

Christ is among us!  
He is and will be!



Христос посеред нас!  
Є і буде!

### LITURGY INTENTIONS

<b>Sunday, Dec 22</b> • Sun. before The Nativity, the Holy Fathers	Hebrews 11: 9-10; 17-23; 32-40 ~ Mt 1: 1-25
5:00 pm (Sat.) God's Blessings for Nettie and Lawrence's Anniversary.....	Ricky and Cindy Chuckree
8:30 am God's Blessings for St. Joseph's parishioners.....	
10:00 am (HFH) God's Blessings for Sister Servants, friends and family.....	Bethany Home Sisters
11:00 am †Anne Pronyk.....	Bev and family
<b>Monday, December 23</b> • 10 Martyrs of Crete	James 2: 14-26 ~ Mark 10: 46-52
8:00 am †Sofia, †Anelka, †Michalene, †Lillian, †Mary ..	Barb Slobodzian
11:00 am (Bethany) God's Blessings for Sister Servants, friends and family.....	Bethany Home
<b>Tuesday, December 24</b> • Eve of the Nativity	Hebrews 1: 1-12 ~ Luke 2: 1-20
8:00 am 94th Birthday Blessings for Sofia Hull.....	Natalia Peniak
5:00 pm God's Blessings for all parishioners.....	
8:30 pm God's Blessings for all parishioners.....	
10:30 pm God's Blessings for all parishioners.....	
<b>Wednesday, December 25</b> • Nativity of Our Lord	Galatians 4: 4-7 ~ Matthew 2: 1-12
10:00 am God's Blessings for all parishioners.....	
10:00 am (HFH) God's Blessings for all HFH Residents, Staff and Sisters.....	
<b>Thursday, Dec 26</b> • Plenary Memorial of the Mother of God	Hebrews 2: 11-18 ~ Matthew 2: 13-23
8:30 am God's Blessings for Redemptorist Fathers.....	Glicaria Bilinsky
11:00 am (Bethany) †Stefan Lischynsky.....	wife Mary
7:00 pm Health and Blessings for Anne Zappe.....	Phyllis Trach
<b>Friday, Dec 27</b> • St. Stephen, First Martyr	Acts 6: 8-15, 7:1-5, 47-60 ~ Matthew 21: 33-42
8:30 am †John and †Nellie Nowasad.....	Martha Semchuk
11:00 am (Bethany) Blessings for Sister Stephanie Olynyk, SSML.....	Bethany Home
7:00 pm God's Blessings and health for Leslie.....	Peter and Joan Waschyshyn
<b>Saturday, Dec 28</b> • Saturday after the Nativity	Timothy 6: 11-16 ~ Matthew 12: 15-21
7:30 am (HFH) Thanksgiving for God's Blessings.....	Malenko and Ouellette families
8:30 am Birthday Blessings for brother Al.....	Lukie family
<b>Sunday, Dec 29</b> • Sunday after The Nativity, the Holy Fathers	Galatians 1: 11-19 ~ Matthew 2: 13-23
5:00 pm (Sat.) †Gladys Sobieski.....	Carol Subtelney
8:30 am God's Blessings and good health for Sviatoslav.....	Vassili and Maria Karnaoukh
10:00 am (HFH) God's Blessings for St. Joseph's parishioners esp for Helen Chuckree.....	Ricky & Cindy Chuckree
11:00 am God's Blessings for children and grandchildren.....	Norm and Sandy Dobson



**SUNDAY COLLECTION December 15, 2013 THANK YOU!** 184 envelopes \$5,736.00  
 Open Collection \$ 133.75 ; Vigil Lamps \$ 142.00 ; Outreach \$ 175.00 ; Initial Offering \$ 5.00  
 Christmas Flowers \$ 165.00 ; Christmas Offering \$255.00 ; Building & Capital Fund \$ 50.00 ;  
 Church Decorating \$ 3,025.00

**Parishioners and Guests:** We have recently purchased an AED Defibrillator that is kept by the Shrine door, in case anyone has a SCA (Sudden Cardiac Arrest) in church. We also have purchased a portable oxygen tank (which is also kept by the Shrine door)

# ST. JOSEPH'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Українська Католицька Парафія Святого Йосифа

250 JEFFERSON AVENUE WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R2V 0M6



**DECEMBER 22ND 2013 • SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS**  
**SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY**  
**22 ГРУДНЯ 2013 • Неділя Святих Отців**

### PASTORAL CARE - REDEMPTORISTS

**PASTOR: FATHER BOHDAN LUKIE, CSSR**  
**ASSISTANT: FATHER FRANK SZADIAK, CSSR**

**FATHER LEONARD RATUSHNIAK, CSSR**  
*Pastor of ST. ANDREWS PARISH*

### SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY

5:00 PM SATURDAY (ENGLISH)  
 VESPERS SATURDAY 4:15-5:00 PM  
 8:30 AM (UKRAINIAN) • 11:00 AM (ENGLISH)

### DAILY DIVINE LITURGY

8:00 AM MONDAY - FRIDAY • 8:30 AM SAT.

### Holy Days

8:30 AM (UKRAINIAN) • 7:00 PM (ENGLISH)

### PARISH OFFICE

SECRETARY - CYNTHIA BRYANT  
 ☎ 339.4512 •

• EMAIL: [stjosephukr@mymts.net](mailto:stjosephukr@mymts.net)  
 • WEBSITE: [www.stjoeswinnipeg.com](http://www.stjoeswinnipeg.com)  
 AUDITORIUM ☎ 339.0061

### PROVINCIAL:

FATHER LARRY KONDRA, CSSR  
 ☎ 339.5737 • FAX: 339.1062

### THE WELCOME HOME

FATHER MICHAEL SMOLINSKI, CSSR  
 FATHER JOHN SIANCHUK, CSSR  
 ☎ 946.5352 • FAX: 943.0960  
 188 EUCLID AVENUE WINNIPEG R2W 2X4  
 EMAIL: [whome01@mts.net](mailto:whome01@mts.net)



REDEMPTORIST YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY  
 MICHELLE THIESSEN ☎ 204-799-1060  
 • EMAIL: [rymcssr@gmail.com](mailto:rymcssr@gmail.com)  
 WEBPAGE: [www.yorktonredemptorists.com](http://www.yorktonredemptorists.com)

**BLESSED VASYL VELYCHKOVSKY, CSSR**  
**BISHOP - MARTYR**

**SHRINE - MUSEUM - GIFT SHOP**

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

SUNDAY: AFTER DIVINE LITURGIES  
 MONDAY: CLOSED  
 TUESDAY - FRIDAY: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
 SATURDAY: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

SHRINE DIRECTOR: FR. JOHN SIANCHUK, CSSR  
 SHRINE ADMINISTRATOR: MARY JANE KALENCHUK  
 ☎ 338.7321 • EMAIL: [bvshrine@mts.net](mailto:bvshrine@mts.net)  
 WEBPAGE: [www.bvmartyrshrine.com](http://www.bvmartyrshrine.com)

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE (WINNIPEG)  
 WEBPAGE: [www.archeparchy.ca](http://www.archeparchy.ca)

**Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be forever!**  
 The parish of St. Joseph extends a warm welcome to all our guests. We are pleased that you have come to pray with us. May the Lord bless you!

**СЛАВА ІСУСУ ХРИСТУ! СЛАВА НА ВІКИ!**  
 Парафія святого Йосифа сердечно вітає всіх гостей, які прибули до нас на Богослуження. Нехай Бог вас благословить!

Glory be to Jesus Christ,

It's truly amazing how we cherish special Christmas traditions; these are often very different and sometimes very unique in each individual family. We, as Ukrainians, especially remember and honour our precious personal history and our family customs, be we from the farm or from the city.



Over the years we, as individuals, create and cherish our own Christmas traditions. I certainly have! We prepare ourselves for the wonderful celebration of Christ's birth, but still there is something unique that marks our real commencement of CHRISTMAS.

For nine years I was a pastor in Toronto, a city I came to love with all its culture and concerts. Each year from 1990 – 1999, I attended a **Handel Messiah** Concert and delighted in each performance. This became my personal tradition; this marked the real beginning of the Christmas celebration.

As Pastor of **St. John's Parish** in Newark, another creative event began my spirit of Christ's birth. We supported our own St. John's Ukrainian Catholic School and what a challenge that was with no government funding. But it truly was worth every sacrifice as we educated 1000's of Ukrainian children over 65 years! The Christmas concert that our children so lovingly prepared for the parish was absolutely super – and this personally began the Christmas season!

And wonder of wonders – a new personal Winnipeg tradition has emerged! Our Ukrainian Catholic School – **Immaculate Heart** – where many of our children have received an excellent education in its 100 plus years of existence has become a source of great joy and pride. No question – these **gifted children**, guided by such dedicated teachers, create one of the most stupendous Christmas concerts each year. The little precious ones - **K to Gr. 3** – always host a most delightful and entertaining *pageant* and this, in turn, is equally matched by the **Gr. 4 – 8** Christmas concert that brings much joy and laughter to everyone present. Now my Christmas celebrations have truly begun!!!

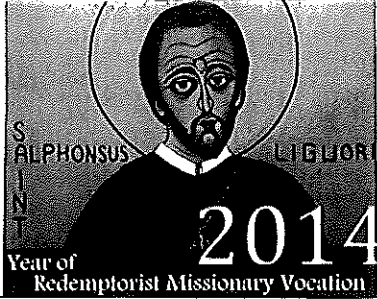


And now the pleasure of celebrating the birth of Jesus with each and everyone of you – this is the highlight, not only for me, but also for Father Frank ...



Together let us share this Christian joy and peace and love as we pray and praise God for His great goodness to us!  
 \*\*\*\*\*

*May we warmly and graciously thank all those who have given of their time to decorate our Church so beautifully!*


*Fr. Bohdan*

December 21st Dec 22, 2013	December 28th Dec 29, 2013	<b>YEAR OF REDEMPTORIST MISSIONARY VOCATION CALENDARS</b> They will be available for purchase after the Divine Liturgies on Saturday evening and Sunday morning or at the Parish Office (204-339-4512). They are \$15 each. The proceeds of this calendar will <i>help support our two seminarians</i> , Evan Dzhur and Eumir Bautista who are currently studying in Bronx, NY 
<u>Epistle Readers</u> 5:00 pm Saturday K. Hrechka 8:30 am Sunday W. Lukie 11:00 am Sunday P. Washchyshyn	<u>Epistle Readers</u> 5:00 pm Saturday D. Sumka 8:30 am Sunday M. Marcinkow 11:00 am Sunday J. Washchyshyn	
<u>Ushers</u> 5:00 pm Saturday D. Sumka S. Sumka 8:30 am Sunday D. Gnutel E. Gnutel 11:00 am Sunday E. Faseruk K. Chrapchynski	<u>Ushers</u> 5:00 pm Saturday M. Gwozd W. Gwozd 8:30 am Sunday P. Iwanuck V. Solman 11:00 am Sunday G. Kukura L. Trach	
<u>Vigil Lamps</u> Dec 23 - Jan 5, 2013 E. Kuzenko, G. Szun, K. Zawortny	<u>Vigil Lamps</u> Jan 6 - Jan 19, 2014 M. Gwozd G. Szun	
<b>Epistle Readers:</b> Dec 24 5:00 pm S. Rorabeck 8:30 pm J. Peters 10:30 pm Parish Choir Dec 25 10:00 am P. Krasnowski		



The Shrine Museum will be closed: Dec 24, Dec 25, Dec 26, 2013 and January 1, 2014

 Condolences and prayers are offered to Stella, Nicolette and family and friends of **† Nick Jaman**. May God grant his soul eternal rest. Вічна пам'ять 

**\*\*Year End 2013 Donations must be in the office by Monday, December 30, 2013\*\***

 **2014 Offering Envelopes, which are in numerical order, are ready for pick up in the church basement.** If you don't remember your number, then please check the alphabetical list that is posted. If you are new to the church, please call the parish office, 339-4512.

**Upcoming at St. Joseph's:**

Dec 24	Tues	Christmas Eve (Fast Day) Divine Liturgies 5pm & 8:30 pm English; Great Compline & Carols 10pm & Divine Liturgy 10:30 pm (Ukr)	
Dec 25	Wed	Christmas Day Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Christ is born! Glorify Him! ХРИСТОС РАЖДАЄТЬСЯ! СЛАВИТЕ ЙОГО!	
Jan 01	Wed	Happy New Year!	
Jan 05	Sun	St. Joseph Choir sings at 8:30 am Liturgy	
Jan 08	Wed	Altar Servers meeting 5:30 pm	
Jan 09	Thur	Knights of Columbus Executive meeting 7pm	
Jan 12	Sun	Catechism and Adult Scripture Study 10 - 11 am	

**Go Light Your World**

There is a candle, in every soul  
Some brightly burning, some dark and cold  
There is a Spirit, who brings a fire, ignites a candle and makes his home

So carry your candle, run to the darkness, seek out the hopeless, confused and torn  
Hold out your candle, for all to see it, take your candle, and go light your world

Frustrated brother, see how he's tried to, light his own candle, some other way  
See now your sister, she's been robbed and lied to, still holds a candle without a flame

So carry your candle, run to the darkness, see out the lonely, the tired and worn  
Hold out your candle for all to see it, take your candle, and go light your world

We are a fam'ly, whose hearts are blazing, so let's raise our candles, and light up the sky  
Praying to our Father, in the name of Jesus, make us a beacon, in darkest time

So carry your candle run to the darkness, seek out the helpless, deceived and poor  
Hold out your candle for all to see it, take your candle, and go light your world

Carry your candle, run to the darkness, seek out the hopeless, confused and torn  
Hold out your candle for all to see it take your candle and go light your world  
Take your candle, and go light your world

**Shine On Us**

Lord, let your light, light of your face, shine on us  
Lord, Let your light, light of your face, shine on us  
That we may be saved,  
That we may have life  
To find our way in the darkest night  
Let your light shine on us

Lord, let your grace, grace from your hand, fall on us  
Lord, let your grace, grace from your hand, fall on us  
That we may be saved,  
That we may have life  
To find our way in the darkest night  
Let your grace fall on us

Lord, let your love, love with no end, come over us  
Lord, let your love, love with no end, come over us  
That we may be saved,  
That we may have life  
To find our way in the darkest night  
Let your love come over us  
Let your light shine on us

**We Come**

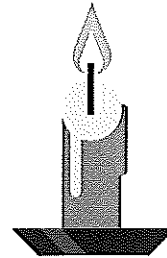
Our hearts are empty without you  
Barren and cold but for the bold  
Hope that you yourself, planted within

**Refrain**

In the mighty name of God  
In the saving name of the Jesus  
In the strong name of the Spirit  
We come, we cry, we watch, we wait, we look, we long for you  
We come, we cry, we watch, we wait, we look, we long for you

Sometimes we long for the morning  
For a refrain, from etchings and pain  
Yet our loneliness, draws us to you

**Refrain**

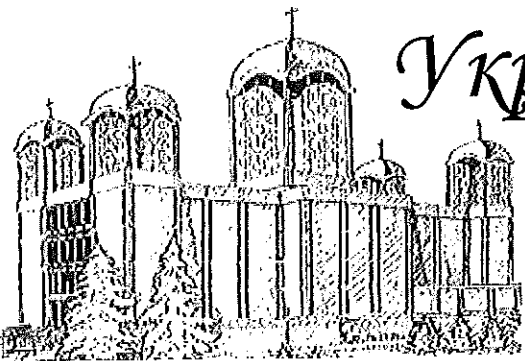


"Christmas...lights the way  
from one year to the next...  
and from one heart  
to another"

**T H I S C H R I S T M A S :**

- ... mend a quarrel.
- ... seek out a forgotten friend.
- ... dismiss suspicion and  
replace it with trust.
- ... write a love letter.
- ... share some treasure.
- ... give a soft answer.
- ... encourage youth.
- ... manifest your loyalty in word  
and in deed.
- ... keep a promise.
- ... find the time.
- ... forego a grudge.
- ... try to understand.
- ... examine your demands on others.
- ... forgive an enemy.
- ... apologize if you are wrong.
- ... be kind, be gentle.
- ... think first of someone else.
- ... laugh a little; laugh a lot.
- ... deserve confidence.
- ... decry complacency.
- ... take up arms against malice.
- ... go to church.
- ... gladden the heart of a child.
- ... express your gratitude.
- ... welcome a stranger.
- ... take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth
- ... speak your love.
- ... speak it again
- ... speak it still once again.
- ... be happy.

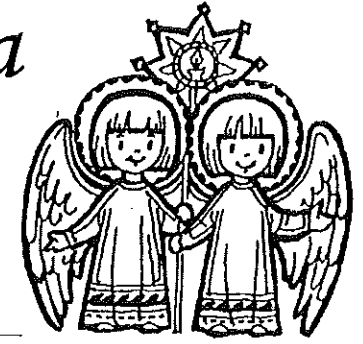
... MAKE THIS CHRISTMAS MERRY!!!



# Українська Католицька Церква Святого Йосифа

## St. Joseph Ukrainian Catholic Church

Порядок Богослужень 2013-2014 Schedule of Services



**Tuesday DECEMBER 24 ГРУДНЯ Вівторок**  
*Christmas Eve (Fast Day) - Навечер'я Різдва (Піст)*

Divine Liturgy (Eng)	5:00 pm	Служба Божа (Анг)
Divine Liturgy (Eng)	8:30 pm	Служба Божа (Анг)
Great Compline & Carols	10:00 pm	Велике Повечеря (Укр)
Divine Liturgy (Ukr)	10:30 pm	Служба Божа (Укр)

**Wednesday DECEMBER 25 ГРУДНЯ Середа**  
*Christmas Day - Різдво*

Divine Liturgy	10:00 am	Служба Божа
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**Thursday DECEMBER 26 ГРУДНЯ Четвер**  
*Sobor of Blessed Mother - Собор Прес. Богородиці*

Divine Liturgy (Ukr)	8:30 am	Служба Божа (Укр)
Divine Liturgy (Eng)	7:00 pm	Служба Божа (Анг)

**Friday DECEMBER 27 ГРУДНЯ П'ятниця**  
*Feast of St. Stephen - св. Стефана*

Divine Liturgy (Ukr)	8:30 am	Служба Божа (Укр)
Divine Liturgy (Eng)	7:00 pm	Служба Божа (Анг)



*Christmas Tropar*

*Tropar*  
 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!

*Тропар Різдва*

*Різдво Твоє, Христе Боже наш,  
 засяяло світові світлом розуміння.  
 У ньому ті, що зорями служили,  
 від звізди навчилися поклонятись Тобі, Сонцю Правди,  
 й пізнавати Тебе, схід з висоти.  
 Господи, слава Тобі.*

*Traditionally the Christmas tropar is prayed before meals and is included in all prayers times during the Christmas festive period.*

**Wednesday JANUARY 1 СІЧНЯ Середа**  
*Circumcision of Our Lord - Обрізання Г.Н.І.Х.  
 St. Basil the Great - Св. Василя Великого  
 New Year's Day - НОВИЙ РІК*

Divine Liturgy (Ukr)	10:00 am	Служба Божа (Укр)
Divine Liturgy (Eng)	7:00 pm	Служба Божа (Анг)

**Sunday JANUARY 5 СІЧНЯ Неділя**  
*Epiphany Eve (Fast Day) Навечеря Богоявлення (Піст)*

Regular Sunday Schedule: Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8:30 am & 11am

**Monday JANUARY 6 СІЧНЯ Понеділок**  
*Epiphany (Jordan) - Богоявлення (Йордан)*

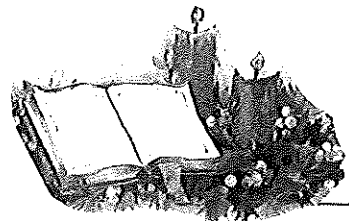
Solemn Blessing of Water		Врочи́сте Водосвя́ття
Divine Liturgy (Ukr)	8:30 am	Служба Божа (Укр)

Solemn Blessing of Water		Врочи́сте Водосвя́ття
Divine Liturgy (Eng)	7:00 pm	Служба Божа (Анг)

### Христос Раждається!



### Christ is born!



**Attention Seniors:** Anyone who is interested in becoming a member of **St. Joseph's Seniors' Club**, can pay their membership of \$5.00 to Mary Hykawy or Betty Cimarno.

Please join us for a morning of learning, reflection and discussion at our **Adult Scripture Study**, "The Parables of Jesus", held Sunday mornings at 10:00 am



This is a DVD based program with no books and no homework - just your presence and participation...will resume January 12, 2014! New participants are always welcome!

**BISHOP VELYCHKOVSKY  
PILGRIMAGE TO UKRAINE**

A spiritual journey - following a martyr's life  
July 7 - July 28, 2014

We will walk in the footsteps of Blessed Vasyl -- visiting the sites where he lived, worked and suffered. COST: \$4,000.00 (includes airfare from Winnipeg, meals, accommodations, and travel throughout Ukraine. **Deadline for registration: Dec 31**, Registration contact: Mary Jane Kalenchuk or Fr. John Sianchuk, CSsR Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine, Tel: 338-7321 ; Email: [info@bvmartyrshrine.com](mailto:info@bvmartyrshrine.com)

Bethlehem Peace Light from the Birthplace of Jesus will be at St. Joseph's Saturday, Dec 21.



Come join us in sharing this symbol of peace, love and hope!

You may buy a candle and take the flame home with you.

Every year it is received by Boy Scouts in Austria and distributed all across Europe and recently North America. **Plast Winnipeg** will receive it from the Boys Scouts of America and presently at St. Joseph's.

**Community Events - 2014 - Mark the Date!**

**FESTIVAL OF PRAYER**

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: JANUARY 19 - 26, 2014

**Has Christ been divided?**  
cf. 1 Corinthians 1:1-17

**AKAPHIST SERVICE AT ST. JOSEPH'S,  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 7:30 PM. PLEASE SEE SCHEDULE**

*Join us as we pray together for unity  
and experience different traditions of Christian spirituality!*

**Tues Jan 21 - "Compassionate Ministry"** presented by Fr. Larry Kondra, CSsR, 7pm  
St. Nicholas Church. Register 338-7801; [religioused@archeparchy.ca](mailto:religioused@archeparchy.ca) ; \$5 (at the door)

**Sat, Jan 25 - Fundraising Breakfast** 10 am at Holy Eucharist Parish Center for "House of Hope" (A safe-house for teenage girls at risk in Lviv). Sponsored by UCWLC Archeparchy of Wpg. Tickets: \$25 available from Parish Office - 339-4512

**Save the Date :**

- UCWLC: **Caroling at HFH**, Thur January 9, 2014 Registration 4:45 pm; Singing for the residents 5:15 - 5:45pm, Vesper service 5:45 pm, then reception/dinner (\$13.50)
- Sat. Feb. 15, 2014 - Save the date . . . for **Table for Two**. A romantic dinner for young married and engaged couples. Contact Michelle: [rymcssr@gmail.com](mailto:rymcssr@gmail.com) or 204-799-1060.
- Sun. Feb. 9, 2014 - UCWLC Valentine "**Soup and Sandwich**" Event

**Mary's Angels ... Panakhyda Service** for your loved ones will be held after Liturgy Sat. Dec 21 (5 pm) and Sunday, Dec 22 (8:30 am & 11 am)

Thank you to all who purchased Mary's Angels. This year \$550.00 was collected for the 2 orphan girls who were placed in a psychiatric hospital in Ukraine. God bless you for your support.



This Holy Season you can help provide comfort and joy by making a Gift to the **Holy Family Home - Festival of Lights Campaign**.

All contributions go to support the purchase of new furnishing for the dining and activity areas on resident care units at Holy Family Home. These are areas for family and friends to gather together and for residents to meet and visit one another. Please pick up a **Festival of Lights envelope** at the back of the church or visit [www.holyfamilyhome.mb.ca](http://www.holyfamilyhome.mb.ca)

On behalf of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, Holy Family Home and the Lubov SSMI Foundation, thank you for considering our invitation.

*May you be blessed with the spirit of Christmas which is peace,  
the joy of Christmas which is hope, and the heart of Christmas which is love.*



**UCWLC Fundraising Breakfast: Saturday January 25, 2014 at 10:00 am**  
Holy Eucharist Parish Centre, 460 Munroe Avenue

It has been reported that presently there are over 150,000 homeless and orphaned children in Ukraine. While there are some services and assistance available to the orphans under the age of 16, there is nothing in place to offer support to those who reach 16 years and are expected to transition into adult independent life. Often at that age they have not developed basic life skills and literally have no place to go. As a result, the system turns them into the most vulnerable group and exposes them to a life on the streets which makes them prime targets for human traffickers.

Since human trafficking has become a major social problem in Ukraine and has reached a crisis, there is a dire need to help provide accommodation, education, life-skills training and a safe environment in order to prevent young girls from falling prey to a life of sexual exploitation and slavery.

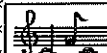
The UCWLC Winnipeg Archeparchy, is responding to this urgent issue by supporting the **House of Hope** in Lviv - a safe house administered by the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate that offers young girls shelter, an opportunity to develop life skills and prepares them for independent living.

In keeping with the Christmas spirit of giving, the UCWLC invites our faithful and their friends and extended family to attend a **Fundraising Breakfast** to raise funds to furnish several bedrooms so that the safe house can accommodate more girls and expand the necessary services. In the event that you are unable to attend, donations towards this cause would be greatly appreciated.

Sister Janice Soluk will be the guest speaker at the Breakfast and there will be a presentation about the House of Hope.

**Tickets (\$25.00) to the Breakfast can be purchased from the Parish office or call 204-339-4512.**

If you wish to make a donation before December 31, 2013 and require a tax receipt, please pick up a donor's form from your parish office.



Melodia's practices at St. Joe's will resume Tuesday January 14th, 2014!

**2013/2014 PASTORAL LETTER OF THE  
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CANADA**

To the Reverend Clergy, Religious Women and Men, Monastics, Seminarians and Laity

Christ is Born! Let us Glorify Him!

**Welcoming the Stranger in Our Midst!**

Luke's Gospel records the birth of Jesus Christ in these words: "In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.... Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem..., to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2: 1-7).

***No room in the inn.***

Already at Jesus' birth, he knew what it was like to be turned away, rejected, unwanted. When it came time for Mary to deliver her child, she gave birth to a son, "laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2: 7).

Imagine. No room for the Son of God.

Immediately following Jesus' birth, his parents feared for his safety and had to flee to a distant land. Matthew's Gospel describes the flight into Egypt in these words: "An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for King Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'" (Mt 2: 13).

With that, within days of his holy birth, Jesus, the Son of God, becomes a stranger in his own land, who must flee to a foreign place, in search of peace, safety and security. With this, the infant Jesus, the son of Mary, shares in the vulnerability of humanity by himself becoming a migrant, a refugee.

***Migrants and Refugees: Towards a Better World***

Pope Francis, chose for his theme for his 2014 Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees: "Towards a Better World." "Each individual is a part of humanity and, with the entire family of peoples, shares the hope of a better future."

The pope writes: "I think of how even the Holy Family of Nazareth experienced initial rejection: Mary 'gave birth to her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn' (Lk 2: 7). Jesus, Mary and Joseph knew what it meant to leave their own country and become migrants: threatened by Herod's lust for power, they were forced to take flight and seek refuge in Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-14). But the maternal heart of Mary and the compassionate heart of Joseph, the Protector of the Holy Family, never doubted that God would always be with them. Through their intercession, may that same firm certainty dwell in the heart of every migrant and refugee."

Pope Francis reminds us that "migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity. They are children, women and men who leave or who are forced to leave their homes for various reasons... in their hearts they long for a better future, not only for themselves but for their families and those closest to them."

***An invitation, a challenge.***

Pope Francis invites us to reflect on what is involved in the creation of "a better world."

He writes: "Every human being is a child of God! He or she bears the image of Christ! We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees do not only represent a problem to be solved, but are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved. They are an occasion that [God] gives us to help build a more just society, a more perfect democracy, a more united country, a more fraternal world and a more open and evangelical Christian community."

***Hope for the future.***

At one time or another, we were all immigrants in search of a better life. Let us not forget that. Instead, let us welcome with love and open arms the 200,000 migrants and refugees that each year either freely choose Canada as their adopted homeland or are forced to flee their own countries as a result of war, conflict, discrimination, human trafficking, suffering and death.

The Jesus who was born in Bethlehem for our salvation, and who at his birth experienced rejection for there was no room for him in the inn, is the same Jesus who shares our humanity so that we might share his divinity. Jesus desired to touch those left untouched in our societies. And now Jesus entrust this healing ministry to us, we who are the body of Christ. God uses our words, our hands, our feet, our bodies to extend to others the Kingdom of God. God needs us!

***A Christmas wish and blessing.***

This Christmas, Pope Francis, together with all your bishops and pastors, pray, "Dear migrants and refugees! Never lose the hope that you too are facing a more secure future, that on your journey you will encounter an outstretched hand, and that you can experience fraternal solidarity and the warmth of friendship! To all of you, and to those who have devoted their lives and their efforts to helping you, I give the assurance of my prayers and I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing."

May our new-born Saviour, Jesus Christ bless you as you open your hearts wide to receive him. As we share the Good News with one another, "Christ is born!", "Let us Glorify Him", let the words heard by the shepherd of Bethlehem be our praise to God for his many gifts and wonders: "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom he favors" (Lk 2: 14).

The blessing of the Lord be upon you! Sincerely in Christ,

+Lawrence Huculak, Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg

+Michael Wiwchar, Eparch Emeritus of Saskatoon

+Severian Yakymyshyn, Eparch Emeritus of New Westminster

+Cornelius Pasichny, Eparch Emeritus of Toronto

+David Motiuk, Eparchial Bishop of Edmonton

+Stephen Chmilar, Eparchial Bishop of Toronto

+Ken Nowakowski, Eparchial Bishop of New Westminster

+Bryan Bayda, Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon