



ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER, 2021

"For unto us a child is born. Unto us a child is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder" – Isaiah 9:6-7

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

My dearest parishioners,

How well do you *receive* gifts? I suppose that question is asked less frequently than "how well do you *give* gifts?" But the answer to the first question is even more important in many ways for this season. Sometimes gifts make us feel uncomfortable because we don't fully trust the giver. At other times we feel indebted by the gift and don't know how to return it.

What we celebrate this Nativity brothers and sisters is the greatest gift we can ever receive! God become man for our salvation. We have no way of repaying Him, and we certainly don't deserve His incredible generosity. The only question that remains to us this Nativity season and going forward into the new year is: "How well can I receive God's gift of Himself?" The Lord is never outdone in His generosity!

Here at St. Stephen's, we continue to work within the AHS guidelines and through Bishop David's direction to continue the mission entrusted to us by the Lord. Information about upcoming programming is available through our website, bulletin, and social media platforms, and I encourage you to visit these often for the latest updates. Please also take a liturgical calendar for your family- Remember this calendar is useful in identifying the feasts, fasts, saints and readings for the entire year. Don't just hang the calendar in your home, receive the liturgical calendar as a gift and invitation from the Church to deepen your relationship with Christ!

This next year we are hoping to expand our presence on social media, proclaiming the "Good News" (gospel) of the God-Man visiting His people far and wide. Despite the difficult times in which the Holy Prophet Isaiah wrote, the joy of the promised Messiah came forth in His prophesies. This joy is ours today, despite the continuing realities of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Lord has given Himself as a gift to the world, and continues to give Himself to us in the Most Holy Eucharist. May this same Lord, born in a cave for our salvation, continue to bless you now and always!

Be assured of my prayers,

Fr. Michael Bombak