

WELCOME TO THE GOD-LODING & 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 8, 2023 CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, Jan. 8 – 30th Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday after Nativity.

Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ. / Synaxis of the Theotokos. / Holy

Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the

Brother of the Lord.

Tone 5 / Epistle: Gal. 1:11-19; Gospel: Mt. 2:13-23 9:00AM Divine Liturgy – Live video broadcast on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelUOC/

WEEKDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

Mon., Jan. 9: Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen

Epistle: Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60; Gospel: Mt. 21:33-42

Tues, Jan. 10: The 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia

Epistle: Heb. 12:25-26; 13:22-25; Gospel: Mk. 11:11-23

Wed., Jan. 11: The 14,000 Infants (Holy Innocents) slain by

Herod at Bethlehem

Epistle: 2 Cor. 5:15-21; Gospel: Mt. 2:13-23

Thur, Jan. 12: Virgin-martyr Anysia at Thessalonica

Epistle: Jas. 1:19-27; Gospel: Mk. 11:27-33

Fri., Jan. 13: Leave-taking of the Nativity of Christ / Ven. Melania

the Younger, nun, of Rome

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

Sat., Jan. 14: Saturday before Theophany / THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST / St. Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia

Epistle: Col. 2:8-12; Gospel: Lk. 2:20-21, 40-52

10:30AM Divine Liturgy – Live video broadcast on our Facebook

page: https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelUOC/

Sunday, Jan. 15 – 31st Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday before

Theophany; Forefeast of the Theophany / St. Sylvester, pope of Rome

Tone 6 / Epistle: 2 Tim. 4:5-8; Gospel: Mk. 1:1-8

9:00AM Divine Liturgy – Live video broadcast on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelUOC/

Remember: even when you are absent, expenses continue

PARISH NEWS

-<u>WE EXTEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:</u> Richard Charest (Jan. 5), may God grant you, Many, Happy Years! Многая літа!

--SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: There will be two collections, <u>TODAY</u>. First for Misto Dobra and the second for a new boiler in the rectory. We have collected money for the boiler, but are still \$5000 short of where we need to be. Please be as generous as you can! Thank you.

-- CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK 2022:

Raffle	\$ 392.00	
Gift Shop cash	489.00	(for Ukraine)
Gift Shop charges	165.00	(for Ukraine)
Gift Shop donations	145.00	(for Ukraine)
Cookie sales cash/checks	3207.60	
Cookie sales charges	2665.40	
Food Sales	2009.00	

Change Food	\$ 9073.00
Charge Fees Advertising	-137.39 -302.00
	\$ 8633.61
Gift shop \$ to Ukraine fund	-799.00

\$ 7834.61 Profit to Church!!

If you have been to church and have later tested positive for COVID-19 you MUST:

- 1- Inform Father Boris OR a parish officer as soon as possible
- 2- Tell them the date you were last in church
- 3- Tell them date of your positive test

This information is VERY important for the health and safety of our (YOUR) parish family! Parishioners who attended at the same time as an infected person need to know in order to be tested and stay healthy, or be treated.

Please remember to keep an eye on your emails before coming to Church for any changes in guidance due to the pandemic. **Thank you!**

UPCOMING PARISH & INTER-PARISH EVENTS

NATIVITY/THEOPHANY SCHEDULE 2023

Saturday, January 14th – Circumcision of the Lord / St. Basil's Day 10:30 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

<u>Wednesday, January 18th</u> – The Eve of the Theophany of Our Lord 5:00 PM Great Compline followed by the UOL sponsored Holy Supper

Thursday, January 19th – Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord 10:30 AM Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom – Blessing of The Waters and Blessing of the Parish Grounds

Orthodox Christians have their homes blessed after Theophany.

Please let Fr. Borislav know when he can come by and bless

your home.

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"
- **--MEMBERSHIP IN THE UOL:** Anyone wishing to join us in our ministries, please contact Erika Namaka or Janice Meschisen.
- **--WISHING OUR PARISH FAMILY** a truly blessed, peaceful and safe Nativity Season & New Year, 2023!
- --Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023 UOL Meeting, after Liturgy
- --Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023 -- Theophany Dinner, after 5PM services.



+ B A R T H O L O M E W BY GOD'S MERCY, ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLENEW ROME AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH TO ALL THE PLENITUDE OF THE CHURCH GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE FROM THE SAVIOR CHRIST BORN IN BETHLEHEM

* * *

Most honorable brother hierarchs,

Beloved children in the Lord,

Today our Holy Church celebrates the Nativity in the flesh of the preeternal Son and Word of God, this "foreign and strange mystery" that "was concealed from ages and from generations" (Col. 1:26). In Christ, the truth about God and humankind is definitively revealed, as St. Cyril of Alexandria so theologically explains: "We are human by nature, but He condescended to what is contrary to divine nature for the sake of love and became man. We are servants of God by nature as His creation, but He became a servant once again, contrary to divine nature when He became man. But the reverse also holds true: He is God in essence, and we are, by grace, able to ascend to what is contrary to human nature. For we are human, and He is the Son by nature, yet we too become sons by status inasmuch as we are called to fellowship in Him."[1]

"Know the truth, and the truth shall set you free" (Jn. 8:32). Our Lord Jesus Christ is "the way and the truth and the life" (Jn. 14:6), the liberator of man "from enslavement to the enemy." There is no life and liberty without the Truth or outside the Truth. Giving any meaning we desire to our life is not freedom, but the contemporary version of original sin, our self-enclosure within self-sufficient and self-serving independence, without a perception for truth as a relationship with God and our fellow human beings. Christmas is the time for self-knowledge, for understanding the difference between "God becoming man" and "man acting as god." It is the time for awareness of the Christian teaching that "we do not speak of man becoming divine, but of God becoming human."[2]

The message of the good news about Christmas today echoes alongside the din of war and the clash of weapons in Ukraine, which is experiencing the horrible consequences of a provocative and unjust invasion. For us Christians, all wars are the murder of our brothers; they are all civil wars, which as the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church proclaimed, are "the result of the presence of evil and sin in the world."[3] In the case of Ukraine, the words of St. Gregory Palamas about his contemporaneous bloody conflicts among Orthodox believers in Thessaloniki are still more relevant: "For their common nurturing mother is the holy Church and devotion, whose chief and perfecter is Christ, the genuine Son, who is not only our God, but who also deigned it appropriate to be our brother and Father."[4]

In the person of Christ, the "recapitulation" of all has been achieved, the emergence of unity within the human race and the sanctity of the human person, the opening of the way toward the "likeness of God," and the revelation of the peace "that surpasses all understanding" (Phil. 4:10). Christ is "our peace" (Eph. 2:14), and it is to Christ that the historic and emblematic Sacred Church of "Holy Irene" is dedicated in the City of Constantine.

Our Savior blesses the "peacemakers," for "they shall be called children of God" (Matt. 5:9); He promotes the notion of righteousness and love, even

toward our enemies. In the Divine Liturgy, the Orthodox Church prays "for the peace from above" and "for the peace of the whole world." And during the Liturgy of Basil the Great, we pray to and glorify the Giver of all good things: "Grant us your peace and your love, Lord our God; for you have granted us all things." As recipients and supreme beneficiaries of all things from God, we are obliged more than anyone else to strive for peace in accordance with the scriptural: "To the one that has received much, more will be demanded" (Lk. 12:48). In this sense, all that is enacted by Christians contrary to this principle does not primarily affect Christianity but rather those who live contrary to the divine commandments.

Never in the history of humankind has peace among peoples been a condition taken for granted. Instead, it was everywhere and always the result of inspired initiatives, of courage and self-sacrifice, of resistance to violence and rejection of war as a means of resolving differences, and a perpetual struggle for justice and protection of human dignity. Their contribution to peace and reconciliation constitutes the primary criterion for the credibility of religions. Within religious traditions, there are undoubtedly motivations not only for inner peace, but also for the advancement and establishment of societal peace and overcoming aggression in relations between people and nations. This is especially significant in our time when the position is maintained that peace will ensure due to economic development, a rise in living standards, and progress in science and technology through digital communication and the internet. We are convinced that there can be no peace among people and civilizations without peace among religions without dialogue and collaboration. Faith in God strengthens our effort for a world of peace and justice, even when that effort confronts humanly unsurpassable hurdles. At any rate, it is unacceptable for representatives of religions to preach fanaticism and fan the flames of hatred.

Most reverend brothers and beloved children,

Christ is born; glorify Him. Christ is descending from the heavens; come and meet Him. Christ is on earth; rise up to greet Him! Adhering to the exhortation of our holy predecessor on the Throne of the Church of Constantinople, let us celebrate the nativity of the world's Savior with spiritual joy, "not in an earthly, but in a heavenly manner," avoiding "everything superfluous and unnecessary; especially when others – made of the same clay and combination – are suffering hunger and poverty."[5] We pray that all of you may enjoy a prayerful and glorious Holy Twelve Days of Christmas, like a genuine fullness of time and radiance of the light of eternity. May the coming 2023 prove – by the goodness and grace of the Divine Word that became flesh for us and for our salvation – to be a

period of peace, love, and solidarity, truly a year in the righteousness of our Lord!

We wish you many blessed years!

Christmas 2022

+ Bartholomew of Constantinople

Fervent supplicant of all before God

- [1] Cyril of Alexandria, Thesaurus on the Holy and Consubstantial Trinity, PG 75.561.
- [2] John of Damascus, Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith, PG 94.988.
- [3] The Mission of the Orthodox Church in Today's World, IV, 1.
- [4] Gregory Palamas, On Peace with One Another, PG 151.10.
- [5] Gregory the Theologian, On the Feast of Theophany, or the Nativity of Christ, PG 36.316.



Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Archpastoral Letter for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Our hearts are filled with joy on this Great Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and all creation exalts in praise for Him – our Savior! This is our Faith, and it gives all meaning to our lives – that God the Father in His abiding Love for us, has sent to us His Only-Begotten Son, who has united with our humanity, so that we

might become one with Him through all eternity! He has descended to us so that we might ascend with Him.

In all our joy, however, each day as we listen to the news and read our newspapers, we are overwhelmed by the events of unrest and chaos that seem to plague our world. Protests, corruption, rebellions, and political unrest seem to dominate the airwaves. The invasion of Ukraine continues to devastate not only totality of Ukrainian people, but entire the worldwide community as well. We still face the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences for millions of us. We still suffer from the divisions artificially created in society by those personal power and authority. We still endure what appears to be a culture of death that fails to comprehend the sanctity of life as created by God. One might ask what is happening to our world? Will this turmoil ever cease? These questions are thought provoking and important especially today. We seek some peace and comfort in our lives and yet we are surrounded by noise discomfort. This applies not just to the world around us, but also at times to our personal lives. Where will we find our peace and comfort?

In the story of the Nativity of Christ and in the weeks of Philip's Fast as we prepared to celebrate this important Feast, we ask the Lord to instill some sense of peace and comfort within us even during all the turmoil and busy-ness that mark this time of the year. Today, a Heavenly Light unlike the light of this world – the Star over Bethlehem - shines upon us, giving witness to the Nativity of the Christ Child and reveals Him to be the Savior of the world. This Heavenly Light fills our hearts with peace and comfort defining the path to fulfilment in our daily lives. This Light of Christ fills our hearts, minds, souls, homes and our love for God and for our neighbor.

We pray that you all know that this Light fills us with that true love for each of you, that you may be filled with this Light enabling you to redefine your relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the relationships with every person-neighbor in your life. May your appreciation and gratitude for the abundant blessings – the greatest "Christmas Gifts of all from God Himself, may be manifested in your life by the way you strive to be and are a blessing to your neighbors.

In the birth of Jesus Christ, creation received the Divine and humanity received perfection. In the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the world received redemption. The world still shows its brokenness and new scars are added each day, but because of Jesus Christ, the Child in a manger Who became the man on the cross, evil has been defeated and death has been conquered for all who have faith in Him. A world of division and hatred is offered a path of healing and reconciliation. Broken hearts are restored. Lives weighed down by the burden of despair are renewed and filled with hope. The darkness of sin and death has forever been shattered by a Light that cannot be extinguished. Through the Savior's nativity, life, death and resurrection, the world has been saved from the consequences of our own making. The Nativity of Jesus Christ has changed the world! Therefore, amid life's turmoil, noise, discomfort and even impatience, let us allow that Light to shine upon us and through us upon the world.

We assure you of our unending prayers for you before God in the Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – that your ability to rise above all the noise and discomfort around you will enable you, through your inner peace and comfort, to share the Light, Love, Joy and Hope of the Christ Child with at least one person in your life each day who needs Him most.

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

+ ANTONY

By the Grace of God, Metropolitan

+ JEREMIAH

By the Grace of God, Archbishop

+ DANIEL

By the Grace of God, Archbishop



HAPPY NEW YEAR! 3 HOBUM POKOM!

Beloved brethren in the Lord: CHRIST IS AMONG US!

As we enter the year 2023, I pray that the spirit of THE GLORIOUS FEAST OF THE NATIVTY OF OUR LORD lingers in our hearts. The reminder of Christ's coming, his abiding presence with us and the love, joy and hope our Savior brings are tremendous gifts for our suffering, broken and troubled world, especially as we prayerfully live through the days and moments of the ongoing war in Ukraine. I pray this message finds you well and enjoying the so needed peace that Christ brings into our lives.

The new year provides the opportunities for us to turn a new page in our history. We remember and give thanks for the blessings of the past year, despite the challenges, adversities and uncertainties that we continue to endure.

Amidst all the troubles and losses, we have experienced in the past year, there were also moments of hope and encouragement. Our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA was able to offer the most necessary assistance to the nation – the people of Ukraine in the time of the ongoing aggression of Russia against the peaceful people of Ukraine, thus providing the life-supporting means in about 3 million US dollars. The ongoing slaughter of the innocent lives of Ukrainian people could be compared to the actions of the Herod against the innocents of Bethlehem when the Savior was born.

Furthermore, the new year also presents us with a fresh start, new perspectives, and new opportunities as well. We look forward to the coming months as parishes throughout the Church, in communion with the worldwide Holy Orthodox Church continue to invest in the spiritual process of growth as we all journey together, praying and fulfilling our obligations to Christ and each other.

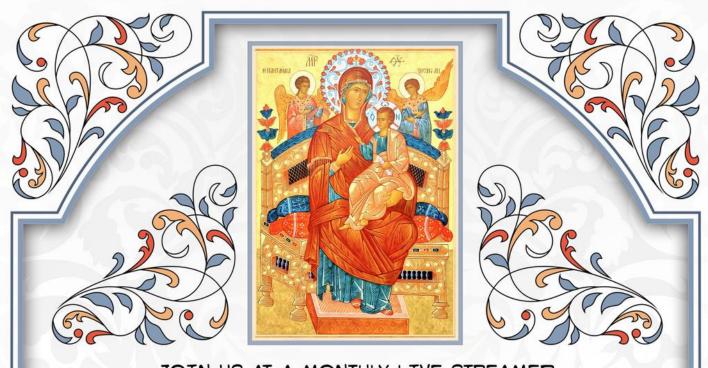
Beloved in the Lord, the end of the year and the new beginning is an opportunity for us to refocus our minds and hearts on the Holy Most Holy Eucharist as the source and summit of our Christian life and worship. I urge the people of God in our Church - the UOC of the USA – indeed, all Orthodox Christians – to participate in the sacred liturgical services of the Church and to welcome those who are on the fringes of our faith, of our community or our society to share their voices on how we as a Church can walk together on the path to the Heavenly Kingdom.

Let us prayerfully place our lives into the loving embrace of the Savior. Filled with Christ's love, let us be bearers of hope during these challenging times to generously share that hope with others and help renew the hearts of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and throughout the world.

May God bless the year 2023 with His Life-Saving grace to bring healing, lasting joy and peace to the world!

With prayers,

+Daniel, Archbishop and brother in the Lord



JOIN US AT A MONTHLY LIVE STREAMED CELEBRATION OF AN AKAPHIST TO

ПРИЄДНУЙТЕСЯ ДО ЩОМІСЯЧНОЇ ПРЯМОЇ ТРАНСЛЯЦІЇ СЛУЖІННЯ АКАФІСТА

THE MOTHER OF GOD - QUEEN OF ALL КОГОРОДИЦІ RGEЦАРИЦЯ

BESEECHING HER INTERCESSION FOR THE HEALING OF ALL THOSE SUFFERING FROM CANCER AND OTHER DISEASES MOASUN II SACTYPHULTBA AAS SUIAEHHS BIA PAKY TA IHWUX XBOPOE

First Thursday of each month 5 January 2023 at 7:00pm

Перший четвер кожного місяця 5 січня 2023 року о 19:00 год

Please submit the names of those you wish to pray for to: uocofusa@aol.com with the subject - PRAYERS

Будь ласка, надішліть імена тих, за кого ви бажаєте молитися: uocofusa@aol.com з темою — МОЛИТВИ

Future dates: 5 Jan, 2 Feb, 2 Mar, 6 April, 4 May, 1 June, 6 July, 3 Aug...

Майбутні дати: 5 січня, 2 лютого, 2 березня, 6 квітня, 4 травня, 1 червня, 6 липня, 3 серпня...





