



# St. John The Baptizer Ukrainian Catholic Church

*Serving God & Neighbor in San Diego County Since 1960*

Dear parishioners and friends of our parish,

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

We entered 2022 with hope as we saw the Covid-19 pandemic thankfully receding. As a parish, we were back to worshipping together indoors at the St. Augustine chapel when, on February 24th, the Russian Federation began its genocidal war against our ancestral homeland of Ukraine in earnest. Many of us felt hopeless and unable to help being here in San Diego, across the other side of the world. But on the first day of the invasion, we gathered as a parish on the land of our future church and prayed for Ukraine, her people, and her military.

Many of our parishioners spearheaded relief efforts which continue to this day. Our parish contributed to the purchase of military kitchen equipment, and a vehicle, and has been providing continuous financial support to the organizations working for our victory. Towards the end of March, many Ukrainian refugees started to gather in Tijuana in hopes of coming to the US. Parishioners again sprung into action and visited the refugees in Mexico and housed them once they crossed. Our parish has been a home and source of consolation ever since.

While the war in Ukraine has enveloped all of our lives, the work of our parish continues. This year we welcomed five babies into our parish family through Holy Baptism and one couple through Holy Matrimony. We also mourn the loss of longtime parishioner Katherine Shmorhay.

On Monday, October 24th we finally submitted our Conditional Use Permit application to the City of Santee. They have come back with their comments and our architect and engineer are busy working to fulfill their requests. This is an exciting time as we move very close to breaking ground.

Through your continued prayers and support, our new church home will be a beacon of hope for new refugees from Ukraine a place of worship for parishioners, and a place where we can come together in prayer giving thanks to God for victory over Russia.

May the newborn Christ give strength to our soldiers, wipe the tears of a mother, warm the heart of a widow, give hope to an orphan, and peace and prosperity to our nations. May the grace of the Holy Family keep warm the spirit of our kinsmen fighting for truth in Ukraine.

Wishing you a joyous Christmas,

Fr. Yuri Sas