I see him, but not now;
I behold him, but not near.
A star will come out of Jacob;
a scepter will rise out of Israel.

Numbers 24:17

Я бачу його, та не тепер, дивлюсь на нього;
та він не близький!
Сходить зоря он від Якова,
і підіймається берло з Ізраїля!

Числа 24:17

Preparing for the
Nativity of Christ...
SAINT NICHOLAS

Troparion (Tone 4)

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; your humility exalted you; your poverty enriched you. Hierarch Father Nicholas, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion (Tone 3)

You revealed yourself, O saint, in Myra as a priest, For you fulfilled the Gospel of Christ. By giving up your soul for your people, And saving the innocent from death. Therefore you are blessed as one become wise in the grace of God.
To the beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church beyond the Borders of Ukraine and on her native soil.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

By the grace of God, our Mother Orthodox Church, will begin the forty day Nativity Fast on November 28. We are nearing the end of 2020, which is a difficult and alarming time for humanity due to the coronavirus pandemic. In a short period of time the life of the human race changed. Everything that people considered reliable and stable in their lives is no longer certain. Many people are afraid for their lives and are confused. No one knows what can happen to them and their loved ones at any given time, not even within this week. We Orthodox Christians know that we all walk below God and not a hair falls from our head without His will. The Lord allows this pandemic to test mankind in the 21st century, but He has not forsaken us. He never left us in the past, He does not leave us now, and He will not leave us in the future. In these anxious, long and dark nights of the forty day Nativity Fast of 2020, when there are so few hours of brightness, we know that the Star of Bethlehem will soon shine on all of us, showing us the way to the Newborn Christ so that we can worship Him and walk with Him following the way that He illuminates for us and leads us. This road is narrow and thorny. This is the road of the cross. This is the road on which we often fall under our cross, but the Lord will help us to get up and continue. Our Mother Church gives us the Holy Sacraments through which we conquer the strength of sin so that we do not break, do not lose hope, do not lose faith, do not cease to love God and our neighbor. In this way the Lord leads us through all dangers and obstacles so that we may follow Him all our lives until we reach the Kingdom of Heaven.

The holy prophet Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the tablets of God's commandments; the holy prophet Elijah fasted for 40 days before receiving revelation from God; our Lord Jesus Christ Himself fasted in the wilderness for 40 days before beginning His earthly mission. So let us, weak and sinful people, also prepare for the coming of our Lord and Saviour with 40 days of fasting before He comes down to earth. As the holy fathers say, fasting and prayer are the two wings that lift us to the Lord. Not only should we pray more and do more works of charity, but we must also use our bodies to show that man does not live by bread alone. By consuming lenten food and by limiting our reliance on food, we strengthen our will to fight and resist the passions of our soul. Because of this, the Holy Church recognizes fasting as a struggle with passions, not as a struggle with the flesh.

Unfortunately, we do not always observe the Nativity Fast as seriously as we observe the Great Lent before Holy Pascha. We fail to prepare ourselves properly for the Nativity. St. John Chrysostom calls the Nativity of our Lord "the mother of all feasts, because if there was no Nativity, there would be no Resurrection." One saint said that you will be forgiven for what you can't help to avoid, but you will be condemned for everything that you can avoid but choose not to. The Lord also blesses good intentions, and even more, He blesses good efforts and good deeds. So may the All-Merciful Lord help us to observe this fast properly because we are weak and sinful people. The Lord says, "Without Me, you can do nothing."

(John 15:5) So let us ask the Lord not to leave us without His great graces and bounties during this Nativity Fast, but to strengthen us spiritually and physically (especially in this difficult year, 2020) so that we may worthily celebrate the mother of all feasts – The Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

With Apostolical blessings,

YURII, Metropolitan - Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

ANTONY, Metropolitan - Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora

JEREMIAH, Archbishop - Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of Brazil and South America

DANIEL, Archbishop - Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Western Europe

ILARION, Bishop - Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

ANDRYY, Bishop - Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

With archpastoral blessings,

YuRii, Metropolitan - Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

Antony, Metropolitan - Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora

Jeremiah, Archbishop - Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of Brazil and South America

Daniel, Archbishop - Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Western Europe

Ilarion, Bishop - Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

Andriy, Bishop - Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

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Andriy, Bishop - Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

With archpastoral blessings,
3 December, 2020 - Saint Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople

Beloved brethren in Christ: Peace be with you!

The hierarchs, clergy and staff of the Consistory Offices and Entities of the Spiritual Center (Metropolitan Center) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in South Bound Brook/Somerset, NJ are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our clergy, faithful and employees. We are carefully monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic as well as all communications from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), government agencies, local health officials, and our internal team keeps close watch on this ever-changing situation.

We want our faithful and visitors to feel confident and comfortable when visiting the Spiritual Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA: St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church, St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary, St. Sophia Seminary Library, St. Andrew Cemetery, Ukrainian Cultural Center, Consistory Offices, Ukrainian History and Education Center, School of Ukrainian Studies, etc. While we have always had strict cleaning and sanitation procedures in places of ministry and work, we are taking additional precautions to keep clergy, faithful and employees safely.

We have enhanced our cleaning procedures to include the use of disinfectant cleaner in: bathrooms, chairs in the waiting area, places of common worship, door handles, etc.

We have also placed hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the main Consistory building offices, which are available for employees and visitors to use. Acting on the guidance from the CDC, local health officials, and using our own sanitation and cleaning procedures that are already in place, we are striving to make our Metropolia Center of the Church a safe environment for everyone.

We strongly encourage the parish communities of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA to follow our example by providing a safe and clean environment in the local parish churches, parochial offices of ministry, etc.

Please follow the formal announcements in the Social Media of the Church about the cancellations and postponement of Retreats, Workshops, Cultural Events, etc.

We pray fervently for the visitors to the Metropolia Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA to remain as responsible individuals - faithful of the Church by following the directives of the Council of Bishops of the UOC of the USA and the health guidelines of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

We hope this alleviates any concerns you may have when choosing to visit the Spiritual Center of the UOC of the USA in South Bound Brook/Somerset, NJ.

With prayers,
+Daniel

By the Grace of God Archbishop and President of the Consistory

3 грудня 2020 року Божого
Святителя Прокла, архієпископа Константинопольського (446)

Дорогі брати і сестри у Христі: Мир Вам!

Архієреї, священнослужителі та працівники Офісів Консисторії та усі церковні осередки єпископату Української Православної Церкви США в Саут Баунд Брук/Самерсет, штат Нью-Джерсі, прислали усім необхідні вказівки щодо забезпечення безпеки та добробуту нашого духовенства, вірних, відвідувачів та працівників. Ми уважно слухаємо та дотримуємося порад та рекомендацій Центру Контролю та Профілактики Захворювань (CDC) та державних установ і місцевих працівників охорони здоров'я.

Ми хочемо, щоб наше вірне та відвідувачі починали себе повністю та комфортно, дотримуючись рішення від Центру Путіщення Української Православної Церкви США: Церкву-Пам'ятник Св. Андрія Первозваного, Українську Православну Богословську Семінарію Св. Софії, Український Культурний Центр, Центр охорони здоров'я, Український Історичний і Освітянський Центр, Школу Українознавства, тощо. До цього часу ми завжди чітко дотримувалися усіх правил санітарії в місцях служіння та роботи, а тепер ми вводимо додаткові заходи перестороги, щоб духовенство, вірні, відвідувачі та працівники починали себе у безпеці.

Ми вдосконалюємо наші способи прибирання, додавши використання дезінфікуючих засобів у таємницях, кімнатах очікування, храмах, тощо.

Ми також розглядаємо дезінфікційні серветки у всіх головних офісах консисторії, для їх вживання працівниками і відвідувачами. Вищі до уваги наставники CDC, місцеві органи охорони здоров'я та використовуючи власні процедури санітарії та прибирання, які ми ввели в дію, ми праґнем зробити наш Духовний Центр безпечним середовищем для всіх.

Ми напоминаємо закликаємо паралізувати рух відносно безпечніші методи в усіх головних офісах консисторії, для їх вживання працівниками і відвідувачами. Вищі до уваги наставники CDC, місцеві органи охорони здоров'я та використовуючи власні процедури санітарії та прибирання, які ми ввели в дію, ми праґнем зробити наш Духовний Центр безпечним середовищем для всіх.

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Будь-ласка, слухайте за офіційними повідомленнями у засобах масової інформації нашії Церкви стосовно епідемії та перенесення Реєстрат, Семінарів, Культурних Західів тощо.

Ми молимося про прохання відвідувачів Центру Метрополії Української Православної Церкви США зазнавати перевелезних працівників, а також можливий увіг наставників Собору Єпископів УПЦ США та Центру Охорони здоров'я та Профілактики Захворювань (CDC).

Ми сподіваємося, що міря, які ми прийняли, полегшать будь-які занепокоєння, які можуть виникнути у Вас, перед тим, як Ви зазнайте відвіданням Духовний Осегідом УПЦ США в Саут Баунд Брук/Самерсет, штат Н.-Дж.
Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula) and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers. From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith he was like an Elder, who aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor.

At one point Nicholas embarked upon a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship. Saint Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his prayer a certain devil entered into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, who had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, “Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world and glorify My Name there.” So, he left Patara and went to Myra in Lycia. Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. “What is your name, child?” he asked. God’s chosen one replied, “My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant.”

After his consecration as archbishop, Saint Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters, punishment and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of Saint Constantine as emperor, Saint Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received his guidance and intercessor.

Despite his great gentleness of spirit and purity of heart, Saint Nicholas was a zealous and ardent warrior of the Church of Christ. Fighting evil spirits, the saint made the rounds of the pagan temples and shrines in the city of Myra and its surroundings, shattering the idols and turning the temples to dust.

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia when Emperor Constantine the Great established it as an imperial city in the year 306. He was one of the most celebrated saints of the early Christian Church, and his feast day is celebrated on December 6th.

In the year 963, Saint Nicholas was made a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicene Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius.

Saint Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and came to Golgotha, Saint Nicholas gave thanks to the Savior. He went to all the holy places, worshiping at each one. One night on Mount Sion, the closed doors of the church opened by themselves for the great pilgrim. Visiting the holy places connected with the earthly service of the Son of God, Saint Nicholas decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was stopped by a divine voice urging him to return to his native country. He returned to Lydia, and yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, “Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world and glorify My Name there.” So, he left Patara and went to Myra in Lycia. Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. “What is your name, child?” he asked. God’s chosen one replied, “My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant.”

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In the year 325 Saint Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicene Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius.

Saint Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

Having returned to his own diocese, the saint brought it peace and blessings, sowing the word of Truth, uprooting heresy, nourishing his flock with sound doctrine, and also providing food for their bodies.

Even during his life the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance from death of three men unjustly condemned by the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over the heads of the condemned. The Governor denounced by Saint Nicholas for his wrong doing, repented and begged for forgiveness.

Witnessing this remarkable event were three military officers, who were sent to Phrygia by the emperor Constantine to put down a rebellion. They did not suspect that soon they would also be compelled to seek the intercession of Saint Nicholas. Evil men slandered them before the emperor, and the officers were sentenced to death. Appearing to Saint Constantine in a dream, Saint Nicholas called on him to overturn the unjust sentence of the military officers. He worked many other miracles and struggled many long years at his labors. Through the prayers of the saint, the city of Myra was rescued from a terrible famine. He appeared to a certain Italian merchant and left him three gold pieces as a pledge of payment. He requested him to sail to Myra and deliver grain there. More than once, the saint saved those drowning in the sea, and provided release from captivity and imprisonment.

Having reached old age, Saint Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now.

Kyiv preserves the memory about the miraculous rescue of a drowning infant by the saint. The great wonderworker, hearing the grief-filled prayers of the parents for the loss of their only child, took the infant from the waters, revived him and placed him in the choir-loft of the church of Holy Wisdom (Hagia Sophia) before his wonderworking icon. In the morning the infant was found safe by his thrilled parents, praising Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker.
MIRACULOUS ICONS OF ST. NICHOLAS (SV. MYKOLA)

Icon of Nicholas “the Wet” (Св. Микола Мокрого)

In Ukraine, and around Kiev in particular, are numerous churches dedicated to St Nicholas “the Wet”. This recounts a famous miracle of St Nicholas, as well as linking in with the Saint’s well known care for sailors and travelers. A Kyivan man was sailing home on the river Dnipro with his wife and baby, after celebrating the feast day of Ss Boris and Hlib in Vyshhorod. The wife dozed off and allowed her baby to fall into the waters. Frantically the two parents tried to save their child, calling out to St Nicholas in particular for help, but the baby was pulled under by the strong currents, lost. Distraught, the young couple returned home, begging St Nicholas that their child might at least survive.

The next morning, the sacristan of St Sophia Cathedral in Kiev, heard the crying of a baby coming from within. To his amazement, despite the doors being locked all night, an infant was found dripping wet underneath the icon of St Nicholas. News spread and the parents were reunited with their child, confessing it to be a miracle of St Nicholas. Pilgrims flocked to the icon, which remained an object of veneration right up until it disappeared during the Second World War.

St. Nicholas “O Streidas” (of the Oyster)

During the Iconoclastic period, the monks of Mt Athos sometimes threw the holy icons into the sea, reasoning that at least in the waves there was a chance of survival, whereas to hold on to them would mean sure destruction at the hand of the icon-smashers. Among these icons, was a rare “mosaic” (rather than painted) icon of St Nicholas.

After the iconoclastic heresy was defeated, many of the monasteries of Athos were rebuilt. The brethren of one of these monasteries, dedicated to St John the Baptist, were fishing one day when they found in their net the mosaic icon of St Nicholas thrown into the sea years before. The icon had been miraculously preserved, except for one thing: an oyster shell was embedded in St Nicholas’ face. When the monks pulled the shell from the icon, they were amazed to see blood run from the “wound”. On hearing of this miracle, Patriarch Jeremiah the Elder rededicated the monastery of St John to Nicholas, giving it the name Stavronikita. The monastery remains today, along with the miraculous icon: crack and dried blood still clearly visible.

The Strange and Modern Miracle of St Nicholas’ Icon

Through an icon of St Nicholas, a miraculous incident shocked and brought repentance to hundreds of people in the Russian Soviet city of Kuibyshev (modern day Samara), in the year 1956. On New Year’s Eve, a young woman called Zoë, caught up in the worldly celebrations, took down one of her pious mother’s icons of St Nicholas and started to irreverently dance with it. Upon taunting God with the words, “If He exists, let Him punish me,” there was a flash of light, and Zoë became frozen to the spot, still clutching St Nicholas’ icon to her chest. Alive, conscious, but unable to move a limb, Zoë remained frozen like a statue until Easter, 128 days later. During that time physicians, a professor of medicine, priests, and the local bishop all visited her and left unable to explain what had happened, nor move her from where she stood. Meanwhile, Soviet guards were placed on the house’s door to prevent the news spreading too far. Zoë could speak, and related her dreadful visions of the world “burning… lost because of its sins”. On Easter day her muscles relaxed and she could finally move freely again. The young woman, now exhausted, related her experiences and the need for repentance, before reposing peacefully three days later.
Свята Вечеря – традиционный вечер, который припадает на 12-й день Рождества. Вечером 6 января, с появления первой звезды на небе, вся семья собирается за Святой обед. На столе обыкновенно стоят 12 писаных столов. Це 12 столов на Святовечер, символизующих 12 апостолов Иисуса Христа. Готовую трапезу ставили на постели перед иконами.

Заглянув в древнюю украинскую народную традицию Святого Вечера, мы увидим Різдвяну звірину за столою усіх родин. І щоб успішно спливатися до столу, вони від сього не можуть. У цей день відбувається: наділіже хліба від дому, а й друге: від сього не можуть. Усе накладають на приготований стол.

Якщо кутя та узвар – це обов'язкові різдвяні блюда, то всі інші пісні стри вже готувати за угодобливим.

1. Кутя – обрядове поминальне блюдо. Готують її з немеленої пшениці та солодкої добавки – меду, пурпу, родинок, варениць, цукатів, сухофруктів. (Церковь в куті символізует Святителя – вічне життя і достаток, а солодкість – символ райського блаженства.)

2. Узвар – це традиційний напій на Святвечір. Він символізує життя, яке Бог надає кожній людині.

3. Пісні голубці – Назва цієї страви вже вказує на її символіческий зміст. Голуб – символ Божої любові та Святого духа. Готувати голубці можна з рисом та грибами.

4. Вареники – Пісня вареники на Святвечір є символом процвітання нашої родини.

5. Борош – Полюбій ніби вино із орода, вино є символом Вечірня блискіт.

6. Гриби – символізують дві природи Ісуса Христа: земля і небо, які повірили в Ісуса і отримали вічне життя.

7. Пиріжки та пампушки – традиційні солодощі, які підтримують Елісія Христа, увіріваних і прийняли іх.

8. Тушкована квасоля – Страви з квасолі та гороху на Святвечір символізують мир, злагоду та Божу любов.

9. Тушкована капуста – Страви з капусти символізують вечірня блискіт.

10. Вареники – Пісня вареники на Святвечір є символом процвітання нашої родини.

11. Пісня голубці – Назва цієї страви вже вказує на її символіческий зміст. Голуб – символ Божої любові та Святого духа. Готувати голубці можна з рисом та грибами.


Святвечер – символізует Божу весну, яка завжди відроджується в людині після занепаду.

Під час трапези за столом ні в якому разі не можна спорити, сперечатися і лихословити. Елісія любити – пісні, називається вона багатою вечерею, бо всі відповідають відповідь, яку вона має.

Традиційно кутю готують з пшениці та додають до неї меду, пурпу, родинок, варениць, цукатів, сухофруктів. (Зерно в куті символізує Святителя – вічне життя і достаток, а солодкість – символ райського блаженства.)

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Водохрещі (Голодна кутя). Ця страва символізує зв'язок Старим Новим роком (Щедра кутя) та напередодні Різдва.

Готовую трапезу ставили на постели перед іконами.

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**Kutya**

**INGREDIENTS**
- 1 ½ cups wheat berries, soaked in warm water for 24 hours, and then strained (kernels)
- 4 ½ cups water (or more) or if not preparing during a fast, use 4 1/2 cups milk (or more)
- ¾ cup poppy seed (or ½ cup of prepared (canned) poppy seed filling)
- 2/3 cup sliced roasted almonds or 2/3 cup walnuts
- ½ cup honey, to taste
- 2/3 cup chopped dried apricot (optional) (use dried fruit of your choice)
- ½ cup raisins
- 1 pinch salt, to taste
- 1 dash ground cinnamon
- Rum or Brandy (if desired, to soak the raisins)

Rinse wheat berries in cold water until water runs clear, then transfer to a bowl and soak overnight in lukewarm water, adding enough water to cover 2-inches above the wheat berries.

The following day, drain wheat berries, place them in a medium-sized heavy pot, cover with 4 1/2 cups of water (or milk) and bring everything to a boil over high heat. When water starts to boil, reduce heat to low, cover with lid and simmer until wheat berries are very tender, 3 1/2 - 4 hours, depending on the quality of the wheat, stirring occasionally to prevent sticking. Add more water if needed to keep the wheat berries fully submerged.

If preparing your own poppy seeds - Rinse 3/4 cups of poppy seeds thoroughly in a fine mesh strainer, drain well, and transfer to a medium saucepan and add 3 cups water. Over medium heat bring to a simmer, careful not to boil the mixture. Turn off heat. Cover with lid and let it sit for 30 min. Return to a simmer. Turn off heat. Cover and let sit for another 30 minutes. Drain poppy seeds well. Grind the poppy seeds until fine.

If using almonds - Preheat the oven to 350˚F. Spread 2/3 cups of slivered almonds on a baking sheet and toast them for 5 minutes. Set them aside and reduce temperature to 325˚F.

When wheat berries get very tender, drain off the water in a glass measuring cup. Keep 1/2 cup of the cooked liquid and discard the rest. Combine 1/2 cup of honey with 1/2 cup of saved liquid and stir until combined.

Place cooked wheat berries in a mixing bowl, add ground poppy seeds, 1/2 cup raisins, 2/3 cup dry chopped apricots, 2/3 cup toasted slivered almonds, honey mixture and 1/8 tsp salt. Mix everything together and place in a casserole or pie dish, and now you can bake your kutya for 20 min uncovered at 325˚F. Baking is optional, but melds all the flavors nicely. The longer Kutya rests, the richer the flavor will be.

Cover and refrigerate until ready to enjoy.

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**Uzvar**

**INGREDIENTS**
- ½ cup dried cherries
- ½ cup dried apples
- ½ cup dried apricots
- ¼ cup dried pears
- ¼ cup dried plums
- 5 cups water
- ½ teaspoon lemon juice (or to taste)
- Honey (to taste)

**SPICES (optional)**
Use whichever spices you personally enjoy
- 1 Cinnamon stick
- 2 Star Anise
- Clove
- Vanilla Bean
- Lemon or Orange strips (add zest for more flavor)

Rinse fruit in cold water and drain. Cover them with 5 cups of water (if using vanilla bean, add it now) and leave overnight.

Next day, bring fruit and water to boil, and add lemon/orange zest (if using cinnamon, star anise and cloves, add them now). Simmer covered on low heat for one hour or till fruit turns soft and the liquid has a rich flavor. Remove from the heat and let the compote cool to room temperature.

Once cool, strain out the spices and lemon peel. Add lemon juice to sharpen the flavors and sweeten uzvar with honey, if desired. Cover the refrigerator until ready to drink.

Serve the perfumed drink with kutya. Or eat compote on its own, along with stewed fruit.
The quiet town of South Bound Brook, New Jersey, awoke on a sunny, but, chilly Sunday morning of December 13th, to the joyful ringing of bells. The chimers echoed up and down the tree lined streets, the sleepy yards with their Christmas decorations, the highways and byways… calling people to arise and join the parishioners of the St. Andrew Memorial Church as they celebrated the 13th, to the joyful ringing of bells. The New Jersey town, South Bound Brook, was woken up by the sound of bells, calling people to arise and join the church as they celebrated Christmas Day.

Having concluded his prayers, His Eminence took a moment to explain the magnitude of responsibility being a Reader involves. A Reader is responsible to share the message of the Lord with the people. It is not merely reading from a book, but, helping the listener to understand the message, and thereby, bring them closer to Christ. He explained that while the woman was physically ill, her spirit was alive and well, brimming with the Holy Spirit. However, the Pharisee who admonished the woman on the Sabbath who had suffered for 18 years, the faithful were privileged to hear a moving sermon by His Eminence. They heard about the Olympanic Eric Henry Liddell who had trained his whole life, opted to follow the law, but he had no mercy or compassion. He had lost his humanity.

He explained that every day we make hundreds of decisions, starting the ringing of our alarm clocks (do we rise, or do we hit the snooze button), and...
Andrew preached Christ to the pagans who proclaim his faith; how could the Apostle of the greatest nation on the planet and How could that man stand in the capital Church, and to save humanity. It is our responsibility as Christians to spread the teachings of Christ, to grow the Church, and to bring people who need to hear the Good News; who need to be introduced from the time of the Apostle, and is still changing little. We should be like Apostle Andrew, and climb the hills, placing the cross upon our hearts. The world has changed little. We must pause and reflect upon his courage and decision making. We traveled a long way to Kyiv, and preached Christ to the Slavic pagans, who did not want to hear about Christ, and who were hostile to his efforts… and yet, he continued. He climbed the hills, placing the cross upon seemingly deaf ears. He made a decision to give his life to Christ, and having heard the Good News he had to share it with others.

We should be like Apostle Andrew, and build temples in our own lives, in our own hearts. The world has changed little from the time of the Apostle, and is still filled with people who need to hear the Good News; who need to be introduced to Christ, and brought to salvation. It is our responsibility as Christians to spread the teachings of Christ, to grow the Church, and to save humanity.

How could that man stand in the capital of the greatest nation on the planet and proclaim his faith; how could the Apostle Andrew preach Christ to the pagans who ignored and ridiculed him; while we are embarrassed to cross ourselves in public, to pray before a meal in a restaurant, to say “thank God”, or Merry Christmas? We are celebrating the Nativity of God Himself, why are we afraid to declare it? Why do we say “Happy Holidays”? What are we afraid of? Why are we embarrassed?

His Eminence explained that we live in trying times, as the pandemic surges and the number of infections spike again, requiring the lockdown of society. Just this week, the hierarchs were forced to instruct a number of churches to close their doors, in order to safeguard the faithful who unknowingly come to worship, but inadvertently spread the virus.

Vladyka called upon all of his flock to use the wisdom the Lord has given them, to wash their hands, cover their mouths with masks, take every precaution to save their lives, and to save the lives of those around them. It is our solemn duty as Christians, to put aside our ego, our pride, our self-assuredness, and to humbly take on the role of preacher and savior, and work to save all those around us, which at the moment requires us to take precautions to stop the spread of a deadly virus.

Wear a mask today, covering your mouth, so that in the future we can see each other’s smiles.

With these heartfelt words His Eminence returned to the Altar and continued the Divine Liturgy. As his earnest prayers enveloped the faithful, they all hushed and became introspective, listening and praying along with their hierarchy with renewed vigor and commitment. As the Cherubic Hymn was sung, the two Readers joined Pavlo Vysotskyi, who was still standing with the towel draped over his head, holding the basin and water pitcher, before the icon of Christ. The three moved to the end of the amvon, as Archbishop Daniel emerged to wash his hands, this time draping the towel around Pavlo’s shoulders before returning to the Altar. At this point all three seminarians entered the Altar, as the service continued.

The high point of the Liturgy was the partaking of the Holy Eucharist. The faithful came up in reverence, faith, love and fear to consume the Body and Blood of Christ for their salvation, empowering them to enact Christ’s teachings, and do His work in the world.

At the conclusion of the service, His Eminence presented the three young seminarians with the official certificates documenting their tonsuring and setting-aside as Readers, and Subdeacon. He blessed each one, gave them wise words of advice, and assured them of his continueing prayers, and those of the faithful, for them, the future clergy of the Church, as they dedicate their lives to God.

Before dismissing the faithful, His Eminence greeted all those named “Andrew”, including two seminarians Andriy Akulenko, and Andrii Vatrich who was also celebrating his birthday, and 3 seminarians, wishing God’s blessings upon them. The choir broke out in a rousing version of Many Years/Mnoshaya Lita, their voices winding up to the bell towers and echoing through the church, and beyond.

His Eminence reminded everyone that the following Saturday we would be commemorating St. Nicholas (Mykolaj), and asked that people show their love for one another responsibly, keeping a safe distance as they celebrate… and remember to check under their pillows to see if St. Nicholas left them anything. With joyful giggles everyone received their hierarch’s blessing, and with children laughing, and jumping around, excited that St. Nick would be visiting them soon, the faithful crossed themselves, with a final bow towards the Altar and walked out into the chilly morning air. As mother’s bundled up their children, and adults tightly wound their scarves about their necks, their cheeks were kissed by the chill breeze, but their hearts were warm, filled with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and the joy of having been in the presence of the Lord.

May His Eminence Archbishop Daniel’s wish come true, that next year, we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Andrew, the Parish Feast Day, joyously, with hugs and smiles, free from the threat of the pandemic. From his lips to God’s ears.

Text by Elizabeth Symonenko

Photos by Seminarian Matvii Blyzniuk and Vlad Radyn
On a cold December evening, the members of the Council of the Metropolia settled down behind their computers to attend the end-of-year meeting via ZOOM. His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, having prayed the opening prayer, took a few moments to express his heartfelt greetings, and to share his thoughts not only on the current stance of the Church, but, of the world. 2020 has proven to be a challenge to every single person on the planet. We are living in unprecedented times, facing trials and expectations that people are struggling with. Not only is humanity in fear of contracting the Covid-19 virus, the repercussions of the pandemic – the isolation, loss of employment and financial stability, and for many, the inability to participate in the Sacraments brought upon by the pandemic. This has resulted in a huge loss of income for the Church. It is hoped that through the Covid-19 restrictions.

As households have suffered financially, so has the Church. Donations are down, while expenses continue. Employees had been furloughed throughout the summer months, and the Consistory Offices have been closed to the public since April. The Cultural Center has also been closed due to the restrictions brought upon by the pandemic. This has resulted in a huge loss of income for the Church. It is hoped that through the Nativity Season, people will donate generously to offset some of the cost.

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, gave a report on the St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary, stating that classes are continuing both for the resident students, and online. The seminary is also moving closer to gaining accreditation, as final paperwork is being prepared. Some of the previous graduates, who were preparing for ordination are currently stuck in Ukraine, where they traveled early in the year and have not been able to return to the U.S. due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Fr. Andrii Pokorylo informed the council members that the Guardians of the Metropolia, a group of dedicated individuals organized to help fundraise for the Church, are well underway, and will soon have their official rollout. Additionally, the seminarians will be producing a new CD with Christmas Carols in time for the holidays.

Before ending the meeting, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony asked that the members of the Council of the Metropolia make an effort to reach out to people. Many individuals are suffering from isolation due to the pandemic. Even young children are being negatively impacted. We no longer see smiles which are hidden behind masks, don’t feel the comfort of hugs, and do not get to experience first hand the love of our friends in person. Therefore, he asked that we make a concerted effort to make a positive difference to those around us, to ensure they are doing alright, to give them hope, and show them the love of Christ.

Before concluding the meeting with a prayer, Vladyka Daniel stated that while the pandemic is the cause of much stress and chaos, in many instances it has been the fire that has changed coal into diamonds. Throughout the entire summer there were pop-up food pantries at the Consistory, feeding over 150 families a week. Many parishes have followed suit, and held their own food drives, ensuring that people in their local communities do not go hungry due to the added financial stresses brought on by virus. Many people have stepped up and took this challenge as an opportunity to do good in the world, to live out their Christian responsibilities.

Additionally, the daily broadcast of morning prayers at 7 a.m. and evening prayers at 9 p.m. have been a huge blessing to the faithful. People schedule their days around the services, to ensure they can attend. There is no better way to start the day, than with prayer, and no better way to end it, than with prayer to the Lord. While people have always prayed, they no longer pray alone, but pray with others. Seeing their acquaintances and friends join the livestream makes them realize they are not alone, not isolated, not forgotten…

For where two or three are gathered in His name, there is Christ.
The Healing of the Ten Lepers - Luke 17:12-19

The Lord instructs them to show themselves to the priests. Initially the priests would examine men such as these to determine whether they were lepers or not. For there were certain signs by which the priests could recognize inexcusable leprosy. But in addition to this, if it should happen that someone who had been suffering from leprosy was healed, the priests would again examine him to verify the cure, in which event the gift commanded by the law would be offered (Lev. 14). In this case, since these men were already confirmed lepers, why should they show themselves to the priests, unless indeed they were about to be cleansed? To command them to go to the priests indicated nothing less than that they would be healed. This is why the Evangelist says that as they went, they were cleansed. Of the ten lepers, the nine who were Israelites showed no one descended from holy forebears; therefore, let no Gentile despair, and let no one descend from holy forebears boast. This miracle also signifies the Lord's power. For behold, ten lepers to a despised race, if only he has a good will and disposition. For the whole human race. For the ten lepers were lepers with wickedness, carrying about with it the guiltiness of sin, passing its life outside the heavenly city on account of its uncleaness, and standing afar off from God. But this very distance from God itself is a supplication. For when they called Him Master, meaning Lord, Protector, and Guardian, which is not far from thinking of Him as God. From this one may learn that nothing unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made it come to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. Of the ten lepers, the nine who were Israelites showed no one descended from holy forebears; therefore, let no Gentile despair, and let no one descend from holy forebears boast. This miracle also signifies the Lord's power. For behold, ten lepers to a despised race, if only he has a good will and disposition. For the whole human race. For the ten lepers were lepers with wickedness, carrying about with it the guiltiness of sin, passing its life outside the heavenly city on account of its uncleaness, and standing afar off from God. But this very distance from God itself is a supplication. For when they called Him Master, meaning Lord, Protector, and Guardian, which is not far from thinking of Him as God. From this one may learn that nothing unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made it come to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. Of the ten lepers, the nine who were Israelites showed no one descended from holy forebears; therefore, let no Gentile despair, and let no one descend from holy forebears boast. This miracle also signifies the Lord's power. For behold, ten lepers to a despised race, if only he has a good will and disposition. For the whole human race. For the ten lepers were lepers with wickedness, carrying about with it the guiltiness of sin, passing its life outside the heavenly city on account of its uncleaness, and standing afar off from God. But this very distance from God itself is a supplication. For when they called Him Master, meaning Lord, Protector, and Guardian, which is not far from thinking of Him as God. From this one may learn that nothing unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made it come to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. Of the ten lepers, the nine who were Israelites showed no one descended from holy forebears; therefore, let no Gentile despair, and let no one descend from holy forebears boast. This miracle also signifies the Lord's power. For behold, ten lepers to a despised race, if only he has a good will and disposition. For the whole human race. For the ten lepers were lepers with wickedness, carrying about with it the guiltiness of sin, passing its life outside the heavenly city on account of its uncleaness, and standing afar off from God. But this very distance from God itself is a supplication. For when they called Him Master, meaning Lord, Protector, and Guardian, which is not far from thinking of Him as God. From this one may learn that nothing unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made it come to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. Of the ten lepers, the nine who were Israelites showed no one descended from holy forebears; therefore, let no Gentile despair, and let no one descend from holy forebears boast. This miracle also signifies the Lord's power. For behold, ten lepers to a despised race, if only he has a good will and disposition. For the whole human race.
Can you find the 5 differences?

SAINT NICHOLAS
СВЯТИЙ МИКОЛАЙ
Get to know Saint Nicholas

- St. Nicholas, the Wonderworker, was Archbishop of Myra.
- St. Nicholas was born in 270 AD in Patara.
- He was the only son of Christian parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had prayed a long time to have a child.
- The child was a miracle, and the parents dedicated him to God.
- Upon having given birth, Nonna became healed from an illness.
- When being baptized, baby Nicholas, stood for three hours on his feet in the water of the font (thereby honoring the Holy Trinity).
- As a child he began to fast like an adult – abstaining on Wednesday and Friday from his mother’s milk, until after his parents had concluded their Evening Prayers.
- St. Nicholas was well educated.
- His parents were rich, but, upon their death, Nicholas sold and gave away all his riches to the poor.
- He saved 3 girls from being sold into slavery by giving gold coins to all three girls.
- When sailing to Jerusalem, St. Nicholas quieted the storm, and resurrected a sailor who had drowned.
- Returning from the Holy Land, St. Nicholas became a monk.
- God told him that he needed him to travel to Myra in Lycia. Upon the death of Archbishop Joh, one of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. St. Nicholas became their bishop.
- In Myra, St. Nicholas preached to the pagans, destroying their temples, and shattering their idols.
- In the year 325 Saint Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicean Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius.
- Even during his life the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance from death of three men unjustly condemned by the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over the heads of the condemned. The Governor, denounced by Saint Nicholas for his wrong doing, repented and begged for forgiveness.
- St. Nicholas saved Myra from famine, saved those drowning in the sea, and provided release from captivity and imprisonment.
- He peaceful fell asleep in the Lord at a very old age.
- St. Nicholas is commemorated on December 19.

ACROSS
5. Was Saint Nicholas born RICH or POOR?
6. Where was St. Nicholas traveling to, when he encountered the storm at sea?

DOWN
1. Which Ecumenical Council did St. Nicholas attend?
2. In one poor family, St. Nicholas saved how many sisters from slavery?
3. St. Nicholas became the bishop of which city?
4. How many brothers did St. Nicholas have?
- Color the shoes
- Cut along the outside edge
- Fold along the dotted lines and tape/glue
- Place the shoes by an icon of St. Nicholas or by your door

Shoes for St. Nicholas

1. Color
2. Cut out
3. Glue to paper roll
4. Enjoy
Bake some memories!
ORANGE CHRISTMAS SUGAR COOKIES

Back when oranges weren’t readily available at grocery stores, they were once a treat to receive on Christmas, or from Saint Nicholas (Sv. Mykolaj). This was especially true during the Great Depression, when gifts might have been too expensive for families. These cookies offer a hint of the sweet citrus.

Recipe courtesy of McCormick

INGREDIENTS:

For the sugar cookies
2 1/3 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 1/4 cup granulated sugar
1 egg
1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
1 teaspoon Pure Orange Extract

For the colorful cookie icing
1 cup confectioners’ sugar
3 to 4 teaspoons milk
1/2 teaspoon Vanilla Extract
3 to 4 drops Food Color & Egg Dye

For the sugar cookies
Mix flour, baking soda and salt in medium bowl. Set aside.

Beat granulated sugar and butter in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy.

Add egg and orange extract; mix well.

Gradually stir in flour mixture on low speed until well mixed.

Refrigerate 2 hours or overnight until firm.

Preheat oven to 375°F.

Roll out dough on lightly floured surface to 1/8-inch thickness.

Cut into shapes with cookie cutters.

Place on greased baking sheets. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until lightly browned.

Cool on baking sheets 1 minute. Remove to wire racks; cool completely.

For the colorful cookie icing
For the icing, mix all ingredients except food colors. (Stir in additional milk as needed to thin icing or more confectioners’ sugar to thicken, if needed.)

Place small amount of icing into small shallow bowls, using one bowl for each color desired. Stir drops of food color into icing until desired shade is reached.

To ice cookies, hold cookie by its edge and dip top of cookie into icing. (Or spoon the icing onto cookie using a teaspoon.)

Place iced cookies on wire rack set over foil-covered baking sheet to dry. (The foil-covered baking sheet will catch drips.)

To add decorative details to cookies, spoon tinted icing into resealable plastic bag. Snip off a tiny piece of the corner. Squeeze icing through hole in plastic bag to decorate cookies. If desired, colored sugar may be sprinkled onto freshly iced cookies.

KIFLI

As pretty as they are delicious!

Whether you spell it kifli or kipfel, there’s one word for this Eastern European cookie: delicious. The light cream cheese dough simply melts in your mouth.

Recipe courtesy of Carolyn Menges

INGREDIENTS:

1/2 pound butter, softened
3 cups flour
8 ounces cream cheese
3 egg whites
3/4 cups sugar
1 pound ground walnuts
Powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350 F.

Cream together butter and cream cheese.

Add flour. Mix thoroughly.

Pinch off dough into 72 quarter-size balls and chill.

For the filling, beat egg whites until foamy.

Mix in sugar and nuts.

Roll out the individual balls of dough on surface lightly dusted with powdered sugar. Roll very thin.

Fill the center of each with nut filling, about 1 teaspoon, and roll into crescent shapes.

Place on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake for 20-30 minutes.

Let cool, then dust with powdered sugar.
MOLASSES SPICE COOKIES

Absolutely irresistible!
A chewy old-fashioned molasses cookie featuring fragrant cinnamon, ginger and allspice.
Recipe courtesy of McCormick

INGREDIENTS:
2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 teaspoons cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
3/4 cups (1 1/2 sticks) butter, softened
1 cup granulated sugar, divided
1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1/4 cup molasses
1 egg
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Mix flour, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger and allspice in large bowl. Beat butter, 1/2 cup of the granulated sugar and brown sugar in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add molasses; mix until well blended. Add egg and vanilla; mix well. Gradually beat in flour mixture on low speed until well mixed. Cover. Refrigerate 30 minutes or until firm.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Roll dough balls in remaining 1/2 cup granulated sugar. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until cookies are set. Cool on baking sheets 1 minute. Remove to wire racks; cool completely.

RASPBERRY LINZER COOKIES

The perfect party pastries!
The raspberry jam will shine through the linzer cookie shape like Rudolph’s nose — perfect for a Christmas treat.
Recipe courtesy of USDairy

INGREDIENTS:
3/4 cups (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
3/4 cups granulated sugar
1 large egg
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup yellow cornmeal
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup seedless raspberry jam
Powdered sugar, for dusting

Combine the butter and granulated sugar in a large mixing bowl. Beat with an electric mixer on medium-high speed until light and fluffy, scraping down the sides of the bowl as necessary. Add the egg and beat until combined. Add the flour, cornmeal, and salt and mix thoroughly on low speed, scraping down the sides of the bowl several times if necessary. Divide the dough in half. Pat each portion into a flattened round. Wrap each round in plastic wrap and chill in the refrigerator for 1 hour or until easy to handle.

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Remove one portion of the dough from the refrigerator and let it stand for 5 minutes. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface to 1/8- to 1/4-inch thickness. Using a 2 1/2-inch cookie cutter, cut the dough into the desired shapes. Place the cutouts 1 inch apart on a large nonstick cookie sheet. Using a 3/4-inch cookie cutter, cut shapes from centers of half the cookies. Bake for 7 to 10 minutes or until the edges are light brown. Transfer the cookies to a wire rack to cool.

To assemble the cookies, spread a scant teaspoon of the raspberry jam on each cookie bottom (without cutouts). Top with the cookies with cutout centers. Serve within 2 hours. Right before serving, dust with powdered sugar.
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9:00 PM
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Приєднуйтесь до щоденної молитви із
семінарістами Української Православної
Семінарії св. Софії на Фейсбуці

7:00 ранку
Ранішні Молитви

9:00 вечора
Вечірні Молитви

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Tkachuk and Ivanna Ostapyuk. Celebrated by Rev. Vasyl Shak. 2020 in St. Andrew Memorial Church, S. Bound Brook, NJ.

Sishchuk, Veronica baptized and chrismated on November 21, Vitrykush. Celebrated by V. Rev. Andrii Pokotylo and Tetiana Pytlyk. Sponsors: Andrii Dmytryshyn and Halyna in St. Mary’s Church, New Britain, CT.


Java, Katherine of Pittsburgh, PA on December 12, 2013 at the age of 89 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. John Halausk of St. Vladimir Parish, Pittsburgh, PA.

Mykytiuka, Lidia of Pittsburgh, PA on April 26, 2019 at the age of 66 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. John Halausk of St. Vladimir Parish, Pittsburgh, PA.

Nissel, Katarina Rose of Pittsburgh, PA on September 8, 2020 at the age of 16 years, officiating clergy Fr. Michael Kochis of St. Vladimir Parish, Ambler, PA.

Zabloudin, Alex of Evergreen Park, IL on August 31, 2020 at the age of 95 years, officiating clergy Rev. John Charest of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Pittsburgh, PA.

Sacco, Lesja of Pittsburgh, PA on August 23, 2020 at the age of 96 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. Oleg Kravchenko of St. Michael’s & George’s Parish, Minneapolis, MN.

Perchyshyn, Luba of St. Anthony Parish, Northamton, PA, on October 10, 2020, attended by Kate Duffy and . Celebrant: Rev. Oleg Kravchenko of St. Peter & Paul Parish, Pittsburgh, PA.

Java, Katherine of Pittsburgh, PA on December 12, 2013 at the age of 89 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. John Halausk of St. Vladimir Parish, Pittsburgh, PA.

Of the Virgin Mary Parish, Northamton, PA, on October 10, 2020, witnessed by Kate Duffy and . Celebrant: Rev. Oleg Kravchenko of St. Peter & Paul Parish, Pittsburgh, PA.

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Hierarchs of our Church: (* - interred at St. Andrew Cemetery)
Archbishop Vsevolod (Majdanski) * - 16 December 2007

DECEMBER

6th 1950 - PROTOPRIEST STEPHAN PROKOPIUK
17th 1955 - PROTOPRESBYTER WASYL DIAOW SR.
29th 1962 - PROTOPRIEST GREGORY PIPIUH
18th 1965 - PRIEST PETRO KASIANCUK
4th 1967 - PROTOPRIEST MYKOLA MOHUCHY
1st 1969 - PRIEST JURJ SIKORSKYJ
14th 1973 - PROTOPRESBYTER OLEXI POTULNYCKYJ
21st 1976 - PRIEST IVAN CHUMAK
2nd 1984 - PROTOPRESBYTER NICHOLAS YARMOLOVICH
12th 1987 - PROTOPRESBYTER WASYL PONKULYKO
9th 1992 - PROTOPRIEST FEDIR KOWALENKO
22nd 1997 - PROTOPRESBYTER WOLODYMYR BAZYLEWSKYJ
25th 1997 - PROTOPRIEST NESTOR STOLARCHUK
1st 2000 - PROTOPRIEST ANDREW LASHINSKY
6th 2001 - PROTOPRIEST PETRO SAHAJDACHNY
28th 2003 - PROTOPRIEST VICTOR COOLEY
6th 2012 - DEACON DAVID MASCARENAS

LITURGICAL SELECTIONS
Stichera: Glory to God in the Highest
God With Us
Tropatron: Thy Nativity, O Christ Our God
Kontakion: The Virgin Today Gives Birth
Magnification: We Magnify Thee, O Christ
Nativity Vigil Troparion
Canon of the Nativity
Stichera after the Liturgy
Concerto Nr. 6: Glory to God in the Highest

CAROLS
Eternal God (Boh Predvichnyi)
A Church is Being Built in Kutsivka
O Wondrous Birth
Wondrous News
The Saints were Gathered
Across the Whole World
In this Master's House
A New Joy Has Arisen
On the River Jordan
God is Watching
Shchedryk (Carol of the Bells)
WEBINAR - DECEMBER 29, 2020

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7:30pm EST -
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Fr. Volodymyr & Db. Ginny Yavorskyi
Fr. Taras Naumenko

Українська Православна Церква США
Відділ Праці з Молоддю

WEBІНАР - 29 ГРУДНЯ 2020 Р

Відділ Праці з Молоддю
Ідеї, які працюють!

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О. Іван Чарест
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**Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.**

**Time to Trim the Tree**

**Час Прикрашати Ялинку!**

**December 18, 2020**

**Children of all ages are invited to submit handmade ornaments to be hung on the official tree located in the rotunda of the Metropolis Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.**

**His Eminence Archbishop Daniel eagerly awaits the ornaments, which he will hang on the Christmas tree himself. Don’t keep Vladyka waiting too long. Ornaments must be received by December 18, 2020.**

**Send ornaments to:**

Vladyka Daniel
PO Box 495
South Bound Brook, NJ 08880
DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS
У ГРУДНІ СВЯТКУЄМО

4  The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple
Введіння в Храм Пресвятої Владиці Вмц. Катерини

7  Great-martyr Catherine
Великомучениця Катерина

13  Apostle Andrew the First-called
Апостола Андрія Первозванного

17  Great-martyr Barbara
Вмц. Варвара

19  St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
Святителя Миколая, чудотворця

22  The Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos
Зачаття праведною Анною Пресвятої Богородиці

30  Holy Prophet Daniel
Пророка Даниїла

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS
У СІЧНІ СВЯТКУЄМО

4  Great-Martyr Anastasia
Вмц. Анастасії

6  Eve of the Nativity of Christ
Навечір’я Різдва Христового

7  Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ
Різдво Господа Бoga і Спаса нашого Ісуса Христа

8  Synaxis of the Theotokos
Собор Пресвятої Богородиці

9  Holy Protophymy Archdeacon Stephen
Св. першомученика і архідиякона Степана

11  Holy Innocents (14,000 infants slain by Herod in Bethlehem)
Свв. Мучеників 14,000 немовлят вбитих Іродом у Вифлеємі

13  Ven. Melania Prp. Melania
Прп. Меланії

14  St. Basil the Great
Свт. Василя Великого

18  Eve of the Theophany
Навечір’я Богоявлення

19  Baptism of Christ
Хрещення Господнє

20  Synaxis of the Forerunner, John the Baptist
Собор Предтечі і Хрестителя Господнього Іоана

30  St. Anthony the Great
Прп. Антонія Великого
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December 18
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Nativity of our Lord
(Gregorian Calendar)
December 25

Due date for mailing in ornaments
Time to Trim the Tree
December 18

UHEC Annual Yalynka & Koliada Virtual Fundraiser
December 26
5 PM EST

Saint Nicholas Day
Sv. Mykolaj
December 19

YOUTH MINISTRY WORKSHOP
Ideas that Work - COVID
December 29
7:30 PM EST

Christmas at the Seminary
VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENT
December 19
5 PM EST

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