



Protection of the **Blessed Virgin Mary**

Ukrainian Catholic Parish

Українська Греко-Католицька Парафія Покрови
Пресвятої Діви Марії



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website: BlessedVirginMary.ca



LIVE.BVMP.ca



[BVMChurch](https://www.facebook.com/BVMChurch)



204-582-7535 (hall: 582-4466)

Location & mail: 965 Boyd Avenue / Winnipeg, MB / R2X 0Z9

☛ **Office Hours:** Mon, Wed, Fri from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Office Manager - Sr. Michaila, SSJ

Confessions: before every Divine Liturgy *and* by appointment

**Sunday before
Christmas**

Welcome to our Parish!
Вітаємо Вас у нашій парафії
December 24, 2023

**Неділя перед
Різдом**

СЛАВА ІСУСУ ХРИСТУ!

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

Dear Parishioners: TONIGHT! The great Night! Tonight we shall call out to each other the joyous news: **Христос Раждається!** and the ones to whom we thus exclaim will shout back, beaming: **Славіме Його!** And so it goes on, year after amazing year.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav's greeting this year, in spite of all that is happening in Ukraine and throughout the world, is full of hope and joy, and we print it in full today for you to be inspired:



Christmas pastoral letter of the Father and Head of the UGCC, His Beatitude Sviatoslav, to the entirety of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church on the occasion of Christmas, which this year is celebrated for the first time according to the Gregorian calendar.

**CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTER
OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV
2023**

*Most Reverend Archbishops and Metropolitans,
God-loving Bishops, Very Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics,
Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters,
in Ukraine and throughout the world:*

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Is. 7:14)

Christ is born! Glorify Him! Beloved in Christ!

In this time of war, we, the Ukrainian people need a sign, a sign of hope—that God is with us, that God's life-giving power is stronger than the deadly power of the enemy fighting against us. In the Holy Scriptures, the birth of a child is a sign of hope from God! Today throughout the world the Church proclaims: "But as he [Joseph] considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit... She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: *'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, God with us)*" (Mt. 1:20, 22–23).

Isaiah prophesied about Christ: *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"* (Is. 9:6). As often happens with God's promises, the fulfillment of the prophecy exceeds all human expectations because the Child that is born is not just an ordinary human child but the Son of God! He is the living God present among us. What is now being sent to humankind is not only a sign and symbol of hope — the Lord Himself comes to ensure and fulfill this hope. He comes as a baby in whom is God's power and might, God's authentic peace for all humanity, and for Ukraine in particular. The eternal God becomes man, one of us, for all time. So indeed, God is with us!

**Angels rejoice in heaven, and people exalt today,
and all creatures leap with joy
because of the birth of the Lord Saviour in Bethlehem;
for all deceit of idolatry has ceased,
and Christ reigns forever.**



We must live with the hope of Christ, overcoming all challenges and trials. Even when it seems to us that the world around us is collapsing, when the enemy's deceitful propaganda suggests to us that we have no future, we still hope against hope—because God is with us! The Holy Apostle Paul reminds us: “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*” (Heb. 13:8). If we have Christ, we have a future that no one can take away from us.

The Almighty God comes into the world even now, this year, in His Nativity, in the body of a defenseless, weak child, to dispel fear before the strong and powerful of this world. God does not force anyone to anything but captivates us with his beauty and light, joy and peace. He appears to us today as a weak and vulnerable baby so that we accept Him, love Him, and tenderly embrace Him—embrace the One who envelops us with His love. How wondrous are God's plans! The Ruler of the world, the Prince of Peace is the Child of God! So, in the Nativity of Christ, we can already see today that our future is not to be feared—it is full of peace, joy, tenderness, grace, and love, as we sing in the carol:

***And the bright star cries out to the world:
The Messiah brings joy and happiness!
To Bethlehem hasten all of you now,
To welcome God in a poor cave!***



God makes Himself dependent on people. He becomes a child so that we, taking up the mission of Mary, His Mother, and Joseph the Betrothed, protect Him from all dangers, all the Herods of this world.

We feel the same responsibility today regarding the children of the war in Ukraine. This is the most vulnerable segment of our society, and the trauma of war in children is the most complex. There are millions of women and children among Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced persons. Among the various types of humanitarian crises are the education and upbringing of children under the constant threat of rockets and bombs, poorly implemented school programs, stolen years of childhood innocence, and freedom from worry. We will protect our children in every way available to us! At the same time, let us remember that their spiritual wounds are healed in love, both in their family and in the family of God's children—in the Church of Christ. Let our church communities be a safe space for children, free from all forms of violence and contempt for human life, because to accept a child in the name of God is to accept the newborn Christ.

Dreaming of a bright future for our children, we must understand that for our people true victory is not only the liberation of territories and secured borders. Winning the war means creating a safe spiritual space of hope for the Ukrainian family, unafraid to give birth to children in their native land. Let every Ukrainian child be for us a sign of hope from God and of our faith in a blessed future.

On this joyful day of Christ's Nativity, “let us commend ourselves, and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.” May all those imprisoned and held captive know that we have not forgotten them and continue to pray for them. May all the wounded and traumatized experience the joy of our Savior's birth and God's healing touch. May the relatives and friends of those who have gone missing without trace never doubt the Lord's closeness to them.

With Christ in our hearts, already today let us plan to rebuild all that has been destroyed—both physical and spiritual, so that our brothers and sisters, scattered around the world, do not lose hope of returning home, but, on the contrary, dream of their active participation in the revival of the country. But above all, let all the children of our nation know how much God loves them, and that with God's love even the greatest evil can be overcome.

From the bottom of my heart, I impart on you all my fatherly blessing, and wish each of you, from the youngest to the oldest, the authentic joy of the children of God, a tasty *kutia*, a merry celebration of Christ's Nativity, and a happy, peaceful, and blessed New Year! ***Christ is born! Glorify Him!***

† SVIATOSLAV
***Given in Kyiv at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ,
on the day of the Holy Praiseworthy Apostle Andrew the First-called
the 30th of November in the 2023rd Year of our Lord***

Parish News & Events:

1. BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH Christmas Dinner/ Prospora Sunday, January 14, 2024 following the 10:00 am. Divine Liturgy. ADVANCE TICKET SALES ONLY:

Adults-- \$20.00

Children (6 to 12 years) --- \$10.00 Children (5 & under)----- Free

Tickets can be purchased before or after Divine Liturgies on December 31 and January 7 or by contacting Janet @204-582-5932 or jkuchma@mymts.net. DEADLINE for purchasing tickets is Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

2. Our Annual General Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 28**. Your Parish needs you! Please think about joining the Council to help maintain the Parish and to plan for the future. More details to come. **Річні загальні збори** відбудуться в неділю 28 січня, 2024. Ви потрібні своїй парафії! Будь ласка, подумайте про приєднання до Ради, щоб допомогти підтримувати парафію та планувати майбутнє. Детальніше буде.

3. There are still a few Mary's Angels left. Profits are divided between the Marian Hour on CKJS Radio and our parish. The cost is \$5.00 per angel. On **December 27, St. Stephen's Day**, Father will celebrate Divine Liturgy for the deceased family members in whose memory you have purchased an angel. Please meet at the entrance of the church after Liturgy to purchase your angel. Thanks for your support!

Програма «Катехизм» знову **розпродає Ангелів Марії за Дерево Ангелів**. Прибуток розподіляється між Годиною Марії на Радіо СКJS і нашою парафією. Вартість 5,00\$ за ангела. 27 грудня, празник св. Стефана, отець звершить Божественну Літургію за покійних членів родини, на пам'ять яких ви придбали ангела. Зустріньтеся біля входу до храму після Літургії, щоб придбати свого янгола. Дякуємо за підтримку!

4. Winnipeg Harvest is happy with our latest gift: 48 lb. of food. Thank you, generous givers!



 <p>KARPATY MEATS & DELI <i>Fresh Homemade Sausages</i></p> <p>536 Bannerman Ave. @McGregor Winnipeg, MB R2W 0V6 Mon.: Closed Tues: 8 AM-5 PM Wed-Fri: 8 AM – 6 PM</p> <p>204-586-1395</p>	 <p>907 Main St. Winnipeg, MB R2W 3P2 Tel: 204-956-2193</p> <p>245 Railway Ave. Vita, MB R0A 2K0 Tel: 1-204-425-3114</p> <p><i>Sewing the Ukrainian community for over 45 years</i></p> <p>info@korbanchapel.com www.korbanchapel.com</p>	<p>Seven Oaks Sadok Inc. Daycare</p>  <p>provides quality, licensed childcare while preserving the Ukrainian language, culture, customs and religion. We welcome all children from all backgrounds & religious denominations.</p>  <p>offering: Full day Preschool (ages 2-5) Nursery School (ages 2-5) Morning Program: 9:00-11:20 After Kindergarten: 11:30-3:20 • Before & After School programs (ages 6-12). Location: R.F. Morrison School, Winnipeg. For more information or to register, call (204) 995-7614 or email cynthia_sadok@live.ca</p>
 <p>Ruslan Construction</p> <p>Professional Metal Roofing/Siding Manufacturing & Exterior Construction <i>Locally-made products</i></p> <p>204-294-7372 ruslanconstruction.com</p>	 <p><i>"Independently Owned"</i></p> <p>1442 Main St. Winnipeg, MB 1800 Day St. Transcona, MB Tel: 204-586-8044</p> <p><i>Serving the Ukrainian Community for over 50 years</i></p> <p>www.cropo.com</p>	<p>HELPFUL PARISH CONTACTS</p> <p>Office: 204-582-7535 Parish Administrator: Rev. Vasyli' Hoi 204-951-3031</p> <p>Auditorium: ext. 3 Catechism area: ext. 4 Facility Rentals: 204-582-7535</p> <p>Parish Council: Irene Hanuta (co-chair) 204-297-7814</p> <p>Catechism: Good-hearted volunteer needed! 204-582-7535 ...call Father!</p> <p>Men's Club: E. John Natyna, president 204-339-9366</p> <p>UCWLC: Janet Kuchma, president 204-582-5932</p> <p>Perogy Making: Myron Fedoruk, president 204-338-7243</p>
	 <p>950 Main Street 1375 Grant Ave. 1241 A Henderson Hwy. 1-850 Regent Ave. W. 310 Leila Ave Mon-Fri 9:30 am - 5:00 pm (Leila branch also open Sat.) 1940-2022</p> <p>204-989-7400 carpathia.ca</p>	
<p>This space is for <i>your</i> message.</p> <p>Call us! 204-582-7535</p>	 <p>COLLISION CENTER Ivan Pecuh 811 Murray Ave. Winnipeg, MB R2V 4S7</p> <p>Tel: 204-334-4754 Fax: 204-338-3705</p> <p><i>Collision, Glass replacement, Restoration, Insurance Claims</i></p>	
	<p>GALARNYK Insurance Agency Ltd.</p> <p>696 McGregor St. Winnipeg, MB R2V 3T8 204-582-7891 M to F: 9 AM-6:30 PM Sat.: 9-2:30 PM</p> <p><i>Serving the Community for over 55 years!</i></p>	

Another Christmas full of Family Traditions!

How does your family do things, as compared to Luba's family?

"A didukh (meaning grandfather) is a sheaf of wheat stalks or made of mixed grain stalks. It is placed under the icons in the house. In Ukraine, this is a very important Christmas tradition, because the stalks of grain symbolize all the ancestors of the family, and it is believed that their spirits reside in it during the holidays. After the didukh is positioned in the place of honor, the father or head of the household places a bowl of kutia (boiled wheat mixed with poppy seeds and honey) next to it. Kutia is the most important food of the entire Christmas Eve Supper, and is also called God's Food. A jug of uzvar (stewed fruits, which should contain twelve different fruits) and is called God's Drink, is also served.

Before one morsel is eaten, prayers are recited and the kolach is broken and dipped in honey and shared with each member of the family, from eldest to youngest, with wishes for good health and prosperity in the coming year with the greeting *Khrystos Razhdaietsia* (Christ is born), and the family sits down to a twelve-course meatless Christmas Eve Supper.

There are twelve courses in the Supper, because according to the Christian tradition each course is dedicated to one of Christ's Apostles...The courses are meatless because there is a period of fasting required by the Church until Christmas Day...

First to be tasted is **kutia**, a sacred dish of wheat berries, poppy seeds, nuts, dried fruits, and honey. Kutia celebrates the richness of the land and preceding year's harvest and is only served at Ukrainian religious ceremonies of the greatest importance. This is followed by the remaining dishes including a rich vegetarian **borshch** (a Ukrainian Proverb states: 'Borshch is the center of everything.' and is the Ukrainian national dish), **vushka**, **holubtsi**, **varenyky** (pyrohy), **mushroom gravy**, **nalysnyky**, assorted **dried fruits**, **pampushky**, and **fish** courses which may include pickled herring and **uzvar** to drink. However, milk, eggs, butter, cream, and meats are not to be consumed. Some of these dishes may differ depending on family traditions and on region.

After the meal, carols are sung and poems are recited by the children. Gifts were not given on Christmas except for candy and other sweets. St. Nicholas Day was the primary gift-giving occasion.

Afterwards, neighborhood children gather holding a large wooden Star of Bethlehem lit by a central candle and an enormous sack, and then proceed house to house singing carols and receiving gifts. At midnight, families stream into their local church in their best embroidered clothes for the Christmas service. Afterwards, neighborhood children gather holding a large wooden Star of Bethlehem lit by a central candle and an enormous sack, and then proceed house to house singing carols and receiving gifts. At midnight, families stream into their local church in their best embroidered clothes for the Christmas service." *Luba Hrycak Horsky*

News & Events Elsewhere:

5. Koliada! A group of carolers from parishes in the Winnipeg Archeparchy will be going caroling beginning in the afternoon on Thursday December 28 to share the joy of Christmas and to carry on a wonderful tradition. Donations are accepted but not required, if given the donation will go to the parish of your choosing. To have carolers visit your place or any questions please call Jonathan (Івась) at 204 805-1151.

Коляда -- Група колядників із парафій Вінніпезької Архиепархії планує вирушити по місті із колядою у четвер, 28 грудня, щоб поділитися із іншими радістю Різдвяних Свят та продовжити цю чудову традицію. Якщо ви бажаєте, щоб до вас завітали колядники, або зацікавлені у детальнішій інформації - звертайтеся до Івася (Jonathan) 204-805-1151

6. Men! A dream come true: The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus invites you to join them! The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America is looking for qualified and dedicated individuals -- singers and bandurists -- to join the ensemble. Do you qualify? The prospective candidate must have general musical knowledge, be able to sight-read music a bit, read the Ukrainian alphabet; and be ready to commit to the rehearsal schedule. Prepare the following for the audition: **For VOCALISTS:** Prepare two vocal songs, at least one in Ukrainian. **For BANDURISTS:** Prepare two songs for the bandura in contrasting styles. One of the songs may also include a vocal component. All the info you need is at <https://www.bandura.org/jointhegroup>.

Schedule of Services December 24th - December 31st, 2023

Розпорядок Богослужінь

Sun., Dec. 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

СВЯТИЙ ВЕЧІР

Remember:

This year we
must
attend

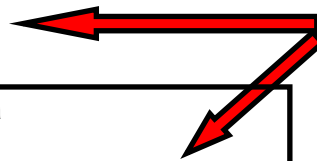
**ONE FROM
EACH BOX.**



9:00 a.m. -- Sunday Divine Liturgy / Служба Божа
10:30 a.m. -- Sunday Divine Liturgy / Служба Божа

5:00 p.m. -- Christmas Divine Liturgy / Різдвяна Служба Божа
9:30 p.m. -- Confessions / Сповідь
10:30 p.m. -- Great Complines / Велике Повечір'я
11:00 p.m. -- "Midnight" Divine Liturgy (Bilingual) / Різдвяна Служба Божа

10:00 a.m. -- **CHRISTMAS DAY -- DEC. 25 -- РІЗДВО ГНІХ** / Різдвяна Служба Божа



Tues., Dec. 26

Synaxis of the Mother of God, & St. Joseph

Собор Пресв. Богородиці і св. Йосифа

10:00 a.m. -- Divine Liturgy -- For all parishioners

Wed., Dec. 27

St. Stephen

Первомученика Стефана

10:00 a.m. -- Divine Liturgy -- "Angel Tree" Liturgy -- for all the deceased requested

Thurs., Dec. 28

Martyr Juliana

Hebrews 7:1-16

Luke 21:28-33

9:30 a.m. - Holy Rosary / Свята Вервиця

10:00 a.m. **Divine Liturgy/Служба Божа...**

For +Helen, +Sofia & +Volodymyr by Dmytro Sikora



Fri., Dec. 29

Great Martyr Anastasia

Hebrews 11:8, 11-16

Mark 9:33-41

9:30 a.m. - Holy Rosary / Свята Вервиця

10:00 a.m. **Divine Liturgy/Служба Божа...**

За +Романа й Анну від родини Микитин і Слободяник

7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy/Служба Божа...

For +Norman Szun (Surrey, BC) by Eugene Szun, Gloria Szun and their families

Sat., Dec. 30

Prophet Haggai

Ephesians 2:11-13

Luke 13:18-29

9:30 a.m. - Holy Rosary / Свята Вервиця

10:00 a.m. **Divine Liturgy/Служба Божа...**

For +Ronald Komonko by SSJ



Sun., Dec. 31

Sunday after the Nativity

Неділя по Різдві

9:00 a.m. -- Divine Liturgy -- Ukrainian -- For all parishioners

10:30 a.m. -- Divine Liturgy -- bilingual (Ukr./Eng.) -- For +Jean Sherman by UCWLC

(Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Wpg. branch)

DUET MARYNA

With the influx of Ukrainian-

speaking newcomers, Duet Maryna is inviting you to enjoy these bilingual YouTube videos as a functional learning tool for students and their families. READING, VOCABULARY, PUZZLE in both languages. "Небо і Земля," is the first in a series of videos! <https://youtu.be/i0-AMe Geal> Music downloads and CDs at:

<https://chablukfamily.bandcamp.com/>

Вивчайте українську та англійську з Різдвяні колядками! З напливом україномовних новоприбулих, Duet Maryna запрошує вас насолоджуватися двомовними відео YouTube як функціональним інструментом навчання для студентів та їхніх родин. ЧИТАННЯ, СЛОВНИКОВОГО ЗАПАСУ, ГОЛОВОЛОМКИ пошуку слів обома мовами. «Небо і Земля» — перший із серії відеороликів!

<https://youtu.be/i0-AMe Geal> Завантаження музики та компакт-диски за адресою: <https://chablukfamily.bandcamp.com/>

Чоловіки! Українська Капела Бандуристів Північної Америки

шукає кваліфікованих і відданих своїй справі осіб — співаків і бандуристів — до ансамблю. Майбутній кандидат повинен мати загальні музичні знання, трохи вміння читати ноти й читати українську абетку... Для ВОКАЛІСТІВ: Підготуйте дві вокальні пісні, хоча б одну українською мовою. Для БАНДУРИСТІВ: Підготуйте дві пісні для бандури в контрастних стилях. Одна з пісень може також містити вокальний компонент. Уся необхідна інформація знаходиться на <https://www.bandura.org/jointhegroup>.



Please pray for the sick and shut-in members of our Blessed Virgin Mary parish, and be in touch with them when you can (cards, short telephone conversations, visits). "Lord God, please be present to all the ill, infirm and elderly of our parish. You love each and every one...."

River East Care Home: Edward Holowich **Maples Care Home:** Anna Paslawsky, Eleanor Harik

Beacon Hill: Helen Naherny **Seven Oaks Hospital:** John Haligowski **St. Boniface Hospital:** Ø **Holy**

Family Home: Lorraine Putasnick, Adam Romanchuk, Fr. Yakowchuk, Helena Dubik, Mary Kozelko, Mary

Shabbits **At home:** Antonina Witrowych, Dmytro Sikora, Roman Naherny

Please let us know when there are changes... many people pray over this info box!



VIGIL LAMPS for the week of December 24:

Sanctuary Lamp/Вічна Лампа — for +Andriy Witrowych from Antonina & Irena Witrowych

Christ Icon — For +Wilfred Krawchuk from son Terry Krowchuk

Mother of God Icon — Blessings for Lorraine Putasnick on her 86th birthday from Dolores, Ken and family

Request your Vigil Lamp at least a week ahead. This is such a beautiful way of praying, knowing the candle burns for a week for your intention. \$10 each; your preference of lamp will be accommodated whenever possible.

This is a way that supports our parish, in addition to obtaining graces for those whom you pray!

