

FROM FR. TARAS

Христос Рождается! – Славимо Його!

Christ is Born! – Let us Glorify Him!

"And the angel said to them, 'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord'" (Luke 2:10-11).

We once again find ourselves in a period of great joy, the joy that permeated the world through the wondrous Nativity of our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ. As we celebrate the festive days of the Nativity of Christ, we experience that same joy that was proclaimed by the angels to the people living near Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. We comprehend that great joy in knowing that, *"God so loved the world, that He gave His Only-Begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16).

The joy that is proclaimed by the angels and that was brought into the world through Christ's Nativity cannot remain stagnant or inactive. We are called to live in this joy. We are called to pass it on to others who may have not experienced the riches of its blessings. The joy of the Nativity of our Lord is filled with faith, hope and love. With faith, for it shows us how much our Heavenly Creator loves us. With hope, for it provides us with the great potential of being returned to the fullness of life that was bestowed upon humanity at the time of creation. With love, for in hearing about the Good News of the Incarnation of Christ we can never remain unaffected by this great event in human history. If God so loved us that He gave us His Only-Begotten Son for us, then we must live in that love and pass it on to others.

<p>THE JOY OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY CANNOT REMAIN STAGNANT OR INACTIVE.</p>

As we experience the joy of the Nativity of our Lord and look forward in faith, hope and love to a brighter future in the up-coming New Year, let us never forget God's great benevolence to us. Let us remember His past blessings, while we look ahead to the joy that is yet to come. In entering into a New Year, which is filled with so many promises and expectations, we, experience a special kind of joy this year, a joy, which for which our people have longed for many, many years, the joy of true freedom for our ancestral homeland Ukraine. It is appropriate that such joy should come about at the very time of our Nativity celebrations, for our fore-bearers have always placed their faith and expectations for a brighter future in the hands of Christ the Saviour, the Liberator of all. Having continuously placed their faith, hope and love in Him, they now experience the joy of a potentially brighter future, one that may be filled with genuine freedom, tolerance, free expression, self determination, peace, unity and justice for all. May God bless them abundantly within their newly found liberty.

No, we can ever remain unaffected by the joy of the Nativity of our Lord. We are not just spectators of a great past historic event but participants of it, with each one of us bringing what we have to offer as gifts to the

newborn King. Let us come to the Christ Child this Nativity season and stand before His manger and bring Him the gifts of humility,

which is overflowing with faith, hope and love in Him Who loves us. Let us glorify the Lord Who has appeared in the flesh. Let us rejoice in His Nativity and nothing will be able to take this joy away from us, for He has blessed us all through His Nativity in that little town of Bethlehem.

WHO ARE THE MAGI AND WHAT CAN WE OFFER?

FR. PATRICK

Definitions of the Magi seem to fit within our understanding of the Nativity of Christ. The Magi were priests, mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew, and they had a good understanding of astrology. So why does St. Matthew mention these wise men in his description of the birth of Jesus?

Christ's entrance into this world and His human nature are all foretold by the Prophets. Jesus Christ fulfills the will of God and all of the scripture from the Law and the Prophets. A star is revealed to the Magi, who live in the east, inspiring them to seek out the Christ child. When they approach King Herod with their desire to see the infant King, they remind Herod of the writings of the Prophet Micah who exclaimed, "But you, O Bethlehem...from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel." Herod then sends them out to find the baby Jesus.

Matthew's mention these actions of the Magi, because when we focus on their conduct as they encounter the 'place where the child was' they fell down and worshipped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:11).

Three of the wisest men in all Judea knelt before an infant who had no words of wisdom to share, yet they knelt before Him, gave Him praise, and offered Him gifts. The account of the Magi describes their humility. A great sign was revealed to these intelligent priests, and through faith, they sought after the Savior offering their treasure. They abandoned the superstitions of their forefathers and found life in Christ!

What are gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and what is their significance? Frankincense was

a very valuable commodity in ancient times. It is incense taken from the gum resin of east African or Arabian trees. Myrrh is a yellow to reddish-brown aromatic bitter gum resin that is also found in the east. In ancient times people used myrrh as the chief ingredient for a sweat smelling perfume. Gold represents extreme value, and is one of the most desirable metals of all time.

During our celebration, the hymns chanted on the feast day of the Nativity make very few references to the crucifixion and death of Jesus. They mainly concentrate on Christ, the Word of God, 'the Logos,' taking on flesh and entering the world in human form. The gifts of the Magi are mentioned in hymns chanted on days after the Nativity. In those hymns the gold symbolizing earthly possessions, is mingled with the Heavenly scent of the frankincense and myrrh representing Christ's entrance into this world and ascension into heaven.

What can we offer the Infant Savior this Nativity? Like the Magi, let us offer our humility by acknowledging His Divinity. Let us fall down before Him and worship Christ God. The Magi were renewed by the birth of Jesus.

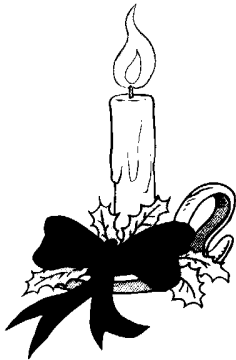
Let us take the example of the three wise men and leave behind our evil ways. When they left the cave, the birthplace of our Lord, they also left behind their former practices of astrology. Let us abandon our attachment to the devices of this world and seek out the peace of God. Let us renew ourselves with the Birth of our Lord!

I extend to you and your loved ones my best wish for a Joyous Nativity and New Year. May the Child in the Manger bring you peace, love, prosperity and good health.

Christ Is Born! Let us Glorify Him!

FROM OUR PARISH COUNCIL

Christ is Born! – Let us Glorify Him!



I extend holiday greetings to the members and adherents of St. Vladimir's congregation as we approach Christmas, Malanka, and Theophany. I am acting in the role of president as we continue our search for someone to fulfill this role for the Parish Council. We will be holding a special meeting early in the New Year to further discuss this major issue and find resolution. I would like to thank my outgoing board members: Secretary Sonia Yarmuch, Past President Peter Charuk, and 3rd Vice President Stephania Luciuk for their contributions in service to the congregation on the board. I would like to welcome the new members of the board, and look forward to their contributions to St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation.

The Membership Development Committee is leading our Christmas Charity campaign, and is raising money to help sponsor meals at the Mustard Seed Calgary. We are able to feed approximately 650 people for under \$1000, and the committee has set a goal of scheduling 3 of these dinners throughout the year. In addition to fundraising, we will be looking for volunteers to help serve the meals to Calgary's homeless and needy. Please contact Peter Charuk about volunteering for these meals, and any donations for the Christmas Campaign are welcome through regular church donation procedures.

In the next four months, Calgary is hosting two exceptional speakers from

various ministries of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. First, on the weekend of February 26th and 27th, we are fortunate to have Fr. Bohdan Hladio presenting to our congregation through a weekend workshop. Father Bohdan is a featured writer to The Herald (Visnyk) and will share the Church's viewpoint on contemporary issues. Please contact any member of the Membership Development Committee or the board for further information on this event. Then, on the weekend of March 18-20 Fr. Andrew Jarmus will be the featured speaker at the Orthodox Men's Retreat. Father Andrew is the Director of the Office of Missions and Education for the Consistory and is a very gifted speaker. For more information on this retreat, contact Morris Pawlyshyn, Lorne Calkins, or Glen Tacey.

Our congregation has improved its cash position by almost \$55,000 over the previous year by generous donations from parishioners and lay groups, improved performance from our rental properties, and improved revenues from the Cultural Centre. In order to keep or improve this position, our Fundraising Committee will be approaching all members for their financial pledges to help support the mission project. This project has helped increase spirituality in our congregation and congregations in Red Deer, Oyen, Lethbridge and Cranbrook. I ask all our members to give according to their means in an effort to bring this project to a cash-neutral position.

For those who will be traveling during the Christmas season, I wish you a safe and pleasant journey. I hope all of our church members and friends are surrounded with peace, love and a spirit of giving for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Ihor Triska

Acting President, St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation

2005 MEMBERSHIP DUES

At the 2004 Annual General Meeting held on December 12, 2004, **the Congregation members voted to retain the same level for annual membership dues.** For 2005, the membership dues are \$125 for a single membership and \$250 for a family membership. Now, \$63 per member will remain in our congregation to help cover operating expenses, while the remaining \$62 covers the levies to the Consistory and Western Diocese. The Consistory receives \$50 for programming and operating, and the Western Diocese receives \$10 for their operating expenses and \$2 for mission work.

These budget assessments are due and payable by our Congregation in the first quarter of each year. **It is very critical that**

all membership dues are also received in the early part of each year (January thru March) in order that our Congregation may be ready financially to remit for the above budget assessments.

Early payment will also ensure that all mail such as the Herald / Visnyk, our local Beacon and other information regarding our Congregation activities will be forwarded to you uninterrupted.

As of this publishing date, **38** of the congregation membership have **not** paid their **2004 dues.** If you have any questions regarding your dues status, please phone Walter Ozimko @ 282-4272.

Walter Ozimko,

Membership Payment Administrator

Membership Development Committee

Upon the conclusion of our 2004 tenure it is a pleasure to report to the membership of our congregation. The objectives of our committee include:

- ✓ Organizing Missions –Related Parish Events
- ✓ Promoting Fellowship
- ✓ Nurturing an environment of growth
- ✓ Providing humanitarian aid to the wider community

To that end, our Committee initiated the following::

- ✓ We organized a Lenten Workshop in March 2004. We had the privilege of having Fr. Deacon Maximiuk of Winnipeg participate as our main speaker. The theme of the workshop was “Developing our Orthodox Spiritual Identity”: The Orthodox Philosophy”. The workshop shop was very

successful and served to provide all of us with spiritual nourishment.

- ✓ In June we organized the Membership Appreciation and Graduate Recognition brunch.

- ✓ In September we celebrated the commencement of our new Liturgical Year with a Pancake Breakfast for all of our members.

- ✓ We compiled and published the 2004 Pocket Calendar.

- ✓ During the year 38 greeting cards were mailed to members of our congregation. Best wishes for a speedy recovery were extended to those individuals who were ill and sympathies were expressed to those who had experienced the loss of a loved one.

- ✓ Financial assistance was provided to a family in need.

- ✓ We published the Beacon throughout the year.

✓ We donated \$ 1450.00 to an orphanage in Nikopol, Ukraine. Funds will be used to purchase footwear for the children.

We have also commenced organizing the following activities for the upcoming year:

✓ Carolling during the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord

✓ A Spiritual Workshop in February 2005. Our guest speaker will be Fr. Bohdan Hladio from Hamilton, Ontario. Details of the weekend workshop are currently being developed and will be announced at a later date

✓ Plans are currently being finalized to provide humanitarian help to the broader Calgary community. We will be assisting the Mustard Seed Street Ministry in Calgary by sponsoring and serving dinner to approximately 600 people on three occasions during 2005.

In closing, the Membership Development Committee takes this opportunity to thank members of St. Vladimir's congregation for contributing to the success of these worthy projects through participation and financial support.

Peter Charuk, Committee Chair

HELP US HELP THE CHILDREN (HUHTC)

Bonnie Zwack

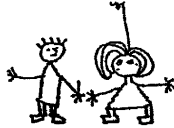
For some time the Membership Development Committee (MDC) has explored the options for support of the orphanage in Nikopol, Ukraine. This support was requested two years ago when HUHTC, the Canadian branch of which is located in Toronto, initiated the "twinning" of Canadian Ukrainian Orthodox congregations with needy orphanages in Ukraine. St. Vladimir's is one of the first to have such a connection; we soon learned through written, telephone and video communication that these children, aged 6-17, have many needs. As noted in a previous submission to the Beacon, the Director of the Nikopol orphanage is dedicated to the physical and emotional health of the children, as well as to their academic, cultural and spiritual development. Their participation in sports is similarly a priority for them and for him.

Through ongoing communication with Mrs. Raya Juchymenko, a very active HUHTC volunteer in Toronto, direct communication

with the President of HUHTC in Kyiv was facilitated. The President visited Nikopol and met with the orphanage Director. He was very happy to hear that our congregation had collected over \$1400 to be used for a purpose he would identify. He quickly indicated that with winter coming, warm footwear is a priority need.

The MDC has responded positively to Ms. Juchymenko's suggestion that a cheque for \$1468 be sent to HUHTC in Toronto. By electronic transfer the money goes to the head office of HUHTC in Kyiv. The costs of the footwear to be purchased from a factory in Ukraine will be paid by the head office, using the funds we have donated. We expect to receive pertinent details regarding these transactions by fax or regular mail in the near future.

The MDC is most appreciative of the generosity of our congregation and extends sincere thanks for your participation and support of this project. Recognizing that there are so many needs at the orphanage, we may continue to provide support if and when further funds are available.



HELP US HELP THE CHILDREN □ AIDONS LES ENFANTS □ ПРИЯТЕЛІ ДІТЕЙ

Bonnie Zwack
Calgary, Alberta

November 22, 2004

Dear Bonnie:

Thank you for your letter and enclosed cheque in the sum of \$1468 from the parishioners of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Calgary. Their generosity will be greatly appreciated by the children who will have warm shoes and boots for this winter.

With all of the incredible events happening in Kyiv, I had to make sure the banks were working. Although much of the staff is out there in the streets demonstrating for democracy in Ukraine, they are working, so the cheque has been transferred to our Kyiv office. Maryna Krysa, the head of our organization in Kyiv has personally seen and discussed this transaction with the Director of the Nikopol Internal 7- 17 orphanage, and he is delighted with your gift. He will order the footwear from a local factory, and Maryna will pay the bill. Things move slowly in Ukraine in general, but especially now, however, when the purchase is made, she will send us the bills as proof.

What a turning point in the history of Ukraine! Victor Yuschenko is such a good man. He's extremely intelligent, dedicated, honest, and loves Ukraine. He has helped us personally with the orphans, being one of the founders of the organization, he has helped us bypass some of the extreme red tape to get the medicine, footwear, vitamins, clothes, etc. to the orphanages (e.g., we are often stuck in customs for months!) When we little old ladies are lifting boxes in the warehouse in Kyiv, he comes and kisses our dusty hands and thanks us.

Over our eleven years of work, he has come to the summer camps that we hold for 500 orphans every year in the Karpaty mountains to give the children encouragement, and a sense of pride in themselves. For example, he climbed the highest mountain in Ukraine, (Hoverla) together with the orphans who are 12 to 17 years of age, some deaf, some nearly blind, many even crippled, yet they got to the top, each one helping the others. We are praying for a peaceful, but honest resolution to the elections. It's heartening to see all of Ukr.-Canadian come out to demonstrate (including Calgary), and we are even collecting and sending over money here to help feed those frozen people on the streets of Kyiv. One Ukr. School alone raised \$12,000. For years now, I have been told by young and old in Ukraine that "we must get those bandits out of the government", but they felt powerless. Today, it seems as if they are feeling empowered, for they are chanting: "there are many of us... we will overcome!" May God help them.

Thank you all again for your part in helping Ukraina.

Sincerely,

Raya Juchymenko

WINTER ORTHODOX WEEKEND (WOW)

Saturday, February 26 and Sunday, February 27, 2005

St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church

THE CHRIST-DRIVEN LIFE

With

Rev. Fr. Bohdan Hladio

Saturday, February 26:

Session 1, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.: *"The Kingdom of God is within you" (Lk. 17:21)* - Personal Spirituality and the Christian life - Making Christ the centre of my life - the role of prayer, fasting, deeds of mercy, personal morality, study of scripture, and spiritual reading (The fathers, works of piety, lives of the saints) in the Christian life - *Spending personal time with God.*

Session 2, 3:00—4:30 p.m.: *"Gathered together in His name" (Mt. 18:20)* - The Christian and the Church - Recognizing that Christ is the very heart of the Church - Worship, reading of scripture, participation in Holy Mysteries, common prayer, almsgiving, liturgical fasting, learning to get along with others, learning to work together and cooperate - Realizing that there is no Christianity without community - *Spending communal time with God.*

5:00 p.m.: **Vespers/Confession**

6:15 p.m.: **Pot-luck Supper and Discussion**

Sunday, February 27:

9:30 a.m.: **Divine Liturgy**

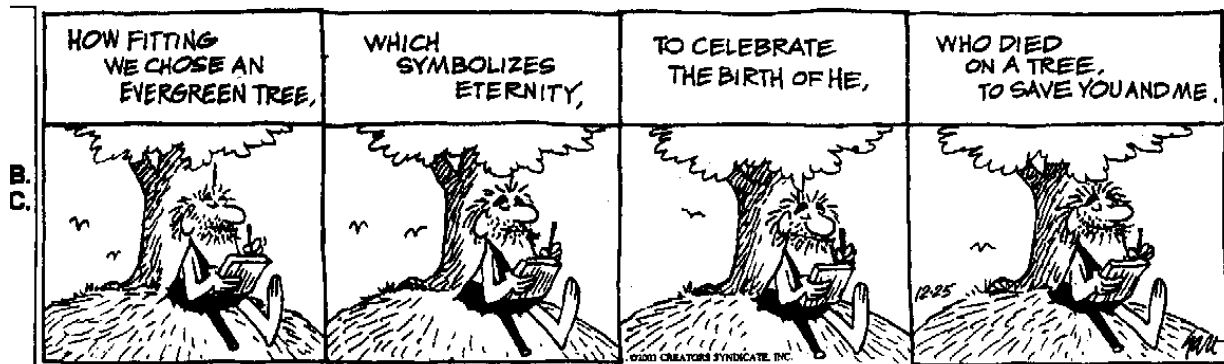
12:00 Noon: **Lunch**

Session 3, 1:00—2:30 p.m.: *". . . as He is, so are we in this world" (I Jn. 4:17)* - The Christian and the World - Our calling as Christians is to make Christ present in the world - We are to witness to our faith with our whole life - We engage in acts of "piety" not as ends in themselves, but so that we may be given the strength and courage to bring Christ's Good News - the Gospel - to the whole world - The role of Christianity in the public sphere - in politics, economics, entertainment, and on the job - *Offering my whole life to God.*

- ❖ \$15.00 per person for the weekend, including lunch on Sunday, for registration prior to 14 February 2005
- ❖ \$20.00 per person for the weekend, including lunch on Sunday, for registration on or after 14 February 2005
- ❖ Students 16 and under are admitted free

REV. FR. BOHDAN HLADIO

Fr. Bohdan Hladio was born near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1957. He was raised in a pious Ukrainian Greek-Catholic family. His grandfather was a cantor, and taught him this skill from an early age. Fr. Bohdan has always been involved in folk music and dance, and received a full university scholarship as a member of the internationally renowned Duquesne University Tamburitzans. While at Duquesne University he received his theological education. Upon graduation from University he taught high school, as well as Ukrainian and other Eastern European folk music and dancing. In 1982 he began to perform and assist in the artistic preparation of the Ukrainian Festival Dance Company in Toronto, where he met his wife, Tania Pidlynsny. They were married in 1984, and have three children. In 1986 he was ordained to the diaconate in the Ukrainian Catholic Church by Bishop Isidore Borecky. In 1988 he was ordained to the priesthood by Metropolitan Wolodymyr Sterniuk in L'viv. He served in the parishes of St. Demetrius and St. Nicholas in Toronto, as well as serving mission parishes north of Toronto. In 1995 he and his family were canonically received into the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada by Archbishop Yuriy of Toronto. Since August 1st of 1995 he has served as the Parish Priest of St. Vladimir's Sobor in Hamilton. Fr. Bohdan writes a monthly column for the Church newspaper, the Visnyk (Herald), and has served as a member of the Liturgical Commission, the inter-church relations committee, the family and gender issues committee and the resolutions committee of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. He has also served on the Eastern Eparchial Council as secretary; serves on the board of directors of St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg; is a sought after speaker for spiritual retreats and seminars; and frequently writes for, as well as being a former member of the Community Editorial Board of the Hamilton Spectator.



ORTHODOX MEN'S RETREAT

"THE ROAD TO SALVATION"

GUEST SPEAKER: FR. ANDREW JARMUS

Director of Missions and Education
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

MARCH 18-20, 2005

DIAMOND BUFFALO GUEST RANCH & RETREAT CENTRE

SUNDRE, ALBERTA



Sessions:

Friday March 18, 2005 - 7:45 p.m. **"The Tyranny of Sin and Death"**

Saturday March 19, 2005 - 9:00 a.m. **"God's Movements in Our Salvation"**

Saturday March 19, 2005 - 7:00 p.m. **"Our Response to What God Has Done for Us"**

The true Orthodox way of thought has always been historical, has always included the past, but has never been enslaved by it. For, the strength of the Church is not in the past, present, or future, but in Christ.

CONTACTS:

Glen Tacey:	403-934-4688
Dennis Lipon:	403-933-4962
Lorne Calkins:	403-278-0822
Morris Pawlyshyn:	403-276-3129
Daniel Cojocariu:	403-265-3493

FEES:

Retreat Fee - \$ 200.00
Deposit on registration - \$ 75.00
Balance \$ 125.00 Due – March 1, 2005
Attention: Glen Tacey
C/O St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation
404 Meredith Road NE
Calgary Alberta T2E 5A6

ORTHODOX MEN'S SILENT RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

Please return this form with your cheque or money order payable to:

Orthodox Men's Retreat

Registration for the retreat is \$ 200.00 payable in full on registration:

Enclosed: .

or

Payable as follows:

Deposit of \$ 75.00 due on registration:

Enclosed: .

Due by March 1, 2005 - \$ 125.00:

Enclosed: .

Send attention: **Glen Tacey - Orthodox Men's Retreat**
 C/O St. Vladimirs Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation
 404 Meredith Road NE Calgary Alberta T2E 5A6

Registrants information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Province:** _____ **Postal Code:** _____

SECOND ANNUAL ORTHODOX MEN'S RETREAT SCHEDULE

"THE ROAD TO SALVATION"

Friday – March 18, 2005

4:30 p.m. Registration begins
 7:00 p.m. Supper and Orientation
 7:45 p.m. Vesper Service: Reverend Father Larry Reinheimer
 8:30 p.m. Conference

"The Tyranny of Sin and Death" - Silence Begins

11:00 p.m. Please keep to your room

Saturday – March 19, 2005

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayers – Reverend Father Larry Reinheimer
 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
 9:00 a.m. **"God's Movements in Our Salvation"**
 12:00 p.m. Lunch

- 1:00 p.m. Conference Room - Question and answer period
After question & answer period take time to enjoy the surroundings
- 5:00 p.m. Supper
- 6:00 p.m. Vesper Services – Reverend Father Larry Reinheimer
- 7:00 p.m. **"Our Response to What God Has Done for Us"**
- 8:00 p.m. Silence breaks for social evening
- 11:00 p.m. Please keep to your room

Sunday – March 20, 2005

- 8:30 a.m. No Breakfast – However for those that may require to eat due to medical reasons, food will be available (muffins and fruit)
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy – Silence ends Reverend Father Andrew Jarmus
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch and departure

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Glory forever!

The theme of this retreat will be **"The Road to Salvation"**. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Fr. Andrew Jarmus, Director of Missions and Education, U.O.C.C. Rev. Fr. Andrew will be serving the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, March 20, 2005.

Further to the Retreat schedule, we would like to emphasize that there will be ample time for silent meditation and prayer, and to take full advantage of the Retreat venue, such as the hiking trails overlooking the stocked trout lake (bring your tackle), or to enjoy one of the canoes for a leisurely paddle across the lake, while taking in the serene surroundings.

We plan to temporarily break the silence from 8:00 to 11:00 pm on Saturday evening. During this time brotherly fellowship can be extended by the use of the facility amenities, billiard table, shuffle board, sauna, Jacuzzi (bring your swim trunks), and the central stone fire pit overlooking the lake.

The guest ranch has several RV parking stalls, complete with hook-ups, for those wishing to venture out with motor homes or campers.

With greetings in Christ, your Retreat Team

VARIOUS POSTING FOUND ON CHURCH EXTERIOR SIGNS

1. "Exposure to the Son may prevent burning."
2. "The best vitamin for a Christian is B1."
3. "Under same management for over 2000 years."
4. "Soul food served here."
5. "Tithe if you love Jesus! Anyone can honk!"
6. "Beat the Christmas rush, come to church this Sunday!"
7. "Don't wait for the hearse to take you to church."
8. "Wal-Mart isn't the only saving place!"
9. "It's hard to stumble when you're down on your knees."
10. "What part of 'THOU SHALT NOT' don't you understand?"
11. "A clear conscience makes a soft pillow."
12. "Can't sleep? Try counting your blessings."
13. "Forbidden fruit creates many jams."
14. "Satan subtracts and divides. God adds and multiplies."
15. "God answers knee mail."

St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church Choir

Слава Ісусу Христу!

St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church Choir rehearsed this past fall to prepare for the Visitation of Archbishop John on November 7 as well as preparing for the Christmas season. Along with other Calgary Ukrainian musical groups, we participated in the Ukrainian Carol Festival on December 5, hosted by St. Stephen's Ukrainian Catholic

Sunday evenings. A schedule is posted in the choir loft. Please join us on Sunday mornings and sing praises to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Church and the Ukrainian Professional and Business Association of Calgary.

The choir continues to rehearse new liturgical music and prepare for the upcoming Lenten season as well as preparing for Easter.

As we look forward to the new season, I would like to invite all of you who have been blessed with musical abilities to share them in our choir for the glory of God. We all have an obligation to serve our parish with these God-given talents. Rehearsals take place on Sundays following the Divine Liturgy and occasionally on

With Christian love,

Cathy Lebedovich

Director, St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church Choir



CALGARY CYMK-UOY - IVAN BOHUN BRANCH

This year started off with another Bar-B-Que at Bowness Park. Our annual meeting was on September 18th and a new executive was elected:

President: Adriana Lebedovich

1st Vice-President: Deleena Pawlyshyn

2nd Vice-President: Katrina Michayluk

Secretary: Toma Lebedovich

Treasurer: Carmen Belsheim

Assistant Treasurer: Nichola Belsheim

There was a CYC Convention in Edmonton from October 1-3 and it was a blast! Friday night was a Yarmarok and Zabava, Saturday was full of all sorts of activities, including Music Appreciation, swimming and other activities at Millennium Place in Sherwood Park, and on Sunday, CYMK sang the Divine Liturgy and enjoyed a Bar-B-Que lunch.

Many CYMKivtsi from Calgary attended and it was a huge success!

On March 4th, 5th, and 6th, there will be a joint activity with other Alberta CYMKivtsi. Calgary CYMK is hosting singing Saturday morning and bowling in the afternoon. There will then be a dinner and dance in the evening. On Sunday morning all of the CYMKivtsi will be singing the Divine Liturgy. Please support our youth in our requests for help with food and billets.

We are also looking forward to Zustrich '05 on the May long weekend at Camp Barvinok hosted by St. John's Senior CYMK.

This year, like other years, we will also be hosting a Valentines Bake Sale on February 13th as well as a Cheesecake Sale on March 13th. We will also be writing Pysanky and making Pasky for those in our parish that are unable to make it to church.

We are looking forward to a great year!

Submitted by Adriana Lebedovich
President

UKRAINIAN MUSEUM OF CANADA CALGARY COLLECTION, UWAC

404 Meredith Road N. E, Calgary, Alta. T2E 5A6

MUSEUM BOARD 2004 - 2006

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Past Chairperson	Mary Swityk	274-2475
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	Pat Slusarchuk	
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	Mary Chernezky	289-5283
	Pres. of local UWAC, Shirley Din	282-5566
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	Walter Nychka	246-4079
	Morris Pawlyshyn	276-3129
	Lawrence Yuzda	520-2275 (W) 284-1838 (H)
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	Elaine Amiot	
	Olga Kurczaba	
Resource Committee for Cataloguing:		
Fibre and Textile Analyst	Jean Mekitiak	
Monetary Evaluations	Mary Swityk	
Embroidery	Mary Swityk	
Weaving	Jean Mekitiak	
Displays	Mary Swityk	
	Jean Mekitiak	
Education	Nadya Chornenky	547-2141
Museum Tours	Orysia Kurczaba	220-0197
Memberships	Elaine Amiot	
Pysanka Workshop	Audrey Michayluk	282-0398
Auxiliary Volunteers:		
Marlene Goin	289-1819	John Maleschuk 252-5037
Mary Gref	282-4048	Jean Skyt 686-8355
Jean Holuk	288-9073	Kay Sydoruk 251-6585
Virtue Humeny	289-7377	Lesia Woloschuk 247-1025
Adona Kolisnyk	286-2106	Lorayne Woytowich 289-9722

Order of St. Andrew

Calgary Chapter

December 2004

Христос Рождается! Славимо Його!

During 2004 we held four executive meetings and four general meetings. Our Calgary chapter currently numbers twenty-seven members. During the past year we inducted one new member, Pobratym James Teterenko, and welcomed a transferred member, Pobratym Sam Lebedovich.

On Thursday, May 13th 2004, our chapter held our major fundraiser of the year – a Greek Feast dinner in support of St. Andrew's College Securing the Future Campaign. Members of our chapter and spouses, as well as other supporters, raised a total of \$3,100 for the St. Andrew's College burn the mortgage campaign. Sixty-two guests enjoyed classical Greek cuisine and a wonderful evening. Many in the community commented that this was an event worth repeating! An article on this function appeared in *The Herald* on October 1st, but even before the article appeared, news of our undertaking inspired others to hold similar events in their communities all of which were very successful in raising funds for the campaign. St. Andrew's College exceeded its target and the mortgage was burned on December 12th in Winnipeg at the St. Andrew's College Feast Day celebration!

In 2004, we continued to organize our traditional activities. On February 1st, we celebrated our parish Acolytes. They and their families were hosted to pizza and pop. On October 17th, we served pie and ice cream at coffee hour after church. On November 7th, we formed an honour guard for the parish visitation by Archbishop John on the

occasion of the blessing of Icons in the recently completed first phase of the parish Icon project. Again this year our chapter organized the observance of Remembrance Day. A memorial church service was followed by a commemorative ceremony at our cultural centre. Our lay organizations held flags and our youth participated with our members and the community in marking the occasion, in what has become a tradition in the parish. Order members were pictured with our youth, and a brief write-up will be forwarded for inclusion in *The Herald*. Coffee and a light lunch followed the ceremony. On November 27th, members of the Order actively participated in the ceremonies marking the 71st anniversary of the 1932-1933 Artificial Famine in Ukraine where we laid a wreath and formed an honour guard. In addition, we placed Christmas and Easter greetings in *The Herald*.

Since our inception as a chapter on October 2nd 1999, our members have raised over \$17,000 for St. Andrew's College projects. We are a well-recognized chapter of the Order, yet we can still become stronger and do more. I encourage you to continue to support our College and our local chapter. Membership in the Order is not an honorary position. It is a responsibility and a privilege to contribute to the significant role St. Andrew's College plays in our Church and in our life.

I wish to thank the parish Executive and the congregation for your support this past year. I am confident we will continue to work collaboratively for the betterment of St. Andrew's College, the parish, and our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada.

With Christian Greetings,

Paul Amiot



St. Vladimir's *Sadochok* is a well-established Ukrainian bilingual preschool for children aged 3, 4 and 5. We offer children an exciting opportunity to explore and experience the Ukrainian culture in positive and fun surroundings.

***Sadochok* offers a creative environment with emphasis on Ukrainian culture through song, dance, language, folklore and crafts. No previous knowledge of Ukrainian culture or language is required. Our qualified and experienced teaching staff utilize music, stories, science, arts and crafts, movement and selected field trips to challenge your child's creativity and develop their self-esteem.**

We offer small class sizes and our facility hosts a large gym. We even have our own private playground!

***Sadochok* is located at the lower level of the Ukrainian Cultural Centre adjacent to the beautiful St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox church which overlooks Memorial Drive at 404 Meredith Road NE.**

Registration is on-going so we encourage you to contact Donna Stefura at 282-6198 for more information.



CHURCH SCHOOL

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY BE FOREVER!

Here we are in full swing again with almost ½ the year gone. Time flies when you're having fun.

It is written our life on earth is like a blink of the eye compared to eternity. Why then do so many of us stress more about our next 50 years on earth instead of "...the life of the world to come." "When their breath departs they return to their earth; on that very day all their plans perish."

So what are your long range goals?

To date, we have 23 children registered in Church School. We can count on an average of 15 children attending. As parents, we are accountable for our children's access to increase their spirituality. A key element to accomplish this is attending church. This is the easy part of our responsibility.

I would like to thank Holly Egan for helping me with Church school. She helps lighten my load. I would also like to thank Morris Pawlyshyn, Deleena Pawlyshyn, Marla Belsheim, Lorraine Hrytsay, and Marycia Koszarycz for offering to be sub-teachers.

May God Bless You and Your Families Now and Always,

Sonia Yarmuch

ST. JOHN THE COMPASSIONATE MISSION

A Christmas Story as Told by Oksana Sushko

The first time I met Alan, it was two days before Christmas 2004. Fr. Roberto found him outside our bakery door, seeking a place to find a little more warmth than that which was available under the bridge where he had been sleeping for the last two weeks. Alan is tall and gentle in stature, with a kind face, and eyes that listen and smile easily. I was amazed at how they smiled even when he told us that his feet felt like two giant blocks of ice.

As he warmed up in the office, Alan told me about a loud conversation he heard outside his apartment door late one night a few weeks earlier, and how his landlord kicked him out the next morning. He was sure it wasn't his ex-wife who was causing trouble for him; she would never do anything like that, and she never drank or took drugs. He regretted not having contacted someone to

help him fight for his tenant rights, but he knew it was too late for recourse now. As Alan spoke, I barely noticed him unwrapping one Ferrero Rocher chocolate after another from a box of twenty I'd placed on the table for him.

I went into the bakery to fill the kettle for Alan's tea, where baker Nicola was in the middle of a busy shift. I explained to Nicola who the tea was for. By the time I filled the kettle and returned to the office, Alan had polished off the entire box of chocolates and an apple, which I had sliced so that he wouldn't hurt his teeth.

Into the office walked Nicola, his eyes aglow with kind interest. He spoke to Alan like a man would speak to his beloved long-lost brother. They talked, and Nicola offered him his entire private stock of canned sardines (several cans in total!), and, of course, bread. I went upstairs to find a care package for Alan, along with some dry scarves and gloves and a dry backpack for his few belongings. When I returned, Nicola was offering Alan his heartfelt wisdom on what it

really means to be a sinner, while rolling him a cigarette. As the pair headed outside to bond warmly over a smoke in the cold air, Alan turned and handed me a little red box. I opened it, and inside I found a pair of lovely delicate earrings. They had accidentally snuck inside the 'men's' care package that I had given him. He said, "They're sterling silver, you know." I said, "Alan, you really shouldn't have." It was a beautiful moment, and a smile, that I will never, ever forget.

I was pleasantly surprised to see Alan appear at St. John's the following morning. He reported that his new bag had been pillaged while he slept in a shelter that night, and most of his things were gone, including his sardines. Yet his smiling eyes shone. It was a very cold day that Christmas Eve, and he said he would head over to our thrift shop to pick up some boots and dry clothes, for which I'd given him a voucher. I thanked him again for the earrings, and he leaned down and kissed me on the cheek. A moment later, it occurred to me that I could have driven Alan over to the thrift shop myself, but by the time I made my way to the front door and outside to find him, he was gone.

It's now the day after Christmas, and I can't get the image of Alan and his smile and his sardines out of my head. And I'm wondering, which bridge is he sleeping under tonight?

There are probably many messages here in this little series of events, depending on

who's analyzing. It could be one of those heart-warming Christmas stories that we read about in the local newspaper that ends up with our coffee stains on it, or that we see in a Hollywood movie that ends 'happily ever after' like popcorn trampled underfoot. What really happened here? Did we simply give some warmth and friendship to a homeless man? Or could it be that when Fr. Roberto found Alan outside the bakery door, he recognized Christ and let Him in so that we could receive Him too? I can say only this with certainty: that Alan's entrance into St. John's on that cold December 23rd allowed the entrance of an infant Christ into my own heart, in a way and at a time that only God could have chosen. He knew I needed reminding that day of how easy it is to love, and of what pure bliss is found in accepting the invitation of Him Who calls us out of our selves to share what we have been given.

The disturbing reality is, Alan is likely still sleeping under a bridge tonight. I pray that he soon finds warmth, somewhere. I pray that his family might be restored. I pray that he would again have a home. I pray that he comes back to us soon, so that we can nourish one another again. And I pray that the dark caverns in our hearts would remain open to receive the Only One who can melt the coldest shards of ice into tears of rejoicing and heavenly love. Not only at Christmastime, but every single day of our lives.

CHRISTMAS

*'T'was the night before
Christmas
and all through the town
Not a sign of Baby Jesus
was anywhere to be found.
The people were all busy
with Christmas time chores*

*like decorating, and
baking,
and shopping in
stores.*

*No one sang "Away in
a manger,
no crib for a bed".
Instead, they sang of Santa
dressed-up in bright red.*



*Mama watched Martha Stewart,
 Papa drank beer from a tap.
 As hour upon hour
 the presents they'd wrap
 when what from the T.V.
 did they suddenly hear?
 Except an ad.. which told
 of a big sale at Sears.
 So away to the mall
 they all flew like a flash...
 Buying things on credit...
 and others with cash!
 And, as they made their way
 home
 From their trip to the mall,
 Did they think about Jesus?
 Oh, no... not at all.
 Their lives were so busy
 with their Christmas time
 things
 No time to remember
 Christ Jesus, the King.
 There were presents to wrap
 and cookies to bake.
 How could they stop and
 remember
 who died for their sake?
 To pray to the Saviour...
 they had no time to stop.
 Because they needed more time
 to "Shop till they dropped!"
 On Wal-mart! On K-mart!
 On Target! On Penney's!*

*On Hallmark! On Zales!
 A quick lunch at Denny's
 From the big stores downtown
 to the stores at the mall
 They would dash away, dash
 away,
 and visit them all!
 And up on the roof,
 there arose such a clatter
 As grandpa hung icicle lights
 up on his brand new
 stepladder.
 He hung lights that would
 flash.
 He hung lights that would
 twirl.
 Yet, he never once prayed to
 Jesus...
 Light of the world.
 Christ's eyes... how they
 twinkle!
 Christ's Spirit... how merry!
 Christ's love... how enormous!
 All our burdens... He'll
 carry!
 So instead of being busy,
 overworked, and uptight
 Let's put Christ back in
 Christmas and enjoy
 some good nights!
 Christ is Born - Let Us
 Glorify Him!*

UKRAINIAN MUSEUM OF CANADA

New Or Renewal Membership

Note: All memberships are for one year and are due January 1. If you have not already paid, please use this form to do so. **Individual - \$10 Family - \$25**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Please make cheques out to Ukrainian Museum of Canada and return to:
Ukrainian Museum of Canada, 910 Spadina Cres. E., Saskatoon, Sk. S7K 3H5
 or 404 Meredith Road NE, Calgary, Alta. T2E 5A6