



**Sunday, December 26, 2021**

**ST. ATHANASIUS UKRAINIAN  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
55 MCMURCHY AVENUE  
REGINA SK. S4R 3G3**

Parish Priest: Fr. Vasyl Tymishak  
Cell Phone: 306-519-9030

E-mail: [vasyltymishak@gmail.com](mailto:vasyltymishak@gmail.com)

**Parish Office:** 306-543-8008

**E-mail:** [stathanasius@sasktel.net](mailto:stathanasius@sasktel.net)

**Website:** [www.st-athanasius.ca](http://www.st-athanasius.ca)

**Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/reginaukrainiancatholicnorth/live>

Parish Council President – Kevin Korchinski

Cell phone (call or text) @ 306-539-3935

UCWLC President - Josie Vantour

UCBC President - Mark Woitas

Knights of Columbus – James Empey, Grand Knight

Parish Coordinator of Care (PCC) - Mary Lou Senko @ 306-525-6437

**E-mail:** [kevin@osac.ca](mailto:kevin@osac.ca)

Seniors' Club President – Angie Lawryk

Ultimate A&B Youth - Lesia Lazurko

**ROSARY: Sunday – 9:10 a.m. (livestreaming)**

**DIVINE LITURGY: Sunday – 9:30 a.m. for the faithful. (livestreaming)**

**Weekday Liturgies – as scheduled**

**Confessions before every Divine Liturgy & Week Day Liturgies – As per the schedule**

**MEMBERSHIP AT ST. ATHANASIUS PARISH** is recognized by participating in the Sunday Divine Liturgy and by fulfilling your baptismal responsibility in contributing to our Church Community activities by using your time, talents and treasures. Regular financial donations by use of Sunday envelopes is necessary for our parish to grow and prosper.

**Please contact Fr. Vasyl if you know of any parishioner who is sick and wants to be visited.**

St. John Paul II Syro-Malabar Parish – Fr. Daris Cherian

Phone: 1-416-262-9670

Parish Council Trustee – Arun Abraham Phone: (1-306-891-4302)

E-mail: [daris.cherian@gmail.com](mailto:daris.cherian@gmail.com)

E-mail: [abru.arun@gmail.com](mailto:abru.arun@gmail.com)



Effective Friday, September 17, The Government of Saskatchewan announced Mandatory Masking for all indoor Public Spaces.

- ❖ Mask is mandatory in church
- ❖ Self-Screen using the COVID-19 Health Screening Questionnaire prior to entering facilities.
- ❖ Practice good hand hygiene.
- ❖ Stay home when sick and return when you are healthy.

OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, Saskatchewan government has implemented a proof of vaccination requirement in public places. Places of worship **DO NOT** require proof of vaccination.

***CHRIST IS BORN! LET US GLORIFY HIM!***  
***ХРИСТОС РОЖДАЄТЬСЯ! СЛАВІМО ЙОГО!***

**TO ALL PARISHIONERS:** During our Livestream and Videotaping, the video may capture the likeness of those parishioners sitting in the pews during our services. This video will be kept for a maximum of 45 days. Other than those who choose to view the livestream as it happens, the video will not be released to third parties. As our video will stream on Facebook, we will comply with that website's regulations.



If you are uncomfortable being on video, please advise the Greeters when you enter the church and they will place you in a pew where you will not be captured.

Please join our services by visiting our website and clicking on the Livestream icon: <https://st-athanasius.ca/> or on Facebook:

<https://facebook.com/reginaukrainiancatholicnorth/live>

## SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

FIRST ANTIPHON: I will confess You with all my heart, O Lord, I will tell all your marvels.  
Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.  
In the counsels of rightful men and in the assemblies, great are the works of the Lord.  
Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.  
They are sought in order to accomplish his will.  
Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.  
Glory be . . . now and forever . . . : Only Begotten Son . . .

THIRD ANTIPHON: *Regular 3rd Antiphon but with the following response:*  
Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

CHRISTMAS TROPAR (Tone 4): Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; for through it, those who worshipped the stars have learned from a star to worship You, the Sun of Justice, and to recognize You as the Orient from on high. Glory be to You, O Lord!

TROPAR OF ST. JOSEPH (Tone 2): O Joseph, announce to David, ancestor of Christ, the good news of these wonders you have seen: a Virgin giving birth to a Child; with the shepherds you have glorified Him; with the wise men you have worshipped Him; and an angel appeared to you. Ask Christ to save our souls.

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

CHRISTMAS KONDAK (Tone 3): Today the Virgin gives birth to Perfect Essence, and the earth offers a cave to the Inaccessible. The angels sing his glory with the shepherds, the wise men journey with the star, for there is born for us an infant child, God Eternal.

PROKIMEN (Tone 4): God is wonderful in His saints; the God of Israel.  
*Verse: Bless God in your choirs, bless the Lord, you who spring from Israel!*

EPISTLE: A reading from the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians (1:11-19)

Brothers and Sisters: I assure you, the gospel I proclaimed to you is no mere human invention. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I schooled in it. It came by revelation from Jesus Christ. You have heard, I know, the story of my former way of life in Judaism. You know that I went to extremes in persecuting the Church of God and tried to destroy it; I made progress in Jewish observance far beyond most of my contemporaries, in my excess of zeal to live out all the traditions of my ancestors. But the time came when he who had set me apart before I was born and called me by his favor chose to reveal his Son to me, that I might spread among the Gentiles the good tidings concerning him. Immediately, without seeking human advisers or even going to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before me, I went off to Arabia; later I returned to Damascus. Three years after that I went up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas,

with whom I stayed fifteen days. I did not meet any other apostles except James, the brother of the Lord.

*ALLELUIA VERSE: Remember, O Lord, for David all his anxious care.  
How he swore to the Lord, vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob.*

**GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23**

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph with the command: "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you otherwise. Herod is searching for the child to destroy him." Joseph got up and took the child and his mother and left that night for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I have called my son." Once Herod realized that he had been deceived by the wise men, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys two years old and under in Bethlehem and its environs, making his calculations on the basis of the date he had learned from the wise men. What was said through Jeremiah the prophet was then fulfilled: "A cry was heard at Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentations: Rachel bewailing her children; no comfort for her, since they are no more." But after Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt with the command: "Get up, take the child and his mother, and set out for the land of Israel. Those who had designs on the life of the child are dead." He got up, took the child and his mother, and returned to the land of Israel. He heard however, that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as king of Judea, and he was afraid to go back there. Instead, because of a warning received in a dream, Joseph went to the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way what was said through the prophet was fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazorean."

*INSTEAD OF 'It Is Truly Right...': Rejoice, O my soul, for in a cave was born Christ the King. A strange and incredible mystery, I behold the cave becomes heaven, The Virgin becomes the throne of the cherubim. The manger becomes the place where lies the unplaceable Christ God. To Him we sing praises.*

**COMMUNION HYMN:** Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest.  
Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**INSTEAD OF "Blessed is He who comes..., "We have seen the true light...", and "Blessed be the name...":** *The whole universe is today filled with joy, for Christ is born of a Virgin!*

## **LITURGICAL SCHEDULE December 27 – January 2, 2022**

**Monday, December 27** - Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ; the Holy Apostle, First Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen; [Acts 6:8-7:5,47-60](#); [Matthew 21:33-42](#)  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy – *livestreaming*

**Tuesday, December 28** - Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ; the Two Thousand Martyrs Who Were Burned in Nicomedia (303); Passing into eternal life (1945) of Blessed Hryhoriy (Gregory) Khomyshyn, Bishop of Stanyslaviv (Ivano-Frankivs'k) and martyr; [James 3:1-10](#); [Mark 11:11-23](#)  
No service scheduled

**Wednesday, December 29** -The Holy Children who were murdered by Herod in Bethlehem; Our Venerable Father Marcellus, Hegumen of the Monastery of the Sleepless Ones (c. 470); [James 3:11-4:6](#); [Mark 11:23-26](#)  
**No service scheduled**

**Thursday, December 30** - Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ; the Holy Martyr Anysia (286-305); Holy Martyr and Presbyter, Zoticus, Protector of Orphans (4th c.); [James 4:7-5:9](#); [Mark 11:27-33](#)  
**No service scheduled**

**Friday, December 31** - The Leave-taking of the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, Christmas; Our Venerable Mother Melania the Roman (439); [1 Peter 1:1-2, 10-12](#); [2:6-10](#); [Mark 12:1-12](#)  
**No service scheduled**

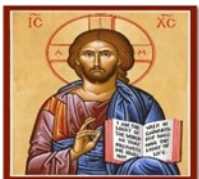
**Saturday, January 1, 2022** - The Circumcision of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ; Our Father Among the Saints Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia (379); Feast of our Lord. The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated today. A day when the faithful are highly encouraged to participate in the Divine Liturgy. [Colossians 2:8-12](#); [1 Timothy 3:14-4:5](#); [Luke 2:20-21, 40-52](#); [Matthew 3:1-11](#)  
**11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great – livestreaming**

**January 2, 2022** - Sunday before Theophany; Tone 7; [2 Timothy 4:5-8](#); [Mark 1:1-8](#)  
**9:10 a.m. Rosary *livestreaming***  
**9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy for faithful - *livestreaming***

**From Tuesday, December 28 to Friday, December 31 – Fr.Vasyl in Vacation**

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER:** Intention for Evangelization – *Catechists*. Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in power of the Holy Spirit.

**DECEMBER FOOD BANK ITEM – *Baby Food***



**2022 Julian and Gregorian Calendars are available at the parish. We have a limited amount of calendars therefore we encourage one calendar per family. If you know of someone who is in a care home or is not comfortable to attend church but would like a calendar, please do not hesitate to take a calendar for them.**

**2022 SUNDAY DONATION ENVELOPES** are available for pick up during scheduled Divine Liturgy services or during office hours, Tuesday – Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please phone 306-543-8008 during office hours to arrange for pick up of your donation envelopes. If there is an error or if you did not receive a set of envelopes, please contact the office. Also, we would appreciate if you could include your e-mail address and any changes to your current address on your first donation envelope.



**CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL TREE:** Once again the memorial tree is set up in the front foyer. Christmas is a time to spend with loved ones, family and friends, and to remember those who are no longer with us in person but are with us in spirit. If you wish to donate, you may do so by placing your money and family names in the marked envelopes at the back of the church and then placed in the Sunday collection basket. E-Transfers are accepted, please indicate in the message field the names of the deceased member/members for whom you are donating. Fr. Vasyl will have the Panakhyda for all those departed family and friends on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 10:00 A.M. **(All funds received will be deposited into the St. Athanasius Building Fund).**

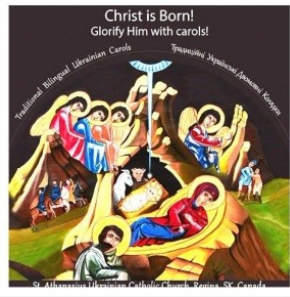
**YEAR END IS FAST APPROACHING:** If you wish to give a donation to the parish, all donations must be received in the parish office by *Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>*, in order to be included on the 2021 tax receipt. Any donations received after that date will be included on the 2022 receipt.

**PRIEST'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS:** Tax receipts cannot be issued for the *monetary gifts* given to a priest. This is a "gift of love" with no service rendered. If you are using a cheque, the cheque must be made payable to Fr. Vasyl Tymishak.

 <b>DECEMBER/JANUARY GREETERS</b> 	
December 24	Terry & Rosanne Miller
December 26	Bernice Bzdell & Kevin Korchinski
January 2, 2022	Len Markewich & Maggie Stephen
January 9	Mark & Karen Woitas
January 16	Carl & Linda Korchynski
January 23	Len Markewich & Kevin Korchinski
January 30	Maggie Stephen & Bernice Bzdell



## Christmas CD "Christ is Born! Glorify Him with Carols" by St. Athanasius Choir,



**Regina:** Our Choir Christmas CD recorded in 2020 by the St. Athanasius Choir are available at our parish. Enjoy traditional Ukrainian Christmas Carols sung in both Ukrainian and English! Join with us in your own homes in the carolling! Let's be together in Spirit this Holy Season! Please, contact us at <mailto:stathanasius@sasktel.net>

Here is an example of Carols: <https://st-athanasius.ca/nl/carols-cd-2020/>



**"SHARE the SPIRIT" 50/50 LOTTERY:** St. Athanasius Parish was named the designated beneficiary on 137 tickets. The portion of the total disbursement to St. Athanasius is \$685.00. Thank you to all the participants in the fundraiser. May God bless you for your generosity.

## Ultimate A & B Youth Presents. . . A Youth "Lock-In" Retreat!

Are you in grades 7-12 and are looking to attend a 24-hour Lock-in Retreat?

Well now's your chance!

This year's lock-in takes place **Friday, January 28, 2022 @7pm to Saturday, January 29, 2022 @ 6pm** at **St. Basil's Parish Centre (1717 Toronto Street, Regina)**.

This year's theme will be "Awaken". Activities for the two days include: group activities, spiritual sessions, guest speaker, and so much more.

Our guest speaker for this year is: Deacon Lamont Dyck.

**The cost for the event will be \$10.** This will cover all the meals and activities.

The registration deadline is **Sunday, January 23, 2022.** Upon registration, participants will receive a registration package that will include the following documents: registration form, waiver, media release, COVID-19 procedures, and a detailed schedule.

**Note: We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and inform the participants registered of any changes. During the retreat, all participants and volunteers must follow the COVID-19 procedures set out. If there is a change in the current public health orders, we will re-consider our decision of a two-day event to may change it to a one day event.**

If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Lesia Lazurko (Ultimate A & B Youth Coordinator) at [ultimateaandb@hotmail.com](mailto:ultimateaandb@hotmail.com).



## **Christ is Born!**

May you have the gift of **FAITH**  
the blessing of **HOPE**,  
and the peace of His **LOVE**  
this Christmas Season!

**Merry Christmas from the Sts. A & B  
Youth and Young Adults!**

**DECEMBER 19: 42 Sunday donation envelopes - \$3911.75; 2 Christmas Flowers envelopes - \$45; 6 Christmas Offering envelopes - \$615; 3 Building Fund envelopes - \$170; 7 Memorial Tree Envelopes - \$350; 2 World Mission envelopes - \$130; 1 Seminary Fund envelope - \$50; Loose Change - \$40.**

**E-Transfers – 4 Sunday donations - \$145.**

**NOTICE:** Although though there are no restrictions on numbers who can attend church services, some people are not comfortable in group settings, therefore we continue our livestreaming of services. Our parish expenses continue and it would be very much appreciated if you could continue to support the parish. There are a few options available to you: drop off your envelope at 54 McMurchy Avenue, mail in your cheque to 55 McMurchy Avenue, Regina, S4R 3G3, or you can also do an e-transfer to [stathandeposit@sasktel.net](mailto:stathandeposit@sasktel.net). PLEASE COMPLETE THE MESSAGE FIELD and DO NOT USE ALIAS NAMES WHEN SENDING AN E-TRANSFER DONATION.





**If you are planning to get married anytime over the next year ... Congratulations!**

**Please be advised that Marriage Sacramental Preparation is required for marriage in all our parishes and registration for the next Marriage Prep Course. “Crown them with Honour and Glory” put on by the Family and Life Office Marriage Prep team, has begun. There are both online and face to face (in person/zoom) components to this course with the teaching portion being held Saturday Feb. 5 and 12 from 9 am to 12 pm both days. For more information and registration contact Deborah Larmour, [uwitness2family@skeparchy.org](mailto:uwitness2family@skeparchy.org) as soon as possible as spaces are limited.**

**So far we have 4 couples interested/registered. If couples are not available on the teaching days there is some possibility that we could record the zoom talks for their viewing at another time. There will be an in person meeting of couples who choose to attend at the chancery where the zoom meeting/ recordings will be made.**



**New Year Divine Liturgy “Entering the New Year with Christ, Our Lord”.**

**The Eparchial Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office is inviting young people, their families and everyone who wants to enter the New Year with Christ, Our Lord, to join in the New Year Divine Liturgy. It will be held on the Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 11.00 pm at St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral. The service will also be livestreamed on Liturgy Live: <https://www.skeparchy.org/wordpress/livestream-ukrainian-catholic-cathedral-of-st-george/>**

**Come and join us in prayer!**



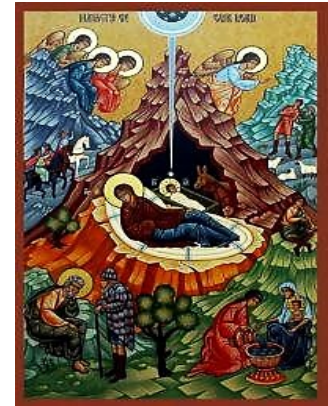
# Chancery Office Hours over the Christmas Season



**Our Chancery Offices, Ukrainian Catholic Foundation Office and  
Ukrainian Religious Education Centre (UCREC)  
Hours during this Christmas Season:**

**Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: CLOSED Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup>: CLOSED Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>: 9  
am-12 noon Monday, January 3, 2022:  
CLOSED**

Please visit our Eparchial website [www.skeparchy.org](http://www.skeparchy.org) for Christmas services throughout our parishes in our Eparchy



*As we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord, may the deep joy and peace of His birth be celebrated in your homes this Christmas. May the Blessing of Emmanuel fill your heart and the hearts of those in your family with joy and gladness this Christmas and strengthen you to witness for Christ in the New Year.*

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**Eparchial Chancery Staff:** Bishop Bryan Bayda CSsR, Very.  
Rev. Janko Kolosnjaji - Vicar General, Chancellor, Rev. Ivan Nahachewsky, Vicar of Eparchial Properties  
Cornelia Kyba - Office Administrator, Joan Matlock - Archives, Adrian Olenick - Finance Officer, Chris Pidwerbeski - Communications,  
Deborah Larmour - Family & Life Office/Safeguarding Policy-Covenant of Care,,  
Dr. Lesya Sabada - Human & Environmental Development Program  
Nestor Halaitso - AGEMI Executive Secretary, Morris Smysnuik - Foundation Office (UCFSASK), Executive Director, Iris Owchar -  
Foundation Office (UCFSASK), Office Administrator, Sr. Marijka Konderwicz,  
Sr. Bonnie Kormarnicki, Sr. Georgia Shchavil  
Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate (SSMI)  
- Ukrainian Catholic Religious Education Centre (UCREC)

**СЛАВА ІСУСУ ХРИСТУ! GLORY BE TO JESUS CHRIST!**

**Corrected interpretations for activities in a place of worship that are **EXEMPT** from the proof of vaccination requirement.**

**Dear Parishioners—Members of the Eparchy of Saskatoon:**

**1. Corrected interpretations:**

**The following activities in a place of worship are EXEMPT from the proof of vaccination requirement:**

- **Wedding receptions or funeral luncheons following the event are considered as an extension of the wedding ceremony or funeral service and are therefore also exempt.**
- **AA and other 12 step programs are considered essential due to the well-being of the individuals and so are exempt from proof of vaccination in any facility. These also include a spiritual component and so may be included under the exemption granted to places of worship.**
- **Other examples where proof of vaccination in a place of worship is not required include, but is not limited to: Mental Health & Addictions; Victim Services; Religiously-affiliated charitable organizations; At Risk Youth Groups; etc.**
- **Christmas concerts and pageants are considered an extension of the worship service and so are exempt, even when held at a time separated from worship. The restriction in 2(c)(vii)(5) that applies to concert venues has been interpreted to only refer to large public venues.**
- **Meetings of the faith community for church governance, planning, etc..., however remote from the act of worship. All activities related to the maintenance and support of the faith community are deemed to be religious activity exempt from the proof of vaccination requirement.**

**It should be noted that key terms such as "worship", "religious activity", and "essential service" are not defined in the public health order.**

**2. Private gatherings:**

**Proof of vaccination does not apply to private gatherings anywhere, whether in a private home, a place of worship, or a rented venue such as a hotel, see 3(a)(ix). "Private gathering" is not defined in the health order but is to be understood as any gathering to which the public is not invited, whether explicit invitations were issued or not. For example, a service club meeting which is only open to members. This is a point where the self-understanding of faith communities may conflict with the government definitions. In this sense, the government appears to be interpreting much of the religious activity outside of worship to be private gatherings.**

**If a place of worship is being used as a banquet facility for an event open to the public, proof of vaccination or negative test would be required. If the event is not open to the public (i.e. a wedding reception to which invitations are issued) proof of vaccination is not required.**

**3. Caveat emptor: proceed with caution**

**The changes described here are matters of interpretation provided by our government liaison. These are not explicitly found in the public health order. We are advised that religious activities within a place of worship will be interpreted quite broadly. As such, we are able to hold gatherings for church governance, planning, etc... without proof of vaccination.**

**Fr. Janko Kolosnjaji, Chancellor of Eparchy of Saskatoon**

**PASTORAL LETTER  
FROM THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CANADA  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 2021-2022**

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

**Christ is Born! Let Us Glorify Him!**

Dearly Beloved in Christ!

*“The earth offers a cave to the Inaccessible.” Kontakion of the Nativity*

The *Kontakion* of the Nativity of the Lord heralds a true paradox. It reminds us of the sharp contrasts we find in the human condition. The Indescribable, Eternal and Inaccessible God, is humbly born in a cave. The Incarnation of the Son of God comes about in a place barely fit for animals. Today, we find it hard to believe that any person could be born outside of a hospital or a home, and yet the Creator of the Universe embraces humanity in the midst of inhospitable indignity.

In this world we don't have to look far to find human indignity. Human tragedy is all around us. Physical, emotional and spiritual injustice is the content of many news stories. And in the midst of these stories often there is a ray of light in the darkness, a person who shines and restores our hope in human dignity. Worldwide, in Ukraine, or in our own homes in Canada, the Holy Spirit is waiting to break through to others with good news. Each of us would do well to ask God that question, “Lord, how do you want to use me in sharing this news?”

The good news is that despite our hearts being similar in some ways to the inhospitable cave, Jesus wants to dwell there. Our openness to this profound mystery requires quiet time for prayer far from distractions, away from the numerous demands that contemporary society places on our attention. In the stillness of our hearts God will speak. God will give each of us the grace to say “yes” together with the Holy Family. Jesus is born in the manger of a humble heart filled with love. He is born in every thought and action that honours the Heavenly Father and hearts that treat those created in His image with dignity. This is the good news we share on this Feast. And by praying together as families and participating in the Holy Mysteries, especially in the Eucharist, we are lifted up and confirmed as beloved children of God.

Therefore, let us intercede in prayer and perhaps take positive steps toward solutions to the many inhumane things we encounter in life. Let us learn from St. Joseph as Jesus did, developing a sense of obedience to His Heavenly Father, through the example of Joseph's obedience to God. Let us learn from Mary, the Mother of God, as Jesus did, developing a sense of profound love and compassion through his earthly experience of a mother's love. Let us allow the Christ in us to be a light of wisdom and compassion to others. And as our society today continues to struggle with the COVID pandemic, let us always be mindful of the wellbeing of others.

This Christmas, may our celebration of our Lord's Nativity bring us to an encounter with Him in all our relationships – with our family members, in our communities, in our workplaces, in our homes. May our hearts be that cave, where the Holy Family finds a home, where Jesus, Mary and Joseph are present. May the gift of Emmanuel—God is with us—bear fruit in us in love, joy and peace, in this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

God is with us! Christ is Born!

Sincerely in Christ,

+Lawrence Huculak, OSBM Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg

+Michael Wiwchar, CSsR Eparch Emeritus of Saskatoon

+Stephen Chmilar, Eparch Emeritus of Toronto and Eastern Canada

+David Motiuk, Eparchial Bishop of Edmonton, Administrator of the Eparchy of New Westminster

+Bryan Bayda, CSsR, Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon, Administrator of the Eparchy of Toronto & Eastern Canada



# Candlelit Heart

by Mary E. Linton

*Somewhere across the winter world tonight  
You will be hearing chimes that fill the air;  
Christmas extends its all-enfolding light  
Across the distance...something we can share.*

*You will be singing, just the same as I,  
These familiar songs we know so well,  
And you will see these same stars in your sky  
And wish upon that brightest one that fell.*

*I shall remember you and trim my tree,  
One shining star upon the topmost bough;  
I will hang wreaths of faith that all may see  
Tonight I glimpse beyond the hear and now.*

*And all the time that we must be apart  
I keep a candle in my heart.*

CHRISTMAS.365GREETINGS.COM



## Sunday After Christmas



*Icon of the Synaxis of the Mother of God – December 26*

### The Holy Family Flees to Egypt

But why was the Christ child sent into Egypt? The text makes this clear: He was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." From that point onward we see that the hope of salvation would be proclaimed to the whole world. Babylon and Egypt represent the whole world. Even when they were engulfed in ungodliness, God signified that He intended to correct and amend both Babylon and Egypt. God wanted humanity to expect his bounteous gifts the world over. So, he called from Babylon the Wise Men and sent to Egypt the Holy Family. Besides what I have said, there is another lesson also to be learned, which tends powerfully toward true self-constraint in us. We are warned from the beginning to look out for temptations and plots. And we see this even when He came in swaddling clothes. Thus, you see even at His birth a tyrant raging, a flight ensuing and a departure beyond the border. For it was because of no crime that His family was exiled into the land of Egypt.

Similarly, you yourself need not be troubled if you are suffering countless dangers. Do not expect to be celebrated or crowned promptly for your troubles. Instead, you may keep in mind the long-suffering example of the mother of the Child, bearing all things nobly, knowing that such a fugitive life is consistent with the ordering of spiritual things. You are sharing the kind of labor Mary herself shared. So did the Magi. They both were willing to retire secretly in the humiliating role of fugitive.

Saint John Chrysostom