



Office of the Bishop

To the Reverend Clergy, Religious and Faithful of the Eparchy of New Westminster and to all People of Good Will!

December 2009

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Dear Beloved in Christ!

With the winter season in full swing we probably don't have as much of an opportunity to engage in star-gazing as we might during the summer. Not only is there less time for leisure, but fall rains often obscure our view of the heavens. But I think that we should try to look up nonetheless, for the stars speak to us about many things.

First of all, they tell us how small we are in the broad expanse of the universe. If the universe were the size of earth, our planet would be less than a speck of dust or smaller than a grain of sand. It's hard to imagine a less significant piece of cosmic real estate. And yet, when we compare that little speck of dust with everything astronomers and scientists have been able to discover, this place we call home is truly remarkable. So we think about the Father-Creator of this seemingly endless expanse of a universe, with its planets, moons, stars, and galaxies... and how He sent His Only-begotten Son to make this little speck of dust His home and become one of us.

We think of three individuals from the East who were also star-gazers and, having seen an unusually bright light, were able to recognize it as a promise of something extraordinary. In the Byzantine Liturgical tradition, they are described thus: "Those who served the stars, learned from the star to venerate You, the Sun of Righteousness". The One whom they found in a manger, will indeed illuminate the world with the Light of His Good News.

And so, as we prepare to celebrate that unique and blessed event, that visit of the Divine which dispels all darkness, let us allow Him to enlighten our minds with understanding, to fill our hearts with joy, and to touch our spirit with renewed determination to be worthy of the calling to be His disciples, followers and brothers and sisters.

May this Christmas season, dear Beloved in Christ, be for you and your families a time of great joy, blessing and hope in God's grace and goodness. Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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