

St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church

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www.orthodoxcarnegie.org

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH

DIVINE LITURGY 9:30 AM NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

GAL 4:4-7; MT. 2:1-12

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH
MOLEBEN FOR UKRAINE 7:00 PM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13TH VESPERS 6:00 PM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH

DIVINE LITURGY 9:30 AM
CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD
ST BASIL THE GREAT
COL. 2.8-12; LK 2.20-21;40-52

ALL SERVICES LIVE STREAMED AT:

https://orthodoxcarnegie.org/livestream

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Editor: Michael Kapeluck

Bulletin Submissions are due by 8:00 am Thursday morning. Written submissions can be:

- -hand delivered to the editor
- -placed in the Bulletin envelope in the church vestibule.
- -mailed to: 300 East Main Street, Carnegie, PA 15106
- -e-mailed to: kapeluck@verizon.net

WE WELCOME YOU TODAY

We would like to remind our visitors of the following::

- All people are encouraged to participate in the sacred services of our Church. We hope that you will be able to worship as well as have fellowship with us. Should you wish any information about the Orthodox Faith or this parish in particular, please see the rector or any member of the church. We are able to place you on our mailing list.
- Only Orthodox Christians may receive the Eucharist (Holy Communion) in the Orthodox Church. In like manner, Orthodox Christians may not receive the sacraments in an non-Orthodox Church. While we hope that one day all Christians will find unity and be able to approach the chalice of our Lord together, we observe the teachings of the Church that the Eucharist is a gift of unity and not a means of unity.

We remind our faithful and visitors of the following guidelines concerning the Holy Sacraments in the Orthodox Church.

- Orthodox Christians are urged to receive Holy Communion frequently.
- Communicants should be at peace with others before approaching the chalice(Mt 5:23-24)
- Realize the importance of making a thorough examination of sins and transgressions against God, ourselves and others and having prayed for forgiveness before coming to Holy Communion.
- Frequent communicants should come to Holy Confession at least four times a year (during the four fasting periods of the year). and additionally when an examination of conscience reveals the necessity to do so in order to heal any sinful behavior.
- Communicants should fast from all foods and liquids from the evening before receiving Holy Communion.
- Communicants should read prayers in preparation for receiving Holy Communion.
- All Orthodox Christians must receive the sacraments at least once a year.
- Those who are late for Divine Liturgy (after the reading of the Epistle and Gospel) should not approach the chalice.
- Those who are ill or who have special physical needs are exempt from the above guidelines.
- Infants and children (up to the age of seven) who are Orthodox Christians may receive Holy Communion and are exempt from the above guidelines.

Thank you for gathering to worship with us today. Together we have glorified the One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May we be brought closer to one another and closer to God by following the eternal teachings of our Lord.

Нагадуємо нашлім гостям., що:

ми заохочуємо всіх до участі у Священній Літургії в нашій Церкві; ми сподіваємося, що Ви змажете не лише молитися тут, але й стати членом нашої громади. Якщо Ви хочете отримати якусь додаткову інформацію про Православну віру, чи, зокрема, про нашу парафію, звертайтеся, будь ласка, до отця настоятеля чи до будь-кого із членів нашої парафії. Ми можемо внести вашу адресу до парафіяльного списку розсипки;

лише православні християни можуть отримати Євхаристію (Святе Причастя) у православній церкві І, відповідно, православні християни не можуть отримувати святого причастя у неправославній церкві Плекаючи надію на те, що у майбутньому всі християни досягнуть єдності і зможуть разом пити із чаші нашого Господа, ми дотримуємося вчення церкви про те, що Євхаристія - це дар єдності, а не засіб до єдності.

НАГАДУЄМО НАШИМ ВІРНИМ І ГОСТЯМ ПРО ПРАВИЛА, ЩО СТОСУЮТЬСЯ СВЯТОГО ПРИЧАСТЯ У ПРАВОСЛАВНІЙ ЦЕРКВІ:

ми спонукаємо православних християн часто ходити до Святого Причастя:

ті, хто причащаються, повинні бути у мирі з іншими перш, нас підійти до євхаристичної чаші (Св.Матвій 5:23-24); **перед** тим, як прийти на Святе Причастя, дуже важливо ретельно осмислити гріхи і порушення, які було вчинено проти Бога, нас самих та інших і помолитися за їх відпущення;

тим, хто часто причащається, слід приходити на святу сповідь принаймні чотири рази на рік (під час кожного із чотирьох щорічних постів);

ті, хто причащається, повинні з вечора перед прийняттям Святого Причастя, припинити вживання всякої їжі і напоїв; **ті,** хто причащається, повинні шляхом молитов підготувати себе до прийняття причастя;

всі православні християни повинні, принаймні, раз на рік отримати Святе Причастя;

ті, хто спізнився на Божественну Літургію (прийшов після того, як було прочитано Апостол і Євангеліє) не можуть підходити до чаші; **хворі**, і ті, хто має обмезсені фізичні моеисливості, звільняються від вище викладених вимог; **немовлята** та діти до семи років, які належать до Православної християнської віри, можуть отримувати Святе Причастя і звільняються від вшиє викладених вимог;

Дякуємо за те, що Ви прийшли помолитися з нами сьогодні у церкві Ісуса Христа. 'Разом з вами ми віддали славу Єдиному Господу, Отцеві, і Синові, і Духові Святому. Нехай дотримування вічного вчення нашого Господа наблизить нас один до одного Боһ

Saturday, January 6th Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Prokiemon

Let all the earth worship Thee and sing unto Thee. Let it praise Thy name, O Most High!

Lesson from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews
c. 1, v. 1-12

God spoke to our forefathers in old times through the prophets in many places and in various ways. In these latter days he has spoken to us through his Son, whom he appointed heir of the universe, and through whom he had created the worlds. He is the reflection of the divine glory and substance. He upholds all creation through the powerful mandate of God.

He has cleansed man from sin. He sits at the right hand of God in heaven. He is superior to the Angels, and his name is more distinguished than theirs.

God never said to any of his Angels what he said to him: "You are my Son. I have begotten you today." Again: "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son."

Again, when he introduces this first-born Son into the universe, he says: "All the Angels of God will bow before him."

Speaking of the Angels, he says: "The winds are his angels, and the lightnings are his servants." Speaking of his Son, he says: "Your throne, 0 Lord, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of righteousness. You have loved righteousness and you have hated iniquity. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the sacred oil above your companions."

Again: "In the beginning, 0 Lord, you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will always remain. They will all grow old, as garments. You will roll them up as a mantle, and you will change them. But you are always the same, and your years will have no end."

До євреїв 1:1-1

У минулому Бог багато разів і різними способами спілкувався з нашими предками через пророків. Та цими останніми днями Він знову говорив до нас через Сина Свого, Якому призначив у спадок усе суще. Та й весь світ Бог створив через Сина Свого. Він — сяйво Божої Слави і точна подоба сутності Божої. Все на світі тримається через могутнє Слово Сина Божого. Він дав людям очищення від гріхів і за те посів Своє місце по праву руку від Всевишнього на Небесах. Він був набагато величніший за Ангелів, так само, як і ім'я, що Він успадкував, є вищим від їхніх імен.

Бо до кого з Ангелів Бог звертався коли з такими словами: «Ти Син Мій, сьогодні Я став Твоїм Отцем».

Або про кого з Ангелів говорив Він таке: «Я буду Батьком Йому, а Він стане Моїм Сином?» Та й знову ж таки: коли Бог приніс Свого Первістка в світ , Він сказав: «Хай усі Ангели Божі вклоняються Йому». А про Ангелів Бог сказав: «Він робить Ангелів Своїх вітрами і слуги Його стають спалахами вогню». Разом з тим про Сина сказано так: «Престол Твій, Боже, то є Твій престол на віки вічні. Закони праведності — то закони Твого царства. Бо праведність Ти цінував завжди й завжди ненавидів Ти кривду. Тож Бог, Твій Бог Тебе обдарував такою великою благодаттю, як більш нікого з-поміж Твоїх побратимів». І ще: «Спочатку, Господи, Ти заклав землі основу, і небо — також плід Твоїх зусиль. Колись настане їм кінець а Ти залишишся навічно; вони геть зносяться, немов старе вбрання. Ти згорнеш їх, мов плащ, й тоді заміниш шатами новими. А Ти — ніколи не міняєшся, і нема кінця Твоїм рокам».

Gospel According to St. Luke

c. 2, v. 1-20

In those days, a decree was issued by the Emperor Augustus that a census of the whole empire should be taken. It was the first census taken when Quirinus was governor of Syria. So everyone went to register in his own city.

Joseph also went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to the city of David called Bethlehem in Judea, because he belonged to the house and lineage of David, to register with Mary, who was betrothed to him and was pregnant While they were there, the time for her delivery arrived. So she gave birth to her first-born Son, wrapped him up in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them at the inn.

Now in that region there were shepherds living in the open fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. The shepherds were terribly frightened.

But the angel said to them: "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy for all the people, because today your Savior, Christ the Lord, has

been born in the city of David. This is the sign by which you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped up in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Suddenly a multitude of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and good will among men."

When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another: "Let us go over to

Bethlehem and see this event which has occurred and which the Lord has announced to us." So they hurried there, and found Mary and Joseph with the baby lying in the manger.

Having seen him, the shepherds reported the message of the angel concerning this child. They were all amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these sayings and pondered over them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been announced to them.



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праведності — то закони Твого царства. Бо праведність Ти цінував завжди й завжди ненавидів Ти кривду. Тож Бог, Твій Бог Тебе обдарував такою великою благодаттю, як більш нікого з-поміж Твоїх побратимів».

І ще: «Спочатку, Господи, Ти заклав землі основу, і небо — також плід Твоїх зусиль. Колись настане їм кінець а Ти залишишся навічно; вони геть зносяться, немов старе вбрання. Ти згорнеш їх, мов плащ, й тоді заміниш шатами новими. А Ти — ніколи не міняєшся, і нема кінця Твоїм рокам».

Sunday, January 7th Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

TROPARION

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

Контакіон

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! Angels, with shepherds glorify Him! The wise men journey with the star! Since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child..

PROKIEMON

Let all the earth worship Thee and sing unto Thee. Let it praise Thy name, O Most High!

Verse: Make a joyful noise to God all the earth! Sing of His name! Give glory to His praise

LESSON FROM THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE GALATIANS

c.4, v. 4-7

Brethren, when the appointed time had arrived, then God sent his Son, born of a woman under the Law, to redeem those, who lived under the Law, and enable us to become his sons by adoption. To prove that you are his sons, God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son to cry: "Abba, namely Father!" Therefore, you are no longer servants, but sons. Now, if you are sons, you are certainly heirs of God through Jesus Christ.

До галатів 4:4-7

Та коли настав час, Бог послав Сина Свого, Який був народжений від жінки і жив за Законом. Бог послав Його, щоб Він визволив тих, хто жив під Законом, щоб Бог усиновив нас. А через те, що ви Його діти, Бог послав Дух Сина Свого у ваші серця. І той Дух гукає: «Авва!» — тобто «Отче».

Тож якщо ви більше не раби, а діти Господа, то Бог також зробив вас Своїми спадкоємцями.

ALLELUIA VERSES

The heavens declare the glory of God: And the firmament shows His handiwork.

Day speaks to the day and night shows knowledge to the night

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

c.2, v. 1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, wise men from the East arrived in Jerusalem, inquiring: "Where is the newly 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 it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where Christ was to be born.

They answered him: "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: 'You, O Bethlehem, you are by no means the least of the principal cities of Judah, for from you will arise a leader who will govern my people Israel."

Thereupon Herod summoned the wise men secretly and found out from them the exact time when the star appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem and said: "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, so that I may go and worship him also."

So they obeyed the king and proceeded on their way. And lo, the star which they had seen in the East led them on until it reached the place where the child was, and stopped over it.

When the wise men saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly. So they went into the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Thereupon they fell down and worshipped him.

Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But, as they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they returned to their own country by another way.

Від Матвія 2:1-12



Ісус народився в юдейському місті Віфлеємі за царювання Ірода. Згодом до Єрусалиму прийшли мудреці зі Сходу. Вони спитали: «Де новонароджений Цар юдейський? Ми прагнемо знати, бо бачили Його зірку, коли вона зійшла. Ми прийшли поклонитися Йому». Почувши про це, цар Ірод дуже стривожився, а разом з ним і всі мешканці Єрусалиму. Він зібрав усіх головних священиків та книжників юдейських і запитав їх, де має народитися Христос. Вони сказали йому: «У Віфлеємі, в Юдеї, бо ось що написано пророком:

«Ти, Віфлеєме, що в землі Юди, дуже важливе серед міст юдейських, бо з тебе вийде Правитель, Який буде пастирем народу Мого — Ізраїлю».

Тоді Ірод покликав мудреців, щоб зустрітися таємно, і точно з'ясував у них, коли зійшла зірка. Пославши їх до Віфлеєма, він звелів: «Ідіть і добре розпитайте про Дитя, а коли знайдете, то сповістіть мене, щоб я теж міг піти й поклонитися Йому».

Вони вислухали царя та й пішли, і зірка, схід якої вони бачили, йшла поперед них, доки не зупинилася над місцем, де була Дитина. Коли мудреці побачили те, велика радість охопила їх. Вони ввійшли до оселі й побачили Дитину з Марією, Його матір'ю. Вони впали долілиць перед Ним, щоб поклонитися Немовляті. Тоді, відкривши свої скарбниці, піднесли Йому дарунки: золото, ладан та мирро.

Оскільки Бог з'явився їм вві сні й попередив, щоб не поверталися до Ірода, вони рушили до своєї землі іншим шляхом.

Prayer List

HHeavenly Father, Who sent Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be the Physician of our souls and bodies, Who came to heal sickness and infirmity, Who healed the paralytic, and brought back to life the daughter of Jairus, Who healed the woman who had been sick for twelve years by the her mere touch of the hem of your robe, visit and heal also your beloved servants:

Dolores Wachnowsky Jane Allred Teresa Stacy Laila Bechtle Maria Warholak John L. Donna Forbes Rebecca White Michael Sally Shaun McAdams Jack Carrigan Pamela Graham Michael Welsh Sandy M. **Chris Brown** Dan Rosga Nick Solominsky Shelley Cameron Jocelyn Barner Deborah Schricker Michael Klein James White Svetlana Khomenko **Jack Schricker** David Gazella Dvlan G Olga Cherniavska Nick Worobny **Eric Barner** Michele Roberts Lil Highfield Gary Koss Victor LaBonte Lynda West Michael Corba Willie Caldwell Brenda Kline Marian L..

by the power and grace of Your Christ. Grant them the patience that comes from believing that You are always at work in our lives to bring good out of evil. Grant them strength of body, mind and soul. Raise them up from the bed of pain. Grant them full recovery. May they experience the same surge of healing power flow through their bodies, as did the sick woman who touched your robe. For we, too, are touching your robe today, dear Lord, through this our prayer. We approach you with the same faith she did. Grant them the gift of health. For You alone are the source of healing and to You we offer glory, praise and thanksgiving in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Mnohaya Lita - Many Blessed Years

Name Days

Jan 8 Synaxis of the Theotokos

Mary Stevens, Mary Pontus, Maria Stepanovich, Maria Warholak, Beverly Kapeluck, Mary Kukuashvili

Sunday after Christmas, King David, Joseph Betrothed

Joseph Kauer, Joseph Leis, David Heisler, David Gazella

Jan 9 Proto-martyr Stephen-

Steve Antolich

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Jan 9 Tracey Sally

Feast Days of:

Jan. 9 Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen Jan 9 Theodore the Branded,

Theophanes the Hymnographer

Pray for our friends and relatives serving in the armed forces.

Patrick Kluyber, Catherine Sheerin, Gregory Markiw, Ethan Rock, Michael Hrishenko

Pray for our friends and relatives serving in the Ukrainian armed forces.

Stephen, Andrij, Yevhen, Olexander, Stepan, Volodymyr, Olexander, Yuri, Victor, Petro, Olexi, Victor, Ruslan, Roman, Olya, Miroslav, Evgen, Olexander, Taras, Roman, Vitaliy, Matthew, POW Dymitro, Volodymyr, Yuri

Pray for our Catechumens & Inquirers

Tyler Duda, Renee Althaus, Will Borsch, Bianca Borsch, Sarah Borsch, Noel Borsch, and Michah Borsch

Pray for the newly departed servants of God



SCRIPTURE STUDY-The Monday evening class will be taking a brief hiatus over the Holiday's. Our next meeting will be on Monday the 8th of January when we will be discussing Chapter 23-34 of Deuteronomy. The Thursday morning class will meet next on Thursday the 28th of January when we will be discussing chapters 3-10 of 1st Kingdoms.

PYSANKY: Tracey Sally discovered a fantastic new Pysanky dye jar, and it happens to be the empty container that is left over after you eat Talenti Gelato. It's approximately a pint size and does not leak, even overnight, as you can see from the photos. Please accept our invitation to support the UOL by eating large amounts of Talenti Gelato, washing the empty containers, and giving them to Tracey Sally, Mike Sally, or Lisa Ryan whenever you see us. Alternatively, you can leave clean containers in the Pysanky cabinet.

ASC MEETING: Glory to Jesus Christ! All Saints Camp Committee would like you to join us for our Annual Meeting in February 2024! A final date determination will be selected soon! The Annual Meeting will be held in a virtual format to include as many interested people to attend as possible! Please email your name and parish to ASC Secretary, Chris Mills at chrismills@allsaintscamp.org or ASC Chairman, Father John Haluszczak otestivan@gmail.com if interested in attending! Further details will be emailed to you. Thank you for your continued support of All Saints Camp!

Stewardship Thank you for these recent donations:

Sponsor-A-Day Program: At the annual parish meeting held in October 2023 the parish voted to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation to implement a Sponsorship program to raise money for the church's General Fund. The General Fund is used to pay the day-to-day operating expenses of the church and church properties (Ex: utilities, insurance, salaries, etc.).

Our 10/2022-9/2023 General Fund expenses were approximately \$150,000 (10/21-9/22 was more, at approximately \$162,500) and our 2024 member obligations are \$725 per member. With about 100 members (our current membership), member obligations will cover about \$72,500 of expenses (less than half of our expected annual expenses). Historically, the gap between member obligations and expenses has been covered largely by the generous donations of our church organizations, parishioners, and friends. But, with so many (38) of our members passing away over the last 5 years, the gap is greater than ever.

The Sponsor-A-Day program is a way to contribute to the church's financial well-being beyond obligations. It costs approximately \$450 per day to operate the church, hall, and rectory. If you are able and interested in sponsoring a day of operating expenses (or a half day or any portion of a day), please include your sponsorship donation in your obligation envelopes (or any regular envelope), and specifically indicate that the donation is for the Sponsor-A-Day program (note it on your check/pmt).

Please note that this program is intended to be a <u>supplement</u> to member obligations. So, we only encourage participation if you are able to donate beyond your 2024 member obligations.

Thank you for your support! Parish Council



+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 75th 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



+Варфоломій

Милосердям Божим, Архієпископ Константинополя-Нового Риму і Вселенський Патріарх до всієї повноти Церкви

Благодать, Милість та Мир від Спасителя Христа, народженого в Вифлеємі

Всечесніші брати-ієрархи,

Возлюблені в Господі діти,

З Божої ласки ми знову в цьому році святкуємо співом, гімном і духовною піснею Різдво по плоті предвічного Сина і Слова Божого, а саме об'явлення таємниці Бога і людства. Згідно св. Миколая Кавасили, те, що відбувається в Божественній Літургії, є «містагогією втілення Господа», а її вступний виголос «Благословенне Царство Отця, і Сина, і Святого Духа» є свідченням того, "що саме через воплочення Господнє люди вперше дізналися, що Бог в трьох особах". "Той же Святіший Отець проголошує, що наш Господь і Спаситель Ісус Христос був першим і єдиним, хто продемонстрував справжню і досконалу людську істоту, що стосується Його етосу, життя і всього іншого".

Прийняття людської природи в особі Сина і Слова Божого разом із відкриттям шляху обожнення людини через благодать додають людству неперевершену цінність. Забуття цієї істини призводить до зменшення поваги до людської особи. Заперечення найвищого призначення людини не тільки не звільняє її, але й призводить до різноманітних зменшень і розділень. Без усвідомлення свого божественного походження і надії на вічність людина намагається залишатися людиною і не здатна впоратися з протиріччями "людського стану".

Християнське сприйняття людського існування дає розв'язання проблем, створених насильством, війною та несправедливістю в нашому світі. Повага до людської особистості, мир і справедливість – це дари від Бога, однак встановлення миру, який походить від Христа, вимагає участі та співпраці людей. Християнський

погляд на боротьбу за мир полягає у словах Христа Спасителя, який проголошує мир, звертаючись до Своїх учнів із привітанням «Мир вам» і заохочуючи нас любити ворогів. Одкровення у Христі називається «Євангелієм миру».

Це означає, що для нас, християн, шлях до миру лежить через мир і що ненасильство, діалог, любов, прощення та примирення мають пріоритет перед іншими формами вирішення розбіжностей. Теологія миру чітко описана в документі Вселенського Патріархату Заради життя світу: до соціального етосу Православної Церкви (2020):

«Ніщо так не суперечить волі Бога щодо Його створінь, створених за Його образом і подобою, як насильство одне над одним... Ми можемо просто сказати, що насильство є гріхом par excellence (найгіршим з можливих, — прим., ped.). Це досконала суперечність нашої створеної природи та нашого надприродного покликання шукати єдності в любові з Богом і нашим ближнім... Мир є справжнім одкровенням ще глибшої реальності творіння, як це задумано Богом і як Бог створив його у Своїх вічних задумах».

Мир не можна сприймати як даність, він не є самоочевидним. Це обов'язок, досягнення і безперервна боротьба за його збереження. Не існує автоматичних рішень чи постійних рецептів. Перед обличчям постійних загроз миру ми повинні бути пильними і готовими вирішувати проблеми шляхом діалогу. Великі герої політики — це поборники миру. Що стосується нас, то ми продовжуємо підкреслювати миротворчу роль релігії. І це в той час, коли релігії критикують за те, що вони плекають фанатизм і насильство "в ім'я Бога" замість того, щоб бути силою миру, солідарності та примирення. Однак це свідчить про відчуження релігійної віри, а не про те, що вона є її невід'ємною частиною. Справжня віра в Бога є найсуворішим критиком релігійного фанатизму. Релігії є природними союзниками всіх людей, які прагнуть миру, справедливості та збереження творіння від людського знищення.

Цього року світ вшановує 75-ту річницю Загальної *декларації прав людини* (10 грудня 1948 р.), яка є підсумком фундаментальних гуманітарних ідеалів і цінностей, «спільного стандарту, до якого повинні прагнути всі люди і всі нації». Права людини, центром уваги яких є захист людської гідності з її індивідуальними, соціальними, культурними, економічними та екологічними умовами, розуміються лише в їхній початковій динаміці, якщо вони визнаються основою та критерієм глобального миру, асоціюючи його зі свободою і справедливістю. У цьому сенсі майбутнє прав людини та миру також пов'язане з внеском релігій у справу їх поваги та втілення в життя.

З цими думками та святковими настроями, у повному переконанні, що життя Церкви саме по собі включає в себе опір проти нелюдськості, де б вона не виникала, ми запрошуємо всіх вас до доброї боротьби за побудову культури миру та солідарності, де люди будуть бачити в особі своїх ближніх брата чи сестру та друга, а не загрозу та ворога. Крім того, нагадуємо вам усім, дорогі брати-єрархи та діти, що Різдво — це час самоусвідомлення та подяки, об'явлення різниці між Боголюдиною та "людиною-богом", здійснення "великого чуда" свободи у Христі та зцілення "великої рани" відчуженості від Бога. Насамкінець, ми шанобливо схиляємо коліна перед Марією, Матір'ю Божою, яка носить на руках воплочене Слово, і передаємо вам благословення Матері Святої Великої Христової Церкви, бажаючи вам сприятливого, здорового, плідного, мирного і радісного нового року Господньої прихильності.

Різдво 2023

+ Варфоломій Константинопольський

Ваш ревний прохач усіх перед Богом.



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! Exalt 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.



circumstances.

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

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.

that the comfort and Love of the Christ Child will fill and warm their hearts even under the worst of

In our Lord's All-Encompassing Love,

Assuring you of our prayers and love and requesting yours, we remain your servants in the Lord,

+ANTONY

By the Grace of God, Metropolitan

+ JEREMIAH

By the Grace of God, Archbishop

+ DANIEL

By the Grace of God, 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,

Запевняємо вас у наших молитвах та просимо ваших, ми залишаємось слугами у Господі,

+ АНТОНІЙ

Ласкою Божою, Митрополит

+ ЄРЕМІЯ

Ласкою Божою, Архієпископ

+ ДАНИЇЛ

Ласкою Божою, Архієпископ





Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

May the blessings of our great God and Savior, who is born this day, be upon you both now and throughout the year! We pray that the joy of this great feast stays with you, blessing you and those for whom you pray.

In Christ's love, The Charest family



Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!

We wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2024! May love, peace and blessings be with you now and throughout the new year!

Parish Council



Christ is Born!
Wishing you and yours a wonderful Christmas, and a blessed new year!
Craig and Mary Stevens

May you all have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope, and the peace of His love this Christmas and through the coming New Year!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! St. Matrona Ladies Society



The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, The glory of the one and only Son, Who Came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Sr. UOL Chapter



Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign, A Virgin will give birth to a son, and will call him Emmanuel. Isaiah 7:14

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble & School



"Glory to God in the highest

And on earth peace and goodwill toward men"

At this Holy Season, we wish peace and goodwill to your families and pray for lasting peace in Ukraine.

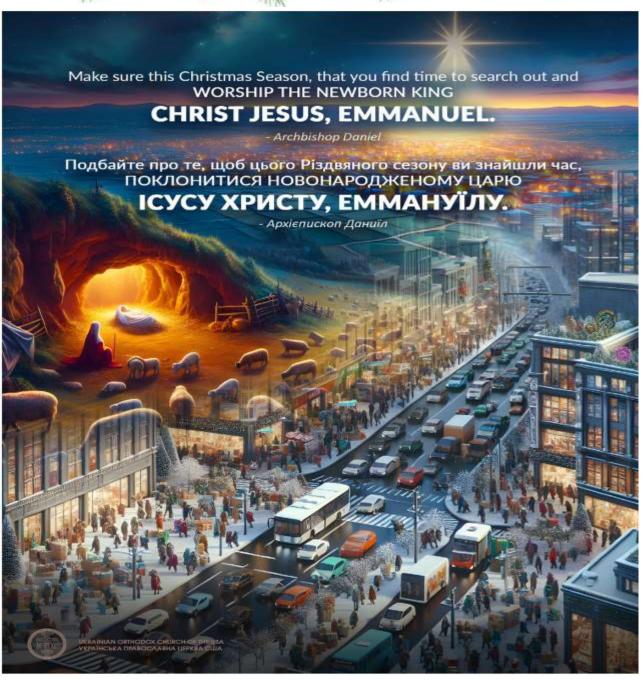
Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Bonnie Reinhart and Family

Glory to Thee Who was ineffably born of the Virgin. Glory to Thee Who tenderly loves mankind.

Glory to Thee Who did show the cave to be Heaven on earth
Glory to Thee Who has shown the Virgin, who gave Thee birth, to be the throne of the
cherubim. Jesus, Son of God, Who became incarnate for our sake: glory to Thee.
Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Michael & Michele Kapeluck & Family





Ages 13-18

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7

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

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

Now after 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 when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel." Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.



SEASONS I

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Christos Rozhdayetsya! Slavimo Yoho!

Nativity Word Scramble

1.	GRENAM	

- 2.GLESNA
- 3.ESJUS
- 4. RYAM
- 5. OPESHJ
- 6. EPHHSEDRS
- 7. RATS
- 8. EBTHEHLEM
- 9. YITANVIT



Test your knowledge:

- 1. Where did Mary and Joseph live before they went to Bethlehem?
- 2. Who was the prophet that foretold of a virgin giving birth to a son called Immanuel?
- 3. Who was the Roman ruler at the time of Jesus's birth?
- 4. What two Gospels tell of the birth of Jesus Christ?
- 5. Why did Mary and Joseph leave to go to Bethlehem?
- 6. What was the name of the angel that told Mary she was with child?
- 7. How did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem, according to the Bible?
- 8. What are the names of the wise men?

IP7PI INPO

ANSWERS: I. Nazareth Z. Isaiah 3. Caesar Augustus 4. Luke and Matthew 5. For the Census 6. Gabriel 7. It doesn't say 8. Melchior, Gaspar, and





Make an offering:

When the Wise Men visited Jesus they brought him gifts. When we come to church we should use their example and make an offering. The point is to start a habit of giving. If you only have a penny to give, then give it. Every little bit matters!



Money in the donation basket is not the only way to give to your church. Can you serve in the altar? Can you sing in the choir? Could you be a greeter?

Take a second to look around and see where you can share your gifts with your brothers and sisters in Christ.









If there is something you would like to learn about or if you would like to help with the bulletin publications, email us at uolofusa@gmail.com

Seven Men Who Tried To Paganize the Origins of Christmas But Failed

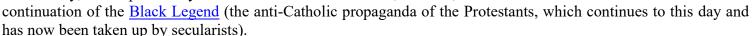
Every Christmas season, the usual myths are hauled out and distributed for popular consumption. You know them. We've all heard or read them.

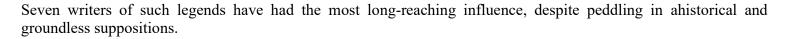
- That Christmas celebrations were stolen from the Romans
- The Christmas tree is a pagan hangover
- That other gods had virgin births
- That Yule and the mistletoe are all about Odin

These falsehoods are repeated often and loudly, under the guise of being "historical truths." And strangely they still stump most Christians, who are then filled with doubt about what they believe.

Of course, these myths were designed to elicit precisely this sort of reaction from believers.

All of them were invented in the 18th- and 19th-centuries by specific writers, who were looking for ways to finally destroy traditional Christianity, and specifically Roman Catholicism. It was, in fact, a





The earliest is **Paul Ernst Jablonski** (1693-1757), who in his *De origine festi nativitatis Christi* (*Concerning the Origins of Christmas*) set out to destroy Roman Catholicism by claiming that it was all pagan superstition (a view still rather common among many Protestants).

He was the first to suggest that Christmas was nothing other than a pagan celebration for Mithras (the Persian god adopted into the Roman army, like a mascot, if you will). Until recently, in fact, Protestants tended not to celebrate Christmas, deeming it to be paganism.

Jablonski made all his claims without a shred of historical evidence. But his real legacy is the habit of mind that he created – which holds to the supposition that beneath the superficial Christian overlay, there is a jumble of ancient superstitions, myths, pagan folk customs and practices. Scratch a Christian and you find a Roman pagan.

And this habit of mind is now a thriving industry, with everyone and his uncle nursing a pet theory about how "pagan" Christianity really is.

Ernst Friedrich Wernsdorf (1718-1782) picked up where Jablonski left off and claimed that Christmas was just an adapted Roman celebration for the Unconquerable Sun (Sol Invictus). He laid out his case in *De originibus solemnium natalis Christi ex festivitate natalis invicti (The Origins of Christmas in the Festival of the Birth of the Unconquerable Sun*).

Wernsdorf further popularized the trend of finding ways to debunk Christianity via spurious historical references. In this view, Christians were a fraud, foisted upon the world by conniving, power-hungry lot who wanted to control the Roman Empire.

The real historical evidence points to the fact that Christians were always distancing themselves from anything



pagan. So much so that they were willing to be slaughtered in the arenas, rather than agree to anything the pagans wanted them to do to fit into being "Greek" (which the Christians of the Roman Empire called the pagans).

In fact, Christians were renowned throughout the Roman world for neither adopting nor adapting to pagan ways.

But Wernsdorf did set an influential precedent – implicating Christianity for "stealing" pagan ideas, festivals, theology, and making them their own. Again, all these assertions were made without a stitch of historical evidence – just a lot of suppositions and assumptions.

His views would find their most eloquent expression in **Edward Gibbon** (1737-1794) who wrote *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (published in 1776, the same year as the American Revolution).

This then led to all kinds of suppositions about just how pagan Christianity was. Gibbon suggested that Christians destroyed the Roman Empire and replaced it with a terrible Dark Age, filled with superstition, ignorance and narrow-mindedness.

His explanation as to how Christians managed to do this was by a policy of adapting and adopting everything pagan, giving it a quick whitewash and proclaiming it as sound "Christian" theology – and in this way they won friends and influenced people.

We have to bear in mind that when Jablonski, Wensdorf and Gibbon are writing, there is a lot of interest in history among ordinary people (antiquarianism). Thus, there's a great demand for books that explore and explain the past.

Antiquarianism would go on to establish history as a science, as well as archaeology, paleography, chronology. In short, the diachronic approach.

So, it's also at this point that another modern phenomenon began to emerge – popular history, which took on a life of its own, and soon was separated from real, scholarly, evidence-based inquiries into past.

One such popularist was **Alexander Hislop** (1807-1865), whose life mission was to annihilate the Roman Catholic Church once and for all. He set about doing this by claiming that everything about Catholicism was nothing other than the disguised paganism of ancient Babylon.

It was Hislop who turned Constantine into the great "villain" who connived to create the Roman Catholic Church, building it entirely on the ancient Babylonian religion.

This cartoon version of Constantine is now widely popular and taken to be the "truth" by many.

Another contemporary, Charles William King (1818-1888), who published his influential work, *The Gnostics and their Remains*, in 1864, claimed that Christianity was simply Mithraism whose object of worship was the sun. King knew nothing about Mithraism, other than what he could find in Latin sources. And, of course, Mithraism has nothing to do with the sun.

As the work of the historians continued to bring to light more ancient civilizations, the "paganizers" found more grist for their various mills.

The most important among these was **Gerald Massey** (1828-1907), who went more ancient than Rome and latched on to Egypt as the "real" root of Christianity. It's he who is responsible for the howler that Jesus is actually Horus (the ancient Egyptian sky god, often depicted as a falcon).

E. A. Wallis Budge (1857-1934) then went to town as he concocted a heady brew of "proofs" – that Horus was born of a virgin mother; that Horus was baptized in a river by a baptizer named Anup; that Horus had twelve disciples; that Horus was crucified and rose from the dead and proclaimed as savior of mankind. None of this is true, of course. It's all Wallis letting his imagination run amok.

So, this brief exertion into the origins of the still-vibrant Debunk Christianity industry points to something far more important...

- That Christianity is unique. It has no pagan links. All claims that assert a pagan connection are easily destroyed (it would be dull going through them one-by-one)
- That the message of Christianity is entirely new. Nothing like it ever existed in the ancient world.
- That unlike the pagan gods, Jesus is a thoroughly historical figure.
- That Christian theology is unlike any other, whose main principles (love, forgiveness, charity, and a personal relationship with God) are unprecedented in any other religion.
- That even the Resurrection is a verifiable, historical event, entirely provable by clear evidence.

The consequences of all the attacks by the "paganizers" (who have now grown in number) are easily disproved.

This means that...

Christmas is only Christian and nothing else, and was established as a Christian feast day from the very earliest time of the faith.

Christmas trees are an ancient symbol of the hope that Christ offers. They are "paradise trees," and symbolize the Garden of Eden, to which human beings return by faith in Christ. They have nothing to do with Germanic or Roman pagan festivals (for which we have no concrete historical evidence).

The mistletoe represents the love of God, which is why couples kiss beneath it. The Old English word, "mistel" really refers to the her basil, which in ancient Christian herbals (book of healing herbs), is associated with the crucifixion. When the True Cross was found by Saint Helen, the spot where she had dug for it was covered in basil.

And, no, the mistletoe is not a hangover from "Germanic" paganism. We have no idea what the ancient Germanic tribes worshipped, because the further back we go, the more Roman these tribes present themselves – and the evidence of Christianity is pervasive among them. By the time these Germanic people appear in history, they are already Christians. The connection with Baldur is spurious, since none can now say what is ancient and pagan and what is invented by Snorri Sturluson to flesh out his narratives.

As for the term, "yule," the earliest mention comes from the Venerable Bede who tells us that it was the name for the month of December among the Anglo-Saxons.

We cannot really use the Scandinavian evidence because it is much later (Snorri Sturluson dates from the 13th-century). So, Bede makes the earliest reference. And Odin is nowhere in sight! All the later mythologizing is merely neo-pagan wishful thinking.

Murdo Macdonald, in his book, *The Need To Believe*, summarizes all these efforts to make Christianity into anything but what it really is:

"...certain authors tried to prove that Jesus, as a historical person, never existed. He was only a figment of the imagination, a fanciful creation, a mythical figure, giving expression to the religious aspirations of mere heretical tendencies of the time. These attempts have long been abandoned and no reputable scholar gives them a passing thought... It may be possible to ignore the New Testament and to misread history, selecting only those parts of it which lend sanction and support to our own personal bias, but it is difficult all the time to elude the challenge of Christ Incarnate in human character."

Christianity is not pagan in any way. It is uniquely its own. This is what scholarly history shows us. Though the lies be many, there can be only one truth. https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2018/12/six-men-who-tried-to-paganize-origins.html



Theophany Eve Dinner Thursday, January 18th

Please join us as we celebrate the baptism of our Lord, by attending the Theophany Eve Dinner, sponsored by The St. Matrona Sisterhood.

The dinner will be served at 5:30PM followed by Grand Compline Services & Blessing of Water at 7PM

Please call or email Alexis or Cindy if you would like to attend and bring a dish call Alexis 412 303 7982 Cindy 412 279 0981 sawchuk22@aol.com tetaksenia@aol.com

HOLY WATER BLESSING



The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh Invites you to the Blessing of the Water

Sunday, January 21st, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church
12 Washington Avenue
Oakmont, PA 15139

Light Refreshments to follow in the Social Hall

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 2024

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 6 Sviate Vechir Dinner 5:30 pm

COFFEE HOUR

Dec. 31 Bonnie & Nicole Reinhart, Alice Sivulich

PARISH WEEKLY SCHEDULE MONDAY

Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble & School

Rehearsals begin every Monday at 6:00 pm. Classes for all ages.

For more info call Director Natalie Kapeluck or just stop down any Monday

THURSDAY MORNING

Senior Coffee Hour

You're invited to our FREE coffee and donuts, and sometime pancakes, French toast or waffles every Thursday from 10:00 AM to 11:30 . . . or whenever it's over. At the parish hall. YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO BRING ANYTHING!!! However, bring a Friend!!!

Parish Website/Social Media

To Submit items for publication on website & social media

>email any information to be included on the Website, Facebook or Instagram to Parish Technology.

If you have any fliers or jpgs please include them, but not necessary.

E-mail Technology at technology@orthodoxcarnegie.org

Please indicate the time frame you would like items posted to website and/or social media.

Find & follow us on:







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