



Religion: After the Waterblessing (Після Водосвяття) --^

Plast Candlelight (Пластова Свічечка) --,



SAINT NICHOLAS  
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



УКРАЇНЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА  
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ

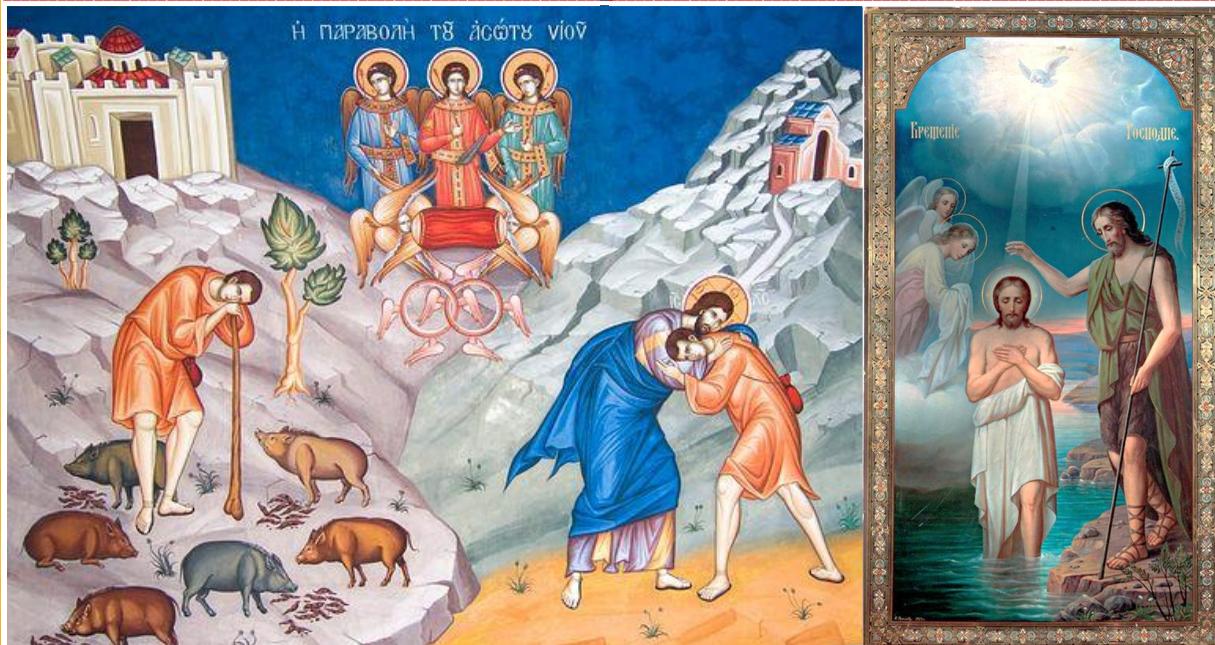


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ПІД ОПІКОЮ  
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ  
МАРІЇ ОДІПТРИЇ  
UNDER THE  
PROTECTION OF  
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN  
January 24 Січня – 2016  
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



Today we invite all of you for our Proshpora – Christmas Dinner.  
Thanks are extended to all those, who helped in any way. God Bless you!  
Сьогодні, 24 Січня, Просфора, Різдв'яний Обід. Просимо взяти участь.  
Дякуємо всім тим, що підготувляли, що принесли солодке, або у який  
небудь спосіб допомогли. Нехай Господь благословить!

**Христос Раждається! Славимо Його! – Christ is Born! Glorify Him!**

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## CHURCH BULLETIN

January 24 – 2015 – 24 Січня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



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

## ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM +Taras Sarachman (Joanne Bader)

Jan. 24. S. Prodigal Son – Блудного Сина

No NOON Liturgy – Нема Відправи

Monday, January 25 Січня, Понеділок

8:15 AM +Анна Коман (Є. Л.)

Tuesday, January 26 Січня, Вівторок

9:00 AM Int of Olga Luniw – 99<sup>th</sup> birthday

Wednesday, January 27 Січня, Середа

9:00 AM +Anna Burda (Mary Ann DuBois)

Thursday, January 28 Січня, Четвер

9:00 AM +Марія Млотковська

(Лідія Грецишин)

Friday, January 29 Січня, П'ятниця

9:00 AM +Olga Belmega

(Danusia Chutko & daughters)

Saturday, January 30 Січня, Субота

4:30 PM +Yaroslawa Petriwsky (Maria Plotycia)

Jan. 31. Meat-Fare S. – М'ясопусна Н.

12:00 PM For Parishioners - За Парохіян



→ → → ПОЖЕРТВИ ДЛЯ УКРАЇНИ ← ← ←



Please donate

For Children:

New Cloths, Shoes, Toys

For adult men:

- Socks (warm)
- Hats (winter)
- Fleece Sweaters and Pants
- Men's Thermal Top and Pants
- Undergarments
- T-Shirts

Box is in Vestibule.

24 Січня: Н. по Богоявленні

10:00 р. За Парохіян - For Parishioners

Просфора сьогодні по Св. Літургії.  
ПРОСИМО ДО УЧАСТИ!

Christmas Dinner will take place  
today after Liturgy. Please take part!

31 Січня: 30 Н. по Зісланні Св. Духа

10:00 р. В нам Володимира (Мама)

Вічне Світло в честь Пресв.  
Богородиці горить за  
МИР В УКРАЇНІ

Eternal Light burns for  
All sick and suffering

**Fell asleep in the Lord**

**+John Godzuk**

Funeral will be in OLPH

Lackawanna

Saturday, January 30 at 10 AM

Panachyda services:

Friday 7 PM &

Saturday 9:30 AM

Colonial Memorial Chapel

In Lackawanna

We extend our sympathy  
to the Family and friends.

May he rest with the Lord

Eternal memory! Vichnaya Pamiat'!

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jahawryluk@gmail.com



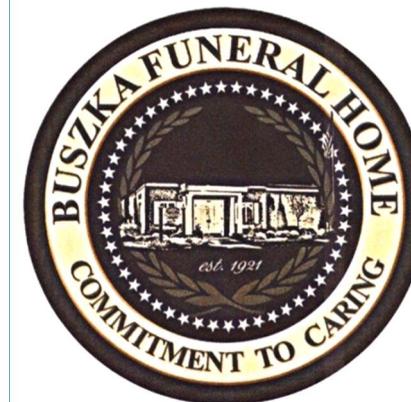
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ОЩАДНІ ТА ЧЕКОВІ РАХУНКИ | СЕРТИФІКАТИ | М.М. | ПЕНСІЙНІ РАХУНКИ | ПОЗИКИ | КРЕДИТИ НА НЕРУХОМІСТЬ | ПЛАТІЖНІ КАРТКИ VISA | MONEYGRAM | ГРОШОВІ ПЕРЕКАЗИ | ЕЛЕКТРОННІ ПОСЛУГИ |ПОСЛУГИ НОТАРІУСА| ПЕРЕКЛАДИ|СТИПЕНДІЇ|

<p><b>Buffalo Branch</b> Ukrainian Home Dnipro 562 Genesee Street Buffalo NY 14204 (716) 847-6655 <a href="http://www.rufcu.org">www.rufcu.org</a></p>	<p><b>Amherst Branch</b> Ellicott Creek Plaza 2882 Niagara Falls Blvd Amherst NY 14228 (716) 799-8385 <a href="http://www.rufcu.org">www.rufcu.org</a></p>
<p><b>Business Hours</b> Closed <b>Wednesdays</b>, Зачинені по середах Mon., Tuesday, Thursday   9:30 am - 5 pm   Пон., вівторок, четвер Friday / П'ятниця   9:30 am - 7 pm   Saturday / Субота   9 am - 1 pm  </p>	<p><b>Business Hours</b> Closed <b>Mondays</b>, Зачинені по понеділках Tuesday - Thursday   9:30 am - 5 pm   3 вівторка по четвер Friday / П'ятниця   9:30 am - 6 pm   Saturday / Субота   9 am - 1 pm  </p>

Membership subject to eligibility. Federally insured by NCUA.

Щоб довідатися більше інформації 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.

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2321 Millersport Hwy.  
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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 слухаєте 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.

**Cell Phones - Мобільні Телєфони:**  
Please turn off or silence your cell phone  
before entering the church. Thank you!

\*\*\*

Просимо вилучувати ваші мобільні  
телєфони підчас Святої Літургії.

**DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS**

- Thanks are extended to all those:
- who helped January 17 to put back the books into the Rectory and putting order into the Church Kitchen.
  - who made varenyky and prepared for our Christmas Dinner (Prosphora).
  - who volunteer during the week.
  - who help during the service in the church and with the religion.
  - who donate their time, talent and treasure.
  - who helped in any way.

**Thank You! Дякуємо!**

**Donations Towards Coffee Hour**  
(used to pay Yearly Communication Assessment Fee to the Stamford Eparchy) will be gladly accepted. The cost for food for each Sunday is about \$50.00 Using the Coffee Hour Fund money to buy supplies lets us put the entire weekly profit toward the yearly Communication Fee of \$3,600.00. Thank you for your help. – Elaine

**The Cardinal**  
One September morning, the quietness of the house was disturbed by a familiar thud. Another bird hit the window. Having been used to these occurrences, David usually ignore whenever these things happened. But that particular morning, it felt different. David was prompted to go

outside and check on the bird. Outside lay a cardinal that was seemingly lifeless. David could have easily thrown it to the garbage container nearby, but instead He picked it up and gently held it between his hands. At the same time, he was praying in between breaths: "Please don't go, God please save this little bird." Ever so slowly, the bird began to stir. David continued holding it until he felt the bird was strong enough to be released. Its beautiful red wings glistened along the snow as it slowly flew among the trees. As David went back inside the house, thoughts raced through his mind of how similar life can be for each of us... Sometimes life's troubles can seem paralyzing, making us feel incapacitated and lifeless. But, we need to take heart, for we have a God that is greater than all our troubles. If we remain faithful, He promised in Isaiah 46:4 that He will watch over us and rescue us from our troubles. Our loving God is restoring, and His mercies are new every morning.



*"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:31).*

# ЗАПРОЩЕННЯ

Булава 9-ого Відділу Ю-СУМ  
ім. Батурина  
в Бофало  
має шану запросити  
все Українське громадянство,  
на

## СУМІВСЬКУ ЯЛІНКУ

### Святagna Програма

відбудеться в суботу,  
6-го лютого 2016 р.  
о год. 1:30 по пол.  
в Українському Домі Дніпро  
при 562 Дженесі вул. Бофало.

Свят Вечірні Страви  
приготовляє  
Батьківський Комітет

З СУМІВСЬКИМ ПРИВІТОМ:

Честь України! Готов Боронити!

Булава Ю-СУМ

## House Blessing

It is the custom among many Ukrainian and Eastern Christians to have their homes blessed with the holy water sanctified on the feast of Theophany (the feast which commemorates the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan River).

### The Purpose:

The annual blessing of homes is a custom of special beauty and significance. We again ask Christ to bless and enter into our homes and our lives. We ask Him to be with us, as we desire to be with Him. We ask that by the sprinkling of blessed water, the Holy Spirit renew us, our families and our lives in our homes. As Christ brought salvation to the house of Zacchaeus; we ask the same for all those who dwell in our homes. Theologically speaking, the blessing of home constitutes an invocative blessing, meaning that by prayer and by the sprinkling of the Holy Water the priest invokes God's protection upon the home and those living in it. One of the prayers used in the blessing of homes declares: "Now, You, O Lord, protect also all those who dwell in this house from all harm and injury; grant them Jordan's blessing, purifications, which are for their salvation and life eternal." As our souls, so also our homes become tainted by the sins of those living in them and, consequently, lose God's protective power. Every year, then, at the Feast of Theophany, they should be blessed again to secure for them God's blessings and protection.

I will try to visit as many as I can, but if you would like your home blessed, and I did not come, please let me know. House could be blessed any time but we will officially end blessings February 14, 2016.

Просимо закликати якщо я у вас ще не був, а ви хотіли би, щоб поблагословити вашу хату.



Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory for ever!  
Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава на віки!

- KITCHEN is closed until January 17.
- Thank you for your patronage.  
Thanks are extended to all who are helping!
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. We are able to continue, so please join us downstars. Thank you!

Until we meet next Sunday...

### 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 ОДІГІТРІЇ)

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 - Субота

**Ministry to the sick – Опіка над хворима**

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

Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

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

Просимо закликати якщо ви у лічниці  
або приковані до ліжка!

## The Saints on Sundays, 2016

January 24/February 6

Ven. Xenia of Rome



Saint Xenia of Rome, in the world Eusebia, was the only daughter of an eminent Roman senator. From her youth she loved God, and wished to avoid the marriage arranged for her. She secretly left her parental home with two servants devoted to her, and set sail upon a ship. Through the Providence of God she met the head of the monastery of the holy Apostle Andrew in Milassa, a town of Caria (Asia Minor). She besought him to take her and her companions to Milassa. She also changed her name, calling herself Xenia [which means “stranger” or foreigner” in Greek].

At Milassa she bought land, built a church dedicated to St Stephen, and founded a woman’s monastery. Soon after this, Bishop Paul of Milassa made Xenia a deaconess, because of her virtuous life. The saint helped everyone: for the destitute, she was a benefactress; for the grief-stricken, a comforter; for sinners, a guide to repentance. She possessed a deep humility, accounting herself the worst and most sinful of all.

In her ascetic deeds she was guided by the counsels of the Palestinian ascetic, St Euthymius. The sublime life of St Xenia drew many souls to Christ. The holy virgin died in 450 while she was praying. During her funeral, a luminous wreath of stars surrounding a radiant cross appeared over the monastery in the heavens. This sign accompanied the body of the saint when it was carried into the city, and remained until the saint’s burial. Many of the sick received healing after touching the relics of the saint.

### Troparion — Tone 3

Living the life of a stranger in the world, / you estranged yourself from every sin; / you abandoned comforts and fleeting honors / and betrothed yourself to your Immortal Bridegroom. / Glorious Xenia, entreat Christ our God to grant us His great mercy.

### Kontakion — Tone 2

We celebrate the memory of the life you lived as a stranger in the world, / and as we honor you with love, O Xenia, / we praise Christ, who gave you power to grant healing to all; / ever pray to Him on our behalf.

<http://oca.org/saints/lives/2015/01/24/100286-venerable-xenia-of-rome-and-her-two-female-servants>

## Sunday of Prodigal Son

“Today we find ourselves face-to-face with the elder son. All his life he had lived side-by-side with his father, all his life he had made his father’s interests his concern - he had worked hard, faithfully, forgetful of self, without paying attention to tiredness, without claiming any reward just because he felt it was right to do so. There was something indeed lacking in him - a warmth, a tenderness, a joy in his father. But there was one thing which is so impressive in him - his faithfulness; in spite of the fact that his heart was not aglow, he remained faithful. In spite of the fact that he received no visible reward or no visible acknowledgement he remained faithful, he worked, as he says - he slaved.

How hard we are when we think of him as of one who deserves little of our sympathy; but how few of us are capable of being so faithful, so perfectly and steadily obedient to the call of duty as he was when we are not met with recognition, do not hear a word of encouragement, do not receive the slightest reward because, as the father did with regard to the elder son, those who surround us, those whom we serve, for whom we slave perhaps, those whose interest is at the very centre of our life, take it for granted. Isn’t it natural? Isn’t he my son? Isn’t he my father? Isn’t he my brother? Isn’t he my spouse? Isn’t he my friend? Doesn’t all this imply total, unlimited devotion which is its own reward?

How cruel we are so often to the people who surround us and who are put by us in the position of the elder son - never recognised and always expected to do the right thing unflinchingly and perfectly.

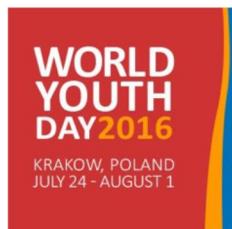


Indeed, the prodigal son had warmth, the prodigal son had come back broken-hearted, he was ready to become new, while the other one could only go on, plod on with his stem faithfulness; unless - unless, confronted with the father’s compassion, he understood what it meant that his younger brother had been truly dead and had come to life, had been truly lost and was found.

Let us think of ourselves. We, all of us, have someone around us whom we treat with the same coldness with which we think of the elder brother; but also all of us have someone whom we treat as contemptuously and harshly as the elder brother treated his younger brother whom he had written off, who was no brother to him; he had been unfaithful to their father, he was unforgivable. And yet, here was the father, the victim of the son’s rejection, light-mindedness, cruelty, who forgave wholeheartedly and tenderly.

Let us find our own place in this tragic and beautiful parable because then we may find our way, either out of being the elder son, though perhaps so much less dutiful, so much less honest, so much less devoted to the interests of our father, our friends, our relatives; or else perhaps, can we find in our heart a creative sympathy for the younger son and learn from him first that there is never a situation out of which a honest repentance, a turn-about cannot bring us and that there is one at least - God - and probably one person, or many, who are ready to receive us, redeem us, restore us and allow us to begin a new life together - father, younger and elder brother.” (Metr. Anthony Sourozh)

[http://www.mitrass.ru/eng/eng\\_103.htm](http://www.mitrass.ru/eng/eng_103.htm)



БЛАЖЕННІ МИЛОСЕРДНІ БО ВОНИ ЗАЗНАЮТЬ МИЛОСЕРДЯ (Матея 5.7) Є ЦЬОГОРІЧНОЮ ТЕМОЮ ВСЕСВІТНЬОГО ДНЯ МОЛОДІ В РОЦІ БОЖОГО МИЛОСЕРДЯ.

Дорога молоде, цього року літом від 3 24 липня по 1 серпня в місті Кракові, Польща буде відбуватися Всесвітній День Молоді, якій організує Католицька Церква. Численні молодіжні групи з різних дієцезій і єпархій всього світу братимуть участь в цій події. Наша Стамфордська Єпархія також організує поїздку до Кракова на День Молоді.

Наш Дорогий Владика Павло щиро заохочує молодих хлопців і дівчат нашої Стамфордської Єпархії взяти участь в цій незабутній "Once in a lifetime" події.

Бажаючих взяти участь в цій поїзці на Всесвітній День Молоді прошу зголоситися до кінця цього місяця позвонивши за номером 917-975-1057

Для більшої інформації подаю офіційну веб сторінку ВДМ

<http://www.krakow2016.com/en/>

З молитвою ваш у Христі  
о. Євген Хомин, ЧСВВ

Eparchial Director of Youth Ministry

Dear young people this summer from July 24th through August 1st in Kraków, Poland, will take place World Youth Day, sponsored by the Catholic Church. Numerous young people from all over the world will attend this gathering. Our Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford is organizing a pilgrimage to Kraków for the 2016 WYD. Our dear Bishop Paul Chomnysky strongly encourages young men and women 18-30+ years of age of our Eparchy, to participate in this unforgettable once in a lifetime event.

Those who wish to go to Poland this summer for WYD please reply by the end of this month by calling telephone number 917-975-1057. For more information about WYD go to official website [www.krakow2016.com/en/](http://www.krakow2016.com/en/)

Truly yours in Christ  
Fr. Eugene Khomyn OSBM  
Eparchial Director of Youth Ministry

**Consider attending, if you have time or whatever else is needed.**  
**!!! Просимо взяти участь !!!**

## FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

### PLEASE RETURN YOUR 2016 Registration Card

which is found in the beginning of your envelope box, even if your information has not changed. We need to have a yearly updated list of the parishioners. Please also include e-mail 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.

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### Просимо виповнити реєстраційні картки на цей 2016 рік.

Поставте також Е-мейл і число мобільника. Це тільки для церковного вжитку, якщо знайде потреба сконтактуватися з вами. Якщо не маєте коверт також просимо дати нам ваші інформації. Коли на звичайних ковертках даєте свої пожертви просимо написати ваше ім'я, щоб знати кому належать ці пожертви. Коверти зазначені датами, так що просимо вживати їх на відповідний день, тобто не брати з кінця, але по порядку.

Сердечна подяка!

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## 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 a few times a year.
- Tell them what is going on in the parish.
- If possible, bring them a little gift at Feastdays, their birthday, anniversaries.
- 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 squeezeing 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, кілька разів до року. У нас певна кількість немічних осіб, яких ми могли б відвідати і в таки спосіб принести кілька радісних хвилин у їхнє життя. Дуже дякуємо.

### З радія "Милосердний Самаританин"

Добігає до кінця місяць січень і у ньому ми пережили дуже багато святкових подій – ми увійшли у Новий 2016 Рік, ми стали свідками та правдивими учасниками народження Дитятка Ісуса, ми побачили Пресвяту Родину, святкували свято Обрізання Господнього, а по деякому часі ми йшли духом на Йордан щоби побачити об'явлення Пресвятої Трійці, яка об'явилася предивним способом у момент Хрещення Господнього від Івана. А сьогодні вже чуємо про те, як Ісус Христос прямує до Галилеї, дізнавшись про ув'язнення Івана Хрестителя. Всі ці події є взаємопов'язані і всіма ними Свята Церква готує нас до чогось особливого. До того часу, коли ми маємо духовно прозріти щоби побачити Світле Воскресіння Спасителя Ісуса Христа.

Зовсім недавно ми святкували свято Богоявлення, і другою ключовою особою для нас у цій події хрещення Господнього є Іван Хреститель, званий ще Предтечею. Він був пророком, якого очікували на протязі 400 років, Визволителем! За ці роки цей народ настільки відступив від Бога, що просто погибав від гніту своїх, так званих "духовних провідників" – фарисеїв, садукеев та інших духовних партій. Ви собі тільки уявіть що на просту людину було накладено за весь цей час 365 зобов'язуючих законів і близько 250 каральних. Напевне що при такій кількості вимог до життя кожен би з нас, говорячи простою мовою – загнувся би.

І ось приходять Той, як вони вважали на той час, хто має їх визволити. Але він стався лиш тим для них, хто відкрив їм очі для того, щоби побачити Світло, справжнє визволення від рабства Закону.

Край, до якого прямував Христос, як ми чуємо з сьогоднішнього Євангелія від Матея

називався Галилеєю. Галилея – це місто, де домінуючу її частину жителів становили язичники. Втративши батьківську віру, вони були відкинуті єврейським суспільством. Спаситель поселився в Капернаумі, назва якого з єврейської мови означає "дім втіхи". Христос зійшов до язичників, щоби і їх дім став домом Утішителя.

Згадувані Євангелієм міста, окрім суто географічних назв, що вони для нас означають, мають ще й інші значення, а саме : Завулон з єврейської мови перекладається як «нічний», а Нафталім означає «широта». Місцеві язичники жили, якщо так можна сказати, в ночі та широко, вони ніколи не ходили вузьким шляхом, але така, постійно тривала звичка, їх привела до погибелі. Цей народ був далеким від Бога, тому називали його ще у ізраїлі "тінь смертна", саме цю смертну тінь, прийшов пробудити до нового життя, просвітити світлом правди Христос.

"Народ, що сидить у п'їтмі, побачив світло велике, і сидячим у країні і тіні смертній засіяло світло". Ці слова ми чуємо щорічно в першу неділю після Водохрещення, і це не випадково. З пришествям у світ Ісуса Христа знову людині даровано Божественне світло, світло Божественної благодаті. Тому Водохрещення ще іменується Просвіченням. Усі ми, як і ті язичники країни Нафталімової і Завулонової освячені благодатним спасенням Христовим світлом. Не випадково ми чуємо слова «апостола і євангелиста Івана Богослова, що, говорячи про Христа, свідчить: "У Ньому було життя, і життя було світло для людей". Господь для усіх нас є джерелом всякої істини, усякого життя, Він – джерело духовного світла. "І світло в п'їтмі світить, і п'їтма не обняла його". Апостол Павло каже: "Ви були в п'їтмі, а тепер – світло в Господі"

### From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio program

The Church gives us another example today, about repentance in order to help prepare us for Great Lent. The Parable of the Prodigal Son in today's Gospel reading according to St. Luke is most beautiful. Whenever we hear a parable, to benefit from it, we compare ourselves to each of the characters in the story to see what attributes we have in common with them. To help us do this, let us begin by looking firstly at the figure of the younger son in the parable and then at the elder son. Brothers, who had completely different outlooks on life, but were both "prodigals" in their own way, just as we are prodigal children before a loving and merciful God. The younger son was dissatisfied, he had a longing for something and so he tried to satisfy it by going away and living a loose life. If there is dissatisfaction in us, a longing for something that we do not have, could we be longing for God? St. Augustine wrote, "You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee." The unfortunate thing is that the further we are from God, the more difficult it is for us to hear His voice. The father in today's Gospel did not go in search of the younger son. The son had to make the decision himself to come back, *"I will arise and go back to my father's house"* (Luke 15:18). That is a decision we all have to make at one time or another, to eventually leave behind our sinful desires and return to God, our Father. This image of the younger son which the parable offers us is shocking, but it is a symbol of the mess we could find ourselves in when we blindly follow the selfishness of the world.

One of the best ways to never outgrow God is to never grow up wanting the foolish desire of this world... more than a genuine relationship with Christ. However, it is hard not to grow up when we are convinced that the really important things in life are based upon what we do, what we have, or what we earn. If we buy into that illusion, we begin to take charge. We demand what we think is rightfully ours and, like the prodigal son, we go off into the world leaving the Father behind. This independent, self-

sufficient approach to life is similar to that of Adam and Eve reaching for the apple all over again. But, luckily, self-sufficiency can take us only so far. Sooner or later we run up against a brick wall. We finish eating the apple and discover, a few hours later, that we are hungry again. We gradually realize where we actually are and where we truly belong. But for many of us, this still boils down to our sinful desires. The point is that if we are to make progress in our relationship with God, then we need to rely not on ourselves but on God. It was Thomas Merton who once wrote: "The whole Christian life is a life in which the further a person progresses, the more he has to depend directly on God. The more we progress, the less we are self-sufficient. The more we progress, the poorer we become so that the man who has progressed most, is totally poor - he has to depend directly on God. He has nothing left in himself." Are we keeping ourselves from God in any way because like the prodigal son, we do not know that the heart of God is merciful and desires to love us?

I remember a time when I broke my grandmother's vase, a beautifully handcrafted vase that belonged to her mother... because I was playing with my favorite red bouncing ball inside the house, something that I was told not to do, and accidentally it hit the table and knocked over the vase before I could catch it. I felt sick to my stomach; I wondered how I would tell my grandmother what I had done. And when she walked in the door from the garden, I even hid under the bed, trying to think of what to say. I finally came out from under the bedspread with tears in my eyes, grandma saw what I had done, and then she did the most unexpected thing - she opened her arms and hugged me tight as she wiped the tears from my eyes. Between sobs I told her how sorry I was and I even offered to give her my favorite red bouncing ball in exchange, but then she smiled and held me even tighter, and told me it would be our little secret when grandpa came home. In spite of my poor choices, I knew my grandmother always loved me, and she taught me a great deal about love and

forgiveness in that moment. The parable of the Prodigal Son is a beautiful story of what Jesus depicts the love of our Heavenly Father to be - such unconditional love and understanding, such generosity and concern, such complete and unceasing forgiveness, and so much more. The greeting this young man was expecting was nothing like the one he received. *“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him”* (Luke 15:20). This parable strikes deep within our hearts, because we all have this same need as the Prodigal Son, we all have this overwhelming desire, this heartfelt longing to be loved and ultimately to receive our heavenly Father's love. There is no doubt in my mind that this prodigal son felt loved

and treasured once again by his father's embrace, just as my grandmother made me feel loved in her arms. I am sure we can all think of many such persons in life who have given us this unconditional love which comes from God the Father: our parents, grandparents, children, spouses, and friends.

I am sure each of us can see some similarities between the younger son in the parable and ourselves.

Now, let us look at the character of the elder son in the parable to see if we are in any way similar to him. The elder son, despite the fact that he was with his father all those years, was utterly shocked that his father killed the fatted calf and threw a party in celebration of his younger brother's return. He still did not know or understand his father's heart; maybe even the servants understood his father better. The elder son never felt accepted, appreciated or loved by his father. That was his problem. So his resentment towards his younger brother was really pointing to a deeper wound; he did not feel loved. The older son had no real relationship with his father. He was distant and aloof. For years he had done the right thing but with the wrong attitude. He



was like the Pharisees and scribes who complained about Jesus' ministry to sinners. The elder son has been called the prodigal who stayed at home. He is also lost, but his is more difficult to see. So the parable is about a loving father and two prodigal sons or two sons that have lost their way on life's journey. We are all like the elder son in the sense that none of us yet knows our Father's heart. So during our preparation for Lent, let us try to get to know the heart of God better. As we come to liturgy and try to live a good life; let us also try to get to know the heart of God in all of our brothers and sisters.

In Rembrandt's painting of *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, you can see the state the younger son is in after returning to his father, his head is shaved and he is clothed in rags. You can see the great love of the father for the son. You can see that the father gently put his hands around his son, and as the son knelt down his head leaned on his father's chest. You can see the father's two hands are different, one is the hand of a man (the right hand) while the other is the hand of a woman (the left hand). That was Rembrandt's way of saying that God's love for us is not just like the love of a father, but it

is also like the love of a mother. God is both Father and Mother to us and we must come to Him to receive His forgiveness and the warmth and love of His embrace. It was Henri Nouwen who wrote in his book *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, "It might sound strange, but God wants to find me as much as, if not more than, I want to find God. Yes, God needs me as much as I need God. God is not the patriarch who stays home, doesn't move, and expects his children to come to him, apologize for their aberrant behavior, beg for forgiveness, and promise to do better. To the contrary, he leaves the house, ignoring his dignity by running toward them, pays no heed to apologies and promises of change, and brings them to the table richly prepared for them..."



**February 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**2:00 pm**  
**St. Mary's Chapel in**  
**Sloatsburg, NY will be blessed**  
 as a **“Holy Door”** for this  
 Jubilee Year!

**The Sisters Servants**

**invite all to come and celebrate this special service.**

**Pope Francis wants these Holy Doors to become a “Door of Mercy” through which all who enter will experience the love of God, Who consoles, pardons, and instills hope.”**

**The service will begin at 2:00 pm in the Gallery with a procession, and will be bi-lingual.**

**All are invited to come and pray privately in the chapel before an icon of the Mother of God, Door of Mercy used by Pope Francis opening the Holy Doors in Rome. Refreshments will be served following the service.**



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЄПАРХІЯ У СТЕМФОРДІ  
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**Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ!**

*“The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me....to proclaim the Lord's year of favour!” (Luke 4:18-9)*

On December 8, 2015, Pope Francis inaugurated the Extraordinary Year of Mercy in the universal Catholic Church. While entering St. Peter's Basilica in Rome through the Holy Doors he solemnly called upon the Heavenly Father to send his Holy Spirit "...to consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord..." (Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year of Mercy)

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy each one of us has received a personal invitation from the Lord: a) to accept the freely-given gift of God's mercy, b) to share God's mercy with others, and c) to give witness to God's mercy in the world.

To aid the faithful of the Stamford Eparchy in this spiritual journey during the Jubilee Year of Mercy I have given my approval for the doors of the St. Mary's Villa Chapel located in the motherhouse of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in Sloatsburg, NY, and the doors of St. Vladimir Cathedral in Stamford, CT to be officially designated as 'Holy Doors' in the Eparchy of Stamford.

I plan to inaugurate the Holy Doors in St. Vladimir Cathedral on Friday, January 22 at the beginning of the first weekend retreat in the cathedral commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the parish in 1916. I plan to inaugurate the Holy Doors in St. Mary's Villa Chapel in Sloatsburg on Cheesefare Sunday, February 7, the day before the beginning of Great Lent. I invite all the faithful to take the time to visit these holy places during the upcoming year and enter through the Holy Doors into the house of the Lord to pray, and especially to celebrate the Holy Mysteries of Confession and the Holy Eucharist.

For the duration of the Jubilee Year the Holy Doors will be a powerful symbol of the mercy of God, freely bestowed upon us – a gift, to which we witness in our lives and which we willingly and lovingly share with others. I pray that each and every one of us will take the advantage of this opportunity of walking closer with the Lord.

+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM  
 Eparch of Stamford