



Light from Bethlehem



Happy New Year! 3 Новим Роком!

NOVEMBER 2015

SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



УКРАЇНЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



№ 1

ПІД ОПІКОЮ
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ
МАРІЇ ОДІГТРІЇ

UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN

January 4 – 2015 – 4 Січня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



St. Nicholas at "Ridna Shkola" – Зустріч зі Св. Миколаєм

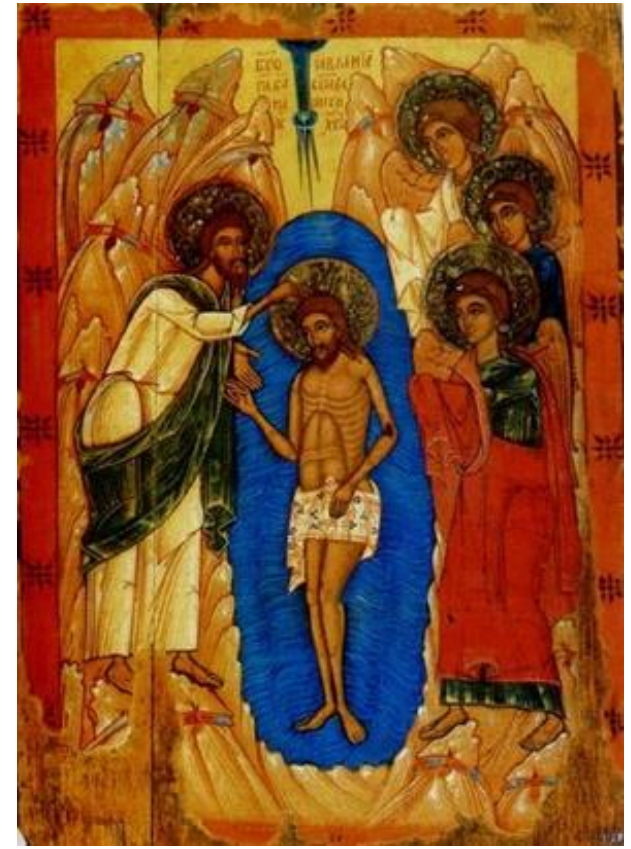


Feast Day Dinner – Празничний Обід.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Веселих Свят Різдва Христового!
ЩАСЛИВОГО НОВОГО РОКУ!



Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!
Христос Раждається! Славимо Його!

CHURCH BULLETIN
Jan. 4 – 2015 – 4 Січня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



Saint Nicholas Church
Церква Св. Миколая
(Під Опікою П.Д.М.)

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE **ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ**

4:30 PM +Jaroslawa Petriwskyj
(Marlene Bratach)

Jan. 4 S. Before Teophany – Пер. Богоявленням
12:00 PM +Anna Perhach (Louis Vathy)

Monday, January 5 Січня, Понеділок
10:00 AM +Орися Перейма – 40 д. і пан. (родина)
St. Basil Liturgy – Л. Св. Василя Вел.

Tue., Jan. 6: Theophany – Богоявлення
9:30 AM За Парохіян – For Parishioners
Great Water Blessing – Вел. Водосвяття

Wednesday, January 7 Січня, Середа
10:00 AM (see Julian)

Thursday, January 8 Січня, Четвер
10:00 AM +Fr. Mykola Stephanovych,
1st Pastor of our Parish on Ideal St.

Friday, January 9 Січня, П'ятниця
8:30 AM +Мечислава і Александер Ганицькі
(Емілія Святківська)

Sat. January 10 Січня Субота
4:30 PM За Парохія – For Parishioners

Jan. 11 S. After Teophany – По Богоявленні
10:00 see Julian

Prosphora - No noon Liturgy

The Eternal Light burns for Int. of
Anna Pawlowski
 (jn the occasion of 95th Birthday)
 Requ. by D. Tosier

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М. горить за
+Мирославу Райцу
 Пожертва: Родина Хутко

4 Січня: Н. Перед Різдом

10:00 р. For Parishioners – За Парохіян

6 Січня: Святий Вечір

10:00 в. Велике Повечеря і Різдвяна Літургія

7 Січня: РІЗДВО Г.Н.І.Х.

10:00 р. For Parishioners – За Парохіян

8 Січня:

Собор Богородиці

10:00 р. +Свящ. Микола Стефанович,
(Перший Парох нашої Парафії,
Св. о. Миколая
це на Айділ Вул.)



9 Січня: Св. Степан Первомученик

8:30 р. +Мечислава і Александер Ганицькі
(Емілія Святківська)

11 Січня: Н. По Різді

10:00 р. +Марта Боднар (Донька Марія)

Парохіяльна Просфора

Просимо принести солодке
на нашу просфору
 * * *

Parish Christmas Dinner
Baked Goods are needed for our parish
Prosphora on Sunday, January 11.
Donations of sweets
would be greatly appreciated.


Христос Раждається! Славимо Його!

Ukrainian Treasures & More



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*Membership subject to eligibility.
Federally insured by NCUA.*

Cell Phones - Мобільні Телєфони:

Please turn off or silence your cell phone before entering the church. Thank you!

Просимо вилучувати ваші мобільні телефони підчас Святої Літургії.

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Are you listening "Good Samaritan"

Ukr. Radio Program on WJLL 1440 AM Every
Sunday at 2:00 PM?

Thank you for your donations!
We welcome your comments.

Чи ви слухасте нашу радіо передачу
«Милосердний Самар'янин»
Неділя, 2 год. на WJLL 1440 AM? Сердечно
дякуємо за пожертви.

Please include Our Church
In Your charitable donations!

Просимо підтримувати Рідну Церкву
талантами, часом і жертвами.

Щоб довідатися більше інформацій про це що
діється в громаді,

Просимо відвідати веб-сторінку.

<http://www.ukrainiansofbuffalo.com>

Is the the web-page to find
More information and events
In our Ukrainian Community.

DONATIONS TO SAINT NICHOLAS

Dr. Peter Blendonohy – \$3,000.00

Timothy Hogue & Marianne Chort – \$3,000.00

“Beatification Fund” - IMO Oresta Pereyma:

Roman & Oksana Porodko – \$1,000.00

“Special Appeal” - IMO Eleanor Schudlik:

Family of Eleanor Schudlik - \$100.00

“Special Appeal” - IMO Jaroslawa Bobencyk:

Ihor Gill - \$25.00

Pereyma Family - \$25.00

Maria Bodnarskyj - \$20.00

N.N - \$20.00

Gloria Grega Long - \$15.00

“Special Appeal” - IMO Oresta Pereyma:

John & Jack Godzuk - \$150.00

Oksana Saldyt - \$100.00

Monica Winter - \$100.00

Areta & Ray Buchner / Marta & Victor Kowtun - \$100.00

Fred & Nadia Marc - \$75.00

LUC National Board - \$50.00

Lidia Hreshchyshyn - \$50.00

Elaine Nowadly - \$50.00

Dr. Ulana Loza - \$50.00

Mary Bodnar - \$50.00

Ola Czmola - \$50.00

Elsie Vaceh - \$50.00

Danusia Chutko Dmytrasz & family - \$50.00

Anna Melnyk - \$40.00

Anna Hanicki - \$30.00

Roman Ferencevych - \$25.00

Lubomyr & Sophia Holowatyj - \$25.00

Peter Petryshyn - \$25.00

Mykola & Tanya Paslawsky - \$25.00

Olena & Jim May - \$25.00

Michael & Maria Petryshyn - \$25.00

Wasył & Mary Ann Puhacz - \$20.00

Mary Hanuszczak & family - \$25.00

Markian & Lidia Stasiuk - \$ 25.00

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Roman & Chrystyna Kowowka - \$25.00

Catherine Eckhart - \$25.00

Peter & Olga Pucak - \$25.00

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Walter & Olga Jagodzinski - \$20.00

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Maria Malaniak - \$20.00

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Halyna Biloholowskyj - \$20.00

Eugene Corcoran - \$20.00

Olga Slabyk - \$20.00

Gloria Grega Long - \$15.00

Bozena Drozd - \$10.00

Joanne Bader - \$10.00

Marilyn Glascott - \$10.00

Eva Kowtalo - \$10.00

Wasył Kurlak - \$10.00

“Special Appeal” - IMO Mary Beth Sukmann:

Pereyma Family - \$100.00

Joe & Judie Hawryluk - \$100.00

Michael & Maria Petryshyn - \$50.00

LUC National Board - \$50.00

Andrew Diakun - \$50.00

Elaine Nowadly - \$50.00

Fred & Nadia Marc - \$40.00

Andrij & Maria Petryshyn - \$30.00

Maria & George Paszkowsky - \$25.00

Michael & Sue Klimeczko - \$25.00

Peter & Olga Pucak - \$25.00

Olena Czmola May - \$25.00

Ola Czmola - \$25.00

Iryna Staszkiw - \$25.00

Anna Holowaty - \$25.00

Jaroslav & Helen Moczerniak - \$20.00

Markian & Lidia Stasiuk - \$20.00

Dolores Baranyckyj - \$20.00

Bill & Ann Serediuk - \$20.00

Maria Bodnarskyj - \$20.00

Anna Poliszczuk - \$20.00

Ulana Loza - \$20.00

Gloria Grega Long - \$15.00

Joanne Bader - \$10.00

Eva Kowtalo - \$10.00

Rose Serediuk - \$10.00

Donations towards Coffee Hour:

Christine Stasiuk Farion & Eva Kowtalo

The Ukrainian American Youth Association of Buffalo, New York Lesia Ukrainka Branch is pleased to announce their annual

Ukrainian New Year's Dance

MALANKA 2015

Saturday, January 17th, 2015

Ukrainian Cultural Center "DNIPRO"
562 Genesee St, Buffalo, NY 14204

Come one come all to a night of great music, dancing, food & friends!!

MUSIC provided by "My Razom" of Rochester

Tickets sales thru January 10th, 2015

Dinner & Zabava \$50 per person adults
Dinner & Zabava for students (ages 13-18) \$30

***Dinner tickets will be pre-sale only

NO dinner tickets will be available at the door!***

Zabava only \$30 (no pre-sale necessary)

Cocktails: 6:30pm, Dinner 7:15pm
Zabava: 9:00pm

There will be a Midnight Snack & Champagne Toast

For More Information, Questions, Tickets & Reservations

Nicole Grega (716) 903-4777 or

ukenikkie29@gmail.com

Ann Serediuk (716) 316-1051

The Ukrainian Cultural Center "Dnipro" interior is a Smoke-Free Environment. The New York State Liquor Control Authority Strictly Prohibits The Bringing in of Any Outside Alcoholic Beverages

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ОСЕРЕДОК СУМ ім. ЛЕСІ УКРАЇНКИ
в Бофало Н.Й. Влаштує

ТРАДИЦІЙНУ МАЛАНКУ 2015

в суботу 17-го січня 2015 р.

В залах Українського Дому "Дніпро"
при 562 Дженесі вул. Бофало Н.Й.

Щиро запрошуємо Українську громаду міста Бофало і околиць до участі.



РІЗДВЯНИЙ ЗОРЕПАД

Шановні українці, Запрошуємо вас на традиційний Гала-Концерт "РІЗДВЯНИЙ ЗОРЕПАД".

Linehan Chapel,
Rochester New York
Golisano Academic Centre
at Nazareth College

17 січня 2015
4245 East Avenue,
Rochester, NY 14618

У програмі:

- Народна артистка України
- Ніна Матвієнко
- Суперфіналісти телерадіо проекту "Х-Фактор", ансамбль
- "Тріода"
- Фіналіст конкурсу "Талос України"
- Володимир Окілько
- Заслужені артисти України
- Назарій та Дмитро Яремчуки
- З новою програмою

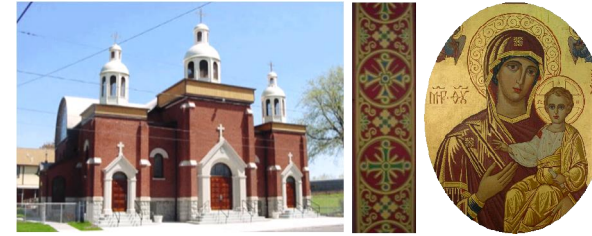
17-го Січня 2015 року Божого, у приміщенні "Linehan Chapel - Calisano Academic Centre at Nazareth College - 4245 East Avenue, Rochester, NY, 14618", відбудеться грандіозний-благочинний концерт «РІЗДВЯНИЙ ЗОРЕПАД», за участю заслужених та народних артистів України: Ніни Матвієнко, Назарія та Дмитра Яремчук, Володимира Окілько та гурту «Тріода». Для допомоги пострадалим воїнам у боротьбі на східних теренах України.

Вартість - \$50 (концертна програма)

VIP - тільки 75 квитків

Вартість - \$125 - включає (16-го Січня о 5:00 вечора - зустріч з артистами, спільна вечеря в ресторані та концертна програма)

Квитки можна замовити (лише до 11-го Січня за номером телефону 585-266-4036 | 914-312-3690, або просимо зголоситися до парохії



Sunday Coffee Hours: If anyone would like to volunteer to host a Sunday, please contact Elaine, Emily, Mary (B) or Anna.

- KITCHEN is now open.
- Thank you for your patronage. We need your help in the kitchen. Thank you!
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- St. Nicholas Prospora Dinner – Sunday, January 11. No noon Liturgy that day.

TOP'S GIFT CARDS:

Please help us raise money for our Church by purchasing Top's Gift Cards from us. If you buy in Tops anyway, why not help. You do not lose or gain anything by doing this, but our Church will benefit greatly. We receive back 5% of your spending. To take advantage of this program, see Mary Bodnar or call 655-3810, or call the rectory. Thank you and God Bless!

Please note: You can purchase gasoline with this card at Tops Gasoline Station.

У нас успішно продаються Карточки з крамниці "Топс". Купуючи їх ви помагаєте церкві. Для Вас не робить різниці чи ви платили грішми чи карточкою, але церква дістане від „Топс” 5%. На \$1,000 церква одержить \$50. Що б закупити слід звертатися до п. Марії Боднар, або до канцелярії. Дякуємо!

CHURCH BULLETIN is published weekly.
Deadline for information is Friday Evening.
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК видається тижнево.
Інформації подавати до П'ятниці вечора.

SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ

(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІПТРИЇ)

Parish E-Mail: stnbuffalo@yahoo.com

Web Page: <http://www.stnbuffalo.com>

Dioc. Web: <http://www.stamforddio.org>

308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

Rectory: (716) 852-7566

Fax: 855-1319 ~ Kitchen: 852-1908

Confession: Before Liturgies

Сповідь: Перед Св. Літургіями

Baptism: By appointment

Хрещення: За домовленням

Marriage: Contact 6 months in advance

Вінчання: Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

Religion classes – Релігійна Програма

Субота - Saturday

Ministry to the sick - Опіка над xvorymy

Family members should call the Rectory

Родина повинна повідомити священика

IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME

В разі потреби завжди можна закликати

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor & dean

Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

Please call if you are hospitalized,
homebound and need a priest.
Просимо закликати якщо ви у ліжниці
або приковані до ліжка!

In Memoriam – Вічна Пам'ять!

Fell asleep in the Lord
+Mary Bumbar (nee Zuk)



(Aug. 1, 1922 – Dec. 31, 2014)

Beloved wife of the late Wasyl Bumbar;
devoted mother of Ursula (late Dymitr)
Syhlowyj; grandmother of Michael and Steven
Syhlowyj; sister of Kataryna Rucinski.

Online condolences at www.Pietszak.com.

To the Family we extend our sympathy.

May she rest in peace!

Eternal Memory! Vichnaya Pamiat!

Упокоїлася в Господі Св. пам.

+Марія Бумбар (був. Жук)

(1. VIII. 1922 - 31. XII. 2014)

Родині складаємо співчуття
а їй хай буде Вічна Пам'ять!

Книжки зі знімками і адресами
можна закупити за \$5.

Directory for sale \$5 – We have Parish
Directories on Sale for \$5.00 each.

There is a complete listing of
all parishioners in the directory.
See Elaine after the Liturgy.

Наша Річна Просфора, Різдв'яний Обід
На другу неділю, 11 Січня.
Пожертва \$10.

Просимо принести солодке.

Annual Parish Prospora
is scheduled for Sunday, January 11, 2015
after the 10:00 Liturgy.

There will be no Noon Liturgy that Sunday.
Suggested donation for the Prospora
is \$10.00.

Please bring baked goods

Насипні релігійні зустрічі дітей
17 Січня о 9. Год. рано

This is a reminder for parents whose children
are enrolled in our parish Religious Education
Program. The next Saturday Religion Class
is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015 at
9:00AM. Religion classes are scheduled
from 9:00AM - 12:30PM.

Діти до першої сповіді
та торжественного Св. Причастя
повинні також бути у суботу 17 Січня,
щоб відповідно приготувитися.

Children receiving First Penance and Solemn
Communion this coming May, are required to
be in attendance that Saturday, Jan. 17,
In order to be ready for that big event.

Letter from Fr. Ray Jan. 4, 2014 A.D.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! IC XC NI KA
Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Dear _____
(say your name right here for your very own personal letter)

“Riiiiip”! That’s the sound of the last page of the
calendar being ripped off! ☺ So far, so
good....Every time I had to write the date on
something for this new year, I succeeded in writing
2015! You laugh, but it does take us a while to get
used to putting that new date in our brains,
especially when we write checks or other important
items during these early days of January.

So Happy New Year to you, my Dear One! May God
bless you and keep you in the New Year of 2015 that
we have just begun. May your journey into the
unknown days ahead, be one that is blessed always
with the presence of our God as you keep the eyes
of your soul fixed firmly on the goal ahead, our
destination of Life in Him. One day at a time....one
day at a time! God grant you many happy years!

We are still in the time of the “High Holy Days” of
our church, and are definitely still in the time of
remembering our loved ones, wherever they are,
whether in this life, or already gone before us to life
eternal. And I remember you during this special time
of Christmas cards and memories and love!

I hope you had a beautiful and blessed Christmas
Day, and Christmas Week. Thanks God, everyone
was healthy and happy in our house, as well as the
rest of the family. A further blessing received was
that we got to view Christmas through the eyes of
our little ones, here and in Pennsylvania. It is really
true that the message of Christmas, to be clearly
seen, must be viewed through the eyes of the little
children, “for such is the Kingdom of Heaven.” Oh
the beauty, oh the wonder, oh the excitement! God
bless the youngsters for showing us the Christ child
and for once again telling us the meaning of
Christmas!

It makes me remember my buddy, ‘Good ol’
Charlie Brown’ and the awesome and holy story of

Christmas as told by Charles Schulz. In the cartoon,
Charlie becomes increasingly frustrated as he
laments the commercialization of Christmas and the
non-caring people around him. His struggle builds,
until at last he can’t take it anymore, and cries out:
“Will somebody tell me what Christmas is about?”
That prompted Linus, the resident theologian, to
take center stage and say this: “*And the angel said
to them: ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring unto you good
tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For
unto you this day is born in the City of Bethlehem a
Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a
sign unto you: you shall find the babe wrapped in
swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.’ And
suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the
heavenly host, praising God, and saying, ‘Glory to
God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will
toward men. (Luke 2: 10-15)*” After reading this gospel
narrative, Linus turns to his friend and says, “That’s
what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.”

Our church was beautifully adorned with all the
special decorations, especially the poinsettias, and
it is a very easy place to be able to “lay aside all our
earthly cares,” and to “lift up our hearts to the Lord.”
I think I can safely say that Christmas Day Liturgy,
and the days following, were all beautiful, prayerful
experiences for everyone in the parish. I am always
amazed and touched by the presence, spiritual or
physical, of family, friends, ancestors and all those
who serve or have served in our parish. Their
goodness and presence is always felt, even though
not all may not be visible to us with our earthly eyes.
And even though the “Christmas octave” is now
over, we continue our 40 day celebration of the birth
of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Christ
is Born! Glorify Him!

Yesterday in our Byzantine Church we celebrated
the Feast Day of the Circumcision of our Lord as well
as the Feast Day of St. Basil the Great. We prayed
the Holy and beautiful Liturgy of St. Basil, and then
sang our “Mnohaja Lita” for our Eparchy, and being
especially mindful of Bishop Emeritus Basil (Losten)
and all the churches, priests and people, who are

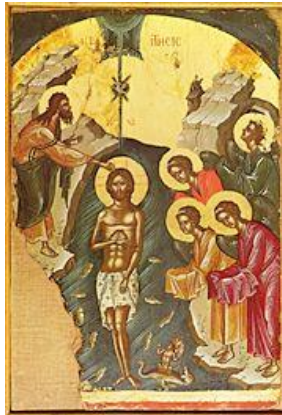
named after the Great Saint Basil as they celebrated their feast day. May God grant them many happy and blessed years.

This Sunday we will be having our monthly coffee hour after the Liturgy at Holy Protection in 'the Falls.' If it is ever possible for you to come one of these times on the first Sunday of the month, please do not hesitate to join us. Every month is a special gathering in the downstairs hall immediately following our 9:30am Liturgy. We remember our parishioners and guests who are having a birthday, anniversary or any other special event during the month to come and we acknowledge them. Also the ladies ALWAYS have a great "coffee hour!!" It is actually a very delicious light meal which differs according to the cooks for that particular month, as well as the time of the year. (We have fasting meals during fasting times.) So consider yourself invited and we can't wait to see you! It will be worth the trip.

With this Sunday, we, on the 'new calendar' now turn our attention to the coming feast of the Theophany, while our brethren who pray according to the 'old calendar' are preparing for the days of Christmas we have just passed. For all of us, it is a time of great joy and blessings. Soon the knock on your door, or the ring of the doorbell, won't be the Fuller Brush Man, or the meter reader, but it will be your priest, carrying the newly blessed Jordan water and asking to be invited to your home to bring the blessing of the Lord to you and yours.

I was pretty good last year, at least I didn't get any coal in my stocking. Thanks to all the *St. Nicholases* and *Santa Clauses* for all the special thoughts, prayers and gifts. You are so generous in everything you do for us. God bless you and reward you a hundred fold!

Every gift received was thoughtful, meaningful and useful. I did, however, get one present which will be partly for you as we will be sharing it from time to time during the year. It's called the calendar of



Church Signs. This is a pad of sayings such as you would see and read on various church signs wherever you travel, one for each day of the year. Some are cute, some are deep, some are funny...all point to the church and to where we should be and what it is that we should be doing as the days go by. (For example, on a church near us we read: "God wants full custody, not just weekend visits." This is the second year I've gotten this present (they are different each year). Thanks Uncle Lar and Aunt Chris! The final page for December 31, 2014 said, "The end is but the beginning." Perfect! The end of 2014 is exactly that....but the beginning of the steps

we now begin to take into the rest of our life. Christians always love new beginnings, be it a baptism, first Eucharist, wedding, first day of school, first confession.....whatever. We are always looking for the ways we can start over and begin again. On this civil holiday of New Year's that's exactly what we do. We take the pagan festivals and the noise and commotion of the holiday and 'baptize' it, and make a holy and good thing for our souls. Make your resolutions and keep them; set your eyes on the distant goal and never falter! Indeed, let this end of the year, be our new beginning!

There is a full moon this weekend called the Wolf Moon (Indians used to hear the howling wolves), Old Moon or Moon after Yule. The moon will begin to wane, but when we look up we see the beautiful new beginning of the days ahead packed in that glowing ball in the sky. Glory to God!

May God bless all your comings and goings in this year ahead. May He bless you and show you His countenance and let His light shine upon you. Our Holy Lady Theotokos protect you! Happy New Year!

In His Love,

Fr. Ray

" SOCKS for SOLDIERS "

A collection is being held during the new and old calendar Christmas season for new socks for Ukrainian soldiers. Winter is upon us and the need is great for dark color work socks in either a wool or heavy duty cotton blend.

Please do not give used socks or dress socks.

Monetary donations will be used to purchase additional socks and to cover shipping costs.

Checks may be made out to: Ukrainian American Freedom Foundation a IRS tax deductible 501C3 charity.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Thank you, Gloria (Slava)

Grega Long - 852-2964



" Шкарпетки Воякам "

Підчас цієї Різдвяної пори проводимо збірку

Шкарпетки Українським Воякам

Просимо Вас подарувати пару нових робочих шкарпеток вовняний або бавовняний вибір темної краски.

Грошові датки будуть використині на додатковий закуп шкарпеток

і на висилку.

Христос Раждається!

Славимо Його!

Проект «Милосердний Самарянин» "Good Samaritan" Project



Ви всі одержали конверт з листом і побажаннями на Свята, як рівно ж 2 білети на виграшу. Розграватимемо на Просфорі в Св. Івана Хрестителя в Кенморе, 18. Січня.

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The sixth resolution of the Sobor 2013, states: To recognize those less fortunate in our parishes and in the world and show Christian love to them by performing community acts of charity. We continue to facilitate, with His Excellency Bishop Paul's approval, and the unified participation of all the Buffalo Deanery parishes - the "Good Samaritan Deanery Project". This project is an ongoing effort to perform charitable works on a Deanery level towards our Ukrainian Catholic community both locally and globally.

We sent 2 tickets for "G. S." raffle.

Winners will be announce on January 18 in Kenmore, at their Prosphora Dinner.



Envelopes & Calendars are ready.

Please take them.

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Конверти і Календарі приготовані.
Просимо забрати.

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

Christ is born! Let us Glorify Him! On this Sunday just after New Year's Day, we are celebrating the Sunday before Theophany: when the time of Bethlehem and Nazareth are drawing to an end. After about thirty years of hidden life, which were made holy by humble work with his hands and by obedience, Jesus is soon to be revealed to the world. In the same way, that in spirit, we went to the manager at Bethlehem, we shall go guided by the angels, toward the river Jordan where our Holy Father will reveal His Son. Not only does our Church associate herself with the joy of the angels who will be present at the baptism of Christ, but Holy Church also invites each of us to draw nearer to the Jordan River, and tells us what it is that we will receive there: "Let us the faithful prepare with just praise for the baptism of our Lord. Behold, He has put on our flesh and asks for the baptism of salvation so that He might regenerate all those who, in purity, have been illuminated by faith; all those who share in His Spirit." These words indicate briefly and precisely the double purpose of the grace which Theophany brings to us. On the one hand, it is our grace for purification and for the remission of sins; on the other hand it is also our grace for illumination and participation in the Holy Spirit. Both the Gospel and Epistle readings for today are devoted to the memory of St. John the Baptist, who at Theophany, itself, is the one who in a way - presented Jesus to the world. The Gospel brings us the austere figure of John, preparing the way, crying in the wilderness, preaching the baptism of repentance, announcing that another will come after him who will baptize us not with water, but with the Holy Spirit. In the Epistle, St. Paul urges his disciple Timothy to watch vigilantly, to endure afflictions, and to do the work of the evangelist, making "full proof of his ministry", which is also the call that the Church addresses to John the Baptist, to accomplish the chief act of his ministry, which is to baptize Jesus and to proclaim to the world: "Behold, the Lamb of God".

Theophany is the appearance of God, where indeed the Holy Trinity manifested itself, after our Lord's baptism in the river Jordan. In this mystery, Christ reveals Himself as the Messiah and Savior. As Christ is baptized, the voice of His Heavenly Father bears witness to the divine mission of Jesus: "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11). The Holy Spirit bears witness

to Christ by descending upon Him in the form of a dove. John the Baptist bears witness as he points to Christ and says: "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29). God had a plan for mankind. It was for us to grow in knowledge and in wisdom, according to how we could abide it, in purity, without any knowledge of evil at all. But mankind did not choose that plan. So God, in His wisdom and compassion, sent His only-begotten Son. Salvation is the knowledge of God, but only the pure can know the pure. St. Augustine in his sermon on Theophany said: "Today we celebrate the mystery of the Epiphany on earth. Today God, by means of a star in the heavens, heralded his Nativity; and by baptism in the river Jordan, he sanctified water for the renewal of mankind; at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, he changed water into wine; and with five loaves of bread fed five thousand people."

One of the greatest stories ever told is the mystery of the Theophany of our Lord, the self-revelation of God at the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ in the river Jordan. In this Mystery, Jesus revealed Himself as the Messiah and Savior. Jesus came to the waters of the river Jordan; He stood before John the Baptist, who was uncertain of stretching forth his hands and placing them on the head of Him who sustains all things. On the Holy Day of Theophany, we have an amazing thing before us. He who created the waters submits to being baptized in them. He who created the Heavens and the earth and saw that it was good, He Himself submits to cleansing in waters. He who regenerates our flesh, who is the Regenerator, He descends in the flesh into regenerating waters. And Christ does this to show us how necessary it is to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and cleaned by the waters of grace. To know Christ, we must be like Him. In the Gospel of Matthew 7:20, we read: "Thus by their fruits you will recognize them". Our Christian life in the flesh is to try to acquire the virtues, to acquire the knowledge and grace, to acquire the Holy Spirit, as many have done before us through the fruits of our labors, by fasting, by diligence, by care, by prayers, by repentance, by devotion to God, by the whole Christian life. By His baptism in the Jordan, Jesus sanctified water for the renewal of mankind. The Church blesses water. This is called the great blessing, and in it we read amazing passages from the Old Testament about water and its sanctifying qualities. And then we take this water and use it to sanctify our homes, our souls, and one another.



Christmas Message of His Beatitude Sviatoslav

To Most Reverend Archbishops and Metropolitans, God-loving bishops, reverend clergy, venerable monastics, beloved brothers and sisters in Ukraine and in the diaspora.

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)

Christ is born!

It is with these words of the heavenly messenger that the Church of Christ announces the news of salvation. Today the Savior is born to us; the Lord came down to earth and appeared in the flesh in the town of Bethlehem. Heaven and earth exult today, and the whole of humanity is filled with gladness for our Creator did not abandon His creation, but came to share in its destiny. He became man to share in man's life: in its pains and joys, tribulations and uncertainties. The Lord becomes one of us, He manifests Himself as our Savior and Redeemer.

During the feast of Christ's Nativity we are rejoicing because we no longer feel abandoned or alienated; we are celebrating the fact that God is with us, that He loves us. We see the love of God incarnate in the newborn child Jesus, sleeping tenderly on the hay in a manger. The mystery of the Nativity of our Savior makes manifest for us the truth about the powerful divine nature appearing in the weak human one, about small and trivial human affairs transcending themselves to become great in God.

The Holy Gospel tells us that the Lord of the Universe was born to a family of refugees. At first, because of Caesar's decree, and then due to the tyranny of King Herod, the Holy Family had to abandon its home and ask others for help. Our God deemed it worthy to be born as a refugee and homeless. In these circumstances, only the Wise men from the East as well as all those who were not

ashamed of being close to the needy, refugees or the persecuted, had the privilege of being near the Divine Child. Those people opened to Him the doors of their hearts, of their homes, saw the sign of salvation in the Lord born in a manger and, as a result, they were filled with the divine joy in the dark of the night. The Mystery of Christmas is the capacity to be in God's presence and to encounter the newly born Christ through the ability of being close to those who are weak and defenseless, who suffer from cold and the lack of bare necessities.

Ukraine lived through a strange year, in which everything was bigger than life, be it hope or desolation, certainty or despair, gain or loss. The fear was also immense, the fear sent by Darkness that saw our victorious ascent unto the Light. The darkness, then, sent us pain and blood, wounds and even death in the hope that the people would be terrified of this suffering and return to the old road of silent and unquestioning subordination.

There is no Ukrainian who did not participate in this trial of Divine Providence that continues to this day. In a way, all of us are in a zone of risk, in the zone of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO). Just like those shepherds who, in their pastures heard the heavenly choirs of angels and received the news of the Savior's birth, we also have our own place of spiritual vigil, our own "security checkpoint" for our Christian and civilian mission. And even if one becomes tired and wants to escape, he is still working. In this case, however, by his passivity he gives evil a helping hand.

Our road to Christmas this year was the road to the wounded, to the forsaken. In a very literal sense, our Church became a field hospital erected to be a haven for the persecuted and healing for the injured. And even after Maidan, the Church remained that hospital, for it is her duty to be so. Pope Francis also says, "I see the church as a field hospital after the battle."

No one was prepared for this war, but the war continues and has an effect on every Ukrainian family, especially in the east of the country. There is the

danger of lessening our sensitivity towards misery and suffering of our fellow men. The Christian knows that indifference kills no less than “Grad” rockets. It is the duty of the government to resolve in a wise manner the obligation to help its suffering citizens. And it is the duty of us Christians to be near to those who are in distress. It is this Christian unity with the needy, this solidarity that makes us stronger. Through it the power of the God incarnate, the work of the Savior born to free us and make us invincible in God, is manifest and given to us.

At Christmas time, every one of us looks up to heaven hoping to see the light of the Bethlehem star. The New Year is not promising to become any easier, neither our choices any simpler. Our most important task for the year 2015 is to be on our way towards a civilized and dignified life. To achieve this we all must put on the new man, the man of God, in other words, we have to abandon all unworthy compromises with the evil one. This is the task of each and every one of us, even those who think themselves completely unimportant. This task of moving towards good is also important from the point of view of responsible citizenship, because if every Ukrainian is changed – the country will be changed also. All of us share the responsibility of clothing our nation with effective governmental structures that will no longer be structures of sin. The government can indeed be a blessing, if it starts serving people.

Both of these tasks cannot be achieved realistically without at least once experiencing feelings of doubt, or without error, or without taking a step backwards. Let not our pride fool us into thinking we are perfect; it is better to acknowledge our failings before God and humbly ask, “O God, help my powerlessness.” The humble do not lose faith in their abilities, for, as Ivan Franko writes, they “feel the Lord’s hand on their shoulders.” Let us remember, therefore, that despair, disappointment or the desire to exact revenge on those who disappointed us – these are the instruments used very effectively by the Darkness to strengthen its

lost power. Let us not help the Darkness ruin our chances. Defeat lies not in that we have unsuccessful in accomplishing everything we wanted to, but in not doing anything at all.

We also have another task, without a doubt. It is our task to pray. The Maidan overcame the odds because people there prayed sincerely. Let us not let our “adaptation” to living in a time of war lessen the intensity of our prayers. Let us do everything in our power so that our prayer for Ukraine continue in our families and communities, so that in our country, as in the poor manger of Bethlehem, would shine the light of faith, so that our hearts may be purified, and a new life continue to grow. Only then, through God’s grace, may we become the most fortunate nation on earth.

Through the dark night of uncertainties and worries, the ancestral carol is heard, dispelling every sorrow and misfortune. With this Good News of Christmas, I desire to visit every home of every person of good will who accepts the newly born God and Savior and rejoices in Christ’s Nativity.

We send today our Christmas greetings to our soldiers who will spend this holiday in cold trenches and bunkers in the front line and who are ready to sacrifice themselves for their people. Our festive greetings and wishes of everything good go to those who have lost their home and their family.

With the singing of the angels of peace on earth and glory in the highest, let us visit those who are grieving for their loss of relatives and friends, who are suffering from injuries, who are taken prisoner. Because during this Christmas night happiness wins over sadness, and the heavenly light outshines the dark, may our Savior fill us this Christmas with the power to conquer evil with good, falsehood with truth, and may the peace from heaven be triumphant over war.

To all our faithful in Ukraine and in the diaspora I wish from all my heart a joyous feast of the Nativity of Christ, tasty kutia and resounding koliada.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

+Sviatoslav



Пластова Станиця запрошує всіх на Традиційну Свічку 4-го січня зараз по 10-тій Службі Божі у церковній залі.

Through the waters of Christ, we are to be companions on this journey, bearers of God, and temples of the Holy Spirit - carriers of Christ in faith, and adorned by the garment of our salvation. Theophany is celebrated in observance of our faith - that in Christ, the light of God has spread throughout this world, and in a way that is visible to all people. For no one can know the Father without the Son, as the Son is both Revealer and Creator - and no one may know the Son, except in pleasing the Father. This season of Theophany is a time to focus on the meaning of Christ’s appearance here on earth. It is the story of how our Lord revealed Himself to the world. Today, we need to be conscious of the Lord in our lives, because our Lord is constantly placing signs along our journey’s way. It was Christ who asked us to approach Him with the heart of a child, and in doing so the Mystery of God is revealed through each of us, extending outward, to one another. But first, we have to recognize that each of us is indeed a child of God, and that we each carry gifts, talents the Lord has given us, which are meant to be shared with each other. People will indeed know that we are Christians by the fruits of our labor and by our love for one another.

‘I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. Because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something I can do’. I am

a child of God, a vision of His creativity in the universe. It is the Lord who works His miracles through me. I am a member of God’s Church, an active participant of my faith. I contribute to the glory of the Kingdom of God here on earth. By spreading the Word of the Lord in the hearts of all those I meet. I am master of my destiny, but I still need the Divine Master to direct me. I cannot do great things alone, but I can do small things with great love. I am never alone, I trust completely in the Lord who walks beside me. Therefore, I refuse to neglect the lonely or disheartened. I am a defender of God’s truth, an instrument of His peace. I will not refuse to pardon or forgive those who hurt me. Because the Lord who was forsaken, has never abandoned me. I will become a friend to everyone, much like the Lord is my Divine Friend. I will visit the sick, comfort the lonely, and shelter the homeless. I am a beacon of light, a harbor of safety, since the Lord is my Divine Light. Darkness will not overshadow me, evil will not overtake me. I will live as a child of God, a symbol of His unconditional love. I will not walk away from those in need, but I will choose to need the Lord. It is true, I am only one, but still I am one. I choose to make a difference today and every day. Because of the One Solitary Life who lives in me. The One in whom we are saved.

The Feast of the Theophany of our Lord is among the most ancient and greatest feasts of the Ecclesiastical Year. There is responsibility placed upon all of us, because of the grace we have been given through our baptism. St. John the Baptist further reminds us that while he baptizes with water, the One has come, the Messiah, who will baptize us with the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever - and that He would never leave, nor forsake His people. Jesus did not leave things the way He found them. Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, Jesus continues to inspire the goodness within people of all walks of life, in all places and at all times. We, who walked in darkness, have seen a great light. And that light has appeared to us through the Theophany of our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. Today, we need to be reminded of our place in God’s Kingdom and our acceptance of Jesus and His ministry, as members of His Church and our Ukrainian Catholic faith. Everything that we do is sacred, and it makes us responsible for living according to how we have promised to live.

Христос Хрещється! В ріці Йордані!