



Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Chrystos Rozdayetsia! Slavite Yoho!

My Beloved Parishioners, Your Families and all Visitors to our Cathedral!

During every Christmas Eve service, the first melody sung by the choir is "Znamy Boh" - "God is with us, understand all you people". They are beautiful and powerful words found in St. Matthew's Gospel 1:23

*"Behold, the Virgin will conceive and bear a son,
And his name shall be called Emmanuel, which means "God with us."*

The same words are found in the Book of Isaiah 7:14 of the Old Testament "*God is with us.*" What profound words, especially during this world-wide pandemic which has inflicted such pain and suffering on so many people. We continue to pray for those who are ill and for the health care workers. But let us take to heart the words of the Lord:

*"Fear not for I am with you. Do not go astray for I am your
God who strengthens you; and I will help and secure you
with my right hand." Isaiah 41:10*

Fear not for God is with us and we will overcome this present virus which can hurt our bodies but in no way our souls.

Scripture tells us that "God is Love" (1 John:4:7) and Christmas shows us that Love by the Birth of Our Lord God & Savior Jesus Christ. The beautiful carol "O Come, O Come Emmanuel", which means " God is with us" is a reminder that God's promise was fulfilled in that "Little Town of Bethlehem".

On this glorious Feast Day, on behalf of Pani Matka Mary Anne and myself, I sincerely greet His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and His Eminence Archbishop Daniel. I also greet Fr. Michael, Pani Matka Anna, Fr. Roman, Pani Matka Lesia, Protodeacon Ihor & Pani Matka Iryna and their families, our Board of Trustees, parish choirs, director and cantors, altar servers and brothers & sisters, benefactors, parish organizations and schools, dedicated parish staff, my beloved parishioners and their families and all visitors and supporters of St. Vladimir Cathedral. We also most sincerely greet and thank all those volunteers who, every Sunday since June, have made our church building safe for worship. Truly they show their love and dedication to our St. Vladimir parish family.

As we begin a new year – 2021 – we invite all our parishioners who have no underlying health conditions to return to worship regularly on Sundays. To our knowledge, no one has become ill from attending our Liturgies. If we feel the need to go grocery shopping for food for the body, we must also return to worshipping Our Lord in church to receive food for the soul – Holy Communion. This is especially needed for our youth.

As always, if I can be of assistance in any way, please contact me.

May Our Loving & Almighty God bless you all on this Holy Christmas Day and throughout the New Year. May we celebrate this season with joy in our homes, peace in the world and love in our hearts.

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- Fr. John, Pastor