

**UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**

On the tragic shooting in Newtown, Connecticut

To the Hierarchs, Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of our sister Orthodox Churches in the USA,

Winnipeg, MB. On behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy, His Grace Bishop Ilarion, His Grace Bishop Andriy, the clergy, the monastics and the faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, the Office of Communications of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada expresses its profound sorrow upon learning of the Dec. 14 mass shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut that led to the deaths of 26 individuals including 20 young children.

At a time when the Christian world is preparing to greet the Feast Day of the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the tragic shooting of school children in Newtown is all the more unfathomable. What should be a time of peace and goodwill has been shattered by this terrible act of violence.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada extends its condolences to the Hierarchs, clergy, monastics and faithful of our sister Orthodox Churches in the USA, particularly those located nearest the tragic events in Connecticut. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada also extends its deepest sympathies to the families of the victims of this tragedy. We pray that our Lord will bring comfort to all those affected by these events, especially the staff and students of Sandy Hook Elementary School and the residents of Newtown, Connecticut.

With prayers,

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