



METROPOLITAN ANDREY SHEPTYTSKY INSTITUTE OF
Eastern Christian Studies
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE



January 31, 2024

This Month at MASI

Dear Friends of the Sheptytsky Institute,
Christ is Born!



Winter Term 2025 began in fire and water with a wonderful celebration of Theophany and the Great Blessing of Waters. Liturgy was served on the feast itself, January 6th, which corresponded to the return of the students on campus, while the waters were blessed outside on January 10th in front of St. Basil's parish behind Sheptytsky House. There was an excellent turnout, and we were joined by Fr. Tom Hrywna (Pastor of St. Elias in Brampton), Pani Annette Hrywna and their children, as well as Fr. Jack Custer, our resident theologian. Sub. Dcn. Brian Butcher delivered a homily on the cosmic nature of



the Great Water Blessing and many students stopped to wave at us as we processed from St. Sophia's to St. Basil's. This joy-filled event concluded with the blessing of St. Sophia's chapel and Sheptytsky House and a packed veggie supper!

Fr. Jack has been opening the Scriptures to us through his Tuesday seminar series "Finding our Place in Paradise: Rootedness & Relationships in the Book of Genesis." We've considered creation, the Fall of humanity and the Abraham and Isaac narrative. Participants have mentioned that despite reading Genesis many times, they had no idea it was such a complex and nuanced book! We are looking forward to Fr. Jack's second series slated to begin after reading week. Check out our [event page](#) for more details and don't forget to listen to Fr. Jack's Friday evening [chaplaincy talk](#). Fr. Dcn. Andrew Bennett also joined us for a Friday evening talk, where he shared his experience in fostering [Christian Unity and Interfaith dialogue](#).



A new book club entitled "Sip and Seek" has been initiated through the good work of the students from the [Orthodox Christian Students Association \(OCSA- Coptic Orthodox\)](#). Meeting at Sheptytsky House every second Wednesday, they are exploring "The Way of the Ascetics" by Tito Colliander. This program welcomes all to "sip tea, make friends and seek the Truth!" In addition, Sheptytsky House has also become a home for the [Ukrainian Student's Club](#) and the newly formed [Eastern Orthodox Student's Association](#) who meet in our seminar room.

Our chaplaincy continues to meet weekly for Liturgies on Tuesdays and Feasts, and our daily Vespers on Friday evenings followed by a veggie supper and fellowship. This term we have started up Readers Matins on Wednesday mornings as well. For those without a morning class, it is an excellent way to start the day!

Stay in the loop by checking out our new [St. Sophia's Chaplaincy webpage](#), easily accessed on the frontpage of the [Sheptytsky Institute Webpage](#), and subscribe to our chaplaincy Facebook and Instagram channels. Check out some of our chaplaincy talks and homilies at [Musings with Fr. Mike](#).

Finally, save the date! An exciting public lecture will be delivered by His Beatitude, Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk with response from Dr. Timothy Snyder on February 25th 2025, 7PM. More details to follow, stay tuned to our website for updates.

In closing, all of us here at the Institute would like to thank you for your continued support and generosity. These events, services, bookclubs and lectures, **are made possible through your continued financial support of the Institute**. May our Lord Jesus Christ, baptized by John in the Jordan, bless you now and always!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Alexander Laschuk, JCD/PhD
Executive Director, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies



Catherine Pawluch, JD
President, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute Foundation



Rev. Michael Bombak, BEd, STB, MTh
Chaplain and Programming Coordinator, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies

