

A quiet, still and simple Christmas



Dearest Parishioners,

Hope, peace, love, these are the words we need for what will certainly be a different Christmas this year. Let us hold fast to the quiet stillness that we anticipate and not submit to loneliness and sadness but see this as an opportunity for spiritual strength and great intimacy with our new born Savior, Messiah and King. Even remembering those who have passed on this Christmas is an opportunity to find joy by knowing that salvation has been won. Remember if you will, during our normal celebrations at Sviat Vecheer (Holy Evening) the tradition of setting a plate for those who have passed. How often that spot is done in tradition and care and yet among all the revelry seems ignored or inevitably becomes a place to hold the remnants of the meal. This year it can become a triumphant moment to tune our thoughts to eternity, to trust prayer, have hope and cling to faith. Please do not misunderstand my message, I understand how difficult this isolation is but I also know how our faith can work to change a time of the cross to become the resurrection. Use this time to teach our younger members why we believe in God, where we find our strength, how we cope. These lessons take hold especially when we seem the most powerless and afraid. This year has touched our lives in different ways. No doubt this year has brought some joy and much sadness in different measure to each person, all coloring our memories of 2020.

Maybe the Christmas message this year will be a challenge for all of us, however know the certain truth of Gods incarnation and birth will never change and that the holiness of Christmas will ring out loud and clear even as the commercial and secular nuances are stilled. Your presence will be missed at church this year, but we pray that we can still gather together in your home thorough the livestream, watching the services near your own simple nativity, remembering the hope that comes from a small child born in a manger.

Be gentle this year to each other and yourself, stay fixed on goodness and light, reach out in safe and meaningful ways, remember in prayer the front line workers, civil authorities and those ill or who have passed. Our personal prayers as your parish clergy is that your Christmas be Joyful, Gladsome, Holy, quiet, simple and still and that all your Christmas's to come be Merry and Bright.

Thank you for all your generosity and patience as we continue to serve even as the church buildings remain closed. Your support prepares for a time we shall soon reopen giving thanks to God together hand in hand. We must also give special thanks to the volunteers, cantors and office administrator staff who have worked passionately to continue Gods rich ministry in our churches, we appreciate you and love you.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Very Rev. Fr. Mark Gnutel

Rev. Fr. Alan Wizinsky

Livestream Services for the 2020-2021 Christmas Season

All Services for the 2020-2021 Christmas Season will be livestreamed from St. Anne Parish. Due to the provincial pandemic closures all in person services are suspended. Follow us on social media or visit your parish website to take in all services this Christmas Season.



2020

Sacrament of Reconciliation – A special Archeparchial repentance program will be available online soon. This resource will not be a replacement to the sacrament but a supplement as we defer in person confession during the shutdown.

St. Nicholas Visit – Replay

If you have not had the opportunity to take in Metropolitan Lawrence's visit with St. Nicholas watch the replay here: <https://youtu.be/IIBSOw8wjOs>

Thursday, December 24th – EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

4:00 p.m. Family Christmas Service (English) —Livestream Only
9:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Service (Bilingual)—Livestream Only

Friday, December 25th – NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Service—Livestream Only
A special celebration by His Grace Archbishop Stefan Soroka

Sunday, December 27th – Sunday after the Nativity, St. Stephen, first-martyr

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—Livestream Only

2021

Friday, January 1st – Circumcision of the Lord, Feast of St. Basil, New Year

7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy—Livestream Only

Sunday, January 3rd – Sunday Before Theophany

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—Livestream Only

Tuesday, January 5th – THEOPHANY

7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy & Water Blessing—Livestream Only

***Join us this Christmas and Rejoice
In the Nativity of Our Lord!***



***Христос Раждається! Christ is Born!
Славиме Його! Glorify Him!***