

ST. ANDREW'S OUTREACH
EXTRA

January, 2008



Христос
Рождается!



The Epiphany Blessing of Homes

During the Epiphany season, traditionally the Parish Priest, who is the Spiritual Father of the greater family of God, the Church community, comes to each "Domestic Church" (the Home Church) bringing God's grace to all brethren within that home.

The sanctification of the "Home Church" takes place through prayers and the sprinkling of blessed water by which God Himself fills all things with Himself, including even the smallest particles of material existence.

When the Parish Priest comes for the Epiphany visit, with prayers and holy water, he asks for God's mercy on the household and the home be rid of all evil, and be

filled with His blessings. All present pray together for the welfare of those living in the home and for any others that prayers could be said for, and also in memory of those that had eternally reposed in the Lord. All join in singing the great hymn of salvation that Christ, the Son of God the Father by the grace of the Holy Spirit, has revealed Himself and has enlightened the world.

When the Parish Priest comes to bless your family and home, the following principles should be observed in accordance with our Orthodox tradition ...

- A lit candle, an icon, a kolach, and a bowl of blessed water should be placed on the table.

- Radios, televisions, and other such sound producing apparatus should all be turned off.
- All present should gather around the "Home Altar" for prayers and blessings offered.
- Those who are able, should join in the singing of the responses and hymns of the service.
- The names of those for whom special prayers are to be offered should clearly be written out and presented to the visiting priest. These should include all members of the household, relatives and friends; both living and deceased.

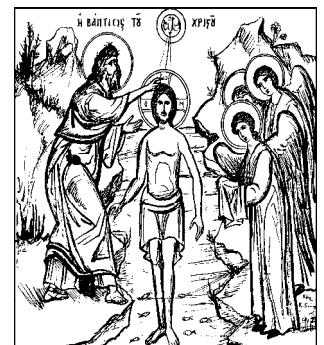
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Malanka 2008

Tickets for our January 11th Malanka celebration are going fast. If you still need to buy tickets, call Wally Yadlowski at 469-2555.
 Adults: \$40.00
 Youth (9-17 yrs): \$20.00
 Family Pack: \$ 90.00
 Music by "Barvinok Band"

"Theophany of Our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ" is celebrated January 19th



Blessing of Homes

During the Epiphany Season (January 19th to February 15th), Fr. Victor will be visiting the homes of those members who wish to have their home blessed and prayers

offered. The home is considered to be the "Domestic Church", which the Parish Priest visits annually to offer prayers and ask for God's blessings of not only the homes but also of those

who dwell within it. All visitations will be by appointment, thereby you will be called to arrange an appointment for such a visit.



Nativity Icon ... Continued from p. 5 of the Outreach

... Hence, Joseph sleeps, almost oblivious to the events around him. He accepts these events, overcomes temptation, and becomes a model of faith and trust in God. The sleeping Joseph, more than any other figure in the Nativity Icon, speaks directly to us. He even symbolizes us and our own response to Christ's birth. Through him, we are directly challenged. Do we sleep and ignore this great encounter with God? Are we oblivious to it? Do we fall pray to the temptation of regarding it as a quaint piece of religious mythology? Or do we transcend our own instructs and desires and accept the Saviour? The figure of Joseph compels us to take a stand, to join him as well as the angles, magi, shepherds and all creation in acknowledging the child as our God. We must respond by awaking to the reality of God living among us, lest we continue to sleep and remain oblivious to His very

presence.

The Nativity Icon is worth a thousand words. Yet that which contains a thousand – or even ten thousand – words could never reveal the same truths. It serves as a window to God's Kingdom, yet it is also a mirror by which we can see ourselves more clearly, for only in understanding the mystery it reveals can we truly understand that Christ by His birth, is not only God with us, but also God in us.

NATIVITY ICON SYMBOLISM:

ANGELS AND MEN — Heaven and earth join forces for a truly divine celebration!

STAR GAZERS — Wise men from the East learn something new about wisdom.

JOSEPH — A new insight into our own human nature.

from Heaven saying, *"This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased."* Thus on this day not only are we told that Christ is God, but we see God manifested in the Holy Trinity. We have before us the three persons of the Godhead: the Son being baptized in the River Jordan, the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, and the voice of Father in Heaven: **Father, Son and Holy Spirit.** This is the meaning of the great feast of Epiphany — the showing forth or manifestation of God in three persons.

At Christmas we see Christ as a newborn child. At Epiphany we see Him a full-grown man of 30 years beginning His ministry amongst the people. Today the Little Entrance of the Divine Liturgy is expanded into a full celebration. It is in this act of

Congratulations Deacon Peter Haugen

CONGRATULATIONS!

Best wishes and congratulations to Deacon Peter Haugen and his family on his Ordination to the Order of Diaconate on Sunday, December 9th.

ORDINATION is the Holy Mystery through which the grace and authority that Christ gave His apostles to lead, nurture and teach the Church is passed on to their successors. Orthodoxy recognizes three major orders of clergy into which a man may be ordained: bishop, presbyter (priest), and deacon. Deacons and priests may be married, though they must have been married or have made the decision to remain celibate before they are ordained. Bishops come from the monastic ranks, and, as such, are always celibate. In keeping with historical practice, the Orthodox Church ordains only men to the orders of bishop, priest and deacon. There was also, at one time, an order of women deacons called "deaconesses," who were charged with the pastoral care of the women in parishes. Though this order has not existed for many centuries, there is now a movement in Orthodoxy to reinstate the order of the deaconess. Aside from the major orders of the clergy, women may take part in any other facet of Church life.

coming forth from the Holy Altar and carrying the Gospel aloft, that the priest represents Jesus Christ coming forth to bring the Gospel of Salvation to all. The Little Entrance of the Divine Liturgy is in reality a Little Epiphany.

On this great Feast of the Epiphany, the New Testament Church, the Orthodox Church, calls all of us to go together to the River Jordan to witness the manifestation of God and the baptism of our Lord ...

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On Keeping Epiphany The Year Round

One of the major holy days on the calendar of the Orthodox Church is Epiphany which is celebrated on January 19th.

Derived from the Greek, the word "*epiphany*" means "the showing forth" or "manifestation." It was on this day that Christ was made known as the Son of God. It was on this day that our Lord appeared before John the Baptist in the River Jordan and asked to be baptized — not that He was sinful and needed to be cleansed through baptism, but that He might teach us the importance and necessity of the great sacrament. While He was being baptized, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove and the voice of the Father was heard

Connect Your Family and the Church

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Classes Resume:

Sunday, Jan. 6th (*Preparation for the Nativity of Christ*)



On Sunday, December 16th, our Church School students commemorated St. Andrew's and St. Nicholas. The celebratory event began with the children singing opening prayers, and with Megan Alexandruk, as host, introducing the program. Natalia Hosaliuk and Olenka Babij recited: "The Christmas Tree; the younger children then recited: "The First Snowfall" and sang "Snowflakes".



The older students acted out a play entitled, "The Trip to the North: The

Outstanding Missionary Work and

Deeds of St. Andrew" which was written by Dr. Roman Yereniuk, Professor at the Theological Faculty at St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The play was a dramatization of the life of St. Andrew's. To quote a few words of the Narrator: "For Ukrainian people and Ukrainian Canadians the figure and stature of St. Andrew the Apostle is huge and immense. He stands out as the Apostle of Ukraine and of Ukrainian Orthodoxy throughout the world. St. Andrew is not only the First-Called Apostle, but he is the Patron Saint of our people and our Church...."



The afternoon program concluded with the arrival of St. Nicholas to the singing of "O Whoever, Whoever loves St. Nicholas." St. Nicholas then distributed gifts to the children in attendance.



We extend greetings to all St. Andrew's members during this season — the Nativity of Jesus Christ, Epiphany, and the New Year — and wish much joy to you and yours.

Yours in Christ,
Olga Alexandruk & Marusia Lakusta



How
Children
Inspire
Us



DEAR GOD:

Dear God,
Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now!

Dear God,
Thank you for the baby brother, but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before. You can even look it up.

Dear God,
If you watch in Church on Sunday I will show you my new shoes!

"Small acts of piety from a child's heart are precious to God because they are so natural in their love for Him."

"Whenever we say to each other, 'Christ is in our midst!' remember that little children ARE that image of Christ in our midst."

"Children can be a powerful inspiration, capable of renewing and replenishing our faith, if we pause within our busyness to participate in their interior development."

Source: "The Handmaiden" (Volume 11, No. 4 - Fall 2007)

A Christmas Greeting from Your Pastor



We are sending our "Outreach" electronically. Do you have a email address? Please submit your address to the Church Office.

On behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary of St. Andrew's Parish, I wish each and every one of you a joyous Christmas season and the best of all good things for 2008.

God Bless,
-Sandra Hohol
President – Ladies Auxiliary



Epiphany Year Round ...

Con't from p. 2

... immersing Himself once again in the waters of the River Jordan, and thus sanctifying us all through our own baptism.

On the Eve of Epiphany and the Feast of Epiphany the priest performs a special Rite of the Blessing of Water. He petitions our Lord in prayer that just as 2000 years ago He blessed the water in the Jordan River, so He blesses the water that we have before us with the words: "... those who draw of it and take of it unto the Sanctification of their homes, that it may become a cleansing of the souls and bodies who in faith draw and partake of it, unto the healing of their passions, and unto every expedient purpose" We take a bottle of this holy water home with us to bless ourselves and our homes as the need arises.

Thus the water becomes blessed or holy and brings to us the healing presence of the Lord. We are encouraged to keep a small amount of holy water by an icon and use it the year round. We should partake of it when we feel that we have a special need for the Lord's presence at home. Let us always remember that this blessed water represents our Lord God's healing and loving presence amongst us constantly. Thus in this way we keep Epiphany the year round.



Christ Is Born!

The birth of the Christ child into the world was the dawn of a new era for humanity, an era of salvation, and an era of hope. From the proclamation of the angel to the prophetic words of St. John the Baptist and through the evangelism of the Holy Apostles, the good news of the Lord's unceasing love for His children has been spread.

Through our embrace of the Faith we too become witnesses to the newborn King. Every time we attend a Liturgy, with each prayer before a meal, and humble acts of charity amongst other such acts, we stand before those who may not know Christ and say, "Behold I bring you good tidings."

With the feast of the Nativity upon us, we join you in offering all glory to God in the highest for the gift of His only begotten Son. As Orthodox Christians, we are like the shepherds having been blessed to receive the angel's message of hope. Through our witness, we ourselves, become the messengers, working to share the Lord with those who still hunger and thirst for Christ.

With those thoughts, my family and I wish you a Blessed Nativity Celebration filled with peace of heart and an ever urgent desire to spread the joy of the True Life in God's messages. He comes all the way to the door of our hearts and knocks especially loudly this time of the year.

If we contemplate His messages this time of year it can be especially fruitful in generating the warmth and broadness of heart we all need; so that our heart growing warm can generate a fire of love for God and others. Before we can warm other hearts, we need His warmth in our own.

We can only get this warmth by becoming quiet and intimate with God. During the Nativity celebrations let us all try to remember His presence through the "We/Us"; let us take Jesus with us to our family gatherings, our church, our outings, even when we are shopping for the festivity. Let us remember why our Blessed Saviour came!

On this festive season—the Nativity of Jesus Christ, Epiphany, and the New Year, we extend greetings to all members and associates of St. Andrew's Sobor Parish. We take this opportunity to bring tidings of gladness and joy to you and yours! May the spiritual joy of the Holy festive season reside in your hearts, and bring you outward happiness, inner contentment, and the richest blessings. May the New Year 2008 bring you much health and happiness.

~ Fr. Victor & Marusia



Йордан Jordan

Saturday, January 19

Join us at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village to celebrate the Feast of Jordan (Epiphany)

Church services start at 11 a.m. at:

St. Nicholas Ukr. Catholic Church
St. Vladimir's Ukr. Orthodox Church
St. Nicholas Russo Orthodox Church

*Traditional Water Blessing Ceremony
Blessing of Historic Homes*

Concert & Caroling

Horse-drawn wagon/sleigh rides

Kutia & Traditional Ukrainian Delicacies

Admission by donation.

Dress Warmly – Most activities are outdoors!