

# Christ Is Born! Христос Раждается!

We extend a warm welcome to all our parishioners and guests on this glorious feast day, and pray that your participation in the Christmas Divine Liturgy will be enriching, meaningful and special.

## December 25, 2016 ~ The Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ

Epistle: Galatians 4: 4-7

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

See the insert for tropars and special texts



**T**he Nativity Story is a story of peace. We know that each year we pray for peace in our world, peace in our families, and peace in our hearts. With the tumult that we see around us in the world today, it is wonderful for us to reflect on a message of peace that comes directly from God. We know that for many in our world, in our homeland, the peace of Christmas will not be felt. We pray for them in a special way that the Lord can touch their hearts with peace.

St. Luke, in his account of the birth of Jesus, asks us to look at the details, to image the scene, to place ourselves in the story, not just as observers, but like the shepherds, to be filled with excitement since the glory of God surrounded them. It is a reassuring story for us since St. Paul reminds us that “the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all” and the prophet Isaiah reminds us of the great light that has come into our world.

As you celebrate Christmas this year, take a moment to reflect on the story of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Remember that He came into our world to teach us about God’s love and to show us how to love unconditionally. As we follow His example, let us show that same kind of love and concern to our families, our friends, and especially to our sisters and brothers in need. By doing so, we relive the story of Christmas again and again, since it is a story with a message that endures all the year long.

### Words to Live By

*“Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting.*

*It is happiness because we see joy in people. It is forgetting self and finding time for others.*

*It is discarding the meaningless and stressing the true values.*

Thomas S. Monson

### Liturgical Services for This Week

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

10:00 a.m. ~ The Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God



#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

10:00 a.m. ~ Feast of St. Stephen, Holy Apostle, First Martyr and Archdeacon

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

5:00 p.m. ~ The Circumcision of Our Lord and St. Basil the Great  
Epistle Reader: Michael Watral

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017

10:00 a.m. ~ The Circumcision of Our Lord and St. Basil the Great  
Epistle Reader: Denny Verdenik



### Parish News & Coming Events

We are still waiting for the arrival of the 2017 donation envelopes. For next Saturday/Sunday, we ask that you bring your offering in a regular envelope with your **number** and **amount** printed neatly on the front. Sorry for any inconvenience.

**Epistle Readers' & Eucharistic Ministers' Schedules for 2017** are now available. Please check the box in the narthex for your copy. Thank you to those who volunteered.



Christmas carolling will take place beginning at 3 p.m. on **Thursday, December 29**. If you wish to have the carollers come and sing, please sign the sheet posted on the narthex bulletin board today. And if you'd like to participate, please speak with Andrea Warywoda, Dr. Jennifer Swerdlyk, or Murray Salomon promptly.

Our new website is up and running — thanks to Andrea Warywoda. And please take note: donations can now be accepted **online** through the website, and a yearly income tax receipt will be issued as usual. Check out the many options and the new website at [www.holycrosstbay.com](http://www.holycrosstbay.com), today!

### Your Return Gift to God

**DECEMBER 17/18, 2016**

Envelopes: \$3,067.<sup>00</sup>

Flowers for Christmas: \$10.<sup>00</sup>

Mission Collection: \$64.<sup>20</sup>

*Thank you for your generosity!*

*Щиро Вам дякуємо!*



The **Mission Collection** for December has been earmarked for **Blessings in a Backpack**, a unique program designed to support schoolchildren who simply do not have enough to eat on Saturdays and Sundays. Families who struggle with hunger or who are ‘food insecure’ rely on food banks and other resources during the week, but many cannot satisfy weekend needs. Please consider a donation of any amount and join the battle against hunger to improve educational success!

# Holy Cross Golden Agers

Regular Thursday activities are now cancelled for the rest of December and through to the end of January, and will resume on **Thursday, February 2, 2017** at the usual time. We wish all members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



The first bus trip to Grand Portage in the New Year is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 18, 2017**. Please feel free to contact either Ann Kozlowski (622-3006) or Ann Opaski (577-2805) between now and early January to book your seat. Non-members are invited also. This is a **free** service for everyone. All we ask is that you be at the church no later than **3:45 p.m.** *Come out and enjoy an evening of fun!*



## St. George's Society

At this time of the year, we wish all members and their families a very special holiday season with all the best in 2017!

The next Superior Shores Bingo Training Session will take place on **Monday, January 9** at 7 p.m. in our parish hall. Interested members (and parishioners) are requested to contact Gerry Bullock of their intention to attend so he can inform Kathy Bukovy, Superior Shores Charity Coordinator, how many to expect from our parish.

Our first gathering in the new year will be the annual **'Super Bowl'** Meeting on **Sunday, February 5** at 4:30 p.m., followed by a dinner and social. We extend an open invitation to **all men** of the parish to join us and to consider becoming a part of this important parish brotherhood as well.



HOUSTON 02.05.17

*Love and Service to God since 1960*

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR



**Fundraiser In Support of the MS Society** - Thursday, December 29 from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Superior Shores Gaming Centre, 435 Memorial Avenue. A great opportunity to gather your friends or co-workers this holiday season. Tickets are just \$15 (\$29 value!) and can be obtained by calling 344-2944 or email to [Sarah.Boucha@mssociety.ca](mailto:Sarah.Boucha@mssociety.ca). for more information. One must be 18+ to play bingo. ID is required.

**Family PJ Party** - Celebrate New Year's Eve in PJs at Maple Tops Activity Centre, 24 S. Court St. Their special New Year's pajama party includes playtime, pizza, sparkling beverage, crafts, games and a movie! Tickets are \$15 each or \$50 for a family pack of 4. Doors open at 6 p.m. For more info, visit [www.mapletops.com](http://www.mapletops.com) or call 344-4080.

**Winter Fundays** - Every Sunday from January 1 - March 19, 2017 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (unless otherwise noted), embrace winter by taking part in a different fun outdoor activity for FREE. And after you've enjoyed the Winter Funday activity outside, you can warm up with a creative activity inside the Baggage Building Arts Centre. **Please note:** the schedule is subject to change in situations of extreme weather. Visit [www.thunderbay.ca/Living/recreation\\_and\\_parks/Events/Winter\\_Fundays](http://www.thunderbay.ca/Living/recreation_and_parks/Events/Winter_Fundays) for times and details.



12-26  
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**"They won't know till they're grown,  
but their BEST gifts are the  
memories they're making."**

ZORYA UKRAINIAN DANCE ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS

# MALANKA

NEW YEAR'S EVE - UKRAINIAN STYLE

**JANUARY 14, 2017**  
AT THE  
**ROYAL CANADIAN SLOVAK LEGION**

SYMPOSIUM: 6:00PM  
DINNER: 7:00PM  
ENTERTAINMENT: ZORYA DANCERS  
MUSIC BY: DANNY JOHNSON & 21 GUN FUN

**KOLOMEYKA 50/50 DRAW LATE NIGHT SNACK**

**ADVANCED TICKETS ONLY**

**TICKET PRICES**  
\$60 FOR INDIVIDUAL  
\$450 FOR TABLE OF 8

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:**  
ROYAL CANADIAN SLOVAK LEGION  
801 ATLANTIC AVE.  
PHONE: 807-623-3354  
OR  
**CONTACT ALICE:**  
807-577-2100



**Веселих Різдвяних Свят та Щасливого Нового Року!**



**Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**





# Mary Had A Baby - The Lamb of God

**M**any years ago, a woman named Sarah Hale wrote one of the best-known and best-loved children's poems ever written. Most of you probably know that poem. It is "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Sometimes, Jesus is called "The Lamb of God" and He was sent by God to take away the sins of the world.

Mary had a little Lamb,  
He was born on Christmas day.  
She laid him in a manger bed  
To sleep upon the hay.



Angels filled the night-time sky  
And they began to sing.  
Shepherds heard them all proclaim  
The birthday of a King.

Wise men saw a blazing star  
Up in the sky that night.  
They followed it until they found  
The King of love and light.

Mary had a little Lamb,  
But He wasn't hers, you know,  
He was the very Son of God,  
The One who loves us so.



The Father of this little Lamb  
Loved the world so much  
That He sent his only Son to earth  
So we could feel His touch.

He came to give us joy and peace  
And take away our sin.  
So when He knocks on your heart's door,  
Be sure to let Him in.

Why do I love this precious Lamb?  
What can the reason be?  
The answer is quite plain to see,  
It's because He first loved me!

Dear God, help us to remember as we celebrate Jesus' birthday that He was the greatest gift of all. Amen.

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