



**Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church
of Saint John the Baptist**

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:
Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

*God is with us: All you nations understand and submit yourselves
for God is with us!*

It goes without saying that this past year has been a difficult one for all of us. It has been a year that has been filled with uncertainty, change and even fear. But even with all that we have been through, there is one thing that has not changed, one thing that was completely certain and one thing that offered hope instead of fear. That one thing was God and His Church.

The words above, taken from the Nativity Eve service, remind us that throughout this past year, and every moment of every day, God is with us!

This past year the world around us changed. That change even reached into the Church. But while the church was physically closed for attendance, the prayers of the Church continued. You were prayed for, you were remembered, because God is with us.

The Church eventually reopened to all and our services continued to be offered virtually. The worship of the Church continued. The sacraments were offered, and the prayers continued, because God is with us.

As we celebrate this joyous Feast of the Nativity of Christ, we are reminded in a most powerful way that God continues to be with us. If God is willing to allow His only begotten Son to be born in the flesh, to eventually die for our sins, then we can be confident that He is always with us.

Whatever this new year may hold for us, as individuals, as the Church, we will not face it alone. We will face it together as the body of Christ and with God at our side.

Today is a day of great joy for salvation is born in Bethlehem. Today God shows us that He is with us, from creation, to now and forever. May the newborn Christ bring you joy, peace and happiness today and forever! Christ is Born!

Very Rev. Protopresbyter Fr. David Cochran
Pastor