



**COUNCIL OF BISHOPS OF THE
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA
ARCHPASTORAL LETTER FOR THE FEAST OF
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

Dear and Beloved Clergy and Faithful of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, South America, Western Europe, and Australia-New Zealand and all our Brothers and Sisters in Ukraine,

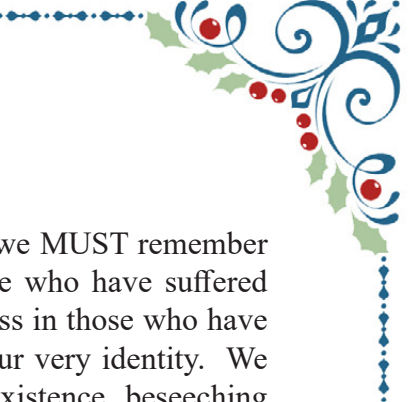
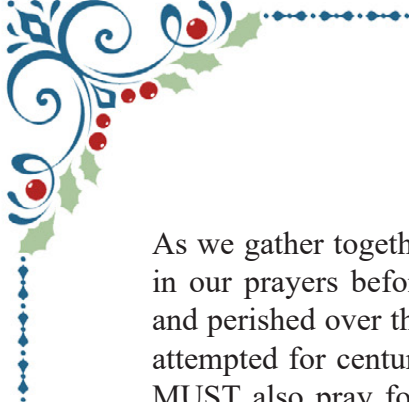
CHRIST IS BORN! LET US GLORIFY HIM!

Once again by the Grace of God, the Great Feast of the NATIVITY – INCARNATION of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, is upon us. Even though it comes in wintertime, the joy it brings into our lives is much more like the joy we experience in spring when we witness the all the budding of nature's beauty. The Nativity fills us with joy without limits. *“For there is born to us this day in the City of David (Bethlehem), a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11)*

He is the promised One prophesized throughout the Old Testament, the One Who sustains all. He is born of the Ever-Virgin Mary as a humble infant so that He might make us children of God. He is the Son of God Who descends from Heaven in order to lift all humanity up to Heaven – to grant us eternal life *“for it pleased the Father that in Him all fullness should dwell and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself”.* (Colossians 1:19-20) Today Angels and all mankind proclaim the spiritual song of the Nativity Canon: *“Christ is born! Glorify Him! Christ has come from the Heavens! Welcome Him! Christ is on Earth! Exalt Him!”*

It is sad to observe throughout this, our earthly world, a loss of relationship with God in the Holy Trinity. We have, however, another opportunity to change this estrangement into fullness of reconciliation with Father, Son and Holy Spirit – by opening our hearts, minds and souls to the Good News of the Nativity. We have the opportunity to relate to Emmanuel – “God with us” and to follow His lead into Heaven! We who live in the great democracies of the world, have the opportunity to witness to the never-ending power of God, manifested to us in fullness of love – through the incarnation of His Son.

In Ukraine, however, and too many other nations around the world suffering invasion, repression, and domination from beyond their borders, our brothers and sisters struggle each day to also witness - even at the darkest of times. They struggle to hear the Nativity Carols sung in their churches, their neighborhoods and in their own homes, but often the loudness of the bombs that rain down upon those homes, neighborhoods and churches drown out the beautiful carols glorifying the Christ Child, filling their lives with fear and pain.



As we gather together on the Eve of Nativity with all our loved ones present, we MUST remember in our prayers before Holy Supper, along with our family ancestors, all those who have suffered and perished over the last two years – simply because of greed and covetousness in those who have attempted for centuries to usurp our spirituality, our history, our culture and our very identity. We MUST also pray for those who still suffer under daily threats to their very existence, beseeching that the comfort and Love of the Christ Child will fill and warm their hearts even under the worst of circumstances.

We assure you, our spiritual children, of our continued prayers for each and every one of you during these holy Nativity days. May the Love of the Christ Child fill your homes and your lives in such an abundance that it cannot be contained but spread through you into the lives of all who need that Love – and you – to make their lives whole.

In our Lord's All-Encompassing Love,

Assuring you of our prayers and love and requesting yours, we remain your servants in the Lord,

+ ANTONY

By the Grace of God, Metropolitan

+ JEREMIAH

By the Grace of God, Archbishop

+ DANIEL

By the Grace of God, Archbishop



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**

