Because the Lord Jesus was born of the holy Virgin, all creation is enlightened. Behold! The shepherds keep watch and the Magi are adoring; the angels are singing hymns of praise and Herod is trembling; for the Saviour of our souls has revealed Himself in the flesh.

O Christ, what shall we offer You for your coming on earth in our humanity for our sake? Every creature that has its being from You gives thanks to You: the angels offer hymns of praise, the heavens give a star; the Magi present their gifts and the shepherds, their wonder; the earth provides a cave and the desert, a manager. As for us, we offer a Virgin Mother. O God who are from all eternity, have mercy on us.

Христос Раждається!
Christ is Born!
Славіти Його! Let us glorify Him!
To all our parishioners of Holy Family Parish
May the guiding light of the Bethlehem Star lead us to The Way of Christ—the path to salvation. Therefore, let us all sing the Christmas carol, Boh Predvichny - God Eternal: Fr Darren and the Parish Pastoral Council greets all on this joyous Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ! God Eternal is born today.

Christ, the Son of God, Home Predvichny
Eternal God
Has been born today,
Came from Heaven tonight
To save all human kind,
So rejoice we may.

In Bethlehem
He was born to us,
True Messiah, our Christ,
Our Lord for all the times
Has been born for us.

Good news announced
An angel of peace,
To poor shepherds at first,
Then to kings, astrologers,
And to the earthly beasts.

Three eastern kings
Bearing rich gifts come,
To the town of Bethlehem
Where Saint Mary in a den
Gave birth to Her Son.

"Glory to God!"
Let us sing in praise!
Honor to the Son of God One,
Our Lord, the Most Divine,
Let’s render these days!

Please Note: There will be two collections on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The first collection will be for the Church and the second collection will be for the gift of love (Дар Любов).

penitence, and works of mercy. The holy door becomes a door of mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instills hope.

At Christmas time the holy doors reminds us of the doorway into the stable at Bethlehem whereby the shepherds and magi entered to find the Christ Child, the long awaited Messiah. All were welcome to enter through the door way into the stable: the poor and the rich, peasant and lord, saint and sinner. And so we are challenged by our faith in Jesus Christ to respond to those who stand at the threshold of our homes and of our lives and who seek our mercy and love. Our Christian faith calls upon us to open the doors of our homes and of our lives and welcome them just as Mary and Joseph did in the stable of Bethlehem.

Come and make haste to enter, said the Virgin to the magi, and behold Him who is invisible is now visibly manifest and has become a child. They came eagerly and worshipped Him, bringing gifts in fulfillment of the divine prophecy. [Aposticha, prefeast of the Nativity]

The Lord Jesus was with us on the earth in human form for only 33 years, before returning to his heavenly Father. And now how is his presence tangible to us? In St. Matthew’s gospel Jesus tells us that when we encounter the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, those in prison— we welcome the Lord in these people. [Cf. Mt. 25:31-40]

We do not have to look far to find the Lord Jesus. He is in those around us. When they come to the doors of our lives, we are given the choice to either open our doors of mercy and receive them, or to keep them closed and shuttered, saying there is no room in our inn, just as Mary and Joseph discovered in Bethlehem. [Cf. Lk. 2:7]

This Christmas season, in the spirit of the Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us reach out to the strangers and to those in need, be they from Ukraine or from Syria, be they in prisons or homeless on the streets, be they sick or jobless, be they alone and near death. Let us show by our good deeds and by our love that we share with them the mercy of our Heavenly Father who shares with us his love and goodness. And let us repeat the praise of the angels as they sang at the birth of Christ: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests. [Lk. 2:14]

The Blessing of the Lord be upon you!

+Lawrence Huculak, OSBM Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg
+David Motiuk, Eparchial Bishop of Edmonton
+Stephen Chmilar, Eparchial Bishop of Toronto
+Ken Nowakowski, Eparchial Bishop of New Westminster
+Bryan Bayda, CSSRs Eparch Bishop of Saskatoon
+Michael Wiwchar, CSSRs Eparch Emeritus of Saskatoon
+Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM Eparch Emeritus of New Westminster
The story of the Nativity of Christ is beautifully told in the Holy Scriptures. The story is found in Matthew 1:18-25 and in Luke 2:1-20. No matter how often the Birth of Jesus is told, we realize that it is an important event. As the story is told by the Apostles, the Roman Empire was powerful. The Romans had conquered much of the then known world. Judea and Samaria, what we know today as Israel, were included in their conquests. Emperor Augustus ordered that a census be taken in all his lands. He needed to know how many people lived in the empire so he could tax them. Everyone had to go to the town of their family’s origin to register for the census. This meant that Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. They were descendents of King David and Bethlehem was the City of David. Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth and it was a great distance from Bethlehem. It was about 100 miles over very rugged roads. Moreover, Mary was expecting the baby and it was almost time for her to give birth. Bethlehem was a small town and there were many descendents of David who had come to register for the census. By the time Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem there was no place for them to stay. Joseph tried very hard to find a place to sleep that evening. There was no room at the inn. Finally, Joseph found a cave-like place where they could rest. This place was used by shepherds to protect their sheep in stormy weather. It was here that Mary gave birth to Jesus. The baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the straw in the manger. Now, that night the shepherds were out in the fields guarding their sheep. Suddenly, there was a bright light which startled the shepherds. The light was so bright that it turned the night into daylight. Of course, the shepherds were frightened. Nothing such as this had ever happened. Soon an angel appeared and calmed them. The angel said: “Fear not for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior; which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger” (Luke 2:11-12). Then a larger group of angels appeared. They praised and glorified God and sang, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men” (Luke 2:14). When the angels finished singing, they disappeared and the light began to fade. It became dimmer and dimmer until it was dark again. The shepherds were awed. They didn’t know what to do. Finally, they decided to leave their flocks of sheep and go to Bethlehem. They decided that they wanted to see for themselves what the angels had told them. When they got to Bethlehem, they found Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus. They fell to their knees and adored Jesus. Some Wise Men came from the East for they knew of the coming of Jesus. They had seen a star that told them that a new king had been born to the Jews. They followed the star and were looking for the child. At this time the governor of Judea was King Herod. He was a wicked man and was feared and hated by the people. When Herod heard about the Wise Men looking for the child, he invited them to his palace. Herod asked the Wise Men to find the child so that he, too, could worship Him. But Herod was lying. He did not want anyone to take his place. The Wise Men went on to look for Jesus. The Star led them to Jesus and Mary. When the Wise Men found Jesus, they fell to their knees and worshipped Him. They gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The Wise Men left but did not return to Herod. They had a dream that warned them that Herod wanted to harm Jesus. Instead, they returned to their native country by a different route.
Celebration of faith, love and joy.

Christmas is the season of celebrating the fact that God became man and descended into the world. Christmas is a celebration of faith, hope, love, joy, peace on earth and good will among all people. What is the sense of all the gifts, the Christmas trees and the colorful lights in our homes if we cannot love each other and reach out to touch someone who is in distress or lonely in life? The best gift that we can give to someone is the love of God, a total and unconditional love. How joyful and grateful we should feel with the coming of Christ Our God into the world. Come, let us rejoice in Him. Rejoice, Christ is born, and God is revealed amongst us.

Christmas prayer and blessing

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the magi. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving I hope and pray you have a joyous Christmas as we bask in the glow of God’s awesome love. May the peace of the Christ child fill your hearts and the grace of God overwhelm you with joy. May your travels be safe and your homecomings be happy. God bless and take care. Merry Christmas to all parishioners of Holy Family Parish.

~Fr. Darren Kawiuk