

# THE UNIVERSAL LIVING ROSARY ASSOCIATION

International Center for Eastern Europe/Ukraine-Russia

**Father IVAN KOLODIY**

Post Office Box 841, Lviv 8, 79008 Ukraine, Europe

E-mail: Kolodijivan@yahoo.com Web: www.livingrosary.org.ua

Advent 2016

## GLORY BE TO JESUS CHRIST!

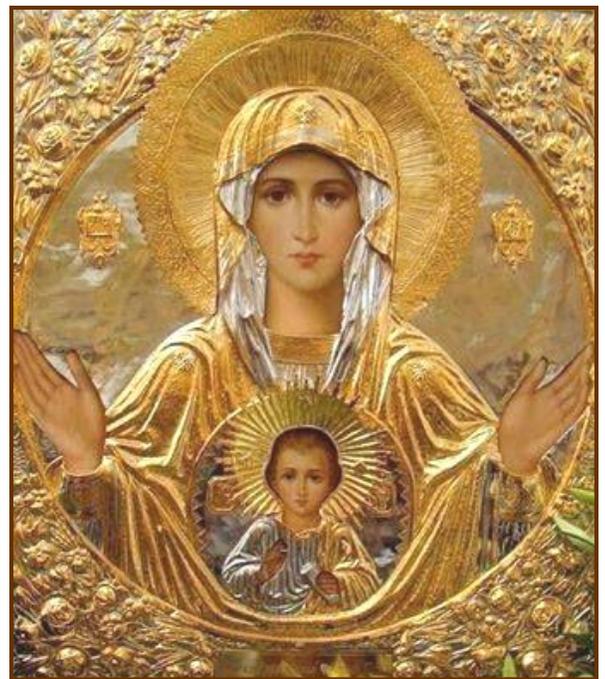
Dear Members, Benefactors and Apostles of the Living Rosary,

It gives me joy to express to you today my deepest thanks for your generous donations for my people. You help me so much and I am always remembering you in my prayers of thanksgiving. You make possible my special mission here in Ukraine. Your Mass stipends strengthen our Parish work for the Living Rosary. Many boxes are sent out to distant cities. I use my car to visit the sick and needy people, and to bring the Sacraments to them. The price of gasoline is \$4<sup>00</sup> a gallon, and to fill the tank in the car and reach distant destinations is made possible by you. The economy in Ukraine today is very poor. Gas price and electricity is \$200<sup>00</sup> a month. Without your help, it would be difficult for the mission of the Living Rosary in Ukraine. The Living Rosary is bringing faith and hope to our people. Many are becoming more active in our parish and begin to be faithful to the daily Rosary.

Like the Lenten fast before Easter, the Eastern Church's Pre-Nativity Fast lasts for 40 days. Traditionally, it begins the day after the Feast of St. Philip the Apostle, which falls on November 15 in the new calendar. Consequently, in the Eastern churches, there is no reference to a Season called Advent. The period of fasting begins with Vespers on November 15 and ends just before Vespers on December 24, the eve of the Great Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord. The purpose of the Nativity Fast is to draw us closer to God through denying the body, making reparation and exercising humility. What is done to the body has an effect on the soul and one's consciousness of the spiritual. The fast is not only one of denying the body certain foods, but it is also a fasting from sin, increasing one's prayer life, increasing the practice of almsgiving and good works. The abstinence from December 13 through 24 involves all meats, dairy products, eggs, shellfish, olive oil and wine. The Christmas tree is not displayed until Christmas Eve. Precisely, at midnight, the church bells eagerly ring out to announce:

**"Emmanuel! God is with us!"**

**GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!**



Together, with the whole Byzantine Church, we try to meet Christ as He deserves. **Glory to God in the Highest and Peace to men of Good Will!** May your sacred Christmas holy days be filled with joy, consolation and the deepest Peace of Christ! **COME! LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE KING!**



I impart to all of you, my priestly blessing:

✠ **In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Ivan Kolodiy".

**Fr. IVAN KOLODIY**

**Byzantine Rite, Greek-Catholic Church, UKRAINE**

**THE LIVING ROSARY, P.O. BOX 1303, DICKINSON, TX 77539, USA**