



Welcome



St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Vernon, BC

2210 – 40th Avenue, Vernon, BC V1T 8Z9

Liturgies: Tuesday to Friday – 9:00 a.m.

Holy Days - 10:00 a.m.

Sundays – 9:30 a.m. – Rosary
10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy



Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Grindrod, BC

Carlin Street and 3rd Avenue,
Grindrod, BC

Sandays Divine Liturgy:

Dec. 20th – 3:00 p.m.

Dec. 27th – 2:00 p.m.

Jan. 3rd – 2:00 p.m.



Pastor: Rev. Volodymyr Dmyterko
P.O. Box 20064 Vernon, BC V1T 9L4

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Email: o.volodymyr@yahoo.ca

Parish website <http://nweparchy.ca/bulletin/>

Eparchy: www.nweparchy.ca



*“The Vibrant Parish – a place
to encounter the living Christ”*

Patriarch Sviatoslav

Welcome! Бiмаємо!

We extend a warm welcome to our parishioners, your families and friends. We are glad that you have come to worship with us today and pray that your participation in our parish will be enriching to you.

Following every Sunday Divine Liturgy, Fellowship Coffee is served!

We invite everyone to join us.

PASTORAL MINISTRY AND SACRAMENTS:

SACRAMENT of CONFESSIONS: on Sundays and Holy Days: 30 min before Divine Liturgy and other days, by appointment.

HOLY COMMUNION: for the sick, by appointment, any time.

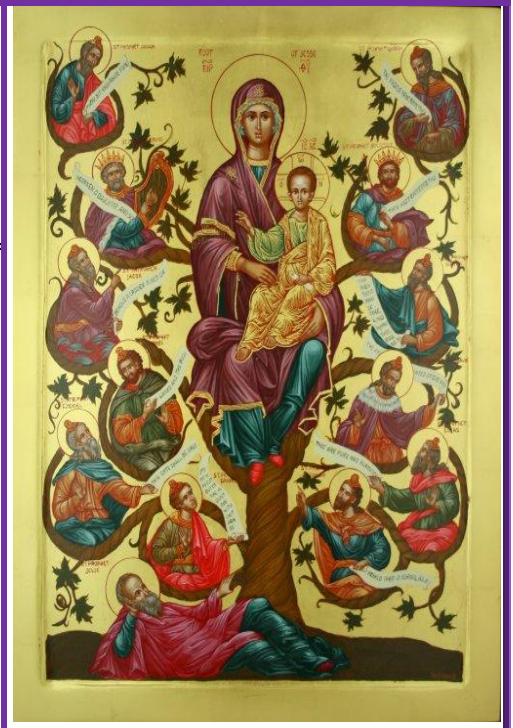
BAPTISMS - by appointment.

MARRIAGES - by appointment, at least 6 month in advance.

FUNERALS - by appointment.

ANOINTING of the sick, hospital visits - by appointment, any time

Please note: parish members requesting the celebration of a Divine Liturgy for a special intention (such as: Thanksgiving, the Infirm, General Intentions, the Deceased, Help of the Holy Spirit, for the Travelers, etc.), please see Fr. Volodymyr to arrange for it.



Our parish community extends a welcome to visitors who wish to pray and worship with us and who would like to participate in the life of our parish in all aspects. We assure you that visitors to St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Vernon meet with the warmest hospitality. Although we are a small community, we pride ourselves in being a family which centers itself on faith, prayer and a shared love of our Traditions. Although we are proud to belong to the Ukrainian Catholic Church, a number of ethnic backgrounds are represented in our parish community.

Divine Services are celebrated according to the Byzantine Catholic Rite of Ukrainian usage. Whether you are familiar with our Liturgy and Traditions from your own faith formation or would like to learn more about them, we extend a heartfelt welcome to you to join us for Divine Liturgy. Whether you are Roman Catholic or a member of another Church or Religious Tradition, you are most welcome to join us for worship. The Liturgy is celebrated using a mix of English and Ukrainian. The readings from the Holy Gospel and Epistles, as well as homilies are in English.

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ / Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Troparion, Tone 5: Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word,* co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,* and born of the Virgin for our salvation.* For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to suffer death* and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Troparion, Tone 2: Great are the achievements of faith!* In the fountain of flames, the three holy youths rejoiced as by the water of rest,* and the prophet Daniel was revealed shepherding lions like sheep.* Through their intercession, O Christ God,* save our souls.

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

Kontakion, Tone 6: Armed by the Being that defies description* You defied the man-made idol, O thrice blessed youth.* In the midst of the unbearable flames you stood and cried out to God:* “In Your mercy, O gracious One, hasten and come to our aid,”* for You can do whatever You will.

Prokeimenon, Tone 4 - Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers,* and praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

verse: For You are righteous in everything that You have done to us.



Epistle: A reading of St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews (11:9- 10, 17-23, 32-40):

Brothers and Sisters, by faith Abraham stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom he had been told, “It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you.” He considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead—and figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked blessings for the future on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, “bowing in worship over the top of his staff.” By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his burial. By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Alleluia, Tone 4 - O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have told us the work You did in their days.

verse: You saved us from our oppressors and put to shame those who hate us.

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Communion Hymn - Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest (Psalm 148:1).
Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;* praise befits the righteous (Psalm 32:1).* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

Prayer for a Vibrant Parish Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, as you once gathered lost sheep that they might hear Your voice and be your flock, so also today graciously look down from heaven upon our parish community, and send down on it your Holy Spirit, that it might be a place to receive the joy of Your Good News. Strengthen us with your presence, and always gather us together in prayer. Grant us the spirit of serving others, so that in our parish all might encounter You, the merciful God. Bless our spiritual leaders with Your wisdom, and inspire us to generously give of our time, talents and treasure for the building up of Your Kingdom. Unite us in peace and harmony, as befits Your community of love. Instill in us a missionary spirit, and let our parish community shine with the light of the Gospel, with prayer and good works, inviting all to share in the divine life, so that Your Name, O Savior, may be praised, together with Your eternal Father, and your most-holy, good and life-giving Spirit. Amen.

SPECIAL PETITION DURING THE DIVINE LITURGY: — We also pray to be blessed with generous hearts to contribute to our Bishop's initiatives and programmes, such as: the support of parishes, the education of parishioners, and the formation of seminarians, Lord hear us and have mercy



For peace in Ukraine, let us pray: Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

We also pray for the people of Ukraine, that with the help of the Holy Spirit, they may obtain social peace, political harmony and economic stability: Lord, hear us and have mercy.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Greetings from the pastor - On the holy Feast of the Birth in the Flesh of Our Lord, and God and Savior Jesus Christ, we pray to Almighty God and ask for many blessings for all of you, and your families, for all our friends and guests. May Jesus Christ be born in your heart today, and may He fill your soul with His Holy Spirit. God's Love and God's peace be with you at this Christmas and always! Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Fast Day - Tuesday, December 24, the day of the Vigil of the Birth of Christ is a day of Strict Fast and abstinence from eating meat.

SAVE THE DATE: - Pyrohy making is scheduled for Monday, **December 28th**. We need your help and your presence! Please mark your calendar, so you don't forget!

"Save-on- Foods" gift cards – are available for sale. Anyone wishing to buy the cards, please contact Miss. Teresa Huculak or Fr. Volodymyr.

Happy Birthday – May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation in Many Happy and Blessed Years of Life to those who celebrated their birthday in month of December: Mrs. Debbie Luchkanych (Dec. 4); Mr. Nick Petrykiw (Dec. 6); Mrs. Rose Shawchuk (Dec. 7); Mrs. Bonnie Chaychuk (Dec. 16); Mrs. Wanda March (Dec. 28); **Many happy healthy years! Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!**

Happy Anniversary! May Our Lord Jesus Christ bless you in abundance with His love, joy and peace. Many God's blessings of good health, joy, peace and happiness to Mr. and Mrs. Bob and Pat Holowenko (Dec. 1) on the occasion of their Wedding Anniversary! **Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!**

Gifts to God: Sunday, December 6th - Vernon \$ 521.70; Grindrod \$ 225.00 God bless all of you for your kindness and generous financial support of our parish community!

Grace. If for any of these or other reasons you cannot receive Holy Communion, you are welcome to come for a blessing. Please indicate to the priest that you would like to receive his blessing.


Parishioner's news section: As a Parish, it would be wonderful if we could share in our fellow brothers and sisters journey- their joys and sorrows. If you have an upcoming event (birth announcement, big anniversary, graduation, etc) or updates such as medical news, prayer requests, etc., please send us an email or tell to the priest, so it can be included in the newsletter. As well, if you wish to celebrate a special occasion with us, you are more than welcome to bring a contribution to add to the coffee social.

Parish Family Calendar: If you would like to be included in our Parish Family Calendar of Birthdays, Celebrations, Name-Days and Anniversaries please put your birth date in the calendar at the table near the front door of the church. Let's celebrate these happy occasions together!

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR: your family, your fellow parishioners, those who seeking God's answer to their prayers or those rejoicing with God's answer, those celebrating a birthday or anniversary, those called to their eternal reward and for the family they leave behind, those shut-in or in the hospital, and you wish to have a priest visit, please be sure to have someone call the rectory to make this request or notify Fr. Volodymyr Dmyterko directly. Your pastor may have no other way of knowing that you are in hospital, as privacy legislation restricts the information that can be given to him by the hospital.

Please Pray for health of ... Tatianna O'Donnell, Rose Shawchuk, Anthony Mulik, John Maiwka, Yanko Anna, Szadiak Victor and Gloria, Sophie Caskey, Walter Kociuba, Nick Roman, Kalyna Kociuba, Terry Konopada, Jesse Kosick, Marion McAreavy, Mary Ferguson, Nicholas Adam Laniel Cryss O'Donnell, Rose Ostopowich and all other parishioners and family members who need our support and God's healing at the present time. Let us also remember our sisters and brothers in Ukraine in our prayers!

Please let Fr. Volodymyr know if you would like to add new names to the prayer list and also notify him about any sick and/or hospitalized parishioners and family members.

 **EMAIL BULLETIN** - If you would like to have the Bulletin emailed to you please send your request to: o.volodymyr@yahoo.ca

PARISH WEBSITE - <http://vernon.nweparchy.ca/bulletins/>

Meetings Church Councils and Organizations:

St. Josaphat's Parish Council Meeting will take place today, December 20th - After the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Knights of Columbus Executive Meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 29th at 7:00 pm. at OLOV RC church.

*Щиро щастя вам
бажаєм
І усіх вас радісно
вітаєм,
з Різдвом Христовим,
З Новим Роком, та
Святим Йорданом!
Дай Вам Боже
в радості
святкувати
В щасті довгі роки
прожити
Ща вічне царство
собі заслужити
Христос
Раждається!
Славимо Його!*



*We sincerely wish
you happiness and
joy in celebration of Christmas
and the
New Year and Holy
Theophany!
May the Lord
allow you to celebrate
these holy days with delightful
hearts, to
to live happily many years and
may He find
you worthy of His
Heavenly Kingdom.
Christ is Born!
Glorify Him!*

Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer the Bishop of Antioch

The Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer, was a disciple of the holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian, as was also St Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (February 23). St Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch, and successor to Bishop Euodius, Apostle of the Seventy (September 7).

Tradition suggests that when St Ignatius was a little boy, the Savior hugged him and said: "Unless you turn and become as little children, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven" (Mt. 18:3). The saint was called "God-Bearer" (Theophoros), because he bore God in his heart and prayed unceasingly to Him. He also had this name because he was held in the arms of Christ, the incarnate Son of God.

St Ignatius was a disciple of the Apostle John the Theologian, together with St Polycarp of Smyrna. As Bishop of Antioch, St Ignatius was zealous and spared no effort to build up the church of Christ. To him is attributed the practice of antiphonal singing (by two choirs) during church services. He had seen a vision of the angels in heaven alternately singing praises to God, and divided his church choir to follow this example. In the time of persecution he was a source of strength to the souls of his flock, and was eager to suffer for Christ.

In the year 106 the emperor Trajan (98-117), after his victory over the Scythians, ordered everyone to give thanks to the pagan gods, and to put to death any Christians who refused to worship the idols. In the year 107, Trajan happened to pass through Antioch. Here they told him that Bishop Ignatius openly confessed Christ, and taught people to scorn riches, to lead a virtuous life, and preserve their virginity. St Ignatius came voluntarily before the emperor, so as to avert persecution of the Christians in Antioch. St Ignatius rejected the persistent requests of the emperor Trajan to sacrifice to the idols. The emperor then decided to send him to Rome to be thrown to the wild beasts. St Ignatius joyfully accepted the sentence imposed upon him. His readiness for martyrdom was attested to by eyewitnesses, who accompanied St Ignatius from Antioch to Rome.

On the way to Rome, the ship sailed from Seleucia stopped at Smyrna, where St Ignatius met with his friend Bishop Polycarp. Clergy and believers from other cities and towns thronged to see St Ignatius. He exhorted everyone not to fear death and not to grieve for him. In his Epistle to the Roman Christians, he asked them to assist him with their prayers, and to pray that God would strengthen him in his impending martyrdom for Christ: "I seek Him Who died for us; I desire Him Who rose for our salvation... In me, desire has been nailed to the cross, and no flame of material longing is left. Only the living water speaks within me, saying, 'Hasten to the Father.'"

From Smyrna, St Ignatius went to Troas. Here he heard the happy news of the end of the persecution against Christians in Antioch. From Troas, St Ignatius sailed to Neapolis (in Macedonia) and then to Philippi.

On the way to Rome St Ignatius visited several churches, teaching and guiding the Christians there. He also wrote seven epistles: to the churches of Ephesus, Magnesia, Tralles, Rome, Philadelphia, and Smyrna. He also addressed a letter to St Polycarp, who mentions a collection of the letters of St Ignatius in his letter to the Philippians (Ch. 13). St Irenaeus of Lyons quotes from St Ignatius's letter to the Romans (AGAINST HERESIES 5:28:4). All these letters have survived to the present day.

The Roman Christians met St Ignatius with great joy and profound sorrow. Some of them hoped to prevent his execution, but St Ignatius implored them not to do this. Kneeling down, he prayed together with the believers for the Church, for love between the brethren, and for an end to the persecution against Christians.

On December 20, the day of a pagan festival, they led St Ignatius into the arena, and he turned to the people: "Men of Rome, you know that I am sentenced to death, not because of any crime, but because of my love for God, by Whose love I am embraced. I long to be with Him, and offer myself to him as a pure loaf, made of fine wheat ground fine by the teeth of wild beasts."

After this the lions were released and tore him to pieces, leaving only his heart and a few bones. Tradition says that on his way to execution, St Ignatius unceasingly repeated the name of Jesus Christ. When they asked him why he was doing this, St Ignatius answered that this Name was written in his heart, and that he confessed with his lips Him Whom he always carried within. When the saint was devoured by the lions, his heart was not touched. When they cut open the heart, the pagans saw an inscription in gold letters: "Jesus Christ." After his execution St Ignatius appeared to many of the faithful in their sleep to comfort them, and some saw him at prayer for the city of Rome.

Hearing of the saint's great courage, Trajan thought well of him and stopped the persecution against the Christians. The relics of St Ignatius were transferred to Antioch (January 29), and on February 1, 637 were returned to Rome and placed in the church of San Clemente.

Eparchial Candle Appeal: “Christmas Candle” / “Різдвяна свічка” Appeal: Since 2012 our Eparchy of New Westminster has been collecting funds to help disadvantaged and orphaned children in Ukraine through our Christmas Candle appeal. Our fundraising program is part of a larger global appeal sponsored by Caritas Ukraine. We have had great momentum over the last few years raising over \$19,000 with support from our BC Parishes as well as Parishes in other Provinces and parts of the United States. This appeal will again take place in December 2015 and we encourage everyone to remember these Children during our Christmas season with a voluntary donation. Please place your donation in an envelope marked Christmas Candle, with your name and address and include it with the Sunday Collection at any Ukrainian Catholic Church in BC or mail it to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster. All donations over \$20.00 will receive a tax receipt and cheques can be made out to Eparchy of New Westminster with Christmas Candle Project in the memo. Candles will also be available for purchase at all the Ukrainian Catholic Parishes in BC for a minimum donation of \$5.00 per candle. We Thank You for your past support and ask that you again consider supporting this ongoing Eparchial appeal and lighting these candles as part of your Christmas Eve celebrations. Caritas is an organization that is supported and approved by His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk and His Excellency Bishop Ken Nowakowski. 100% of the proceeds go to Caritas Ukraine. For more information, please contact Dana Koren Lupynis at nweparchy.christmascandle@gmail.com

Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg Українська Католицька Архиепархія Вінніпегу

PASTORAL LETTER OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CANADA ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 2015/2016

December 8, 2015

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

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

The unapproachable God, out of mercy, wished to become visible for us. He comes in the flesh, to be born as a human being of the most pure Virgin, in the city of Bethlehem. Therefore, let us hasten with devotion to receive him.
[Sessional hymn, prefeast of the Nativity]

It is the middle of the night. You are sound asleep in bed. Suddenly you are awakend by knocking at the door. Who could it be at this hour? Could it be refugees from Syria fleeing their war torn homeland? Could it be an ex convict released from the local prison with no place to go? Could it be a stranger from Ukraine claiming to be a long lost relative? Could it be an older man with a young wife about to give birth, but for whom the health care system has no bed?

If we get up and open the door to our home, how will it change our lives?

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus during this Christmas season we find ourselves at the beginning of the Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy initiated by Pope Francis this past December 8th. The purpose of the Holy Jubilee Year, according to Pope Francis, is to encounter the mercy of God. And the primary way we encounter God is through Jesus Christ, the face of the Father’s mercy. [Cf. *Misericordiae Vultus* 1]

Our rich and meaningful Ukrainian Christmas traditions call our attention to the birth in Bethlehem of the Son of God. The liturgical texts, the carols and greetings, the special foods and decorations help remind us that “God is with us – Z namy Boh!” With the coming of Jesus Christ onto this earth with a human body, we have been given tangible proof of the love and mercy of our God.

In one liturgical verse we hear Mary speaking to Jesus just after his birth: ***Having learned that You were to be born a King, O Son, the kings from the East come to You, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Behold them standing before the doors; bid them enter to gaze upon You, held in my arms as a child, even though You are older than ancient Adam.*** [Aposticha, prefeast of the Nativity]

One of the important symbols used during the Holy Jubilee Year is that of the holy door. In cathedrals and other appointed churches a door is designated through which the faithful are invited to enter the church. The holy door stands as a symbol of the extraordinary pathway towards salvation that is offered to the believers, through prayer, penitence, and works of mercy. The holy door becomes a door of mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instills hope.

At Christmas time the holy doors reminds us of the doorway into the stable at Bethlehem whereby the shepherds and magi entered to find the Christ Child, the long awaited Messiah. All were welcome to enter through the door way into the stable: the poor and the rich, peasant and lord, saint and sinner. And so we are challenged by our faith in Jesus Christ to respond to those who stand at the threshold of our homes and of our lives and who seek our mercy and love. Our Christian faith calls upon us to open the doors of our homes and of our lives and welcome them just as Mary and Joseph did in the stable of Bethlehem.

Come and make haste to enter, said the Virgin to the magi, and behold Him who is invisible is now visibly manifest and has become a child. They came eagerly and worshipped Him, bringing gifts in fulfillment of the divine prophecy. [Aposticha, prefeast of the Nativity]

The Lord Jesus was with us on the earth in human form for only 33 years, before returning to his heavenly Father. And now how is his presence tangible to us? In St. Matthew’s gospel Jesus tells us that when we encounter the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, those in prison – we encounter the Lord in these people. [Cf. Mt. 25:31-40]

We do not have to look far to find the Lord Jesus. He is in those around us. When they come to the doors of our lives, we are given the choice to either open our doors of mercy and receive them, or to keep them closed and shuttered, saying there is no room in our inn, just as Mary and Joseph discovered in Bethlehem. [Cf. Lk. 2:7]

This Christmas season, in the spirit of the Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us reach out to the strangers and to those in need, be they from Ukraine or from Syria, be they in prisons or homeless on the streets, be they sick or jobless, be they alone and near death. Let us show by our good deeds and by our love that we share with them the mercy of our Heavenly Father who shares with us his love and goodness. And let us repeat the praise of the angels as they sang at the birth of Christ: ***Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.*** [Lk. 2:14]

The Blessing of the Lord be upon you!

+Lawrence Huculak, OSBM Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg
+David Motiuk, Eparchial Bishop of Edmonton
+Stephen Chmilar, Eparchial Bishop of Toronto
+Ken Nowakowski, Eparchial Bishop of New Westminster
+Bryan Bayda, CSsR Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon
+Michael Wiwchar, CSsR Eparch Emeritus of Saskatoon
+Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM Eparch Emeritus of New Westminster