Father Vasyl's Christmas Message
December 25, 2021

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!

I want to begin my reflection on the great Feast of the Nativity of Christ with a reference to the Our Father prayer. Each time we say this prayer, we request of God that “your kingdom come.” These words can help us understand one of the meanings of today's holiday.

By his birth, Christ reminds us that the Kingdom of Heaven is near and the way to it is open. It originates here on earth, where Christ is, when his love is in the hearts of men and unites them: husband and wife in marriage, children and parents in the family, and Christians in the parish community. A special sign of the presence of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God on earth is His Church and the Holy Mysteries in it. In particular, the Holy Eucharist is where the living Christ is present in the form of bread and wine, and it is constantly in the ark on the throne in every church.

The Nativity of Christ brings us joy, because with us is the One who loves us infinitely and brings us peace. For with us is He who can protect us from all evil. This Holy Day gives us happiness, because with us is the Son of God - the source of all good.

May this Christmas time give us the courage to open our hearts to Christ, to accept Him into our lives by keeping God's commandments, so that Christ's peace and joy may be not only on our lips when we sing carols, but in our souls every moment of our lives.

Forty students were interviewed at one university. The professor asked them to write the word "Christmas" and everything that that they associate with that word. For most of them, Christmas was associated with "Christmas tree," "gifts," "dinner," "guests," "entertainment," and the like. Unfortunately, none of the respondents mentioned the birth of Jesus Christ. No one recognized Him as their Savior! And most people, when celebrating Christmas, do not think about who is the cause of that holiday.

During the Christmas holidays, Christ knocks on the door of our heart in a special way and is ready to enter it to comfort us, strengthen us and bring His peace, love and happiness. But He is waiting for us to open our hearts to Him and allow Him to renew our lives. So today the Holy Church calls to all of us: "Rejoice, all together with the angels, glorify the One who was born in Bethlehem to save the whole world!" Amen.