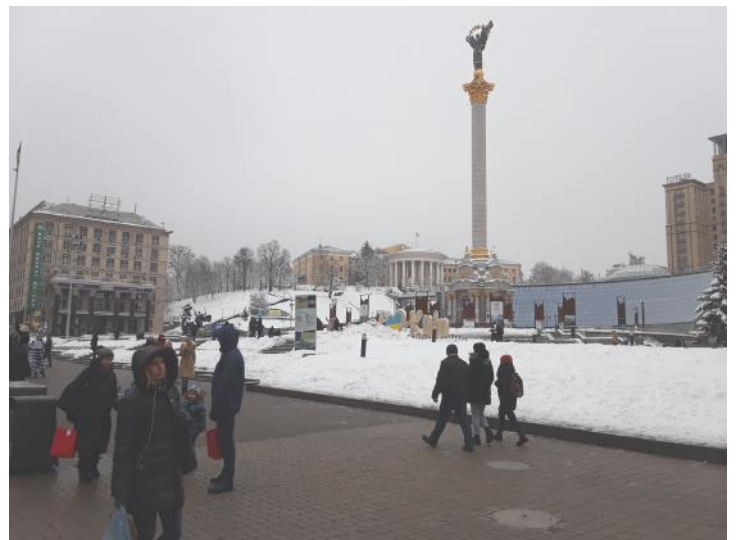
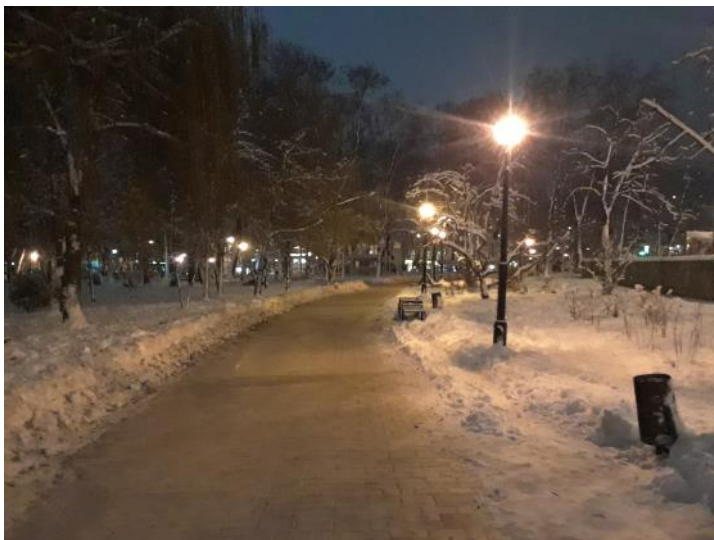


Merry Christmas in Kyiv

While here in the US Christmas Day has passed and we are awaiting the New Year, in most of Ukraine Christmas is yet to come. December 25 is now a recognized holiday and observed by western churches, but the Orthodox church adheres to the Julian calendar which places Christmas on January 7. Ukrainians will have even more reason to celebrate as Patriarch Bartholomew, First Among Equals, of the Orthodox Church, Constantinople, will deliver a Tomas, or declaration, to newly elected Metropolitan Epiphany on January 6. The church in Ukraine, to be called the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, will finally be separate from and independent of the Russian Orthodox Church after 300+ years of subservience.

(l) Taras Shevchenko guards his park, (below) walkways and park scenes and the Maidan.



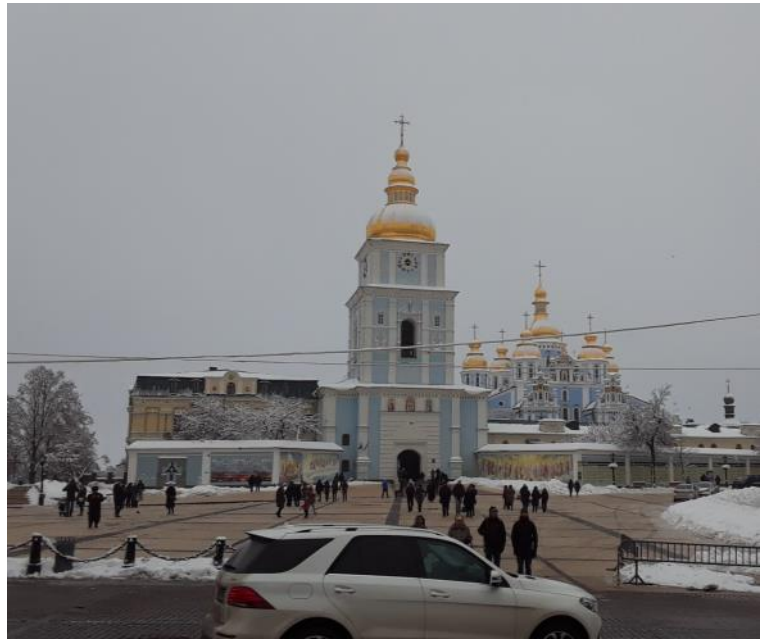


Preparations are underway to transform Saint Sophia Square in to a decorated festive holiday market and outdoor smorgasbord. Grilled meats, sausages, grilled vegetables, bakery sweets and multiple formulations of glintvien (hot spiced wine) will be available throughout the holiday season





Bogdan Khmelnytskyi guards St. Sophia Square and the national Christmas tree awaiting decorations.



(above) Many faithful visit St. Michael's of the Golden Domes. Below, Patriarch Filaret conducts a Sunday evening service at St. Volodymyr.

