

Patriarch Celebrates Divine Liturgy at Immaculate Conception Church in Palatine

His Beatitude Blesses Commemorative Stones

Patriarch Sviatoslav honored the faithful and friends of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church in Palatine, IL, with a visit on September 26.

This historic event in the life of the church centered on His Beatitude's celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The Patriarch was joined by Bishop Richard Seminack, Eparch of St. Nicholas Eparchy in Chicago; Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Andriy Chirovsky; Very Rev. Archpriest Mykhailo Kuzma; Very Rev. Yaroslav Mendyuk; Very Rev. Bohdan Nalysnyk; Rev. Leonard Korchinsky; Rev. Ihor Koshyk; Rev. Andriy Plishka; and Rev. James Bankston.

In his sermon, Patriarch Sviatoslav stated, "I feel

myself like in a very warm family right now here among you." He reminded all those in attendance that "the center of the apostolic tradition of the Catholic Church is Christ Himself" and that "new generations [need] the possibility to be touched by God, to meet Him Himself, to receive His power that can restore the fullness of human life."

One of the highlights of the day was the Patriarch's blessing of a pair of engraved granite stones commemorating His Beatitude's visit. The parishioners plan to place the stones in a new church that they hope to erect in coming years. "By blessing the cornerstone for the new church, we have to manifest to everyone that 'Christ Himself is the cornerstone of my life'" and that "I'm supposed to build my life, my projects, and my future upon Him," Patriarch Sviatoslav explained to the parishioners. He went on to say, "May Our Lord



Patriarch Sviatoslav (center) celebrated the Divine Liturgy at Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church with Bishop Richard Seminack, Eparch of St. Nicholas Eparchy in Chicago (to his immediate left), and with the following clergy (left to right): Rev. Yaroslav Mendyuk, Rev. James Bankston, Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Andriy Chirovsky, Very Rev. Archpriest Mykhailo Kuzma, Rev. Leonard Korchinsky, Rev. Ihor Koshyk, and Rev. Andriy Plishka. *(All Photographs courtesy of Photography by Stanley)*

Jesus Christ, who is present today among us... be the cornerstone of the life of Our Church, of the life of each of you."

About 175 parishioners, guests, and members of the Ukrainian community filled the church. A procession of clergy led Patriarch Sviatoslav to the entrance of the church where Fr. Kuzma, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, gave the cross over to the Patriarch as a sign of the parish's love and its acknowledgment that His Beatitude is the

Head and Father of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. The Patriarch was then welcomed with flowers, the traditional bread and salt, and greetings from representatives of the church's Sisterhood of the Apostleship of Prayer and Parish Pastoral Council.

Commemorative holy cards, graciously blessed by His Beatitude, were distributed at the dismissal of the Divine Liturgy.

