As we progress through the Philip’s Fast – Advent in preparation for our joyous celebration of the Nativity of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ and His Baptism in the River Jordan, whether celebrating on the New or Old calendars, we find ourselves once again in a state of deep concern about self-protection and the protection of everyone around us against the world’s common enemy for nearly three years. This is not the way we want celebrate the Holy Days and we long to join with family, friends and our brothers and sisters in our parish communities. We cannot, however, escape the reality of the danger surrounding us.

Over the past three years we have attempted to provide you with the best guidance possible regarding our community, family and personal responsibilities under these circumstances. Your response has been, to the greatest extent very positive, exhibiting complete understanding and cooperation. This has been most beneficial, and we thank God in the Holy Trinity that your efforts have been blessed resulting in many lives having been saved.

As time has moved on, we have witnessed the deep politicization of the whole vaccination program that has protected countless millions of people from violent illness and death. It has been so successful that a, perhaps, mistaken
And so, CHRIST IS BORN – “GOD IS WITH US, understand all ye nations and submit yourselves for God is with us”. (Isaiah 8:9) Submitting ourselves...so foreign in today’s very secularized world, something so out of line with our devotion to ourselves and all our desires that have little or nothing to do with the “God with us”. Let us make conscious decisions to turn back from our insatiable self-satisfaction. We pray before the Eucharist that we comprehend the fact that “no human sin is bad enough to overcome our Lord’s Love for us”. Let us live in that reality today! Let us allow ourselves to be embraced with His All-Encompassing Love so all that distracts us might be converted into that, which makes us whole. Let us open our hearts, minds and souls to the Christ Child Who seeks a place to lay His Head. Let us open ourselves to the reality of “God with us” and for us. For this were we created. This is our true reality!

The Christ Child – the Son of God Incarnate...Lifting our humanity up to His Divinity...Love defined, and Love fulfilled...May your homes and lives be filled with this Love throughout this Holy Nativity Season and the New Year! May this Love flow from you into the lives of all around you, inspiring their thoughts and deeds – lifting them up to His Divinity. This is the image of God...

May the Grace of the Christ Child – our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always. We assure you of our prayers daily.

Christ is Born! Let us Glorify Him!

+ ANTONY – Metropolitan
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, South America and Diaspora

+ JEREMIAH – Archbishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America

+ DANIEL – Archbishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora

+ ILARION – Bishop
Locum Tenens of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ ANDRIY – Bishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

Nativity Archpastoral Letter:

sense of victory over the coronavirus has developed instilling in many not only the desire, but the necessity of returning to “normal” life. We seriously doubt, dear ones, that we will ever return to what we once knew as “normal” and that we will necessarily have to adapt to the new “normal” of dealing with this and perhaps future pandemics.

By the Grace of God through the talents He has given to medical researchers and pharmaceutical developers, we have not just one, but several vaccination programs and therapeutic pills that all deal very effectively with the coronavirus and offer us protection from extremely serious and devastating illness and death. For this the evidence is overwhelming. These are, indeed, Gifts from God and any failure to receive them to protect ourselves and thereby those around us, appear to be a denial of the fact that God still does provide for us.

We have written to you several times now offering guidance about the current safe practices in your personal and parish community lives. You well know the restrictions in place in your states and local communities. You know that we have urged everyone to continue masking themselves to protect their lives. We urge you to re-read our past correspondence to you. You may find it on our Church website: uocofusa.org. None of it has gone “out of date”. We urge you to continue the necessary restrictions to gather for “liturgia” – our common work in God’s Heavenly Kingdom and here on earth. We urge our parish priests, boards of administration and parishioners to seriously examine the necessary steps to be taken in parish life and beyond – even if you determine that your parish restrictions may have to surpass those of local or state governments. We, as your hierarchs cannot dictate any actions from a distance. Your actions must be dictated by be your well-grounded comprehension of the real threat in your area to parishioners and/or the public. We are told by physicians and scientists that the next few months will be very risky. At the very least, we urge everyone, vaccinated or not, to voluntarily wear masks during worship and at any public gathering. We must be partners with God in protecting our world and ourselves. Let us live safely for the good of all.

We urge everyone, vaccinated or not, to voluntarily wear masks during worship and at any public gathering. We must be partners with God in protecting our world and ourselves. Let us live safely for the good of all.

May the Grace of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

With prayers, wishing you healthy and blessed New Year and Nativity of our Lord,

+ Antony, Metropolitan
+ Daniel, Archbishop

Council of Bishops of the UOC of the USA:
WE NEED TO REMAIN DILIGENT...

May the Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...
### New Resources from the Office of Youth Ministry

The OYM has been hard at work creating much needed resources for the St. Nicholas Special Needs Ministry. The St. Nicholas Ministry was created to provide resources for families and parishes to aid them in their walk alongside faithful with disabilities and in-particular our youth. In October, the following resources were released via the website: the guide *Supporting our Youth with Unique Needs*, Orthodox faith social stories and Orthodox visual schedule picture tiles. All resources have been translated into Ukrainian for ease of use. All resources are customizable upon request to add in photos of children, families and items from YOUR parishes.

This guide was developed to aid parishes in their ministry to work with families and faithful to live a full and active life as members of Christ’s church.

Social Stories are learning tools to aid youth with specific social situations they may encounter. They may describe an action, concept, event, or situation. They may be of a general nature or constructed for the specific need(s) of a young person.

Visual or picture schedules are a resource usually used to aid an individual in visually working step-by-step through an action (set of actions), event(s), or their day. These schedules may help youth manage and understand common actions and routines in their daily life. Pictures or pictures combined with simple word description, are used as tiles in the schedule. They may be used in a combination of ways.

### Youth Ministry Survey

With the blessing of our Hierarchs, we are extending the youth ministry survey until the end of the year. We want to ensure that we have the widest range of feedback from the clergy, parents, youth workers and YOUTH of our church in discovering needs and creating a plan for the future. We ask that you not only encourage participation in the on-line survey but actively find ways to give parishioners the ability to participate. This might include having a laptop or tablet available during coffee hour. Giving a short talk about the survey project and then asking parishioners to use their phone at THAT moment to sit and take the survey. If you would like to have an electronic or paper version of the surveys they may be provided upon request at uocyouth@aol.com

### Annual Youth & Camp Worker Conference

We will once again be co-sponsoring this amazing event hosted by the Orthodox Youth Workers in NA. It will be in-person, February 3-5, 2022 at the Antiochian Village in Bolivar, PA. The conference is open to anyone who works with youth. Please encourage those on your youth ministry teams to attend if able. A wonderful way to help train and educate our youth workers and church school teachers is to help them cover the costs associated with attending a conference such as this. Information about the conference may be found at orthodoxyouth.net

### From the Ukrainian History and Education Center:

The exhibition “Autonomy Lost and Regained: The Ukrainian Orthodox Metropolia of Kyiv, 1633-2019” remains on view through Spring 2022 in-person in the Library Gallery at the Metropolia Center and online. Learn about the centuries-long history behind the 2019 signing of the Tomos of Autocephaly by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I. Full information can be found at UkrHEC.org/exhibits. Also, you can view a related Stories from Storage video on Petro Kapschutschenko’s design of the Metropolitan Vasil Lypkivsky monument that stands next to St. Andrew Memorial Church at UkrHEC.org/stories, and stay tuned for more Stories from Storage presentations in the future.

The exhibition has been viewed in person by numerous individuals and groups, including a local chapter of the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America, and curator Michael Andrec has given a talk about the exhibition at the Protection of the Holy Theotokos Parish in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Would a group from your parish or organization like to visit the exhibition or schedule a presentation (either in-person or virtually)? Please drop us a line at info@UkrHEC.org!

### From the UOC of USA Archives:

After resolving some technical glitches and streamlining the workflow, the archives are now set to begin large-scale digitization of endangered VHS video content documenting the life of the Church. One of the first videos to be digitized was the consecration of the new church building of SS. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Johnstown, Pennsylvania in 1986 (now sadly closed). The video includes Vespers, the Consecration Service, and the Divine Liturgy, with the then Archbishop Constantine presiding. It also includes speeches from the banquet that followed the church services. This video, which is part of the SS. Peter and Paul parish records collection managed by the Ukrainian History and Education Center Archives, can be viewed at UkrHEC.org/johnstown-consecration. The digitization process is continuing, and will include recordings of Sobors and other Church events, so stay tuned for more to come!

### Telling the stories of Ukraine and the Ukrainian American experience and connecting generations through exhibitions, archives, and educational programming.

The UHEC museum permanent collection consists of over 15,000 objects of folk art, fine art, religious ritual objects, textiles, and icons, as well as objects that document Ukrainian and Ukrainian American cultural, religious, and political history. The UHEC Archives holds hundreds of collections documenting the lives and work of Ukrainian and Ukrainian American individuals, families, organizations, and parishes.
From the Ukrainian Orthodox League

The members of the Ukrainian Orthodox League gathered in a virtual format for their 74th Annual Convention in July. The League planned on meeting face-to-face in Philadelphia, but after polling chapter presidents, it was decided the organization as a whole was not quite ready to return to our normal format due to the continued pandemic. The members of the Junior UOL, however, gathered in person at All Saints Camp during Teen Conference for their convention and had a joyous celebration of their 60th Anniversary, complete with the singing of Happy Birthday and the sharing of cupcakes!

As time was limited in the half-day Senior UOL convention, the normal breakout sessions were scheduled as evening virtual meetings in subsequent weeks. Three planning sessions were held focusing on: Chapter “Lite” – A concept to modify the requirements to maintain a UOL chapter, making it easier for small parishes to participate; Youth and Young Adults; and growing the UOL. Additionally, the UOL Senior National Executive Board held a session to expand our offerings in the areas of spiritual growth through education, increasing our involvement in charitable efforts, and outreach across the UOC of USA via new methods of communication.

At the Annual Convention, the UOL presented a donation of $10,948 to St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Society raised at the 2021 Souper Bowl Sunday event. This was a special blessing, as many chapters and participating parishes could not host their normal sales of soup given pandemic restrictions, and instead requested donations from the faithful. We are thankful to all who saw the need and reached out to donate! There was one recipient of the Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt (LSSK) Scholarship this year – Madeline Zetick. Maddie was the outgoing national Junior UOL president and also was president of her local Junior chapter in Philadelphia. Additionally, the UOL was happy to present ten (10) Metropolitan John Scholarships to those attending St. Sophia Seminary.

UOL Conventions are a primary source of income and a two-year period with virtual conventions has been financially challenging. Nonetheless, the UOL was able to donate $8,000 from its savings to pay off the newly-purchased Seminary Van. Funds collected by attendees of the 2020 virtual UOL Convention, in the amount of $1,700, were donated to All Saints Camp toward a pledge of $25,000. Additionally, the UOL donated $3,500 to 2021 encampments at All Saints Camp and $500 to the Orthodox Christian Fellowship organization for college students.

The UOL continues to be “Dedicated to our Church – Devoted to its Youth” and we look forward to a year of growth! See our website uolofusa.org for details and “like” our Facebook page. We are looking to the future with enthusiasm as we serve the Church! Don’t have a UOL Chapter at your parish? Come along – you are WELCOME! Reach out to Senior UOL President Karen Ferraro at president@uolofusa.org then join us for our 75th Annual UOL Convention in July 2022 in Carnegie, PA!

From the Seminary Rector - Metropolitan ANTONY

I want to inform you all – the beloved members of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church – that not only during the past 14 months of our experience with the COVID-19 pandemic, but at all times, adequate finances for the operation of the Seminary and all its educational programs are simply not there. We need your support if we are to continue with the accreditation process and with the educational process itself. Please consider the Seminary as part of your planned giving on an annual basis. In addition, please remember the Seminary and the fact that your priest and any others who will serve in your parish are most likely graduates of the Seminary. In your estate planning, please consider the Seminary as a beneficiary of your loving kindness. If you are interested in this possibility, please feel free to contact me or Archbishop Daniel to discuss the possibilities.

We need your help…

In behalf of our Administrative Staff, our teaching staff, our service staff and all our seminarians, I greet you as we enter the sacred season of the NATIVITY OF OUR LORD. May the Light that shines forth from the manger of the Lord fill your homes and lives and through you into the lives of those who need it most. So many are living in darkness, sometimes of their own creation, but often through no conscious fault of their own.

Be that LIGHT OF CHRIST to them and you will know the blessings of our Newborn Savior always.
A note from St. Andrew Cemetery

With a beginning of Fall here in Metropolia Center the most important is to work on some of the projects that normally take place during this time.

This year we have sent out another appeal in September to all people who have relatives buried here at the cemetery. The appeal was to help us raise some funds for road repairs around the sacred area of St. Andrew’s Cemetery. We were able to generate some funds by sending an appeal every year for the past four years, but it is not enough to cover all the expenses for the road. Cemetery Administration would like to express a big gratitude to those, who had responded to the appeal.

Additional project that took place at the Cemetery this Fall, we physically went and pulled out bushes and copings in the old section of the cemetery, where no one comes and cleans the graves. Our cemetery crew has worked diligently to have an old section of the cemetery look nice and clean.

Early September there was a flooding at the Cemetery Grounds. No graves were damaged. The water did not get that high. There were many concerns from people whose relatives are buried here and we received many phone calls about that matter. Unfortunately, the buildings that are on the property of the cemetery were flooded. Ones again, our cemetery crew had worked hard to clean out the garages and storage facilities from the dirt and grease that water left behind in the buildings.

In November we would like to continue providing the same service as in the past, placing graveblankets at the graveside and asking parish representatives to notify their parishioners who have relatives buried here of such a project. You can call cemetery office at 732-356-0090 and place an order any time, but not later than December 10, 2020. If there is a need of any work or cleaning of the graves, please contact the Cemetery Office by calling the phone number provided above.

Ordinations & Elevations...

Deacon Mykola Zomchak ordained PRIEST in St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church at the Metropolia Center of the Church on July 17, 2021 - Axios!
Deacon Ihor Protsak ordained PRIEST in St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church at the Metropolia Center of the Church on September 18, 2021 - Axios!
Subdeacon Volodymyr Pichkurov ordained DEACON in St. Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Troy, NY on September 26, 2021 - Axios!
Deacon Frank Lucero ordained PRIEST in St. Job of Pochaiv Ukrainian Orthodox Mission in Los Alamos, NM on October 1, 2021 - Axios!

Released Clergy...

Rev. Fr. Frank Lucero was canonically released from the Ranks of Clergy of the UOC of the USA to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Denver, Colorado

THE METROPOLITAN JOHN THEODOROVICH LIBRARY AND ST. SOPHIA SEMINARY LIBRARY PARTNERS WITH THE UKRAINIAN CHURCH MUSIC ARCHIVE

In July 2021, Markian Komichak, choir director at St. Vladimir UOC in Parma, OH, visited the Library located the Metropolia Center in Somerset, New Jersey, as part of his summer tour of collecting and digitizing Ukrainian liturgical music from parishes across the United States. Our Library is a point of interest for Mr. Komichak, as it is a repository of thousands of sheets of choral music which had been used by choirs and choir directors throughout parishes of the UOC of USA.

Launched in March of 2021, the UCMA is a systematic effort to locate and catalogue choir music from the earliest days of our churches. His goal is to digitize and preserve these items and make them available to students and researchers.

Furthermore, he made a survey of the Library’s substantial collection of parish anniversary booklets which hold a wealth of information about the history of the choirs and their directors.

If you have any church or liturgical music you would like to donate to the Metropolitan John Teodorovich/St. Sophia Library for preservation for future generations, contact the Library at library@stsuots.edu.

If you would like more information about the Ukrainian Church Music Archive, or if you would like him to include your parish’s music collection in the Archive, you can contact Markian Komichak at komichakm@gmail.com. Don’t forget to “Like” and “Follow” the Ukrainian Church Music Archive on Facebook, where treasures from the musical past are posted.

St. Sophia Seminary Library Offers Its Service...

The Spring Semester is quickly approaching, and the staff of the Library is ready to tackle the needs of the students throughout the school year. Borrowing privileges are free to all students of St. Sophia Seminary and clergy of the UOC of USA, which means that you have access to several thousands of books and periodicals. New students and prospective Library patrons just need to stop by during the day to sign-up.

Working from home? Not a problem, browse our online catalog (http://www.uocofusa.org/library.html) to see what books we already have cataloged. About every month, approximately 400 books get added to the catalog.
From All Saints Camp

2021 Summer Recap

After the extended off-season, All Saints Camp reopened in July 2021 with a condensed schedule. Ensuring the safety of campers and staff while on campus was our foremost priority, so we appreciate the patience of our camper families as we all navigate this new reality. The UOCCP sessions were shortened to 5 days but the enthusiasm was high, despite some wet weather. Campers dealt gracefully with social distancing, additional hand-washing stations, cohort groups, but, we were pleasantly surprised and delighted by al fresco dining under the Pavilion.

For the second time in three years, the Junior UOL held their Convention at All Saints Camp. This time around, the Convention was convened in conjunction with Teenage Conference. The Juniors, advisors and guests were joined by His Eminence Metropolitan ANTONY and His Eminence Archbishop DANIEL who celebrated Divine Liturgy and offered remarks during Sessions.

2021 was also the first summer for a new exciting program: ASC for Adults! 12 participants ranging in age from 25 to 89 (!) gathered for a weekend of spiritual reflection, fellowship and fun around campus. Regardless of age, the pioneer campers truly enjoyed this new program and strongly encourage friends and family of All Saints Camp to attend next summer. Save the Date: August 28 - September 1, 2022

The summer also marked the return of Family Fest, for the first time in two years. While the virtual programs offered online were fun, there is no substitute for gathering on campus for a weekend of swimming, games and offering praise during services. Save the Date: September 2-5, 2022

Off-Season Mission Critical Goals

1. Improve Water System Infrastructure

A routine sample collected on August 30 at the Clergy Cabin was positive for the presence of Total Coliform (bacteria that are found in the soil, in water that has been influenced by surface water, and in human or animal waste). Additionally, 3 samples collected on September 1 were positive. These results triggered at Level 1 Assessment.

This is the second Level 1 Assessment that has been triggered for ASC in a rolling 12-month period; therefore, a Level 2 Assessment was triggered.

We secured the services of Book & Proch Well Drilling, Inc. who evaluated the three water systems and are preparing a detailed report that will highlight necessary repairs or improvements.

2. Hire Food Service Manager

Mrs. Carol Novosel has expressed a desire to take a step back from the day-to-day rigors of running the Food Service team. The Food Service Manager/Head Cook directs the overall food-service operation of the camp including purchasing, preparation, nutrition, service, sanitation, security, personnel management, customer service and record keeping. Ensures nutritious, well-prepared meals are served to all campers, staff, and guests.

3. Hire Maintenance Manager

The Maintenance Manager directs all facility projects, improvements and general campus maintenance duties including areas such as painting, plumbing, electrical and carpentry as well as inspection of completed work by vendors/contractors. Assigns and monitors duties of camp maintenance staff. Ensures the camp facilities are providing a safe and clean environment for campers, staff and guests.

Please spread the word about these positions (as well as Food Service, Facilities and Aquatics staff) in your communities.

Capital Campaign

The Campaign has eclipsed the $130,000 mark, which is more than 10% of our goal. The sub-committee has halted parish visitations during the pandemic, but hopes to resume as soon as possible. Contact j osho@allsaintscamp.org to schedule a presentation (Zoom, in-person) for your community.

How to support the ASC Capital Campaign:

+ One-time donations
+ Recurring electronic donations
+ Pledge amounts payable over five years
+ Remembering ASC during estate planning

Visit allsaintscamp.org/50 for more information and to donate

A Final Word of Gratitude

Our reopening would not have been possible without the superhuman efforts of our staff and volunteers. Special shoutouts to this alphabetized list of people: J D Cairns, Fr. James Cairns, Cindy Haluszczak, Fr. John Haluszczak, Hans Harasimchuk, Natalie Kapeluck, Fr. Dn. Ihor Mahlay, the M hayl families, Christine Mills, Michael Nakonachny, Carol Novosel, Rob Prokopchak, Chris Prosser, Stephen Sheptak, ‘lil Stephen Sheptak, Eric Senedak, Fr. Ivan Tchopko, the entire Executive Committee, and all the volunteers who have used their talents for the benefit of All Saints Camp and our Holy Church.

Support From the Metropolia

Engage: visit a llsaintscamp.org to sign up for the mailing list and follow on social media @allsaintscamp
Promote: share social media posts, forward emails, spread the word at church functions, schedule a visit from an ASC representative
Attend: UOCyouth.org
Work: [mentioned above]
Donate: allsaintscamp.org/50
Questions/Comments/Concerns: Contact Josh Oryhon (724) 867-5811 + josho@allsaintscamp.org