



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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NATIVITY FAST

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Metropolitan Constantine, Patriarch Pavle, Bishop Robert, Father Peter Natishan, Father Gerald Olszewski, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Dragan Filipović, Father Elias Katras, Father Stevo Rocknage, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father John Monronko, Father Michael Mihalick [MS], Ollie Pendylshok, Walt & Evelyn Burlack, Joshua Agosto and his family, Harley Katarina Rahuba, Mike and Hilda Holupka, Eva Malesnick, Helen Likar, Stella Peanoske, Joe Nezolyk, Nick Behun, Terry Reinhart, Bernie O'Masta, Grace Holupka, Virginia Bryan, Joseph Sliwinsky, Maria Balo, Linda Mechtly, Mary Mochnick, Mary Pekich, Mildred Manolovich, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Sandy Gamble, Glen Lucas Burlack, Bernie Vangrin, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Stella Cherepko, Sam Wadrose, Khoruia Joanne Abdalah, Cameron [a boy in Matt's class], Faith—a 6-year-old girl with rheumatoid arthritis, Isabella Olivia Lindgren—a 2-year-old with a brain tumor, Dillon, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Nick Malec [Maxine's brother], Bill, Erin, Jimmy Fennel [7th Grader], Jim Markovich, Jeff Walewski [thyroid cancer], Carol [Lotinski] Rose, Michael Miller, Dave May, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Claudia [Horvath] Gradicheck, Alverta, Margaret Mueller, Gary Zurasky, Michael Horvath, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Rita Very & family, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Mildred Walters, Michael Miller, Mike Pelchar [Liz's brother], Jim Logue—throat cancer, Liz Stumpf, Ester Tylavsky, Ed Jamison, Theodore Nixon, Charles Johnson, Donna Kerr [stroke], Amy Forbeck, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Gloria Prymak [Liz's niece], Robert Hippert & family, Marjorie Robison, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, John Sheliga, Sabrina, George & Mika Rocknage, and Daria Masur. **ARNOLD:** Stefania Lucci, Kay Tomson, Ann Ostaffy, Steve Sakal, Homer Paul Kline, and Steve Ostaffy. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

Please remember ALL American servicemen and women in the Middle East in your prayers. May God watch over them and all American servicemen and women—and bring them all home safely!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR “BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION” AND CAMPBELL’S SOUP LABELS TO CHURCH. There is a shoebox in the basement for Alex’s Fifth Grade and Matt’s Third Grade collections. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP! *Alex and Matt*

REMEMBER—PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

Communion Fasting: nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. If you have a question, please call Father Bob.

AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at [412] 279-5640.

Schedule of Services

Sunday, December 30 **Divine Liturgy** **10:30 AM**
31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—HOLY PROPHET DANIEL & THREE HOLY YOUTHS-ANANAIS, AZARIAS, & MISAEAL, VENERABLE DANIEL THE CONFESSOR [IN SCHEMA STEPHEN] OF SPAIN & EGYPT, SAINT DIONYSIUS-BISHOP OF AEGINA
Tone 6
Colossians: 4-11
Luke 14:16-24

Sunday, January 6 **OBEDNITZA** **10:30 AM**
NATIVITY EVE—STRICT FAST
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS—EVE OF THE NATIVITY
NUN-MARTYR EUGIA OF ROME & HER FATHER PHILIP, PROTUS, HYACINTH, & CLAUDIA WITH HER, VENERABLE NICHOLAS-MONK OF BULGARIA
HOLY SUPPER—IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE OBEDNITZA
Tone 7
Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40
Matthew 1:1-25
Litany in Blessed Memory of Nicholas Vetosky—Fr. Bob
Parastas in Blessed Memory of John Holupka—Mike Holupka

Monday, January 7 **DIVINE LITURGY** **10:30 AM**
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, January 13 **Divine Liturgy** **10:30 AM**
SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY/BEFORE THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY RIGHTEOUS ONES: JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE KING, JAMES THE BROTHER OF THE LORD, VENERABLE MELANIA THE YOUNGER-NUN OF ROME, SAINT PETER MOHYLA-METROPOLITAN OF KIEV, VENERABLE GELASIUS-MONK OF PALESTINE, SAINT GAIUS
Tone 8
Galatians 1:11-19
Matthew 2:13-23

Parastas in Blessed Memory of Steve & Tillie Kuzman—

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 30 DECEMBER 2007
31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—HOLY PROPHET DANIEL &
THREE HOLY YOUTHS-ANANAIS, AZARIAS, & MISAEI,
VENERABLE DANIEL THE CONFESSOR [IN SCHEMA STEPHEN]
OF SPAIN & EGYPT, SAINT DIONYSIUS-BISHOP OF AEGINA

TROPARION—TONE 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave, Seeking Thy most pure body.
Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 6

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,
Raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His might hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.
He is the Savior of all,
The Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 6

READER: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
PEOPLE: **O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.**
READER: To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me.
PEOPLE: **O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.**
READER: O Lord, save Thy people.
PEOPLE: **And bless Thine inheritance.**

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 6

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

He will say to the Lord: My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in whom I trust.

Patriarch Pavle's health deteriorating

Beloved Friends in Christ our Lord,

May our Gracious God always bless you!

I have heard from several individuals in Belgrade about the current conditions of His Holiness, **Patriarch Pavle** in which all of us indeed should pray for this gracious and good soul.

The doctors earlier have indicated that the Patriarch was feeling better. However considering his age (94) many are accepting the fact that he will surrender his soul to our Lord. Apparently the Patriarch has written his will and arranged details on his funeral. He is very much aware and still his thoughts are clear, even he says "he is preparing for the journey".

So yes the Venerable **Patriarch Pavle** is very ill.

May our Gracious God indeed watch over this good soul **Patriarch Pavle** and grant him the peace of our Lord.

I myself had the great blessing to serve with the Patriarch in Kosovo and sat next to him after the services, and through one of his translators he was very kind to me, he actually gave me a small icon of the Mother of God as I gave him a icon of St. Nektarios which made him happy. I have indeed met a humble soul beyond words I could perhaps write. I found him pious and dedicated as well as extremely prayerful. I have to also say I was never so blessed to stand next to this Venerable soul in prayer, and I remember well when as an Archimandrite I handed him the chalice during the Great Entrance and I felt I was giving it to a saint.

May our Lord God watch over and bless the **Venerable Patriarch Pavle**.

Peace to your souls!

Humbly in Christ our Lord,
+Archimandrite Nektarios Serfes
Who prays for you!

Funeral of former Cyprus Archbishop

2007-12-24 10:43:57

Financial Mirror

The funeral of the late former Archbishop of Cyprus Chrysostomos I took place Monday at the Church of Panayia Evangelistria in Palouriotissa.

Chrysostomos I, passed away Saturday at the age of 80, following a lengthy illness that forced him from his throne.

The Primate of the Orthodox Church of Cyprus, Chrysostomos II, who took up the title of Archbishop earlier this year, officiated accompanied by other members of the Holy Synod.

The body of Chrysostomos who was Primate of the Cyprus' Church from 1977 until his honorary removal in 2006 was buried at the Saint Spyridon cemetery in central Nicosia where all the previous Archbishops are buried.

The funeral oration was delivered by Archbishop Chrysostomos II who expressed profound grief, noting his predecessor's devoutness and eagerness in pursuing the right causes of the Cyprus people.

He noted that Chrysostomos was elevated to the church's senior position in 1977, when he succeeded Archbishop Makarios.

He added that Paphos-born Chrysostomos joined the Church as a young monk at the island's Kykkos monastery before earning degrees in philosophy and theology from the University of Athens.

After graduate studies in Britain, he worked as a teacher in Cyprus. Chrysostomos was ordained suffragan bishop in 1968 and bishop of Paphos in 1973.

The body laid in state for two days at Ayios Ioannis Cathedral in front of the Archbishopric and the Holy Synod declared 30 days' of mourning, during which flags will fly at half mast on all Church buildings.

Article taken from:

<http://news.pseka.net/index.php?module=article&id=7829>

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM JAN JENNINGS
American Healthcare Solutions
[Holy Virgin Parish in Arnold]

Good morning to the AHS Family and Friends -

As many of you know, my parents were both born on peanut farms in Southeast Virginia. They were very connected to a world that was out of doors and the lessons of nature.

In the winter of 1956, I was ten years old. My parents were very religious and we never missed going to church. However, on one early Sunday morning, my father received a phone call from his best friend. They were both from Virginia and they both came to Pittsburgh for the rebuilding of the city. His friend related something to my father that was going on at Lake Emily in Renzie Park in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. It gave them both memories of their childhood. My father announced we were NOT going to church and he whispered into my mother's ear what my brother and I were going to witness for the first time.

We all piled into a 1953 Studebaker bullet nose and drove to Lake Emily. There in the semi-frozen lake was a group of Canadian geese trying to make a late migration south. They had spent the night on Lake Emily. One of the younger geese had one of its legs frozen in the lake and could not free itself to fly. We witnessed all of the other geese gathering around the "stuck" goose providing the warmth of their bodies to melt the ice holding back their young and weaker flying partner. It was quite a scene. As the geese gathered closer and closer the "stuck" goose became more calm. Finally, after about thirty minutes the ice melted and all of the geese took off in perfect formation.

The lesson was not lost on my brother and me. The more we gather close and share the warmth of the human spirit, the easier it is to fly and free ourselves from life's frozen moments. My prayer is that this message will touch your heart. That you will allow the warmth of your God given human spirit release the potential of those weaker than yourself and in need of a little support. We are all so blessed and our calling it to give back something . . . anything.

As we enter 2008 we each will find our "leg frozen in the lake" at least once. Let's support one another and all fly together in perfect formation.

Happy holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your loyal and faithful servant,

Jan

[Celebrating Christ's Nativity](#)

Written by the Very Rev. John Breck
December 2006, Article # 2

With the hyper-commercialization of Christmas in American culture, it's important for us to step away from the noise and tinsel, in order to hear once again what Orthodox Christian tradition tells us about the real significance of this feast. This takes us back first of all to the Nativity stories of the Gospels. To interpret those stories, though, we need to turn as well to the ancient liturgical hymns that express the meaning of our celebration more fully, accurately and beautifully than any biblical commentary.

As much as any other Christian feast, the significance of Christ's Nativity comes to expression by means of "antinomies." These are paradoxical affirmations that speak of the ineffable mystery of the Incarnation by juxtaposing apparent contradictions.

The most obvious of these is found in the prolog of St John's Gospel, which declares that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." (1:14). As the context makes clear (a point missed by the translators of the New Revised Standard Version of the New Testament) that Word or Logos is the Person of the eternal Son of God. He whom the Church worships as "one of the Holy Trinity" has entered into the realm of time and space, the fallen world of human life and experience, to "become man," a human being like ourselves. Yet He does so "without change," that is, without ceasing to be divine; in theological language, the Subject of the incarnate Lord remains the eternal Logos. Although He takes upon Himself the fullness of human nature – He assumes a human body and mind, He "becomes a human soul" – He nevertheless remains the eternal Son, "one in essence" with the Father and the Holy Spirit. This is the first and most striking antinomy: through His Incarnation Jesus of Nazareth has become the "God-man." He is neither a mere human being who happens to work miracles, nor is He a God who simply "appears" to be a man. He is "God in the flesh." And He will remain so until the consummation of all things, when God will be "all in all" (1 Cor 15:28).

This ultimate mystery is hymned throughout the Nativity cycle of liturgical services. Nowhere is it expressed more poignantly or beautifully than in three passages found in the Great Compline service of Christmas eve.

The verses of the Litia¹ evoke the paradoxical relationship between the great and the small, between heaven and earth, between grandeur and humility. "God is born from a woman and appears in the flesh... A cave and a manger welcome Him. Shepherds announce the wonder. Wise men from the East offer gifts in Bethlehem." Then comes the exhortation, "Let us from our unworthy lips, offer praise like the angels: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!" The next stanza expresses the purpose of the wondrous Incarnation:

“Today heaven and earth are united, for Christ is born. Today God has come to earth, and man ascends to heaven. Today God, who by nature cannot be seen, is seen in the flesh for our sake. Let us glorify Him...!”

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is accordingly exalted as Theotokos, the Mother of God. The language that describes her likewise sets in relief the unfathomable mystery of the God-manhood proper to her Son. Her womb, the hymns graphically declare, “has become more spacious than the heavens,” for she has borne Him who is both Creator and Redeemer of all things.

The Aposticha verses that follow the Litia include similar images that hold together apparently irreconcilable opposites. “A great and wondrous mystery unfolds today: A virgin gives birth and remains a virgin!” Humble shepherds, drawn from the lowest class of society, “behold the wonder,” perceiving with the angelic host the great miracle that now unfolds in human history. Mary again is proclaimed “the first-fruits of salvation for all the world, for God, the All-perfect, is born of her. By His birth He seals her virginity. He is bound in swaddling clothes to loose the bonds of sin!” Her Son’s own humility seals the divine act of redemption: “Thou hast dwelt in a cave, O Christ our God...Glory to thy condescension, O Thou who lovest mankind!”

But it is in the Kontakion of the feast that the great wonder of Christ’s Nativity in the flesh finds its most succinct and sublime expression. “Today the virgin gives birth to the transcendent one, and the earth offers a cave to the unapproachable one. Angels, with shepherds, glorify Him! The wise men journey with the star. Since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child.”

“Since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child.” This is the true meaning, the ultimate and, indeed, the only true significance, of Christmas. If the eternal God, utterly unknowable, unfathomable, incomprehensible in His innermost being, deigned to enter into the sphere of our daily life, to assume the burdens and suffering of people like ourselves, He did so for one purpose only: to rescue us from the consequences of our sinful rebellion against the Author of Life, and to raise us up from death and corruption.

As the Church Fathers never tired of declaring, “He became what we are, so that we might become what He is.” The eternal Son of God “took flesh” and “became man” so that we might participate now and forever in all the joy and all the glory of His divine Life.

What occurred two thousand years ago in the obscure village of Bethlehem occurs even now, within the joys and hardships of our daily routine. All

around us Christ's Nativity is mocked, ignored, or exploited for commercial reasons. Yet in the midst of this cultural travesty, we can rediscover once again the truth that the Liturgy of the feast also proclaims: that this wondrous event of Christ's Incarnation, which took place ages ago, also takes place today, here and now, in our own personal and ecclesial experience. "Today," we sing with Orthodox Christians throughout the world, "the virgin gives birth to the transcendent one." "Today heaven and earth are united, for Christ is born!"

1. Served toward the end of Vespers, especially on the eve of feasts, the Litia consists of a procession by the clergy to the narthex of the church, where the deacon intones a long prayer of supplication (litê) for the needs of the people and the world. It includes a series of hymns, together with the festal troparion that express the theme of the feast.

'Friends are God's way of taking care of us'—via Shelley Hill in Alaska

This was written by a Metro Denver Hospice Physician:

I was driving home from a meeting this evening about 5, stuck in traffic on Colorado Blvd., and the car started to choke and splutter and die - I barely managed to coast, cursing, into a gas station, glad only that I would not be blocking traffic and would have a somewhat warm spot to wait for the tow truck. It wouldn't even turn over. Before I could make the call, I saw a woman walking out of the quickie mart building, and it looked like she slipped on some ice and fell into a gas pump, so I got out to see if she was okay

When I got there, it looked more like she had been overcome by sobs than that she had fallen; she was a young woman who looked really haggard with dark circles under her eyes. She dropped something as I helped her up, and I picked it up to give it to her. It was a nickel.

At that moment, everything came into focus for me: the crying woman, the ancient Suburban crammed full of stuff with 3 kids in the back (1 in a car seat), and the gas pump reading \$4.95.

I asked her if she was okay and if she needed help, and she just kept saying 'I don't want my kids to see me crying,' so we stood on the other side of the pump from her car. She said she was driving to California and that things were very hard for her right now. So I asked, 'And you were praying?' That made her back away from me a little, but I assured her I was not a crazy person and said, 'He heard you, and He sent me.'

I took out my card and swiped it through the card reader on the pump so she could fill up her car completely, and while it was fueling, walked to the next door McDonald's and bought 2 big bags of food, some gift certificates for more, and a big cup of coffee. She gave the food to the kids in the car, who attacked it like wolves, and we stood by the pump eating fries and talking a little.

She told me her name, and that she lived in Kansas City Her boyfriend left 2 months ago and she had not been able to make ends meet. She knew she wouldn't have money to pay rent Jan. 1, and finally in desperation had finally called her parents, with whom she had not spoken in about 5 years. They lived in California and said she could come live with them and try to get on her feet there.

So she packed up everything she owned in the car. She told the kids they were going to California for Christmas, but not that they were going to live there. I gave her my gloves, a little hug and said a quick prayer with her for safety on the road. As I was walking over to my car, she said, 'So, are you like an angel or something?'

This definitely made me cry. I said, 'Sweetie, at this time of year angels are really busy, so sometimes God uses regular people.'

It was so incredible to be a part of someone else's miracle. And of course, you guessed it, when I got in my car it started right away and got me home with no problem. I'll put it in the shop tomorrow to check, but I suspect the mechanic won't find anything wrong.

Sometimes the angels fly close enough to you that you can hear the flutter of their wings...

Psalms 55:22 'Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee. He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.'

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA

P. O. Box 495

South Bound Brook, NJ 08880



ARCHBISHOP VSEVOLOD

* 10 December 1927 † 16 December 2007

Dearly Beloved Brother Hierarchs, Clergy and All Orthodox Faithful:

It is with a profound depth of sadness that we hereby inform you of the repose, this evening of 16 December 2007 in the 80th year of his earthly pilgrimage, of His Eminence Archbishop Vsevolod, Eparch of the Western Eparchy of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Titular Hierarch of Skopelos of the Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. His Eminence was stricken with a serious illness just a few months ago and was released only recently from rehabilitation to participate in the celebration of his 20th anniversary of episcopal consecration and his 80th birthday. This celebration took place at his Cathedral of St. Volodymyr in Chicago, IL with the presence of his brother Ukrainian Orthodox hierarchs, his family from the United States and Ukraine and his beloved spiritual children, the clergy and faithful of the Western Eparchy, of which he served a Eparch since 1997.

Archbishop Vsevolod is well known amongst the world's ecumenical leaders and in particular the on-going dialogue between the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches. He has represented our Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in all his ecumenical activities, in particular over the past ten years in repeated attempts to bring about ecclesiastical unity in his native Ukraine.

We express our deepest sympathy to his surviving sister, Ilaria Krejer of San Diego, CA and her children and other family members in Ukraine, at this difficult time and we offer our prayers that our Heavenly Father will embrace them in His warmth and comfort as these difficult moments pass.

Condolences may be sent to:

Regular Mail: Consistory Administrative Offices
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

P. O. Box 495
South Bound Brook, NJ 08880

Email: uocofusa@aol.com

Fax: 732-356-9437

Currier Delivery: Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA
135 Davidson Avenue
Somerset, NJ 08873

Should there be a need, you may contact His Eminence Archbishop Antony at 732-356-0090.

All expressions of sympathy will be shared with our clergy and faithful and most especially with the members of Archbishop Vsevolod's family.

A complete biography of Blessed Repose Archbishop Vsevolod will be published on the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA website (www.uocofusa.org) and distributed within the next few days. Complete funeral arrangements will also be announced at that time.

O God of spirits and of all flesh, Who has trampled down death; You have overthrown the devil and have given Life to Your world: now give rest, Lord, to the soul of Your departed servant Archbishop Vsevolod, in a place of light, a place of refreshment and a place of repose, where there is no sickness, sighing nor sorrow. As You are a Good God, Who loves mankind, pardon every sin, which he has committed, whether by word or by deed or by thought, for there is no man who lives and has not sinned. You alone are sinless, Your Righteousness is Eternal and Your Word is Truth. For You are the Resurrection, the Life and the Repose of your newly presented servant, Archbishop Vsevolod, Christ our God and we give glory, together with Your Father, Who is Eternal and Your All-Holy, Good and Life-Creating Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen!

In our Lord's abundant Love,
† Constantine, Metropolitan
† Antony, Archbishop

**PERMANENT CONFERENCE
OF UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX BISHOPS
BEYOND THE BORDERS OF UKRAINE**

A spiritual message to the beloved clergy and faithful entrusted to our spiritual care throughout the world and to our brothers and sisters in the Faith throughout Ukraine as we celebrate Nativity of our Lord and God and Savior – Jesus Christ – 2007

Dearly beloved Brothers and Sisters,

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Once again the never ending passage of time carries our thoughts back the Holy Night of the Nativity of the Son of God – our Merciful Redeemer and Savior – Jesus Christ.

All the earth and all mankind relive the holiest of this Nativity night. The thoughts of all follow the Bethlehem shepherds and the Wise Men from the East to Bethlehem and to the cave of Christ's nativity. On this night the Bethlehem cave became the holiest place on earth. Holy thoughts, elevated feelings, prayers and hymns surround this cave – the birthplace of the Savior of the world...and the first hymn of the holy angels resounds over Bethlehem on the holy night of the Nativity of our Savior: "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and good will among men" (Luke 2:14) – is new and real – not old and dead. Our devout Ukrainian nation celebrates on this Great Feast singing its native carols, which have profound meaning and proclaim the Holy Truth.

The Lord born to us – the Messiah for all mankind – has brought this Divine Truth. As the Prince of Peace, He has given mankind the Law of Love. He gave birth to a great hope, a hope that the time will come when war will be abolished, offensiveness and hatred among men will disappear and mankind will follow the Path of God to Divine approval and eternal peace.

Observing the ever changing world around us, we are awed by the fact that empires have come and gone, rulers and governments change with every passing day, dictators, despots and conquerors – each having his day – have passed on through the pages of history. In our cities and villages, in our communities and in our families we also see certain changes. Most certainly, we will continue to see changes and with them other problems. Where will we go to find peace and tranquility? To whom will we turn for peace, a sense of balance and for strength? It is to our Lord Jesus Christ that we must turn – the real Advisor. He waits for us to make room for Him in our hearts, to provide us with peace, joy, a sense of balance and abundance of life – all from His Grace and Mercy.

Of all that has come and gone, amongst the rapid daily changes, only one kingdom remains unchanged – this is the Kingdom, which was initiated in the little land of Palestine, in the tiny city of Bethlehem. The King, Who was born in the cave, Who was laid in a manger, Who was rejected by mankind but became a sacrifice for them on the Cross – He reigns. He reigns in Heaven at the Right Hand of the Father amongst His holy angels. He reigns in every heart, which opens itself to receive Him. He reigns in His Holy Church, which follows His Holy Gospel and casts aside all other authorities.

Our Heavenly Father has said of Him: “He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Most High...and of His Kingdom there shall be no end”. (Luke 1:32-33)

Our Savior, Whose Nativity we celebrate, He is the “Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father”. (Isaiah 9:6) Let us, therefore, come to Him, let us offer Him our meaningless lives and He will give us peace, direction and a goal for our life. Let us offer Him our weakness and He will give us strength. To overcome our sorrow, He will give us joy. Let us come to Him in our sinfulness, He will give us forgiveness and lead us to perfection. Glory to God Who reigns! God is with us!

Dearly beloved in Christ! We greet you on the occasion of the Great Nativity Feast. May it lift our souls to heavenly heights. May the New Year – 2008 – bring us all good health, prosperity, inner peace and joy in Jesus Christ.

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

+ CONSTANTINE – Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and in Diaspora

+ JOHN – Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ ANTONY – Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

+ † VSEVOLOD – *Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA*

+ IOAN – Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora – Australia and New Zealand Eparchy

+ YURIJ – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ JEREMIAH – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA – Eparchy of South America

+ ANDRIJ – Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora – Western Europe Eparchy