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Our Church Web-Page Is:  
<http://www.stnbuffalo.com>

Buffalo Community Web-Page Is:  
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N<sup>o</sup>  
04

**SAINT NICHOLAS  
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**



**УКРАЇНЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА  
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ**

**UNDER THE PROTECTION  
OF MOTHER OF GOD**



**ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ  
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ**

**CHURCH BULLETIN - N<sup>o</sup>04**  
**January 22 - 2012 - 22 Січня**  
**ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК - Ч.04**

Eastern Christian Studies Program  
Spring Session  
**May Your Life Be A Living  
Icon of Jesus Christ**  
February 24-26, 2012

CONTACT US!  
St. Basil Seminary  
195 Glenbrook Rd.  
Stamford, CT 06902

203-324-4578  
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Fax: 203-357-7681

[www.stbasilseminary.com](http://www.stbasilseminary.com)  
[stbasilcollege@optonline.net](mailto:stbasilcollege@optonline.net)

Господи Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй нас  
грішних! Oh Lord, Son of God, have mercy on us!

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Jan. 22: 32 S. aft. Pent. – 32 Н по ЗСД. **TV7**

12:00 AM +fr. Ihor Stets

Mon., January 23 – Понеділок, 23 Січня

9:15 AM +Helene Mysliwicz, Anna Jussela,  
Florence & John (Jim)

Tue., January 24 – Вівторок, 24 Січня

8:15 AM +др. Мирослав Грещишин і пан.  
(родина)

Wed., January 25 – Середа, 25 Січня

8:15 AM За Боже благословенн (20 річни-  
ця шлюбу Наталії (Середюк) і др.  
Андрія Солочинського (Наталка)

Thu., January 26 – Чет., 26 Січня

12:00 PM +Mary Temo 40 d. & panachyda  
(Mary Ann DuBois)

Fri., Jan. 27 – П'ятниця., 27 Січня

8:15 AM +John & Mary Colomon  
(Nadine Burkholder)

Sat., January 28 – Субота, 28 Січня

9:00 AM +Maria Trojan (Anna Bucierka)  
4:30 PM for Natalia Serediuk & Andrew  
Soloczynskij - 20 Wedding An-  
niversary (Rose Serediuk)

Jan. 29: 33 S. aft. Pent. – 33 Н по ЗСД. **TV8**

12:00 AM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

Eternal Light burns for  
+John & Olga Sukmann  
Requ. By Mary Beth

Вічне Світло в честь ПДМ горить за  
+Ольгу і Юрія Попадин  
Requ. By Joanne Bader

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!  
Христос Хрищається! В Йордані!

## ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

22 Січня: Н. По. Богоявленні **TV7**

10:00 р. За Український Нарід

29 Січня: 32 Неділя (Про Закхєя) **TV8**

10:00 р. +Северин Левицький (Сірий  
Лев) і + Членів Пластової Ст.

## FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

PLEASE RETURN your 2012 Registration Card found in the beginning of your envelope box, even if your information has not changed. We need to have a yearly updated list of parish parishioners Please also include e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers. We will only use cell phone numbers when we need to get in touch with you and cannot reach you at your home number. We have a parish e-mail list so that we can send parishioners information and updates that need to be sent quickly. If you have an e-mail address please include it on your 2012 registration card. If you do not have envelopes please give us your address and E-mail. If you have changed your e-mail address recently, please notify the rectory of the change of address. Let us be in touch. Thank you to those who have already notified us of changes.

Коли плянуєте дату вашого вінчання чи хрещення то просимо поговорити з парохом, щоб потім не було непорозуміння. Може статися, що в цей день буде неможливо відбутися заплановане. \* \* \*

If you are planning a Baptism or Wedding, please contact Pastor about the date before making other arrangements.

*V. Rev. Marijan Proyk*



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DNIPRO  ДНІПРО  
Ukrainian Cultural Center  
562 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14204 856-4476  
[www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com](http://www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com)

Hall and bar rentals are available.  
See your old friends on Friday night.  
Help rebuild our Ukrainian Home.  
Please Contribute to the  
\$100,000 Building Fund.  
Donations are tax deductible.

## EURO DELI AND GIFTS



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(Airport Plaza)  
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2321 Millersport Hwy  
(Getzville Plaza)  
Amherst, NY 14068  
tel. 716-688-1495

Сердечна подяка усім спонзорам!  
Просимо їх підтримати!

## Ukrainian Home Dnipro Federal Credit Union

562 Genesee St., Buffalo, NY 14204  
(716) 847-6655 (716) 847-6988

[www.uhdfcu.com](http://www.uhdfcu.com)

[info@uhdfcu.com](mailto:info@uhdfcu.com)



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=====

The Colonial Memorial Chapels, Inc.  
of Ukrainian Heritage, Serving Western N.Y.  
**Simon Pasnik & Matthew Pasnik**

3003 South Park Avenue  
Lackawanna, New York 14218  
(716) 824-3007

=====

**Melvin J. SLIWINSKI**  
FUNERAL HOME

85 George Urban Boulevard  
Cheektowaga, N. Y. 14225  
5090 Transit Rd, Depew, NY 14043

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(716) 894-1772

## UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Просимо звернути  
увагу на дати:



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

- **KITCHEN** – is open Fridays 11 AM - 3 PM. Thank you for your help and patronage.
- **Coffee Hour** - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!

**Christ is Born! Glorify Him!**

### 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 помагате 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! Також можна цією карточкою купувати бензину.

**CHURCH BULLETIN** is published weekly. Deadline for information is Friday Evening.

**ЦЕРК. ВІСНИК** видається тижнево  
Інформації подавати до четверга вечора.

## SAINT NICHOLAS

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА  
СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ  
(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ  
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРИЇ)

**Parish E-Mail:** [stnbuffalo@yahoo.com](mailto: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**

Saturday 11:45 AM – Субота 11:45 р.

**Ministry to the sick - Опіка над хворими**

Family members should call the Rectory

Родина повинна повідомити священика

**IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME**

**В разі потреби завжди можна закликати**

**Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest**

**V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor & dean**

**Please call if you are hospitalized,  
homebound and need a priest.**

**Просимо закликати якщо ви у  
лічниці або приковані до ліжка!**

## DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS

**“Special Appeal” - \$250.00**

Natalia Serediuk Soloczynskyj on the  
occasion of 20<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!



Natalia Serediuk & dr. Andrew Soloczynskyj  
*Saint Nicholas Church, Buffalo – Jan. 25, 92.*

\*\*\*

25-го Січня припадає 20 ліття вінчання  
колишньої парафіянки Наталії  
Середюк з др. Андрієм Солочинським з  
Мельборн, Австралія. Многая Літа!

**ПРОЩА ДО ЛЮРДУ І СВ. ЗЕМЛІ**  
(6-19 ТРАВНЯ, 2012)

\*\*\*

**PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDS &  
THE HOLY LAND (MAY 6-19, 2012)**

For more info call:

(519) 536-6778

Or write

**Fr. Eutimiy Wolinski**

Box 20118

Woodstock, ON Canada N4S 8X8

## 49 Відділ Союзу Українок

повідомляє, що з першого Лютого 2012 року розпочинаємо щорічну збірку на стипендії для незаможної молоді в Україні. Чеки можна виписувати на Ukrainian National Women's League. Минулорічні звіти є у реф. Стипендій.

За інформаціями просимо звертатися до референток 49-го Відділу:

Зоряни Яцишин-Банчі – 668-9504

Оксани Салдит – 832-9331

Стипендійна Акція 49 Відділу СУА

Oles & Lyubov Cheren (Cataract Press) from Clifton, New Jersey will be visiting our parish today with a large selection of UKRAINIAN BOOKS, both in Ukrainian and in English, including religious, academic, history, literature, dictionaries, arts and crafts and children's. D-V-D's, C-Ds, GREETING CARDS, SCARFS and EMBROIDERY are also available. These are displayed in the church hall. A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to our parish. We encourage our members and guests to take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity.

### The Blessings of Homes

Father will attempt to bless as many homes as possible this year. If for some reason he does not make it to your home and you want your house blessed, or if you would like a certain time of day, please let Father know.

Постараюся відвідати з благословенням домів. Якщо не буду у вас а хотіли би, що б я прийшов, або є проблема часу через працю – просимо дати знати і постарасмося прийти у відповідний час.

The Ukrainian American  
Youth Association  
of Buffalo, New York  
Lesia Ukrainka Branch

is pleased  
to announce  
their annual

## TRADITIONAL UKRAINIAN NEW YEAR'S DANCE — MALANKA

Which will take place on  
Saturday, January 28th, 2012

at the Ukrainian Cultural Center  
“DNIPRO” hall located at:  
562 Genesee Street, Buffalo, New York

All are invited to come and  
join the celebration!



Music will be  
provided by:  
“Vechirka”

Music from 9:00 pm to 1:00 am  
Champagne Toast

Tickets are \$30.00 and  
\$25 for students to 18 years

For Tickets Please Contact:

Helen Turyk	697-0807
William Serediuk	821-0711
Osyp Grega	604-4798



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

## ТРАДИЦІЙНУ МАЛАНКУ

яка відбудеться  
в суботу 28-го січня 2012 р.  
в залях Українського Дому  
“Дніпро” при 562 Дженесі вул.  
Бофало Н. Й.

Щиро запрошуємо все Українське  
громадянство міста Бофало і  
околиць до участі.

До танців приграватиме:  
оркестра

“ВЕЧІРКА”

Забава о год. 9:00 до 1:00  
“Champagne Toast”

Білеті: \$30  
\$25 для студенти до 18р.

До замовлення білетів:

Галя Турик	697-0807
Василь Середюк	821-0711
Осип Грега	604-4798

## ЗАБАВА - Pre Lenten and St. Valentine's Day DINNER-DANCE



Saturday  
February 11, 2012  
7:00pm

St. John the Baptist Ukr. Cath. Church  
3275 Elmwood Ave, Kenmore NY 14217

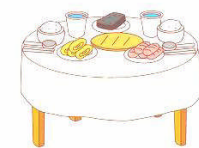
Tel: (716) 873-5011

[stjohnmyparish@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnmyparish@gmail.com)

*Parishioners and guests are invited to enjoy a relaxing evening of music and friendly atmosphere to the tunes of the band “Karpaty” from Niagara Falls, Ont., Canada.*

Tickets: ADULTS \$35.00  
Children up to 14 years old FREE  
(with parents)

Homemade Food,



Coffee,  
Desert  
and  
cash bar



will be available.

For table and tickets reservations:  
call by February 05, 2012

(716) 873-5011  
(347) 342-2208

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

## Adopt a FRIEND for a Year!

The best way to enjoy the spirit of Christmas and St. Nicholas is to GIVE. There is a group in our Parish, who have given all their lives and now due to sickness or older age, they are no longer able to give. In some ways they are forgotten. Let us put a little sunshine in their lives and here is how!

- Select a name (by contacting the rectory).
- Visit if possible at least once a month.
- Tell them what is going on in the parish.
- If possible, bring them a little gift at Christmas, their birthday, and Pascha...
- Before leaving, say a prayer with them.

The young can also take part. The elderly love the young. Rhidna Skola could make them cards or a little craft. Plast & SUM can do their share and maybe even get a badge for their good deeds. Make it a family affair. When we are young and healthy, we have a hard time squeezing in God and Church, yet when we grow older we have all the time in the world to give to God and the Church but are unable... Why not bring some sunshine into someone else's day? If this sounds like something you would be able to set aside time for, then please notify the rectory, because there are many elderly people in our Parish who could use your kindness and would greatly appreciate your company!

\* \* \*

Я свідомий того, що ми всі стараємося робити добро для інших. Все ж таки закликаю охочих зробити ще одне добре діло, в іменні Парохії, принаймні раз на місяць.

У нас певна кількість німецьких осіб, яких ми могли б відвідати і в такий спосіб принести кілька радісних хвилин у їхнє життя. Молодечі організації можуть також це зробити, нпр. заколядувати у цей час. Просимо перечетати інформації по англійськи. Дуже дякуємо.

### З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

Від найдавніших часів Східна Церква вважає освячену йорданську воду за велику святість та приписує їй чудодійну силу для душі й тіла. Святий Йоан Золотоустий у проповіді на празник Богоявлення каже: "У цей празник опівночі всі, зачерпнувши води, приносять її додому і зберігають увесь рік... І діється дивне явище: та вода у своїй істоті не псується від довготи часу, але зачерпнута сьогодні, вона через цілий рік, а часто і два і три роки зостається незіпсована і свіжа. І по таким довгим часам вона така, як і вода, щойно взята з джерела". Грецька Церква для йорданської води має назву велика "агіазма", тобто велика святість.

Колись давно у Церкві був звичай давати пити йорданську воду тим, кого через якусь провину не допущено до святого причастя. Наш народ ставився до йорданської води з такою великою набожністю, що аж до її освячення зберігав строгий піст і приймав її натще, наче причащаючись. Наші вірні кропили йорданською водою всі свої будинки й ціле обійстя, щоб відігнати від свого господарства всяку нечисту силу. І сьогодні вони радо вітають у своїх домах священика, який щорічно благословить і освячує їх і їхні дома йорданською водою.

Віру нашої Східної Церкви в силу і благословення йорданської води найкраще віддзеркалює зміст молитов та обрядів великого водосвяття. У тих молитвах багато разів призиваємо Святого Духа, щоб Він зійшов, очистив і освятив воду та надав їй лікувальної сили з користю для душі й тіла. Велика ектенія під час освячення води має аж 26 прохань, де є такі слова: "Щоб освятилися води ці силою, діянням і зішестям Святого Духа"; "Щоб на воді ці сходило очищальне діяння пресушної Тройці"; "Щоб була їм дарована благодать ізбавлення, благосло-

вення Йорданове, силою і діянням і зішестям Святого Духа"; "Щоб ми просвітилися просвіченням розуму і благочестя зішестям Святого Духа"; "Щоб вода ця стала даром освячення, ізбавлення від гріхів, на зцілення душі і тіла, і на всяку особливу користь"; "Щоб була вона на очищення душ і тілес усім, що з вірою черпають і причащаються нею".

Гарні за своїм глибоким змістом молитви йорданського водосвяття величають Пресвяту Тройцю і просять Святого Духа, щоб зійшов і сам освятив воду. Тут підкреслюється значення, сила та святість йорданського водосвяття. Ось дещо з тих молитов: "Днесь йорданські води перетворюються на цілющі Господнім пришестьям... Днесь людські гріхи йорданськими водами обмиваються. Днесь рай відкривається людям і сонце правди осяюється нам... Днесь ми ізбавилися від давнього ридання і, як новий Ізраїль, спаслися. Днесь ми від тьми визволилися і світлом богорозуміння озоруємося... Днесь світлом просвічується все створіння... Сам, отже, чоловіколюбче Царю, прийди і нині зішестям Святого Твого Духа, і освяти воду оцю. І дай їй благодать ізбавлення, благословення Йорданове, сотвори її джерелом нетління, даром освячення, розрешенням гріхів, зціленням недуг, погубною для демонів, для супротивних сил неприступною, ангельської сили сповненою, щоб усі, що черпають і причащаються, мали її на освячення душ і тілес, на зцілення від терпінь, на освячення домів, і на всякий особливий пожиток... І подай усім, що доторкаються до неї і причащаються, і помазуються нею, освячення, здоровля, очищення і благословення".

(о. Юліян Кампій „ЙОРДАНСЬКА ВОДА — ВЕЛИКА СВЯТІСТЬ”).

### From the desk of Fr. Ray Palko

CHRIST IS BORN! January 22, 2012  
GLORIFY HIM!  
CHRIST IS BAPTIZED! IN THE JORDAN!

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Your name here, for your very own personal letter)

Good Morning, hello to you, and you've got mail! I hope your letter finds you healthy and happy in the Lord!

This past Monday was the federal holiday remembering Martin Luther King, and that meant no mail delivery. I'm sure the mail carriers enjoyed the day off, but I for one, missed seeing those little red, white and blue trucks around the neighborhood. Even more, I missed seeing "stuff" in our mailbox.

Recently there has been much discussion about the financial difficulties the Postal service is having. We hope they can resolve their problems without drastic changes in the service because mail delivery is certainly an important, and very special part of our life, especially if we are not computer oriented. "That's me!" I'd hate to see it change too much. Yes, I know they bring bills and sometimes bad news, but more good things are delivered, like birthday, anniversary and Christmas cards and wonderful letters, both expected and unexpected! Thank you for the mail you send to me. I love it! ☺☺☺

The reporting of the political news has been put on the back-burner this week as the very sad story of the damaged and sinking cruise ship, *Concordia*, is in the limelight. Our prayers go out to everyone involved. First for the souls of the departed, who never thought they would die that night; then for those physically injured in the crash; for those who may still be

trapped somewhere on that once floating palace; and for all who have been affected by the tragedy. What a sad, sad event!

Because of the news reports about the captain, and his perhaps causing the accident, and then his reaction to it, I especially feel great sympathy for his family. Can you even imagine the burden they are all carrying?! What if he has children? How will they even go to school without being taunted and condemned for their father's alleged actions, both before and after the crash?! Life is certainly "like a Fiddler on the roof." One minute we are singing and dancing and hearing the beautiful music, and in the next instant everything is changed. Let us pray for all those who died and for those who have been injured in any way.



Here it is January 22 and I'm not in Washington, D.C. Today, Sunday January 22 marks the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Roe vs Wade decision of the Supreme court which "legalized" abortion in this country. For quite a few years now I have

been dreaming about being part of the "March for Life" in our nation's capital. I won't be able to get there again this year....maybe next year....But I am grateful there will once again be those great crowds of pilgrims who will be marching and praying on Sunday, and then again on Monday. Since the anniversary of the decision falls on a Sunday, the actual march will be held on Monday this year.

I will definitely be there in spirit as we accompany those thousands upon thousands of marchers with our prayers. Let us all pray for them and their well-being, but most of all let us pray for an end to abortion in this country. So many, many of the problems and hopelessness of this country are a result of what we do to those poor innocent souls in the mother's womb! *"We live in a Satanic Culture which has lost its sense of sin."* **Benedict XVI.** *"A nation that kills its own children is a nation without hope."* **John Paul II.**

Even though we are still using our seasonal Christian greetings, this Sunday marks the start of "the great overlap" in the Liturgical cycle of our Church year. No sooner do we finish the Christmas/Theophany holy days than we quickly find ourselves opening the Triodion (the Lenten Book). Today, according to the Gregorian (n.s.) calendar is the 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, when we hear the gospel about Zacchaeus. Yep, this is the day the little guy climbs up the tree! Next week we begin the first of the four Sundays of preparation, then -- Boom! -- and we are in the holy, beautiful and grace-filled time of the Great Fast.

This time of the "great overlap" when we are celebrating two, seemingly different holy days, is simply the continuation of the cycle of our year. I mentioned this a little bit two weeks ago, when I wrote about the Nativity icon and how "the Baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes" makes us aware that one day He would be wrapped in the shroud for His burial. And that is the

complete JOY of our life! What is it Father always says? "No matter where we are, or no matter what good to horrible situation we may find ourselves in, so long as we have the Lord, we have everything!" So enjoy the beauty and wonder of the season...the joy of the Baby, "Boh predvichny-God Eternal," who is born for us and for our salvation. He came, He lived among us, He suffered, He died, and then, and THEN....HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD! His resurrection becomes



our resurrection for He calls all of us to Eternal Life. How blessed we are!

So that which looks like an overlap is really the one continuing story of our life in the Lord. Our good God lives with us still! Our good God guides our life! Indeed He knows the number of the hairs on our head and knows what we need even before we ask.

What a tremendous and life-giving gift we have in our holy Faith! May it ever be growing and strong as we celebrate the life of our Lord among us!

God willing, and the creek don't rise or the snows don't pile up, I'll write to you again next week. So I hope your winter will be short and the sun will shine longer and longer for you. My dear reader, may this same good God comfort you and be with you in your joys and in your sorrows; may He cause His face to shine upon you and bless you! May our Holy Lady, the Theotokos protect you!

In His love,  
Father Ray

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

It was St. Paul who wrote in his letter to the Philippians (1:3) *"I thank my God every time I remember you."* I was in the mall the other day with my son, John Paul, trying to find him a new pair of snow pants for these Buffalo winters we experience. 'Where is that gift certificate?' I wondered out loud as I dug through my mammoth-sized purse filled with junk. The store clerk stood idly by watching me fumble through my bag for a few minutes. It was definitely time to clean out my purse. How often I avoid sorting through everything I have stuck in there for months at a time, and here I was waiting in line to pay for the snow pants. 'Maybe I should dump it in the garbage and get a new purse,' I said half-jokingly with the now impatient clerk. After the whole ordeal was over, I became motivated, so when I returned home, I dumped my purse on the bed and began cleaning it out. It surprised me how such a mundane task had become a reminder of the most important part of life – the people we love. I laughed at the receipt for my son's light-up Cars sneakers that he loved so much he tried to wear them to bed. I cried at the 'mother and son' picture John Paul drew me back in September, when he started the first grade. I reminisced about my memories of the Christmas Holiday with my family, when I came across the calendar dates and events I had tucked in my wallet, so I would not forget where to go and on which days. My mouth watered at a favorite recipe for lemon pudding cake my sister had cut out of the newspaper for me, and then I paused to study a photo of my father playing with John Paul in the snow. I came across the Barnes and Noble gift card my mother gave me to use with my son, and the ticket stubs from the last movie we went to with my friend and her two boys. Then some special rocks from my son, spilled out of the side pocket of my purse and I was filled joy as I thought of our trips to Disney, Cleveland, and Crystal

Beach this past summer; and my friend teaching John Paul how to skip rocks on the surface of the Lake Ontario. It surprised me how such a mundane task of cleaning had become such a wonderful reminder of the people I love. As I looked at the contents of my purse spread out all over my bed, I thanked God for every one of them. And just how blessed I truly am to have the family and friends I love, which the good Lord has given me.

Christ comes to us in the people we meet every day, through the gifts of love, humility, patience, and kindness. But we need to become like little children today, we need to spiritually climb the sycamore tree with Zacchaeus - so we might rise above our foolish cares and begin to see clearly that which is truly needed in our lives – a genuine relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Even Zacchaeus, experienced a humbling transformation, a conversion of his heart, and adopted a new attitude in his life. Salvation was brought to his



home, as restitution came over his heart. Let us make haste and come down from our sins and pride, make haste to humble ourselves and appreciate everything that we do have in our lives. I am not talking about our possessions, but rather the people we love and the relationship we have with the Lord, who gives us all things. Our sycamore tree is the Holy Church; from this place we look toward Christ for the forgiveness of our sins and the reformation of our lives. Zacchaeus was given a second chance to begin leading a just and righteous life. This undersized man was the least likely to succeed, the least likely to share, and the most unlikely candidate to be saved - but Jesus proclaimed him a "Son of Abraham". When we allow our lives to change course, and reflect all the fullness of God that is revealed to us through Christ Jesus – our lives are transformed in extraordinary ways. God does not love us because we are good, but we can become good because He loves us.