



Українська Католицька Парафія  
Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці

*Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Ukrainian Catholic Parish*

*The No. 1 priority for ... the church is evangelization:  
preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in today's world.*

16 Грудень, 2012

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**Служби Божі/Divine Liturgies**

В Неділю / Sunday

8:30 am recited – Bilingual

10:30 am sung – Ukrainian

**У Свята/Holy Day of Obligation**

10:00 am and 7:00 pm

**Щодня/Daily Scheduled**

8:25 am in church

**First Friday - 8:25 am** Divine Liturgy followed by  
Moleben to the Sacred Heart of Jesus or  
Mother of God

**Сповіді** починаючи десять хвилин перед  
Службою Божою

**Confessions** begin ten minutes before the Divine  
Liturgy or by appointment

**Baptism** by appointment - membership in Parish is  
required

**Marriages** by appointment made at least six  
months in advance. Membership in Parish is  
required

**Funerals** by arrangement in the Parish Office

**оо. Василяни/Basilian Fathers**  
serving this Parish

Father Josaphat Tyrkalo, OSBM, Pastor  
Most Rev. Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM  
Bishop Emeritus

**Друга Неділя Перед Різдом Христовим  
Неділя Святих Праотців  
Лука 14:16-24**



**Second Sunday before Nativity of our Lord  
Sunday of the Holy Forefathers  
Luke 14:16-24**

**SPECIAL NOTICE – Do not park in the  
RESERVED stalls in front of St. Mary's  
Gardens when you come for the Sunday  
Divine Liturgy. Your car will be towed.**

Парафія Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці вітає всіх гостей, приятелів та рідних які зєдналися сьогодні разом брати участь в цій Службі Божі. Нехай наш Господь через заступництво Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці благословить Вас і Вашу родину.

**Місячний намір Святішого Отця Папи Римського – на Грудень**

**Загальний намір:** "Щоб імігранти в світі були прийняті із щедрістю любов'ю, особливо серед християнських спільнот."

**Місійний намір:** "Щоб Христос сам об'явився усьому людству світлом, яке сяє з Вифлеєму і відблискується в обличчі Церкви."

- Тропарі і читання в синій книжці на стор. 4 і 5.

- Кава і солодке Сьогодні після Служби Божої о год 8:30 і 10:30 рано у вітальні під церквою.

*Спеціальне прохання: після закінчення Служби Божої просимо замкнути молитвенники і співаники і поставити їх на відповідне місце. Рівнож просимо не залишайте бюлетенів і других матеріалів в лавках. Будьмо господарними в нашій церкві і допоможемо, щоби наші лавки були чисті й акуратні.*

**Сьогодні, Неділя, 16 Грудень:**

- 10:30 рано – Парафіяльна Катехитична програма зараз по Євангелії під час Служби Божої.

**Понеділок, 17 Грудень:**

- 7:00 вечора – Сходини Парафіяльної Ради у Борд Румі.

**Неділя, 23 Грудень:**

- 10:30 рано – Парафіяльна Катехитична програма зараз по Євангелії під час Служби Божої.

**Понеділок, 24 Грудень: НАВЕЧІР'Я РІЗДВА (піст)**

- 8:25 рано – Служба Божа.

- 9:15 вечора – Навечір'я і зараз потім ТОРЖЕСТВЕННА СЛУЖБА БОЖА, і мирування.

**Вівторок, 25 Грудень: РІЗДВО ХРИСТОВЕ (Обов'язкове Свято)**

- 10:30 рано – Служба Божа.

**Середа, 26 Грудень: Собор Пресвятої Богородиці і Св. Йосифа Обручника**

- 10:30 рано – Служба Божа.

**Четвер, 27 Грудень: Первомученика й Архидиякона Стефана**

- 10:30 рано – Служба Божа.

**Неділя, 30 Грудень:**

- 10:30 рано – Парафіяльна Катехитична програма НЕ БУДЕ.

**Понеділок, 31 Грудня: Закінчення Року**

- 10:30 рано – Благодарна Служба Божа й "Тебе Бога Хвалим".

**Вівторок, 1 Січень: Свято Обрізання Господа Ісуса Христа і Святого Василя**

- 10:30 рано – Служба Божа.

**Неділя, 6 Січень: Богоявління – Свячення води по кожні Службі Божій.**

- 10:30 рано – Парафіяльна Катехитична програма зараз по Євангелії під час Служби Божої.

**December 16, 2012**

**Second Sunday before Nativity of our Lord**

*The Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish welcomes all our guests, friends, visiting relatives and Parishioners in celebrating this Divine Liturgy together. May our Lord, through the intercession of the Protectress, the Blessed Mother of God, bless you and your family!*

**Papal General Prayer Intention for December:** *“That migrants throughout the world may be welcomed with generosity and authentic love, especially by Christian communities”.*

**Mission Intention for December:** *“That Christ may reveal himself to all humanity with the light that shines forth from Bethlehem and us reflected in the face of his Church”.*

**- Tropar, Kondak & readings for today in the BLUE booklet pages: 4 & 5.**

**- Coffee and sweets are available today following the 8:30 am and 10:30 am Divine Liturgy in the Fellowship Room. All guests and parishioners are invited.**

**A SPECIAL Request:** *At the conclusion of each Divine Liturgy, please close all Liturgy and/or hymnbooks and return them to their proper place. Also, please do not leave any church bulletins or any other material in the pews. Let each of us do our part to be true stewards of our parish church by helping to keep the church pews clean and neat. Thank you.*

**Today, Sunday, December 16:**

**- 10:30 am – Parish Catechism Program for Pre–Schoolers** following the reading of the Gospel during the Divine Liturgy.

**SPECIAL NOTICE – Fr. Vincent Prychidko, OSBM** passed away December 11. Funeral Services for Father will be Monday December 17 at 7 pm in Vegreville and Tuesday December 18 at 10 am in Mundare.

**Monday, December 17:**

**- 7 pm – Parish Council Meeting** in the Board Room.

**Sunday, December 23:**

**- 10:30 am – Parish Catechism Program for Pre–Schoolers** following the reading of the Gospel during the Divine Liturgy.

**Monday, December 24: Eve of Nativity of our Lord, (Abstain from meats)**

**- 8:25 am – daily Divine Liturgy.**

**- 9:15 pm – Nativity Vigil Service followed by SOLEMN DIVINE LITURGY and Myrovannia.**

**Tuesday, December 25: Nativity of our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)**

**- 10:30 am – Divine Liturgy**

**Wednesday, December 26: Synaxis of the Blessed Mother of God and St. Joseph**

**- 10:30 am – Divine Liturgy**

**Thursday, December 27: The Holy First Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen**

**- 10:30 am – Divine Liturgy**

**Sunday, December 30: – 10:30 am – No Parish Catechism Program this day.**

**Monday, December 31: New Year’s Eve “End of Year Celebration”**

**- 10:30 am – Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving and “We praise you, O God”**

**Tuesday, January 1: Feasts of Circumcision of our Lord Jesus Christ & Saint Basil**

**- 10:30 am – Divine Liturgy**

**Sunday, January 6: THEOPHANY – blessing of Water** following both Divine Liturgies – 10:30 am – **Parish Catechism Program for Pre-Schoolers** following the reading of the Gospel during the Divine Liturgy.

**Четвер, 17 Січень:**

– 7:00 вечора – **Біблійні Студії:** Програма охоплює "Одкровення".

**Thursday, January 17:**

– 7 pm – **BIBLE STUDIES:** we are studying “**Revelations**” in Fellowship Room.

**THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION ON MARY** There will be a study on Mary based on Megan McKenna’s book *Mary, Shadow of Grace*, Wednesday mornings at the Eparchial Centre. This 8 week study begins January 9, 2013 and ends February 20. Facilitators are Doreen Kostynuik and Mary Boucher. Cost \$15 and covers the price of the book. For more information and registration, call 604.517.2347. We need a minimum number to run this group as well as order books. Please register by the end of December.

*PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS - Almighty and Merciful God, Inspire those You have chosen To hear and answer Your call to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Give them the courage to be the prophets for our times. Give them the wisdom and openness to live their personal call. Give them the strength to be ready witnesses of Your love and care for the world. May they find support and encouragement in our words and in our prayers. Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God and all the Saints. Amen.*

#### **Prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God Metropolitan**

**Andrey:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, You always reward Your faithful servants, not only with special gifts of Your love, but also with the eternal reward of the saints in heaven, and in many cases You grant them the recognition of sanctity by Your Church here on earth. We humbly pray: grant that Your faithful servant Metropolitan Andrey be numbered among the saints. Throughout his just life, “full of suffering and trials,” he was a good shepherd for his flock and a great labourer for Christian unity. And through his beatification and intercession, grant our entire people the great gift of unity and love. Amen.

[www.sheptytskyinstitute.ca](http://www.sheptytskyinstitute.ca)



**PRAYER FOR A VIBRANT PARISH – O God, Creator of Heaven and Earth!** Because of your indescribable love for us, you sent your Only-Begotten Son, Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ – The Way, The Truth, and The Life – and our Salvation. In His name, we turn to You. Strengthen our hearts and minds in Christian love and in unity of purpose as we strive to build a Vibrant Parish. Give us the grace to model our lives according to the Word of God. Instill in us the desire to pray and to celebrate the Holy Mysteries as one Christian Family in our Parish Community. Inspire us to follow Your great command to be a servant to the less fortunate among us! Grant this, O Lord, through the mercies and love for mankind of Your Only-Begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your All-Holy, Good and Live-Giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen!

*PRAYER OF JOHN PAUL II when he visited the Greek Catholic Church of St. Nicholas – TO OUR LADY OF ZARVANIZA – Saturday, 23 June 2001*

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Zarvaniza, I thank you for the gift of my visit to the 'Kyivan Rus'. From where the light of the Gospel spread through this whole region. Here before your miraculous icon, kept in this church of Saint Nicholas, I entrust to you, Mother of God and Mother of the Church, my apostolic journey to Ukraine.

Holy Mother of God, spread your maternal mantle over all Christians and over all people of good will who live in this great nation.

Lead them to your Son, Jesus, who is for everyone the way, the truth and the life.

**Request for Prayers:** for you, your family, or friend – please submit the name to the Parish Office or submit a note and place on the collection plate.

**Пам'ятайте помолитися:** за Вашу родину, за членів Парафії, а особливо за тих які знаходяться в лікарнях, або тих що очікують Божої відповіді на їхні молитви, або радіють Божою відповіддю, або за тих які відзначають уродини, або роковини, або за тих що покликані до їхньої вічної винагороди, або за родину яку вони залишили.

**REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:** your family; your fellow parishioners; the shut-ins or those in hospital; those seeking God's guidance or rejoicing with God's favour; or for those celebrating a birthday or anniversary; or have been called to their eternal reward or for the family they leave behind; as well as any other need.

**Please remember in your prayers especially:** Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, Fr. Steven Basarab, Mary Balsevicius, Joseph Bayduza, Frances Bethune, Mary Earl, Catherine Hladij, Alice Humenick, Bohdan Karpinski, Brian Kluchkowsky, Karlo Kozy, Emily Kuzyk, Bodzie and Shirley Lawryshyn, Oscar Lyseyko, Ben Marchinkow, Jason Obuck, Orest Obuck, John Pura, Mary Scott, Wasyl Saik, Kaiya Williams, Leon Woznow. Fr. Vincent Prychidko, OSBM passed away December 11. May God grant him eternal rest!

**PLEASE VISIT** our Parishioners or those confined to their homes. They need your visits, your phone calls, as well as your prayers.

**If there are people you visit requesting our prayers,** please call the Parish office.

**Please remember to pray daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.**

**SPECIAL ENVELOPES FOR "FLOWERS and other Church Decorations".** Before Christmas and before Easter, a collection is taken up for Flowers and other decorations needed for the season. Your offering is greatly appreciated. Please use a special envelope to designate your donation.

*Food Bank Donations: We encourage all parishioners to contribute to the Food Bank on the first and third Sundays of every month. PLEASE ADD YOUR SUPPORT.*

*Просимо всіх Парафіян приносити продукти для потребуючих, які не псуються (non-perishable) в першу і третю неділю кожного місяця. Просимо допомагати!*

**REQUEST from the HISTORY and PICTORAL COMMITTEE: To all Parishioners**

- **We are looking for pictures of any priest who served at St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church before the year 2000.** Please provide Orest Kernycky with any pictures, he will copy them and return them to you the following week. You can also put them into the collection basket, in an envelope with your name, phone number, the name of the priest, and the year the picture was taken. Thank you for your assistance.
- **YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO** submit a short biography of individual persons and/or families who have contributed to the life and growth of the Parish. This can be your own family or of other members who may not be in the Parish today. These will be compiled into a book as a history of our Parish. **PLEASE SUBMIT ALL INFORMATION to the parish office.**

**PRAYER FOR EVANGELIZATION 'YEAR OF FAITH'** – O God, who wills that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of truth, pour out Your Spirit upon us and grant that we may respond zealously to Your urgent call to lead back to the Church those who have strayed. Prepare their hearts and minds to be receptive to the saving Gospel of Your Son. Send us workers to gather in Your abundant harvest, so that all Your people, obedient to the Word and sustained by the power of the Sacraments, may advance in the way of Salvation and love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**DO YOU LIVE IN GREATER VANCOUVER?**

**HAVE YOU MOVED INTO GREATER VANCOUVER RECENTLY?**

**We encourage you to register your name and address and e-mail with the parish.**

People come to arrange for baptisms, marriages, funerals, or special blessings. Only then do the fathers discover that they have been participating in the Liturgical Services for years but have not registered as Parishioners. We may recognize you, we may see you in church but we do not know your name or address. **Please print your name, address, telephone number, e-mail and postal code** on your donation envelope, or contact the Parish Office.

**REMEMBER:** To be considered a member of this Parish one must be registered in the Parish, attend the Divine Liturgy regularly and make regular contributions to maintain the Parish.

**TODAY** at 3 pm **Christmas Carol Festival** and Sing-along, in the Hall. Tickets

\$12,\$11, \$10, under 12 Free. Refreshments served. Sponsored by Svitanok Chorus.

**СЬОГОДНІ,** Річний Фестивал Укр. Коляд, о год. З попол. в Укр. Катол. Центрі. Вступ:

\$12,\$11, \$10, діти менше 12 років вступ вільний. Кава і солодке після концерту.

The children of Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Heritage School have decided to begin an annual appeal to help children in need in Ukraine. The school has decided to take part in a global fundraising program sponsored by "Caritas" in Ukraine, and entitled. **"Christmas Candle" or "Різдвяна свічка"**. In Ukraine, the Christmas Candles are handmade by people with special needs, and distributed at the start of the Christmas Fast (or Pylipivka) through Parishes in Ukraine with the hope that the candles will be a part of the Christmas celebrations. The Funds collected by the regional Lviv Caritas branch, which we are working with, are used to help needy, disadvantaged, disabled and orphaned children.

As a show of support the children of our school will have these special Christmas Candles available starting in early December at all of the lower mainland parishes in the New Westminster Eparchy. Please consider supporting them with a minimum donation of \$5 per candle and lighting them as part of your Christmas Eve celebrations. 100% of the proceeds go to Caritas Ukraine, which is an organization that is supported and approved by His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk and His Excellency Bishop Ken Nowakowski.

Please help our children in their mission to help disadvantaged children in Ukraine. For more information, please contact Fr. Yuriy Vyshnevsky 604.526.1261 or Dana Lupynis 604.274.8631 or email [holyeucharistschool@gmail.com](mailto:holyeucharistschool@gmail.com)

Учні Української Школи Пресвятої Євхаристії вирішили розпочати щорічний заклик на допомогу потребуючим дітям в Україні. Школа бере участь у міжнародній програмі збору коштів, яка спонсорується організацією "Карітас" в Україні і носить назву "Різдвяна свічка". В Україні свічки вручну виготовляють люди з особливими потребами і на початку Різдвяного посту (Пилипівки) їх розповсюджують по парафіях в Україні з надією, що свічки стануть частиною святкування Різдва. Кошти, зібрані львівським відділом Карітасу, з яким ми співпрацюємо, використовуються для допомоги потребуючим, бідним, дітям з особливими потребами та сиротам.

Як вияв підтримки, діти з нашої школи будуть продавати ці особливі Різдвяні Свічки від початку грудня у парафіях Нью-Вестмінстера, Ванкувера, Річмонда та Суррі. Просимо розглянути можливість підтримки пожертвою не менше \$5 за свічку і засвітити ці свічки вдома на Святвечір. Усі зібрані кошти будуть передані в Карітас України, організацію, яку підтримує та схвалює Блаженніший Святослав Шевчук та Преосвященний Владика Кен Новаківський.

Допоможіть нашим дітям у їхній місії для потребуючих дітей в Україні. За додатковою інформацією просимо звертатися до о. Юрія Вишневського [604.526.1261](tel:604.526.1261), Дани Лупиніс [604.274.8631](tel:604.274.8631), або на email [holyeucharistschool@gmail.com](mailto:holyeucharistschool@gmail.com)

**PYLYPIWKA/ST. PHILIP'S FAST** During this lent, we prepare spiritually for Christ's Death and resurrection, and now during Advent we prepare for his Nativity or Birth. Just like Easter, it also runs for 40 days, beginning on Nov.15 and ending Dec. 24. Originally this pre-Christmas fast was quite strict, but in our present age, the Holy Church for various and just reasons has done away with the once very strict fasts, and left them to the free choice of the faithful. This does not mean that we are not obliged to practice the spirit of Sacrifice. We should at least, besides the regular Friday fast, refrain from parties and dancing during this season.

**Це пригадка для всіх вірних.** Просимо приходити вчасно на Службу Божу. Будьмо готові разом заспівати початковий гімн. Зрозумійте, якщо Ви прийдете до Церкви після Великого Входу, Ви пропустили більшу частину Служби Божої, і дійсно не вислухали приписаної Служби Божої на неділю.

**Церковна Етика:** Будьмо свідомі, що беручи участь у Св. Літургії ми мусимо одержати кінцеве Благословення перед тим як ми залишимо Службу Божу. Ми рівнож просимо не виходити з Церкви перед закінченням Служби Божої. Ми просимо Вас не спілкуватися в Церкві перед, під час і після Служби Божої. Прошу це робити в притворі Церкви або у Вітальні під церквою. Залишім наву (Nave) церкви для вірних які моляться.

**A SPECIAL NOTE to ALL PARISHIONERS:** Please come on time for the Divine Liturgy. Realize that when you come into the Church proper after the Great Entrance, you have missed most of the Divine Liturgy and have not really attended the prescribed service for a Sunday.

**Church Etiquette:** Just a reminder that to have attended the entire Divine Liturgy one must be in Church and have heard the reading of the Gospel as well as the homily, participated in the responses for the consecration and received the final Blessing before leaving the church. We also ask that you do not visit in the main part of the Church (the Nave) before during or after the Service. Please use the Vestibule or the Fellowship room to conduct your conversations – leave the Church proper for those that want to pray.

### **HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV HAS INVITED YOU TO KYIV IN 2013!**

His Beatitude, our Patriarch Sviatoslav, has invited the faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic Church to make a pilgrimage to Kyiv in 2013 to celebrate the 1,025th anniversary of the baptism of Kyivian–Rus, Ukraine! The major celebration will be a special Divine Liturgy on Sunday August 18 at the Holy Resurrection Sobor in Kyiv. Join Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak, OSBM of Winnipeg and Bishops David Motiuk of Edmonton, Ken Nowakowski of New Westminster and Bryan Bayda, C.Ss.R. of Saskatoon on an official pilgrimage to Ukraine 7–21 August. The Pilgrimage will begin in Western Ukraine visiting Lviv, Zarvanytsia, and Ternopil before proceeding to Kyiv for the major celebrations. In the next few weeks more details will be announced as soon as the program is finalized. Solaway Travel has been commissioned to assist our Church in arranging for our travel plans and accommodations on this pilgrimage. To express your interest in being part of this very exciting pilgrimage with our Bishops please contact:

**Myrna Arychuk of Solaway Travel: 3819 Sunset Street, Burnaby, BC V5G 1T4  
Tel: 604.430.6789 Fax: 604.430.2244. Myrna – [myrna@solawaytravel.com](mailto:myrna@solawaytravel.com), or Solaway Travel [www.solawaytravel.com/](http://www.solawaytravel.com/)**

**Bulletin Announcements** must be in the office by Wednesday noon. It is your responsibility to notify the office, do not think that 'well they know', Father or the Secretary may know but do not always remember to put it in the bulletin!

**Monthly Calendar Announcements** for the next two months must be in the office by the 20th day of this month.



**Is your child ready to receive Holy Communion – age 7 or older? Please fill out the form below and present it to Fr. Josaphat or place it on the collection Plate. OR: Are you interested in strengthening your faith?**



*Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
(St. Mary's)*

*Ukrainian Catholic Parish*

**Basilian Fathers**

**550 West 14 Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1P6**

**Telephone: 604-879-5830**

**e-mail: office@stmarysbc.com**

We will be offering a **Parish Catechism Program** for children in preparation for Holy Communion and for adults interested in strengthening their faith will begin early in the new year- 2013 and conclude in May.

**Please fill out this form and hand to Father Josaphat, or place it on the collection plate or bring in to the Parish office**

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**I would like to register my child (Children) for the Preparation for Holy Communion Program.**

**I would like to register for the strengthening my faith program.**

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parents (guardian) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

## **Here is a sobering thought as we prepare for the gift of Christmas! “Live a life that Matters”**

Ready or not, someday it will all come to an end.

There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours or days.

All the things you collected whether treasures or baubles, will pass to someone else.

Your wealth, fame and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance.

It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed.

Your grudges, resentments, frustrations, and jealousies will finally disappear.

So, too, your hopes, ambitions, plans, and to-do list will expire.

The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.

It will not matter where you came from, or on what side of the tracks you lived.

At the end, it will not matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant.

Even you gender and skin colour will be irrelevant.

So what will matter?

How will the value of your days be measured?

What will matter, is not what you bought, but what you built;

Not what you got, but what you gave.

What will matter, is not your success, but your significance.

Not what you learned but what you taught.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example.

What will matter is not your competence, but your character.

What will matter is not how many people you knew, but how many people will feel a lasting loss, when you are gone.

What will matter is not your memories, but the memories that live in those who loved you.

What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom and for what.

Living a life that matters does not happen by accident.

It is not a matter of circumstance but of choice.

### **Four Ukrainian Brothers**

Four Ukrainian brothers left the ‘selo’ for the ‘gymnazium’. They became successful doctors and lawyers and prospered. Some years later they chatted. After having a nice dinner together, they discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly Mama who lived far away in the ‘misto’. The first said, ‘I had a big house built for Mama.’

The second said, ‘I had a hundred thousand dollar theater built in the house.’

The third said, ‘I had my Mercedes dealer deliver an SL600 to Mama.’

The fourth said, ‘You know how Mama loved reading the ‘Bibliya’ and you know she can not read anymore because she can not see very well. I met our priest who told me about a parrot that can recite the entire ‘bibliya’. He told me it took the ‘Konsistoriya’ twelve years to teach him.

I had to pledge to contribute \$100,000 a year for three years to the Church, but it

was worth it. Now, Mama just has to name the chapter and verse and the parrot will recite it.'

The other brothers were impressed. After the 'Rizdvo' holidays Mama sent out her thank you notes. She wrote: 'Ivan, the house you built is so big. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house. Thanks dear anyway.'

'Slavko, you gave me an expensive theater with Dolbi sound, it could hold 50 people, but all of my friends are dead, I have lost my hearing and I am nearly blind. I will never use it. Thank you for the gesture just the same.'

'Myroslav, I am too old to travel. I stay home; I have my groceries delivered, so I never use the Mercedes. The thought was good. Thanks.'

'Dearest Andrij, you were the only son to have the good sense to give a little thought to your gift. The 'kurka' was delicious. Thank you.'

### **ALL ABOUT CHRISTMAS: Letter from Jesus about Christmas**

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season.

How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I do not care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth, just GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Now, having said that, let Me go on. If it bothers you that the town in which you live does not allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santa's and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that there would not be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can remember Me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching, explaining who I am in relation to you and what each of our tasks were. If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15:1-8.

If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it:

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.
2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You do not have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.
3. Instead of writing the Prime Minister complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why do you not write and tell him that you will be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up... It will be nice hearing from you again.
4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you cannot afford and they do not need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.
5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.

6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you do not know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make the difference.
7. Instead of nit-picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they are not allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that does not keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store did not make so much money on that day they would close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families.
8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary – especially one who takes My love and Good News to those who have never heard My name.
9. Here is a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you do not know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Food Bank or some other charity which believes in Me and they will make the delivery for you.
10. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Do not do things in secret that you would not do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

Do not forget; I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love Me and do what I have told you to do. I will take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work; time is short. I will help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember:

I LOVE YOU,  
JESUS

God is so big He can cover the whole world with his Love and so small He can curl up inside your heart.

### **Subject: Gift exchange**

It was the day after Christmas at a church in San Francisco. The pastor of the church was looking over the creche when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from among the figures. He hurried outside and saw a little boy with a red wagon and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant Jesus.

So, he walked up to the boy and said, "Well, where did you get your passenger, my fine friend?"

The little boy replied, "I got Him at church."

"And, why did you take Him?" the pastor asked.

The boy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas, I prayed to the little Lord Jesus and I told Him if He would bring me a red wagon for Christmas I would give Him a ride around the block in it."