

THE VIBRANT PARISH - A PLACE TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST



In 2011 His Beatitude Sviatoslav together with the bishops of the UGCC asked us to pay special attention to the renewal of parish life, as the basis for further development of our Church. The parish is the place where we encounter the Living Christ, where we can grow spiritually and where the Good News of the Gospel is proclaimed, so that it can be shared with others. Our Synod encourages us all together and individually, to reflect on and work for the development of our parish community, and to take an active role in the mission of the Church by fostering these aspects of a vibrant parish:

- **THE WORD OF GOD AND CATECHESIS**
 - LITURGY AND PRAYER
- **SERVICE TO ONE'S NEIGHBOR**
- **LEADERSHIP – STEWARDSHIP**
 - COMMUNITY – UNITY
 - A MISSIONARY SPIRIT



www.stamforddio.org
www.zhyvaparafia.org.ua • www.ugcc.org.ua

Icon of Roman Vasylyk



THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Troparion, (Tone 1): At Your baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, worship of the Trinity was revealed, for the Father's voice bore witness to You, calling You His beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God, Who appeared and enlightened the world, glory be to You!

Kontakion (Tone 4): You have revealed Yourself to the world today, and Your light, O Lord, has shined upon us. We recognize You and exclaim to You: You have come and revealed Yourself, O inaccessible Light!

THE JORDAN BLESSING
OF THE FATHER AND HEAD OF THE UGCC
HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV



My Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Today, on the occasion of the joyous Feast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, your priest-pastor has come to pay you a visit. Please allow me to also visit your home and impart the Jordan Blessing on you all, so that you may come to a deeper understanding of the meaning of the Feast and that its graces bear fruit in your lives.

This great Feast is called “Theophany” because in it God reveals Himself to us, manifests to us Who He is: One in Three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The event of Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan marks the beginning of his mission on earth. God the Father blesses His Beloved Son that He may fulfill his calling: to save the human race, to conquer every evil and, through the Holy Spirit, to lead us to our Heavenly Father.

What does this Feast mean for us? We, who are baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity, have become beloved sons and daughters of our Lord, and thus, are called to extend God’s blessings into the world. May the holy water which is being sprinkled in your home today make you carriers of this Jordan Blessing for the healing of spiritual weaknesses and for your spiritual growth.

Recently our Church began a program of pastoral renewal called: “The Vibrant Parish – a Place to

Encounter the Living Christ”. This program should involve not only our parish communities, but every home and each person who lives in the spirit of God. That is why we call upon you to:

1. Deepen your understanding of the faith – may your home be a place where religious literature is read, especially the Sacred Scripture and the Catechism of the UGCC, and a place where questions regarding our Christian faith are openly discussed.

2. Pray together a family, which prays together in the Holy Spirit, continually draws strength from the living presence of Jesus Christ and grows in love toward our Heavenly Father, in a spirit of peace and harmony.

3. Help others in need – let your family be an icon of God’s goodness and love in the world, so that through your good works others may come to know your Father, who is in heaven. Works of mercy in the world are our living sermon and a living witness to Christ’s action in our lives.

As a Church let us all grow together in knowing God, in common prayer, and in love of neighbor. May this Jordan blessing give you greater strength to fulfill your calling to lead good, honest and God-pleasing lives in the family community of the children of God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

+ Sviatoslav

+ Sviatoslav