

SAINT NICHOLAS

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



українська католицька церква святого миколая

ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ

UNDER THE PROTECTION OF MOTHER OF GOD



GHURGH BULL€TIN

December 20 – 2020 – 20 грудня
ЦЄРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Have a Joyous Christmas! ХРИСТОС РАЖДАЄТЬСЯ! СЛАВІТЕ!

веселих різдв'яних свят!



Святий Миколаю!!!
Поклади моїм друзям
під подушку п'ять коробочок:
Першу – наповни ЗДОРОВ'ЯМ !

Другу - УСПІХОМ!

Третю - ДОБРОМ!

Четверту – ТЕРПІННЯМ!

А в п'яту – поклади ВІРУ!

I ще, дуже тебе прошу,

пов'яжи всі коробочки ЩАСТЯМ!!!

Happy Parish Feast Day of St. Nicholas!

Вітаємо з Празником Святого Миколая!

#### CHURCH BULLETIN

December 20 — 2020 — 20 грудня ЦЄРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



St. Nicholas Ukr. Cath. Church Церква Святого Миколая (Під Опікою П.Д.М.) ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

## FEASTDAY - ПРАЗНИК

4:30 PM For Parishioners – За Парохіян STREAMING at 4:30 PM in English ~

December 20 грудня: S. before Christmas

10:00 – Ukr. (some English) STREAMING ++Roman, Paraska, Slawko Michaliw (Michael, Michelle Michalow) - (Julian)

Monday, December 21 грудня, Понеділок 8:00 АМ Молитва

9:00 AM +Mary Beth Sukmann (Friends)

Tuesday, December 22 грудня, Вівторок 10:00 р. For Parishioners – За Парохіян

Wednesday, December 23 грудня, Середа 9:00 АМ +Катерина, Григорій Гарасимчук (Невістка)

## Christmas Eve – Свят Вечір Thursday, December 24 грудня, Четвер

9:30 AM Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 9:00 PM Great Compl. & Christmas Lit. (Greg.) Вел. Повечеря і Різдв. Літургія

CHRISTMAS – PIЗДВО (Greg.) Friday, December 25 грудня, П'ятниця

12:00 noon Christmas Liturgy +Metropolitan Joseph Shmondiuk

Synaxis of Theotokos – Собор Б. (Greg.) Saturday, December 26 грудня, Субота

9:30 AM +John & Mary Colomon (Allen & Nadine Burkholder)

4:30 PM +Iwan Kozogij (Serediuk Family) STREAMING at 4:30 PM in English ~

Dec. 27 грудня: S. aft Christmas – H. по Різдві

10:00 – Ukr. (some English) STREAMING +Mychajlo Loza (Wife) - (Julian)

20 грудня: 28 Неділя по Зісланні Св. Духа 10:00 р. ПРАЗНИК – FEAST DAY

По Українськи ~

STREAMING

22 грудня: Зачаття Анни (Непорочне Зачаття)

10:00 р. For Parishioners – За Парохіян

27 грудня: Неділя св. Праотців

10:00 р. +Михайло Лоза (Дружина) По Українськи ~ STREAMING



Конверти приготовані. Просимо забрати. Якщо не маєте а хотіли би мати, просимо зголоситися.

Please take your envelopes. If you would like envelopes for next year and do not already have them, please let the parish office (852-7566) know as soon as possible. If you already have envelopes and no longer plan to use them, again, please let us know as soon as possible.

The cost of envelopes per box has increased to \$8.00 per box. (Suggested donation \$10.00).

Please fill out the Registration card and return. We would like to update our information. Please include cell phone number and email. There are times when we need to inform parishioners of an immediate need, so we can email or text to get them the information quickly.

**Eternal Light Burns for all Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Nicholas Parish** 

Вічне Світло в честь П. Д. Марії горить за живих і померлих членів Парохії св. Миколая

Christina H. Arthurs, Attorney 716.853.5100 or carthurs@lippes.com Estate Planning & Probate | Real Estate Immigration | Corporate



Albany | Buffalo | Florida | New York | Toronto Area | Washington, D.C.

Attorney Advertising. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome









# JENNY PFEIFFER-NOWADLY Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker

Office: 716.656.8999 • Fax: 716.825.4911 iennypfeiffer@howardhanna.com





#### KARYCZAK'S

#### **AUTOMOTIVE** 995 ABBOTT ROAD • BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14220



COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS / N.Y.S. INSPECTION FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS •

TRANSMISSION ADJUSTMENTS & REPAIRS • CONDITIONING & ACCESSORIES •

TOWING SERVICE - ALL WORK GUARANTEED

822-1574 825-7428 827-8895

ASK FOR TOM

PHONE 893-1025

Fusani & Kuhn's Monuments, Inc.

> 2398 GENESEE ST. **BUFFALO, N.Y. 14225**

#### **Proud to Support** St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church



## **Buszka Funeral Home** Director Peter D. Stachowski

2005 Clinton Street at S. Ogden, Buffalo New York 14206 (716) 825-7777 www.buszkafuneralhome.com

Сердечна подяка усім спонзорам!

Janine R. Klimeczko Michael A. Klimeczko Licensed Directors

Wilhelmina E. Klimeczko

# Pietszak

**FUNERAL HOME** 

Orlowski-Pietszak Funeral Home

www.Pietszak.com

897-2400

Continuing a Tradition of thoughtful Personalized Service

806 Clinton St. Buffalo

2400 William St. Cheektowaga

Thanks are extended to all Sponsors!

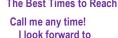
# MARY KAV The Best Times to Reach Me

Ulana Scheidle

Independent Beauty Consultant

3498 Stevenson Court Wheatfield NY 14120 (716) 628-7882

uscheidle@verizon.net www.marykay.com/uscheidle



hearing from you.

Become a member of Ukrainian FCU and save money with lower rates on loans, make money with higher interest on your savings, and save time with our convenient online services!

PERSONAL & BUSINESS FINANCIAL SERVICES **SAVINGS & CHECKING ACCOUNTS | SHARE** CERTIFICATES | MONEY MARKET | IRA | LOANS | **MORTGAGES | VISA CREDIT & DEBIT CARDS |** MONEYGRAM I INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC WIRE TRANSFERS | ONLINE SERVICES | |NOTARY PUBLIC | TRANSLATIONS |SCHOLARSHIPS| ПЕРСОНАЛЬНІ ТА БІЗНЕСОВІ ФІНАНСОВІ ПОСЛУГИ ОЩАДНІ ТА ЧЕКОВІ РАХУНКИ | СЕРТИФІКАТИ | М.М | ПЕНСІЙНІ РАХУНКИ | ПОЗИКИ | КРЕДИТИ НА HEPYXOMICTЬ | ПЛАТІЖНІ КАРТКИ VISA | MONEYGRAM | ГРОШОВІ ПЕРЕКАЗИ | ЕЛЕКТРОННІ ПОСЛУГИ |ПОСЛУГИ НОТАРІУСА| ПЕРЕКЛАДИ|СТИПЕНДІЇ|



(716) 578-8185

www.redstarautomotive.com

#### **Buffalo Branch**

Ukrainian Home Dnipro 562 Genesee Street Buffalo NY 14204 (716) 847-6655

www.ukrainianfcu.org

#### **Business Hours**

Closed Wednesdays. Зачинені по середах Mon., Tuesday, Thursday | 9:30 am - 5 pm | Пон., вівторок, четвер Friday / П'ятниця | 9:30 am - 7 pm | Saturday / Cy6oma 1 9 am - 1 pm 1

Ellicott Creek Plaza 2882 Niagara Falls Blvd Amherst NY 14228 (716) 799-8385 www.ukrainianfcu.org

**Amherst Branch** 

#### **Business Hours**

Closed Mondays. Зачинені по понеділках Tuesday - Thursday | 9:30 am - 5 pm | 3 вівторка по четвер Friday / П'ятниця | 9:30 am - 6 pm | Saturday / Субота | 9 am - 1 pm |

Membership subject to eligibility. Federally insured by NCUA.

# **DNIPRO**



# **ДНІПРО**

#### Ukrainian Cultural Center

562 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14204 856-4476 www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com facebook.com/DniproUkrainianCulturalCenter

Call for kitchen status - Sandee 400-3905 Підтримайте Ваш Народний Дім

# In Memoriam! Вічная Пам'ять!

15 грудня 2020 Упокоїлася в Господі Св. Пам.

# +Анастазія Пугач

Родині і приятилям складаємо співчуття А їй хай буде Вічная Пам'ять!





July 31, 1920 - December 15, 2020 Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Fell asleep in the Lord

+Anastazia Puhacz

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends. May she rest in peace.

Anastazia Puhacz passed away at the age of 99, on Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

The former Anastazia Teplyckyj was born on Sunday, July 31, 1921, to the late Maria and Ivan Teplyckyj, in Ukraine. Anastazia was an employee of Roswell Park Cancer Institute, in Buffalo, New York,

Anastazia was the beloved wife of the late Petro Puhacz.

The devoted mother of Ihor (Stephanie Hnatiw) Puhacz, Maria (George) Paszkowsky, and Wasyl (Mary Ann) Puhacz.

A loving grandmother of Christina (Joseph) Welsh, Lida Mazepa, Danylo (Krista)

Paszkowsky, Raisa Puhacz, Alyssa Puhacz, Andrew Puhacz, and the fond greatgrandmother of 5 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by relatives in Ukraine. Anastazia was a member of the Ukrainian National Women's League, Branch #49. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers that donations be made to: St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church. 308 Fillmore Ave., Buffalo, N. Y., 14206 or to:

The Brothers of Mercy Wellness Campus, C/O Brothers of Mercy Foundation, 4520 Ransom Road, Clarence, N. Y., 14031.

# In Memoriam! Вічная Пам'ять!

14 грудня 2020 Упокоїлася в Господі Св. П. +Оксана Салдит

Родині і приятилям складаємо співчуття А їй хай буде Вічная Пам'ять!

December 14, 2020 fell asleep in the Lord +Oksana Saldvt

(July 15, 1921- December 14, 2020)

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends. May she rest in peace. More to follow in future buletins

Ukrainian American Freedom Foundation 501C3 Tax Deductible Charity accepting donations.

Renovate Dnipro



Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine

UAFF-Dnipro 562 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14204 www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com facebook.com/UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com (716) 847-1281

Організація Оборони Чотирьох Свобід України ODFFU - Buffalo, NY - Branch # 22 Emil Bandriwsky, President



For All of Your Old World Favorite Products, Just

# LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS FOOD DRIVE

Help us help those less fortunate by placing non-perishable food items in the box *May God bless you for your generosity* 

Ліґа Українців Католиків збирає конзерви для потребуючих нашого міста. Просимо!
League of Ukrainian Catholics, Niagara Frontier is collecting non-perishable items (please check expiration date) for those less fortunate in Buffalo Community. The box is located by the bulletin in our church. Thank You!

**Easy to remember** 

NEW NORMAL PROTOCOL

**Avoid touching:** 

Mouth, Eyes, Nose

Instead follow:

Wash your hands
Obey social distancing
Mask up

Exercise & eat well

No unnecessary traveling



If you have the opportunity, you should check out the lights at Fatima Shrine in Lewiston. They burn brightly from 5-9 pm every day, and they also have an extraordinary exhibit on display in Fatima Hall. 300 nativity scenes from around the world, beautifully crafted and guaranteed to delight and bring the spirit of Christmas to your hearts.









- Our CHURCH KITCHEN is CLOSED Until farther notice.
- Thank you for your help and patronage!
- Thanks are extended to all volunteers!
- Coffee Hour Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. NOW CLOSED!

Until we meet God willing ...

HAVE A BLESSED DAY!!!

## **TOP'S GIFT CARDS:**

Please help us raise money for our Church by purchasing



Top's Gift Cards from us. If you buy in Tops anyway, why not help. You do not lose or gain anything by doing this, but our Church will benefit greatly. We receive back 5% of your spending. To take advantage of this program, call the rectory. Thank you and God Bless!

**Please note:** You can purchase gasoline with this card at Tops Gasoline Station.

\* \* \*

У нас успішно продаються Карточки з крамниці "Топс". Купуючи їх ви помагаєте церкві. Для Вас не робить різниці чи ви платили грішми чи карточкою, але церква дістане від "Топс" 5%. На \$1,000 церква одержить \$50. Що б закупити слід звертатися до канцелярії. Дякуємо!

Також пригадуємо, що цією карточкою можна купувати бензину. CHURCH BULLCTIN is published weekly. Deadline for information is Friday Evening. ЦСРК. ВІСНИК видається тижнево. Інформації подавати до четверга вечора.

## SAINT NICHOLAS

ОКВАІЛІАЛ САТНОІ СНИВОН СНИВОН ВІЛЬНІ В СТОТКА В НЕВИЗОНО В НЕВИЗ

Par. E-Mail:

- stnbuffalo@gmail.com

Web Page: -

- http://www.stnbuffalo.com

Dioc. Web: - http://www.stamforddio.org

308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

**Rectory: (716) 852-7566** 

Fax: 855-1319 Kitchen: 852-1908

**Confession:** Before Liturgies

Сповідь: Перед Св. Літургіями Baptism: By appointment

**Хрещення:** За домовленням \*

Marriage:Contact 6 months in advanceВінчання:Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

Religion classes – Релігійна Програма Closed under farther notice

Ministry to the sick – Опіка над хворима Family members should call the Rectory Родина повинна повідомити священика IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME

В разі потреби завжди можна закликати

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor

Please call if you are hospitalized, homebound and need a priest.

Просимо закликати якщо ви у лічниці, або приковані до ліжка!



Anastazia Puhacz was born in the village of Dykiw Ukraine. She had two sisters and a brother. She was unable to continue her education past the third grade because the occupying force said Ukrainians were only good for field work and not requiring further schooling.

This never stopped her from her love of reading. Then came the Russian communist who were worse than the previous regime. Shortly, the German Nazis showed up and took her instead of her father to Germany for forced labor. She said that they could see the city of Dresden burning from the incendiary bombs.

Always cold, hungry, and tiring work she was forced to rise for work in the dark and to bed when dark. She was used, abused, hit, spit upon and cursed by local German villagers. After the war in a refugee camp, she met and married Petro Puhacz. Then the family, with son lhor, moved to Frankfurt where daughter Maria was born. In March 1954 they moved again arriving in New York City. The trip, on a ship that was the fastest liner at the time, was short and luxurious as compared to her previous life. In Buffalo, at Deaconess hospital, Wasyl was born. She loved America.

Her life though changed when her husband died and she was left to finish raising her children on her own. We think she did pretty good.

An avid gardener, she had cherry trees, apples, peaches, pears, and plums in the back yard. She also planted many different vegetables. She spent hours outside on her flowers. Trimming, cutting, and working the soil.

She also loved to bake. Canning and making kapusta with friends.

Then came her grandchildren whose company she really enjoyed and always looked forward to being with them.

Now she is with the rest of her family from Dykiw. Вічная Пам`ять! (Family)



Глава УГКЦ: «Рік, що минає, став переломним початком третього тисячоліття. Ласкаво просимо в новий світ»

Як зауважив раніше Папа Франциск, такого світу, який був до пандемії, вже не існує. І тепер саме на нас лежить відповідальність будувати нову цивілізацію, но-

вий і кращий світ. Дуже важливо, щоб ми самі стали кращими. І унікальний шанс для цього ми маємо саме тепер. Ласкаво просимо в новий світ.

Таку думку висловив Блаженніший Святослав, у підсумковій програмі «Відкрита Церква» на «Живому телебаченні», яка вийшла в ефір 16 грудня. З Главою УГКЦ поспілкувалися відомі українські журналісти.

Підбиваючи підсумки року, що минає, Предстоятель відзначив, що 2020-й був «ковідним роком». «Ми були змушені навчитися діяти, жити, молитися, навіть чинити діла милосердя по-іншому, ніж це було звичайно», – сказав він.

Блаженніший Святослав розповів, що кілька днів тому почув цікаву думку. Під час лекції про екзистенціалізм XX століття один із філософів, коли говорив про біографії відомих філософів цього напрямку, дійшов висновку, що XX століття розпочалося «з гарматами Першої світової війни». Тобто століття почалося не календарним 1900 роком, а подією, яка потрясла все людство.

«Слухаючи це, я себе запитав: а коли розпочалося третє тисячоліття? Гадаю, тут можна провести певні аналогії. На мою думку, саме 2020-й є маркером нового періоду історії людства, коли відбулися якісь тектонічні зміни. Ця пандемія зачепила всіх мешканців земної кулі вперше в новому часі. Вона сконцентрувала на собі увагу всього людства, відбулися певні тектонічні зрушення в цивілізації сучасного світу».

За його словами, коли ми слухаємо про пандемію, концентруємо свою увагу здебільшого на медичних, епідеміологічних аспектах, проте вже бачимо, що є і серйозні соціально-економічні наслідки. «Уже говорять про небезпеку рецесії світової економіки, можливо, ще гіршу, ніж економічна депресія початку ХХ століття... Ми вже бачимо, що відбуватимуться певні політичні зміни... Гадаю, ми ще не зрозуміли вповні всіх наслідків тієї пандемії...

Департамент інформації УГКЦ











# CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

(2 Cor 8:9)

Christ is born! Glorify Him! Beloved in Christ!

It is hard to believe how our life has changed from the final carol of last year to the first "Boh Predvichnyi" (God Pre-eternal) of this year's Christmas Eve. Throughout 2020 we were, it would seem, transported into a different world—a world of fear and uncertainty before the unknown. Yet, in spite of the restrictions, challenges, and human losses we endured due to the coronavirus pandemic, together, as Church, in our families, parishes, communities, and countries, we did not cease to proclaim the good news of hope, love, and joy. And so, this year on the occasion of Christ's Nativity, we are called in a special way to bear witness before others to the "good news of great joy that will be for all the people: for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:10-11).

The mystery of Christmas is found in the joy of the coming of the Son of God into a world, full of affliction, pain, and suffering. He leaves heavenly glory in order to enter into the human frailty of all times, cultures, and people. Christ-God becomes not just a human being, but a poor human being, a person who suffers from the beginning of His earthly life. The Pre-eternal God enters into human history and experiences human hunger and cold, pain and sickness, adversity, and the indifference of society.

A homeless newborn God—what a strange contradiction, what wonder is this divine poverty! The Almighty God becomes poor in order to enrich us. The King of the Universe is placed "in a poor stable-cave, in a manger on hay" (from the carol, Vozveselimsya vsi razom nyni), in order to set a path for us to the heavenly abode. Gazing at this mystery St. Gregory the Theologian says: "The One who enriches became poor; for he took on the poverty of my flesh, in order that I may be enriched in His divinity" (Oratio 45, 9). The Lord has come, the One who with His wounds heals our wounds, our weakness, our affliction. And He remains from generation to generation our Emmanuel.

which means "God is with us," in our needs, pains, and sufferings. The presence of the incarnate God in human history and in our life is our constant and endless joy, both on Nativity Day, and all the days of our life.

In everyday life we sometimes use a word without thinking about its origin or meaning. Language evolves spontaneously and abruptly— we forget where the word came from and fail to grasp its depth. This is the case of the Ukrainian word ubohyj, which is used to describe a poor person. However, when we examine how this word is constructed, we understand that u-Bohyj (in God) is a person through whom the Lord comes to us, a person who is "in God," that is, under the special care of the Almighty.

Christ teaches us that the materially poor and the poor in spirit, the humble, are happy, are blessed, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven (see Lk 6:20). Only God is the last hope, support, and salvation for the poor. Their fate is always in God's hands. And the Lord is especially sensitive to how we treat His poor, that is, the needy, downtrodden, homeless, hungry, lonely, widows, and orphans. Those who disregard the poor scorn their Creator. To wrong such persons is to commit a sin that calls to heaven for vengeance!

This year, in fact, the Synod of Bishops of our Church focused its attention on the face of poverty today. I encourage you to heed the Synodal pastoral letter, entitled "Only one thing will remain yours – that which you have given to the poor!" and examine it in the light of the star of Bethlehem, contemplating the face of the newborn Savior. The Divine Child is present in every destitute person who knocks on the door of our heart, as Joseph knocked on the doors of the inns in Bethlehem.

Then, the wise men from the East hurried to the town of David, in order to bring gifts to the King of the ages, who was born as a little child in a stable-cave—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Today, the infant Jesus is present in the sick, the frail, the homeless, and the neglected, who wait for someone to help them, to bring them gifts—the gold of a compassionate word, the incense of brotherhood, and the myrrh of immediate assistance, necessary for life. Those who stretch out their hand to the poor become rich with God and become partakers in the eternal goodness of the Creator Himself.

We are celebrating Christmas in the midst of a worldwide situation of human anguish, brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. We have not yet fully grasped or understood all the consequences and faces of this global misfortune. We do not know what changes await us in the sphere of economic, socialcommunity, and church life... But we have already understood that the virus is not interested, neither in our place of residence, nor in our wealth or social status. All of us are equally in danger of infection, and a new threat of poverty hangs over all corners of the globe. All of us in the same way need the kind of help and strength that goes beyond human abilities and power. For this reason. Christ's Nativity is for us a ray of hope and joy in the midst of today's dark fear and confusion, and each one of us must be open to God's grace, which pours out on us without ceasing, even in the worst of times.

To celebrate Christmas in a time of pandemic is to enlighten those who dwell in darkness, as the prophet Isaiah foretold: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined" (Isaiah 9:2). If we are permitted to gather—with proper distancing, of course—may our eyes shine with a joy that is visible to all. Let us wear masks, when necessary, but let them not silence our traditional carols. Let us celebrate as we are able. Let us acclaim the birth of the Savior, however possible, so that even in this pandemic we might bear witness to the most important truth of human history—that we are not alone or abandoned, because "God is with us!"

Today let us bring to Bethlehem as our gift for the newborn Savior our own poverty and the wounds of humanity today, and let us ask Him for the richness of Divine wisdom in order to overcome this disease, for the fullness of divine strength in order to deal with its effects on society, on the life and health of every person. Above all, let us ask for the richness of His love, which alone can restore this distressed world of ours, and grant it hope, security, and joy. Solidarity with and closeness to those in need, participation in their pain and anxiety, rather than escape from the suffering that hangs over us all today—this will grant us the possibility to be merry and truly celebrate Christmas this year. Therefore, let us hurry to the

creche where our Savior rests in a manger, and together with the shepherds and wise men let us sing:

The pre-eternal God has been born!

Today he came from the heavens,

To save all his people,

And has comforted all!

Dear Brother and Sisters! In spite of our poverty and frailty, today we are rich in the joy and love of our newborn Savior. With Christ's Nativity, I sincerely greet vou all: from Kviv to London, from Buenos Aires to Melbourne, from Winnipeg to Zelenyj Klyn—those who are celebrating today in their family circle and those who are keeping distance from their loved ones to protect them from danger, those who are able to attend church services for the Feast, and those who at home join in community prayer through social media. I especially greet all medical workers who, in spite of real danger to themselves and their families, tirelessly and with great sacrifice give of their time and talents for the health of others. I embrace those who suffer physical and spiritual wounds. I send a word of comfort to those who this year lost family members and friends, and for whom it is particularly painful to approach the festive table this Christmas eve. I unite myself in prayer with those who fearlessly stand on the frontlines and defend our country and people, risking their lives not only before the threat of the insidious sniper's bullet, but also before the microscopic virus-enemy that has come upon us and inflicts on us added suffering and distress. May the all-merciful Lord, who in His infinite love has visited our poverty, fill the heart of each and every one of us, Dear Brothers and Sisters, with His peace, His grace and hope!

From the bottom of my heart, I wish all of you the authentic joy of the children of God, a tasty kutia, a cheerful 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 all-praiseworthy Apostle Andrew the First-called the 13th of December (30th of November) in the 2020th Year of our Lord.