

DATE	TIME	EPISTLE	CANTOR	USHERS	ORGANIST
SAT DEC 16	5:00 pm English	Dan MacLean		Doug Falconer Paul Shewchuk	
SUN DEC 17 <i>Sunday of the Holy Fore-Fathers</i>	9:00 am Ukrainian	Ivan Bachynskyy	Colette Karapita	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood	
	11:00 am English	Gwen Bilyk	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Richard Zulyniak Myron Kulasa	Iris Skehar
SAT DEC 23	5:00 pm English	Peter Kobylka		John Ostrowercha Vicky Ostrowercha	
SUN DEC 24 <i>Eve of the Nativity</i>	10:00 am			Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood	
	7:00 pm English	Eleanor Shumay	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	John Uhryn Leonard Puchala Carl Pacholka	Iris Skehar
	9:30 pm Ukrainian	Lorne Stechyshyn	Ed Pindus	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood	

<b>SUNDAY COLLECTION</b> <b>DEC 10 2017</b>	Received in 172 Regular Envelopes .....	\$ 3,678.00
	Loose Collection .....	\$ 244.75
	Received in 42 Other Envelopes .....	\$ 975.00



### COVENANT OF CARE ABUSE AND MISCONDUCT PROTOCOL

The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon Covenant of Care Abuse and Misconduct Protocol is designed to ensure that all allegations of physical and sexual abuse and other misconduct are handled responsibly, transparently and with all due care and attention. To speak to someone about a concern please contact your Pastor, Parish Coordinator of Care (PCC) **Geraldine Koban** at 306-782-0270 or **Deb Larmour**, Eparchial Coordinator of Care at (306)653-0138 ext. 228 or email: [covenantofcare@skeparchy.org](mailto:covenantofcare@skeparchy.org)

More information is available on the Eparchial Website, [www.skeparchy.org](http://www.skeparchy.org)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**OFFICE:** [st.mary.yorkton@sasktel.net](mailto:st.mary.yorkton@sasktel.net) **PASTOR:** [blukie@gmail.com](mailto:blukie@gmail.com)  
**WEB:** [www.saintmarysyorkton.com](http://www.saintmarysyorkton.com) **EPARCHY OF SASKATOON:** [www.skeparchy.org](http://www.skeparchy.org)  
**EPARCHIAL PASTORAL COUNCIL** - Pat Thompson 306-782-9425 Geraldine Koban 306-782-0270  
**PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT** - Gwen Bilyk 306-782-4093  
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** - Dave Spelay 306-782-5320 **UCWLC** - Doreen Rathgeber 306-782-1527  
**UCBC** - Larry German 306-782-2461 **CULTURAL CENTRE** - Russ Thompson 306-782-9425  
**GOLDEN AGERS** - Verna Moroz 306-783-6293 **CULTURAL CENTRE MANAGER** - Stan Shymanski 306-782-1010  
**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY OFFICE** - Phone: 1-204-799-1060 **EMAIL:** [rymc SSR@gmail.com](mailto:rymc SSR@gmail.com)

## ST. MARY'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Церква Матері Божої Неустанної Помочі

Our Mother of Perpetual Help

155 Catherine Street, Yorkton, SK S3N 0B9

Vol. 54, No. 44

PARISH BULLETIN

DECEMBER 17, 2017

Christ is Among Us!  
He is and will be!

Христос Посеред нас!  
Є і буде!



The parish community of St. Mary's extends a warm  
**Welcome - Вітаємо**  
to everyone who is with us today, especially all visitors.  
We are pleased that you have come to pray with us this Sunday. May the Lord bless You.

### Pastoral Care of the Ukrainian Redemptorists

Fr. Bohdan Lukie, CSsR - Pastor  
Fr. Raymond Lukie, CSsR - Assistant Pastor  
Fr. Methodius Kushko, CSsR - Assistant Pastor

**OFFICE HOURS** Monday - Friday  
9:15 am - 12:00 pm 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

**Office 306-783-4594**  
**Info Line 306-782-0654**

**SICK CALLS** - Anytime

**BAPTISMS & MARRIAGES\*** by Appointment  
\*Please contact the pastor at least six  
months before the wedding date.

### DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

#### SUNDAY

Saturday	5:00 pm	English
Sunday	9:00 am	Ukrainian
	11:00 am	English

#### HOLY DAYS

9:00 am

#### WEEKDAYS

8:00 am	Monday - Friday
9:00 am	Saturday

**Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ!**

Yes, it truly is good and even wonderful to be here at St. Mary's, sharing your faith journey and coming to recognize the good Lord, as we strive to come to know Him and cherish His great and majestic love for you and me. We gather here in our "home of worship" to learn and experience God's presence in our lives – it is here in our church that we can be ensured of our salvation and eternal life...



How often many of us come to church on Sunday expecting everything to be in place and to run smoothly. We come, we pray and we leave, and possibly, that is the extent of our church involvement. Oh yes, we toss in our church envelope and that's it!

Do we realize that many, many **volunteers** are very actively and freely involved, often behind the scene – in order that the parish and the Church can and does exist...

We have **volunteers** on Parish Council, in the UCWLC, the Knights of Columbus, the Men's Brotherhood, the Golden Ager's Club, the Parish Choir, the Church Decorating group, the Adult Bible studies, the Children's programs, etc. We do have volunteers who raise money that we might continue to operate – be it the Bingo which has sponsored so many projects, or making Perogies which demands dozens of willing workers or selling items of interest or hosting bazaars, bake sales, raffles, etc., etc!

Do we truly realize how much we have to be **thankful** for? Honest – our Church could never, never, never survive without ALL this voluntary assistance! May the good Lord bless them all and may He also encourage even more to offer their talents for the greater glory of God and humankind.... We do **appreciate** all that you do! Thank You!

As we prayerfully prepare for **Christ-mas**, may I share a special poem that can be a source of inspiration – for you and me....

**The Knots Prayer**

*Dear God: Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life. Remove the **have nots**, the **can nots** and the **do nots** that I have in my mind. Erase the **will nots**, the **may nots**, **might nots** that find a home in my heart. Release me from the **could nots**, **would nots** and **should nots** that obstruct my life. And most of all, Dear God, I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart and my life all of the '**am nots**' that I have allowed to hold me back, especially the thought that I am not good enough. **Amen.***

Wishing all of you a wonderful, beautiful, peaceful and lovely **Christ-mas** – Yes, the **Reason** for the **Season** is the birth of **Jesus Christ!**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

December 25	<i>Nativity of Our Lord</i>	
December 26	<i>Sobor of the Mother of God</i>	
December 27	<i>Feast of St. Stephen</i>	
December 27	Knights of Columbus Bingo	1:00 pm
December 28	Golden Agers Birthdays and Anniversaries	1:00 pm
January 1	<i>Circumcision of Our Lord - St. Basil's - New Year's</i>	
January 5	<i>Vigil of Theophany</i> Solemn Water Blessing & Divine Liturgy	
January 6	<i>Feast of Theophany</i>	
January 8	Knights of Columbus Meeting	7:00 pm
January 8	UCWLC Meeting	7:00 pm
January 8	Cultural Centre Board Meeting	6:00 pm
January 14	First Solemn Holy Communion Class	9:45 am
January 16	Parish Council Meeting	7:00 pm
January 16	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Bingo	7:00 pm
January 22	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Meeting	7:00 pm
February 13	Holy Rosary Hour	12:00 Noon

*Blessing of Homes at Theophany*

In the days following Theophany, the Fathers will be visiting and blessing the homes of parishioners with the newly blessed "Jordan Water". If you wish to have your home blessed please fill out the bottom portion of this page and drop it in the collection basket or drop it off at the rectory office.



**HOME BLESSING 2018**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Most Suitable time to visit: Morning \_\_\_ Afternoon \_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_

**Planning to get married in 2018? Congratulations!**

The Eparchy of Saskatoon Marriage Preparation Program "Crown them with Honour and Glory" will take place in Saskatoon on *Saturday March 24, 2018, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm*. At the Chancery Office, 214 Ave M South. At this one day intensive course you will be immersed in the beauty and richness of our unique wedding ceremony and learn within that context some of the keys to a happy lifelong marriage.



*Please speak immediately with your Pastor Fr. Bohdan about your plans.*

For more information and to register for the course email Deborah Larmour at uwitness2family@skeparchy.org



# CHRIST THE TEACHER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS

Dec 18 - 22

	SACRED HEART	ST. ALPHONSUS	ST. MARY'S	ST. MICHAEL'S	ST. PAUL'S	ST. THEODORE'S
MON		Christmas Concert 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm			Advent Celebration 12:30 pm	Christmas Concert at Health Centre
TUES		Advent Celebration 9 am Food Drive/Giving Tree Deadline				Christmas Concert 7:00 pm
WED					PJ Day Writing Assembly 9:00 am	Christmas Community Potluck 11:45 am
THURS		Advent Celebration 9:00 am			Christmas Mass 9:30 am	
FRI	<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> - JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup></b>					

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

There will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> until Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. It will resume on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

## SUPPORT SCSBA'S SCHOOLS YOU CAN BELIEVE IN FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Help ensure Catholic education is available to all who choose it, no matter the reason, for future generations. Donate to support the legal appeal of the Theodore court-case ruling and keep resources in our classrooms. A permanent reversal through the appeals process (which will likely go to the Supreme Court of Canada) is needed to maintain funding for all who choose Catholic faith-based education. Donate through to January 31, 2018! Province Wide: Either drop off a cheque at your local division office, local school or go online at [www.catholicedspirit.ca](http://www.catholicedspirit.ca).

## YORKTON DISTRICT PARISHES

### Schedule of Services in the Yorkton Pastoral District

**\*\*Please note: this schedule is subject to change, please check regularly\*\***

BEAVERDALE	Monday, December 25	10:00 am	Christmas Divine Liturgy
CALDER	Monday, December 25	10:00 am	Christmas Divine Liturgy
MELVILLE	Sunday, December 17	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy
	Sunday, December 24	5:30 pm	God is with Us & Divine Liturgy

## SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FORE-FATHERS

DECEMBER 17, 2017

The theme of Sunday is always Resurrection.  
We invite you to refrain from kneeling during the Divine Liturgy.



Today's special liturgical parts & readings are found in the Tropars, Kondaks, Epistle & Gospel Readings booklets that are found at the entrances of the church.

Next Week's Readings: Epistle - Hebrews 11:9-10;17-23;32-40 Gospel - Matthew 1:1-25

### THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

SUNDAY	9:00 am.....	Divine Liturgy
	9:45 am.....	1st Solemn Holy Communion Class ( <i>plus - Parents' Class</i> )
	10:00 am.....	Bible Study DVD Series ( <i>Church Basement</i> )
	11:00 am.....	Divine Liturgy
TUESDAY	2:00 pm.....	UCBC Regular & Annual Meeting
	6:00 pm.....	Parish Council Meeting
WEDNESDAY	6:00 pm.....	Christmas Reconciliation (Confessions)
THURSDAY	10:30 am.....	Divine Liturgy at Gladstone Seniors' Residence
	6:00 pm.....	Cultural Centre Board Meeting
SATURDAY	9:00 am.....	Divine Liturgy
	5:00 pm.....	Divine Liturgy

**WEDDING PLANS ??-** If you are planning to be married at St. Mary's or any of the Yorkton District parishes, **please contact Fr. Bohdan (306-783-4594) at least six months before the wedding date.**

**DEADLINE** for submissions to the bulletin is Tuesdays at 4:30 pm.

### Christmas Reconciliation (Confessions)

will be held on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm with Divine Liturgy at 7:00 pm.

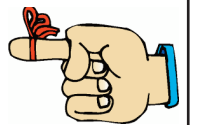


### 2018 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES

ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP  
AT THE EAST ENTRANCE.

### JUST A REMINDER...

All contributions and donations that require a tax receipt for 2017 must be in the Parish Office by:  
**Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>.**



### DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy & prayers to the family & friends of  
**+Fred Zwirsky** who passed away recently.  
Вічная Память God Grant Him Eternal Rest Вічная Память

## DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

*Sunday of the Holy Fore-Fathers* *Colossians 3:4-11 ~ Luke 14:16-24*

**MON Dec 18** *Martyr Sebestian* *Hebrews 3:5-11,17-19 ~ Luke 20:27-44*

8:00 am +Betty Brezinski.....Agnes Gawryluik

8:00 am +Elsie Denischuk.....Mary, Stephanie & Elsie

8:00 am +Dmytro, +Mykhaylo, +Petro, +Maria and +Dmytro.....Anna Gulka

**TUE Dec 19** *Martyr Boniface* *Hebrews 4:1-13 ~ Luke 21:12-19*

8:00 am God's Blessings for Nicholas Koshman (95th Birthday).....Margaret & family

8:00 am Health for Fr. Bohdan Lukie, CSsR.....Athen & Emily Gazdewich

8:00 am God's Blessings for the Yorkton Redemptorists & SSMI.....UCWLC

**WED Dec 20** *Priest Martyr Ignatius* *Hebrews 5:11-6:8 ~ Luke 21:5-8,10-11,20-24*

8:00 am +Mike Chopty.....Alice & family

8:00 am +Hnat Pisiak.....wife Sophia

8:00 am +Steve & Nettie Mysko.....Judy Majkut


**THU Dec 21** *Martyr Juliana* *Hebrews 7:1-16 ~ Luke 21:28-33*

8:00 am +Ervin Krywulak.....Mom & Dad

8:00 am +Mary Lazurko.....Russell & Irene Andrusyk

8:00 am +Michael & Sophie Rodych.....Family

**FRI Dec 22** *Great Martyr Anastasia* *Hebrews 7:18-25 ~ Luke 21:37-22:8*

8:00 am  +Taras Kardynal.....Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood

8:00 am +Bryan Bozek.....sister Mary

**SAT Dec 23** *Saturday before the Nativity* *Galatians 3:8-12 ~ Luke 13:19-29*

9:00 am Health & God's Blessings for Peter & Anna Gulka.....Ernie & Ann Cherewyk

5:00 pm Members & Families.....Knights of Columbus

**DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS** - If you are making an offering for this service by cheque, please make your cheque payable to: Ukrainian Catholic Mission

\*\*In accordance with the New **Eparchial Stipend Schedule** (effective November 1, 2017), the recommended **stipend (offering)** for a Divine Liturgy Intention is now **\$20.00**.



### THE CATECHISM OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH CHRIST - OUR PASCHA IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE IN ENGLISH!

This is the perfect time to read the Catechism! As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas), read the Catechism as a family and learn more about the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary, the Birth of our Lord and His Baptism in the Jordan. Learn more about the Christian vocation and why God created us and how much He loves us! Learn more about prayer and the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments). Learn more about how to be a Christian family, and the domestic Church. It's all found in the Catechism—online starting December 1, 2017 at the RoyalDoors website, where you can find many resources for Ukrainian Catholics. See [royaldoors.net](http://royaldoors.net).

## Saint Mary's Building Fund Donations



**Balance of the Fund to date: \$ 323,345.22 Thank you very much**

Donations may be given anytime.  
All funds collected will be used for the future renovations of our church.  
Building Fund Envelopes are available at the entrances of the Church

### ST. MARY'S CHURCH DONATIONS

*In Memory of Nick Chaikowsky*  
Peter Wyatt \$ 40.00

*Thank you very much*

### CHURCH DONATIONS

To ensure that your donation is properly recorded and acknowledged, please mark your envelope and the memo line on your cheque "*In memory of...*" or "*On the occasion of...*"

## A Traditional Ukrainian Christmas Liturgy Broadcast



From St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church  
GX94: 940 AM  
Christmas Day - Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am

The 90 minute program will include: The Christmas Compline (Povecheriye), the Divine Liturgy, Ukrainian Carols and Christmas greetings on behalf of the parish.

If you are not in the listening area, tune in to: [www.gx94radio.com](http://www.gx94radio.com) (<http://cjgx.streamon.fm>)

*We hope you will tune in to our program.*



**EMAIL BULLETIN** - If you would like to have the Bulletin emailed to you please send your request to: [cssrmonastery@sasktel.net](mailto:cssrmonastery@sasktel.net)



## MUSÉE UKRAINA MUSEUM INC. 2018 CASH LOTTERY CALENDARS

COST \$20 EACH FOR 365 DRAWS

Available from : Elizabeth Zahayko 306-783-6232 Joyce Kniaz 306-621-8827 Peter Moroz 306-783-6293

*Makes a great birthday, anniversary or Christmas gift.*

**UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BROTHERHOOD  
ANNUAL MEETING & REGULAR MEETING  
WILL BE HELD TODAY - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> AT 2:00 PM  
*All Members are urged to attend.***





# Церква Матері Божої Неустанної Помочі St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church

## Порядок Богослужень 2017-2018 Schedule of Service



**SUNDAY DECEMBER 24**  
**Christmas Eve (Fast Day) - Навечер'я Різдва (Піст)**  
**Yorkton:** 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Служба Божа  
 7:00 pm God is With Us Service (Eng)  
 7:30 pm Divine Liturgy (Eng)  
 9:30 pm God is With Us Service (Ukr)  
 10:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Ukr)  
**Melville:** 5:30 pm God is With Us Service & Divine Liturgy

**MONDAY DECEMBER 25**  
**Christmas Day - Різдво**  
**Yorkton:** 10:00 am Christmas Divine Liturgy (Eng)  
**Beaverdale:** 10:00 am Christmas Divine Liturgy (Eng)  
**Calder:** 10:00 am Christmas Divine Liturgy (Eng)

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 26**  
**Sobor of the Blessed Mother - Собор Прес. Богородиці**  
**Yorkton:** 9:00 am Divine Liturgy

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 27**  
**Feast of St. Stephen - св. Стефана**  
**Yorkton:** 9:00 am Divine Liturgy



**SUNDAY DECEMBER 31**  
**Yorkton:** 9:00 am (Ukr) Divine Liturgy  
 11:00 am (Eng) Divine Liturgy  
**MONDAY JANUARY 1**  
**Circumcision of Our Lord - Обрізання Г.Н.І.Х.**  
**St. Basil the Great - Св. Василя Великого**  
**Yorkton:** 9:00 am Divine Liturgy

**FRIDAY JANUARY 5**  
**Theophany Eve (Fast Day) Навечеря Богоявлення (Піст)**  
**Solemn Water Blessing Врочисте Водосвяття**  
**Yorkton:** 6:30 pm Divine Liturgy (Eng)

**SATURDAY JANUARY 6**  
**Theophany (Jordan) - Богоявлення (Йордан)**  
**Solemn Water Blessing Врочисте Водосвяття**  
**Yorkton:** 9:00 am Divine Liturgy (Ukr)  
 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy

**SUNDAY JANUARY 7**  
**Yorkton:** 9:00 am (Ukr) Divine Liturgy  
 11:00 am (Eng) Divine Liturgy  
**Calder:** 10:00 am Divine Liturgy (with Water Blessing)

**Христос Раждається !**

**Christ Is Born !**

## Слава Ісусу Христу!

Сьогодні розповім вам про **Вифлеємський Вогонь Миру** – це вогонь, що постійно горить у Вифлеємі в яскині на місці народження Ісуса Христа. Світло Вифлеємського Миру є символом тепла, миру, злагоди, душевного спокою та любови до людей і до світу.

Акцію поширення Вифлеємського Вогню Миру започаткувала ó 1986 року австрійська телерадіокомпанія ORF з міста Лінц. Із самого початку акція планувалася з метою підтримки неповносправних дітей та усіх, хто потребує допомоги та уваги в передріздвяний час. Цю благородну справу відразу взяли в свої руки австрійські скаути, які беруть Вогонь з Вифлеєму і в спеціальній лампаді транспортують його літаком до Австрії. Після урочистостей у віденському Кафедральному соборі вони передають Вогонь з рук в руки до сусідніх країн. Вифлеємський Вогонь Миру мандрує через багато кордонів і потрапляє до всіх, хто чекає на світло надії у переддень Різдва Христового.

В листопаді 2000 року, коли Вифлеєм охопила війна, виглядало, що Вогонь того року не дійде до решти світу, але 12-літній палестинський скаут взяв цей Вогонь з місця Хрестового надодження і якось поніс це до кордону. Там від нього Вогонь відібрали ізраїльські скаути і послали з Вогнем до аеропорту в Теле Авів і передали вогонь далі. Ще ніколи слова

**«Шалом» і «Салаам Алейкум»** не мали глибокого значення.

А в Україні Вифлеємський Вогонь Миру вже майже 20 років поширюють українські скаути, **члени Пласту**. Вони везуть Вогонь поїздами й автами від міста до міста і заносять його до церкви, державні установи, школи, дитячі притулки, будинки для старців, лікарні, щоб кожна людина, а особливо ті, хто перебувають далеко від своїх домів під час Різдва, могли відчути тепло Вифлеємської зірки.

Ідея **Вифлеємського Вогню** стала багатьом доповненням під час святкування Різдва. Деякі люди несуть додому живе полум'я або гасять раз запалену від Вифлеємського Вогню свічку, яку знову запалюють вдома (за твердженням священиків, від цього святість Вогню не втрачається).

Перший раз, що українські скаути (**пластуни**) дістали **Вифлеємський Вогонь Миру** було 2008-го року. Скаути з Австрії привезли ліхтар з Вогнем на літаку в Нью Йорк, щоб передати його американським скаутам, які приїхали автобусом з Міннеаполіс. Вогонь поширювався по цілій Америці і Канаді, навіть до Мексики. Цього року Вифлеємський Вогонь Миру знайшов дорогу також і до Вінніпегу і ми з великою радістю прийняли його до нашої церкви. Він горітиме у нашій церкві до Йордану. Тепер ми починаємо цей традицій тут!

**Нехай Вогонь Миру буде дійсним символом тепла, миру, злагоди, душевного спокою та любови до людей і до світу.**



Last year we shared about the **Bethlehem Flame of Peace**, the fire that constantly burns in Bethlehem in the manger where Jesus was born. The light of this fire symbolizes warmth, peace, harmony, tranquility and love toward all people of the world.

The project of sharing this **Fire of Peace** with the world began in 1986 through the Austrian TV and radio station ORF in Linz. From its very beginnings this project was meant to support handicapped children and everyone who needs help and attention before Christmas. This noble cause was immediately taken up by the *Austrian Scouts*. The Scouts took this fire in special oil lamps and transported it via plane to Austria where during a ceremony in the Viennese Cathedral they give it to representatives from many different countries. This flame traveled from hand to hand and crossed many different boundaries and came to those who await the light of hope before the feast of Christmas.

In November 2000 it looked as though the Light would not be able to leave war-torn Bethlehem. However a 12 year old Palestinian Scout took the flame from the **Grotto of Christ's Birth** and carried it to the border. Here it was received by Israeli Scouts who raced it to the Tel Aviv Airport where it was passed on. Never before had the words **“Shalom”** and **“Salaam Alekum”** (both expressions of **“Peace”**) meant so much to the whole world.

**Plast, Ukraine's Scouts**, have been bringing the **Flame of Peace** to many different Ukrainian towns and villages for almost 25 years. They bring this flame in trains, in cars and by bike to churches, to government institutions, schools, children's day cares, old age homes and hospitals so that every person, particularly those who are far away from their homes, can feel the warmth of the **Bethlehem Star**.

For many all over the world the flame from the **Bethlehem Flame of Peace** has become essential during the celebration of Christmas. Some people bring the live flame home or they blow out their Bethlehem Flame and re-light it again when they get home (**for they are reassured by priests that the sanctity of this Fire is not lost through this** .)

The first time that Ukrainian Canadian (**Plast**) **Scouts** received the Bethlehem Flame of Peace was in 2008. The Austrian Scouts brought an oil lamp with this flame to the JFK airport in New York where they handed it to the American Scouts who brought it by car from Minneapolis. The Flame then spread throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. In 2009 the Bethlehem Flame of Peace finally found its way to Winnipeg and now we are most pleased to **give it a home at St. Mary's**. It stays lit in our church until the Feast of Jordan.

This week I transported the Bethlehem Flame here to **St. Mary's** in Yorkton from Winnipeg and now we encourage you to purchase a 5 day candle, light it from the **Bethlehem candle** on the little altar and then have it peacefully burn in your home during your Christmas celebrations!

**May this flame from the Fire of Peace indeed be the symbol of peace, warmth, harmony, tranquility and love toward all people of the world.**



**Pastoral Letter of the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of Canada  
on the Occasion of the Nativity of Our Lord 2017**

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

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

(John 1:14)

***Christ is Born! Glorify Him!***

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

For Canadians it has been an extraordinary year of celebrations as we commemorated the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation. Throughout this great nation communities large and small found their own special way to celebrate. On Canada Day throughout the land there were parades, picnics, family and neighbourhood barbecues, and, of course, fireworks, bringing the day to a glorious close. In each of our families, no doubt, we also celebrated other events: a birthday, an anniversary, a wedding, or a graduation. Celebrations have great meaning as long as we understand what is being celebrated and why we celebrate it. And even if we don't completely understand a particular celebration, as is frequently the case in a multicultural and diverse country such as ours, we can at least tell a joyful celebration from a sorrowful one.

What does Christmas mean to us? Why do we celebrate it? How do we mark the feast? Our consumer society certainly gives us enough notice of the "holiday season" through endless commercials and advertising! We are urged to go to Christmas parties, to make our holiday plans well in advance, to purchase gifts, and to decorate our homes. On various radio and television talk shows we are told to not wait till the last moment to purchase Christmas presents, to make holiday plans early in order to avoid stress. We may even know people who begin their Christmas gift shopping for the next year almost as soon as Christmas is over, already thinking of the people to whom they will want to give a gift, and thus purchasing presents throughout the entire year. We probably also know people who wait till the very last minute to make plans and purchase gifts, only to find that their lives have become topsy-turvy. Then the Christmas celebrations come and go so quickly that all that seemingly remains is an inner emptiness, the so called post-Christmas doldrums, or the after-Christmas party blues. Is that the meaning of Christmas, a season of frenetic commercial activity? Shouldn't we at least question the motives of those who kick off each "holiday season" with a "Black Friday?"

In the Gospel of Luke, the Angel of the Lord announces:

***"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." (2: 10-12)***

Then the narrative continues:

***And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (2:13-14)***

So, we are celebrating an event infinitely more important than Canadian Confederation, a family member's birthday or wedding anniversary. We are celebrating the kind of Good News that comes only once in human history: the birth of a Saviour, a Messiah. Christmas commemorates an event that continues to impact the lives of all men and women of faith: the co-Eternal Son of God became one of us, so that we might share in his Divinity.

Are we ready to celebrate the event, not materially, but spiritually? Did we take advantage of the Philip's Fast (Pylypivka-Advent) to spend extra time in prayer? Did we limit our food intake and make personal sacrifices? Did we especially think of the needy, both near and far, and engage in works of charity? Did we take advantage of the Holy Mystery (Sacrament) of Reconciliation so that we might be able to sing "God is with us—Emmanuel!" with a pure and open heart? If we have, we truly understand and can appreciate the real reason for the season. If we have not, it is never too late to receive the new-born Saviour in the stillness of a joyful heart, for his message of good news is offered to all men and women of good will. Let us ask for the grace needed to understand the incredible significance of the event. Let us pray, that we might have the courage to proclaim the truth about Christmas, boldly and with faith.

Our rich liturgical poetry for the Feast proclaims:

Today heaven and earth unite, for Christ is born. Today God came to earth in the flesh, and the human race was lifted up to the heavens. Today, for the sake of all, He is seen in the flesh, the One Who by nature is invisible. Let us glorify Him, singing: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace which Your coming has bestowed on us. O Saviour, glory to You!

May each and every one of you be blessed with a Christmas full of joyful and profound celebration.

- + Lawrence Huculak OSBM, Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg
- + Michael Wiwchar CSSR, Bishop Emeritus of Saskatoon
- + Severian Yakymyshyn OSBM, Bishop Emeritus of New Westminster
- + 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



**INVITATION TO CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS AT MUSEE UKRAINA MUSEUM AND THE KHRAM (SHRINE) OF THE NUN MARTYRS OLYMPIA AND LAURENTIA.**

The Sisters of St. Joseph and Musée Ukraina Museum invite you to three special evenings of Christmas programming that will be happening at the Khram of the Nun Martyrs Olympia and Laurentia, and the Museum on **December 25, 26 & 27**. Each evening will feature special programming and refreshments. Included will be public viewing of the Sr. Theodosia Nativity scenes from different parts of the world.

**December 25 at 7:00 pm** - Religious service at Shrine followed by a Christmas program at the Museum at 7:30 pm and refreshments.

**December 26 & 27 at 7:00 pm** - Christmas program and refreshments at Musée Ukraina Musuem. The Shrine will be opened for those wishing to view the Nativity scenes.