

Versions Appeared in the Ukrainian Orthodox Word, Woonsocket Call, and Ukrainian Weekly



### **St. Nicholas Visits Woonsocket – Celebration Ensues!**

On December 23<sup>rd</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Woonsocket , Rhode Island , celebrated the feast of St. Nicholas. This annual event was an opportunity for all of the St. Michael community to enjoy the innocent and strong witness of their children for Christ and His Church. The program began as several of their youngest cherubs filed into the parish hall singing the traditional hymn, “O Who Loves St. Nicholas the Saintly” in both Ukrainian and English. They were followed in the procession by St. Nicholas himself, who greeted everyone and then took a seat with the children. He read the story “The Miracle of St. Nicholas” and described its special meaning to the people of St. Michael’s. After this, the children of the parish sang Christmas songs for St. Nicholas, complete with exuberant accompaniment on tambourines and triangles. Their energy and joy were contagious! The parish youth then performed the ancient hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”, a performance that included several voice and instrumental solos. Several of the faithful in the audience were visibly moved by this presentation. Young soloists continued to provide musical entertainment as the faithful of the community enjoyed the wonderful lunch provided by the Ladies’ Sodality. This event served to reinforce the central message of faith and hope that marks the traditional Ukrainian season of *Pilipivka* and the Nativity. Fr. Anthony Perkins and Seminarian Ivan Kostyshyn are pictured with the youth and children of St. Michael’s.