Nativity bring us to an encounter with Him in all our relationships – with our family members, in our communities, in our workplaces, in our homes. May our hearts be that cave, where the Holy Family finds a home, where Jesus, Mary and Joseph are present. May the gift of Emmanuel—God is with us—bear fruit in us in love, joy and peace, in this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

God is with us! Christ is Born!

Sincerely in Christ,

+Lawrence Huculak, OSBM Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg

+Michael Wiwchar, CSsR Eparch Emeritus of Saskatoon

+Stephen Chmilar, Eparch Emeritus of Toronto and Eastern Canada

+David Motiuk, Eparchial Bishop of Edmonton, Administrator of the Eparchy of New Westminster

+Bryan Bayda, CSsR, Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon, Administrator of the Eparchy of Toronto & Eastern Canada

As we rejoice and celebrate this wonderful season of Christmas, let us thank baby Jesus for coming into our lives. Let us prepare ourselves to welcome him into the homes of our hearts. Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones.



Sacred Heart Parish Council



*The Knights of
Columbus Father Boels
Council*

We pray your spirit is light with hope, your heart is filled with joy, and your holiday is blessed with the Glory of God. May his love bring you peace at Christmas and always.



*Христос Раждається!
Славимо Його!*
Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
Chancery Office Hours
over the Christmas Season
December 24th: CLOSED
December 27th: CLOSED
December 31st: 9 am-12 noon
January 3, 2022: CLOSED



**CHRIST
IS BORN!
GLORIFY
HIM!**

**Chancery Office Hours
over the Christmas Season**

Christmas CD “Christ is Born! Glorify Him with Carols” by St. Athanasius Choir, Regina:

Our Choir Christmas CD recorded in 2020 by the St. Athanasius Choir is available at our parish. Enjoy traditional Ukrainian Christmas Carols sung in both Ukrainian and English! Join with us in your own homes in the caroling! Let’s be together in Spirit this Holy Season! Please, contact us at mailto:stathanasius@sasktel.net
Here is an example of Carols: <https://st-athanasius.ca/nl/carols-cd-2020/>