

# WELCOME TO THE GOD-LOVING 8. GOD-PROTECTED PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL'S!

A parish of the UOC-USA and the Ecumenical Patriarchate
74 Harris Ave. Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 401.762.3939 |
www.StMichaelUOC.org | Fr. Borislav Kroner

"Each one shall give what he has decided in his own mind, not Grudgingly or because he is made to - for God loves a cheerful giver." - II Cor. 9:7

January 7, 2024

XPИСТОС НАРОДЖУЄТЬСЯ! СЛАВІМО ЙОГО! CHRIST IS BORN! LET US GLORIFY HIM!

# SERVICE SCHEDULE

**Sunday, Jan. 7:** THE NATIVITY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST / The Adoration

of the Magi: Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar – FAST FREE

**Epistle: Gal. 4:4-7; Gospel: Mt. 2:1-12** 

9:30AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil – Live video broadcast on our Facebook page: page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelUOC/">https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelUOC/</a>

# WEEKDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

From January 7th till January 18th is a Fast-free period.

Mon., Jan. 8: Synaxis of the Theotokos / Hieromartyr Euthymius,

bishop of Sardis - FAST FREE

Epistle: Heb. 2:11-18; Gospel: Mt. 2:13-23

10:30AM Moleben to the Birth-Giver of God

Tues, Jan. 9: Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen -

**FAST FREE** 

Epistle: James 3:1-10; Gospel: Mk. 11:11-23

10:30AM Moleben to the Protodeacon Stephen

Wed., Jan. 10: The 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia – FAST FREE

Epistle: James 3:11-4:6; Gospel: Mk. 11:23-26

Thur, Jan. 11: The 14,000 Infants (Holy Innocents) slain by Herod at

Bethlehem – FAST FREE

Epistle: James 4:7-5:9; Gospel: Mk. 12:27-33

Fri., Jan. 12: Virgin-martyr Anysia at Thessalonica – FAST FREE

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:1-2,10-12-2:7-10; Gospel: Mk. 12:1-12

Sat., Jan. 13: Leave-taking of the Nativity of Christ / St. Peter

Mohyla, metropolitan of Kyiv – FAST FREE

Epistle: 1 Tim. 6:11-16; Gospel: Mk. 12:15-21

Sunday, Jan. 14: THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD JESUS

CHRIST / Sunday before Theophany / St. Basil the Great, archbishop

of Caesarea in Cappadocia – FAST FREE

Epistle: Col. 2:8-12; Gospel: Mt. 1:1-8

9:00AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil – Live video broadcast on our

Facebook page: page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelUOC/">https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelUOC/</a>

## From January 7th till January 18th is a Fast-free period.

Remember: even when you are absent, expenses continue

# SCRIPTURE READINGS: SUNDAY, JAN. 7, 2024

## Galatians 4:4-7 (Epistle)

BRETHREN, But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

#### Matthew 2:1-12 (Gospel)

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where

is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel." Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

# PARISH NEWS

-WE EXTEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO: Paula Hreczuck (Jan. 1), Vitaly Gaftanyuk (Jan. 1), and Richard Charest (Jan. 5), may God grant you all, Many, Happy Years! Многая літа!

-SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024 - St. Nicholas Day Children's Celebration. *Note the change of date, due to snow.* 

**--2024 LITURGICAL CALENDARS ARE IN!** They are available in the vestibule. Suggested donation of \$3.00.

**-WE WELCOME ANY AND ALL DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH, LARGE OR SMALL:** We are most grateful for your kindness. Your donation is essential to the church. From your contribution, we pay the priest's salary and health insurance, as well as pay the utilities for the church including water, heat, electricity, lawn care and at this time of year, snow plowing and salting the ice on the driveway.

Checks should be made out to St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Please offer your donations during the church collection or send your dues and donations to:

St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church 74 Harris Ave. Woonmsocket, RI 02895

#### -- DESPERATELY SEEKING COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS:

We are seeking volunteers to sponsor a coffee hour. There will be a white board setup in the Hall with the dates. Simply, write your name for the Sunday you wish to sponsor. Usually the coffee pot and water kettle are ready to go upon your arrival. The coffee pot needs to be plugged in by 8:30 am. You are responsible for purchasing milk and half & half for the coffee. There are presently packaged goods in the kitchen. There also may be frozen items in the freezer designated for coffee hour. Feel free to bring your own items as well. At the end of coffee hour, you are responsible for washing the coffee pot, utensils, plates, etc., wrapping any leftovers, cleaning the food tables and kitchen counter. Please ask if you have any questions or need help with your coffee hour. Thank you for volunteering. Thanks, Eleanor

-ST. MICHAEL CEMETERY ACCESS: Polish National Cemetery has a contract to excavate and to remove gravel from their cemetery. The operation will take place Monday thru Friday between 7am − 5pm and Saturday 9am − 12 pm. Be aware that you may encounter quite a bit of activity involved on the shared road. Excavation and removal of the sand has begun, so please be careful entering and leaving the cemetery.

**-2ND COLLECTION:** The Special Collection will be to help with the expenses of repairing the front steps of the Church. Please be as generous as possible. Thank you!

# UPCOMING PARISH & INTER-PARISH EVENTS

**—2nd Thursday of every month** — Akathist to the Mother of God, Healer of Cancer @ 7PM / Followed by Adult Religious Education class. Please submit the names of those you want to have remembered to Fr. Boris.

# **UOL CORNER**

**--UOL'S MISSION STATEMENT:** "The Ukrainian Orthodox League is a national volunteer organization of members in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, who are committed to promoting the Orthodox Faith, supporting the Church, developing the potential of our youth and their active participation in the life of the Church, and preserving Ukrainian heritage and culture."

-UOL MOTTO: "Dedicated to our Church, Devoted to Its Youth"

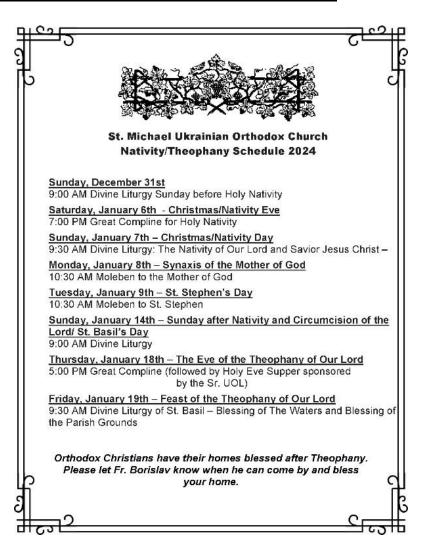
#### --GOALS OF THE UOL:

- Promoting active participation in all aspects of the Orthodox faith and supporting the Church.
- Developing and maintaining programs and projects which educate members and promote dedication and commitment to the Church, Her teachings, traditions, and missions.
- Proving opportunities for the development of leadership skills and responsibility among the youth of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.
- Providing and promoting information on Ukrainian heritage and history to the general public and establishing means which ensure the continuation of cultural awareness and pride within our membership.
- -- JAN. 14, 2024: UOL Meeting during the coffee hour.
- -- JAN 18, 2024: Theophany Eve Holy Supper with Ukrainian Refugees.
- -- **FEB. 11, 2024:** Souper Bowl Sunday
- --MAR. 31<sup>ST</sup>: UOL Soup Sale \$5 for a bowl/container

## CHURCH SCHOOL CORNER

-15 MINUTES WITH FATHER -- Last Sunday of the month.

-SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024 - St. Nicholas Day Children's Celebration. *Note the change of date, due to snow.* 





#### + BARTHOLOMEW

By God's Mercy, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical
Patriarch
to All the Plenitude of the Church
Grace, Mercy, and Peace from the Saviour Christ Born in Bethlehem

Most honorable brother hierarchs,

Beloved children in the Lord,

With the grace of God, we are once again this year celebrating in chant, hymn, and spiritual song the Nativity according to the flesh of the pre-eternal Son and Word of God, namely the manifestation of the mystery of God and humankind. According to St. Nicholas Cabasilas, what occurs in the Divine Liturgy is "the mystagogy of the Lord's incarnation," while its introductory acclamation "Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" is evidence "that it is through the Lord's incarnation that people first learned that God is three persons."[1] The same saintly Father proclaims that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was the first and only to demonstrate the authentic and perfect human being, concerning His ethos, life, and everything else."[2]

The assumption of human nature in the person of the Son and Word of God, along with the opening of the way of human deification through grace, add unsurpassable value to humankind. Forgetting this truth leads to the diminishment of respect for the human person. The denial of the supreme destiny of human beings does not only liberate them, but also leads to diverse reductions and divisions. Without being conscious of their divine origin and their hope for eternity, humans struggle to remain human and are unable to handle the contradictions of the "human condition."

The Christian perception of human existence provides a solution to problems created by violence, war, and injustice in our world. Respect for the human person, peace, and justice are gifts from God; however, establishing the peace

that comes from Christ demands the participation and cooperation of human beings. The Christian view on the struggle for peace lies in the words of Christ our Savior, who proclaims peace, addressing His disciples with the greeting "Peace be with you" and encouraging us to love our enemies.[3] The revelation in Christ is called the "gospel of peace."[4]

This means that, for us Christians, the way to peace is through peace and that non-violence, dialogue, love, forgiveness, and reconciliation have priority before other forms of resolving differences. The theology of peace is clearly described in the Ecumenical Patriarchate's document *For the Life of the World: Toward a Social Ethos of the Orthodox Church* (2020):

"Nothing is more contrary to God's will for His creatures fashioned in His image and likeness than violence one against another . . . We may justly say that violence is  $\sin par\ excellence$ . It is the perfect contradiction of our created nature and our supernatural vocation to seek union in love with God and our neighbour. . . Peace is a real revelation of the still deeper reality of creation as God intends it and as God fashioned it in his eternal counsels." [5]

Peace cannot be taken for granted; it is not self-evident. It is an obligation, an achievement, and an incessant struggle to preserve it. There are no automatic solutions or permanent recipes. In the face of ongoing threats to peace, we need to have vigilance and willingness to resolve problems through dialogue. The great heroes of politics are the champions of peace. As for us, we continue to underline the peacemaking role of religion. This is during a time when religions are criticized for nurturing fanaticism and violence "in the name of God" instead of being forces of peace, solidarity, and reconciliation. However, this indicates an alienation of religious faith and not an integral part of it. Genuine faith in God is the harshest critic of religious fanaticism. Religions are the natural allies of all human beings who strive for peace, justice, and the preservation of creation from human destruction.

This year, the world honours the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Universal Declaration* of *Human Rights* (December 10, 1948), constituting a summary of fundamental humanitarian ideals and values, "the shared standard, to which all peoples and all nations should aim." Human rights, whose central point of focus includes the protection of human dignity with its individual, social, cultural, economic, and ecological conditions, are only understood in their original dynamics if they are acknowledged as the basis and criterion of global peace, associating it with freedom and justice. In this sense, the future of human rights and peace is also linked to the contribution of religions in the matter of respecting them and making them a reality.

With these thoughts and festive sentiments, in full conviction that the life of the Church in itself comprises resistance against inhumanity, wherever such inhumanity arises, we invite all of you to the good fight of constructing a culture of peace and solidarity, where people will see in the face of their fellow human beings a brother or sister and a friend, rather than a threat and enemy. Moreover, we remind you all, dear brother Hierarchs and children, that Christmas is a time of self-consciousness and thanksgiving, of the revelation of the difference between the God-man and "man-god," of the realization of the

"great miracle" of freedom in Christ and of the healing of the "great wound" of alienation from God. Finally, we kneel respectfully before Mary, the Mother of God, who bears in her arms the incarnate Word, and we convey to you the blessing of the Mother Holy Great Church of Christ, wishing you an auspicious, healthy, fruitful, peaceful, and joyous new year of the Lord's favour.

Christmas 2023

#### + Bartholomew of Constantinople

Your fervent supplicant of all before God

- [1] On the Divine Liturgy XII, PG 150.392D.
- [2] *On the Life of Christ VI*, PG 150.680C.
- [3] Cf. Mt. 5:44
- [4] Eph. 6:44
- [5] § 42, 43 and 44.



Dear and Beloved Clergy and Faithful of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, South America, Western Europe and Australia-New Zealand and all our Brothers and Sisters in Ukraine,

## **CHRIST IS BORN! LET US GLORIFY HIM!**

Once again by the Grace of God, the Great Feast of the NATIVITY – INCARNATION of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, is upon us. Even though it comes in wintertime, the joy it brings into our lives is much more like the joy we experience in spring when we witness the all the budding of nature's beauty. The Nativity fills us with joy without limits. "For there is born to us this day in the City of David (Bethlehem), a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

He is the promised One prophesized throughout the Old Testament, the One Who sustains all. He is born of the Ever-Virgin Mary as a humble infant so that

He might make us children of God. He is the Son of God Who descends from Heaven in order to lift all humanity up to Heaven – to grant us eternal life "for it pleased the Father that in Him all fullness should dwell and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself". (Colossians 1:19-20) Today Angels and all mankind proclaim the spiritual song of the Nativity Canon: "Christ is born! Glorify Him! Christ has come from the Heavens! Welcome Him! Christ is on Earth! Exult Him!

It is sad to observe throughout this, our earthly world, a loss of relationship with God in the Holy Trinity. We have, however, another opportunity to change this estrangement into fullness of reconciliation with Father, Son and Holy Spirit – by opening our hearts, minds and souls to the Good News of the Nativity. We have the opportunity to relate to Emmanuel – "God with us" and to follow His lead into Heaven! We who live in the great democracies of the world, have the opportunity to witness to the never-ending power of God, manifested to us in fullness of love – through the incarnation of His Son.

In Ukraine, however, and too many other nations around the world suffering invasion, repression and domination from beyond their borders, our brothers and sisters struggle each day to also witness - even at the darkest of times. They struggle to hear the Nativity Carols sung in their churches, their neighborhoods and in their own homes, but often the loudness of the bombs that rain down upon those homes, neighborhoods and churches drown out the beautiful carols glorifying the Christ Child, filling their lives with fear and pain.

As we gather together on the Eve of Nativity with all our loved ones present, we MUST remember in our prayers before Holy Supper, along with our family ancestors, all those who have suffered and perished over the last two years – simply because of greed and covetousness in those who have attempted for centuries to usurp our spirituality, our history, our culture and our very identity. We MUST also pray for those who still suffer under daily threats to their very existence, beseeching that the comfort and Love of the Christ Child will fill and warm their hearts even under the worst of circumstances.

We assure you, our spiritual children, of our continued prayers for each and every one of you during these holy Nativity days. May the Love of the Christ Child fill your homes and your lives in such an abundance that it cannot be contained but spread through you into the lives of all who need that Love – and you – to make their lives whole.

In our Lord's All-Encompassing Love,

+Antony, Metropolitan

**+Jeremiah**, Archbishop

+Daniel, Archbishop



Дороге та Улюблене Духовенство та Вірні нашої Святої Української Православної Церкви США, Південної Америки, Західної Європи, Австралії й Нової Зеландії та всі наші Брати та Сестри в Україні,

# ХРИСТОС НАРОДЖУЄТЬСЯ! СЛАВІМО ЙОГО!

Знову, з благодаті Божої настає Велике свято РІЗДВА – БОГОВТІЛЕННЯ Господа, Бога і Спаса нашого Ісуса Христа. Хоч воно й приходить взимку, радість, яку воно приносить у наше життя, більше схожа на радість, яку ми відчуваємо навесні, коли ми спостерігаємо розквіт краси природи. Різдво Христове наповнює нас безмежною радістю. «Бо сьогодні в Давидовім місті народився для вас Спаситель, Який є Христос Господь». (Луки 2:11)

Він є Тим обіцяним, про Кого пророкували в Старому Завіті, Той, Хто усе підтримує. Він народився від Приснодіви Марії як смиренне немовля, щоб зробити нас дітьми Божими. Він є Сином Божим, Який сходить з Неба, щоб піднести все людство до Неба – щоб дарувати нам вічне життя, «бо вгодно було, щоб у Нім перебувала вся повнота і щоб Ним поєднати з Собою все, примиривши кров'ю хреста Його». (Колоссян 1:19-20) Сьогодні Ангели й все людство проголошують духовний піснеспів Різдвяного канону: «Христос народився! Прославляйте Його! Христос прийшов з небес! Вітайте Його! Христос на землі! Прославляйте Його!»

Сумно спостерігати, в нашому земному світі, втрату стосунків із Богом у Пресвятій Тройці. Проте ми маємо ще одну нагоду - нагоду змінити це відчуження на повноту примирення з Отцем, Сином і Святим Духом – відкривши наші серця, розум і душі до Доброї Новини про Різдво Христове. У нас є можливість споглянути на Еммануїла – «З нами Бог» і наслідувати Його провід до Небес! Ми, що живемо у великих демократичних країнах світу, маємо можливість засвідчити нескінченну силу Божу, яка проявляється нам у повноті любові – через втілення Його Сина.

Проте в Україні та в багатьох інших націях по всьому світу, які страждають від вторгнення, репресій та панування над ними інших держав, наші брати й сестри щодня намагаються також засвідчити ту Божу силу – навіть у

найтемніші часи. Їм ледве вдається почути Різдвяні колядки, які співають у їхніх церквах, їхніх околицях та у їхніх власних домівках, проте вони часто чують гучні бомби, що падають на їхні домівки, околиці та церкви, заглушаючи прекрасні колядки, що прославляють Немовля Христа, а натомість наповнюють їхні життя страхом та болем.

Зібравшись у Святвечір разом з усіма нашими близькими, ми ОБОВ'ЯЗКОВО згадаємо у своїх молитвах перед Святою Вечерю не лише наших предків, але й всіх тих, хто постраждав і загинув за останні два роки – просто через жадібність і захланність тих, хто століттями намагався узурпувати нашу духовність, нашу історію, нашу культуру та саму нашу ідентичність. Ми ПОВИННІ також молитися за тих, хто все ще страждає від щоденних загроз самому їхньому існуванню, благаючи, щоб розрада та любов Немовляти Христа наповнили й зігріли їхні серця, навіть за найгірших обставин.

Ми запевняємо вас, наші духовні чада, у наших постійних молитвах за кожного з вас у ці святі дні Різдва Христового. Нехай Любов Немовляти Христа наповнює ваше життя та ваші домівки настільки, щоб усе переповнюючи, поширювалась через вас у життя всіх, хто потребує цієї Любові – так само як потребують вас, – щоб зцілити свої життя.

У Всеохоплюючій Любові нашого Господа,

- + Митрополит Антоній
  - + Архієпископ Даниїл
  - + Архієпископ Єремія



#### Beloved Faithful,

It is with a heavy heart and profound sorrow that we address you during this grievous time in the life of our beloved Ukraine. The inhumane bombing inflicted upon our land by the Russian forces has plunged us into a profound

darkness, and our hearts ache for the countless lives affected by this senseless violence.

In the face of such devastation, we, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora, stand united in prayer, solidarity, and unwavering resolve. The sanctity of human life, a cornerstone of our Orthodox faith, is gravely threatened, and our duty to bear witness to the Gospel compels us to speak out against the injustice, brutality and yes, genocide, that have befallen our homeland.

As shepherds of this flock, we condemn in the strongest terms the aggression that has led to the loss of innocent lives, the displacement of families, and the desecration of our sacred land. Our churches, which have stood as symbols of hope and refuge, are now witnesses to the suffering of a people whose resilience has been tested beyond measure.

In this time of darkness, we turn to the Love of the Newborn Christ Child for solace and strength. Let us intensify our prayers for peace, invoking the intercessions of the Holy Birth-Giver of God, the Protectress of Ukraine, and all the saints who have borne witness to faith amidst adversity.

We call upon the global community to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. May the conscience of the world awaken to the urgency of this humanitarian crisis, and may justice prevail over aggression.

To our brothers and sisters enduring the horrors of war, know that our hearts are with you, and our prayers ascend for your protection, comfort, and deliverance from this ordeal. May the mercy of God overshadow our land, bringing healing, reconciliation and the restoration of peace.

As we navigate these dark times, let our love for one another and our steadfast faith be a beacon of hope. In the face of adversity, we, the Ukrainian Orthodox community in the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, France, Belgium and Germany stand as a testament to the enduring power of faith, compassion, and the unwavering pursuit of justice.

With heavy hearts and fervent prayers,

+Antony, Metropolitan

+**Daniel**, Archbishop



### Улюблені в Христі,

З важким серцем і глибокою скорботою звертаємось до Вас у цей тяжкий час у житті нашої любої України. Нелюдське бомбардування, завдане нашій землі російськими військами, занурило нас у глибоку темряву, і наші серця болять за незліченну кількість життів, постраждалих від цього безглуздого насильства.

Перед обличчям такого спустошення ми, Українська Православна Церква США та Діаспори, об'єднані в молитві, солідарності та непохитній рішучості. Святість людського життя, наріжний камінь нашої православної віри, знаходиться під серйозною загрозою, і наш обов'язок свідчити Євангеліє змушує нас виступити проти несправедливості, жорстокості і так, геноциду, які спіткали нашу батьківщину.

Як пастирі Церкви, ми рішуче засуджуємо агресію, яка призвела до втрати невинних життів, переміщення сімей і осквернення нашої священної землі. Наші церкви, які були символами надії та притулку, тепер  $\epsilon$  свідками страждань народу, чия стійкість була випробувана без міри.

У цей час темряви ми звертаємося до Любові Новонародженого Христа за розрадою та силою. Посилюймо наші молитви за мир, благаючи заступництва Пресвятої Богородиці, Покровительки України та всіх святих, які свідчили віру серед біди.

Ми закликаємо світову спільноту бути солідарними з народом України. Нехай свідомість світу прокинеться до нагальних обставин цієї гуманітарної кризи, і нехай справедливість переможе агресію.

До наших братів і сестер, які переживають жахи війни, знайте, що наші серця з вами, і наші молитви підносяться за ваш захист, розраду та

визволення від цього випробування. Нехай милість Божа осінить нашу землю, приносячи зцілення, примирення та відновлення миру.

Переживаючи ці темні часи, нехай наша любов одне до одного і непохитна віра будуть маяком надії. Перед обличчям труднощів ми, Українська Православна громада в США, Австралії, Новій Зеландії, Бразилії, Парагваї, Аргентині, Франції, Бельгії та Німеччині, виступаємо свідченням міцної сили віри, співчуття та непохитного прагнення до справедливість.

3 важким серцем і палкою молитвою,

+Антоній, митрополит

+Даниїл, архієпископ

