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(ROLAND J. KUHN)



05

УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ

# THE GILLING OF BASSHEUS



# OF MOTHER OF GOD

UNDER THE PROTECTION

### під опікою пречистої **ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ GHURGH BULLGTIN** N°05 January 29 - 2012 -29 Січня перковний вісник

З радія "Милосердний Самарянин" ...Запитаймося кого ми образили, кого скривдили, кого очорнили, кого ненавидемо, кому хочемо відплатитися учетверо, від кого подвійно забрати... Але можемо наладнати, привернути спокій, очистити себе, простити тим що провинилися проти нас і шукати прощення у тих проти яких ми провинилися. І коли б наші гріхи були як багряниця червоні, Христос їх вибілить немов сніг і згадувати не буде і ми знова будемо його братами і сестрами й улюбленими дітьми Всевишнього.

Так як митаря Закхея Господь і нас знає по імені. Він бачить нас наскрізь, розуміє усі наші труднощі, і до нас запрошується у гостину, бо хоче нам принести спокій і радість. Приймім його до себе, заведім його до найбілшь скритих закутків нашого серця. Хай він оселеться там і звідтам випромінює світлом віри, для тих що Бога шукають, світлом надії для тих що її не мають, світлом любови, для тих яких ненавість опанувала. Амінь.

### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

**Jan. 29: 33 S. aft. Pent.-Н Мит. і Фар. Т8 12:00 AM For Parishioners – За Парохіян Mon., January 30 – Понеділок, 30 Січня** 8:15 AM +Оля Зацухна (Оля Чмола)

**Tue., January 31 – Вівторок, 30 Січня** 12:00 PM +Richard Bevtl (Steven)

Wed., February 1 – Середа, 1 Лютого 8:15 AM У Власному Наміренні (Антоніна Паращій)

ENCOUNTER-CTPITEHHЯ

**Thu., February 2 – Чет., 2 Лютого** 9:30 AM +Theodore & Ahafia Nowadly

(Elaine) Fri., February 3 – П'ятниця., 3 Лютого

3:15 PM For all the sick and suffering (Apostleship of Prayer)

Sat., February 4 – Субота, 4 Лютого

9:00 АМ +Слава Шишка (родина)

4:30 PM +Wasyl Artymowycz - 40 d. (Anna Melnyk)

Feb. 5: S. of Prod. Son-H. Блуд. Сина T112:00 AM+Irene Voychak (Roman)

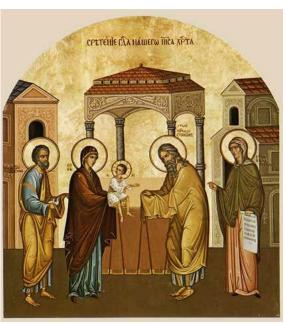
Eternal Light burns for ++Jean & Arnold Mahlmeister Requ. By Mary Beth

> (Д) Вічне Світло В честь ПДМ горить НА СЛАВУ БОЖУ

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Христос Раждається! Славіте Його! ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ 29 Січня: 32 Неділя (Про Закхея) Т8

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

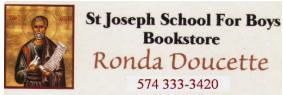
5 Лютого: Н. Митаря і Фарісея ТІ 10:00 р. +Володимир Заньків (Анна)



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

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

V. Rev. Marijan Proyh



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There is still space for your ad. Маємо місце для Вашого оголошення



Ukrainian Cultural Center 562 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14204 856-4476 <u>www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com</u> 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.

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# Свій До Свого По Своє

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

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### <u>UPCOMING</u> <u>CHURCH</u> <u>EVENTS</u> <u>Просимо звернути</u> 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!

<u>Please note:</u> You can purchase gasoline with this card at Tops Gasoline Station.

У нас успішно продаються Карточки з крамниці "Топс". Купуючи їх ви помагасте 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. **GHURGH BULL@TIN** is published weekly. Deadline for information is Friday Evening.

ЦЄРК. ВІСНИК видається тижнево Інформації подавати до четверга вечора.

**SAINT NICHOLAS** UKRAINIAN GATHOLIG GHURGH VKPAÏHGĿKA KATOЛИЦĿКА ЦБРКВА **GBЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ** (ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ)

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 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

IMO Dmytro Ilkiwskyj 8 Altar Boy Dalmatics Nadia Marc

IMO Harry Swiatkiwsky 3 Greek Triple Candles (For Theophany) Emily, Gregory & Stephen Swiatkiwsky

To the Church Dr. Peter Blendohohy - \$2,000.00 Pietszak Funeral Home - \$1,175.00 (Calendars)

IMO Gloria Szyszka John & Mary Makar - \$250.00

> IMO Daria Wojtowych Marija Dranka - \$20.00 Anna Zankiw - \$20.00

<u>Donations Towards Coffee Hour</u> <u>Coffee Hour Benefits-</u> <u>Yearly Communication Assessment Fee</u> Anna Hanicki Dmytro & Dolores Baranyckyj Thank You! Дякуємо!

Oles & Lyubov Cheren (Cataract Press) from Clifton, New Jersey will be visiting our parish today, January 28, 29, 2012 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, GREET-ING CARDS, SCARFS and EMBROIDE-RY 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.

### 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 Стипендийна Акція 49 Відділу СУА

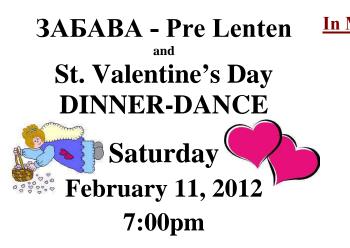
ПРОЩА ДО ЛЮРДУ І СВ. ЗЕМЛІ (6-19 ТРАВНЯ, 2012)

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDS & THE HOLY LAND (MAY 6-19, 2012) For more info call: (519) 536-6778 Or write Fr. Eutimy Wolinski Box 20118 Woodstock, ON Canada N4S 8X8

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 проблєма часу через працю – просимо дати знати і постараємося прийти у відповідний час.





### St. John the Baptist Ukr. Cath. Church 3275 Elmwood Ave, Kenmore NY 14217 Tel:(716) 873-5011 stjohnmyparish@gmail.com

Parishioners and guests are invited to enjoy a relaxing evening of musicand 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.





# will be available.

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

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

# **EVERYONE WELCOME**

In Memoriam – Вічная Пам'ять! Fell asleep in the Lord + Maria Mucyn



Wife of late Mikola, mother of George (Linda), Michael (Patricia), William, Orest (Laura); grandmother of Sophia (Kevin) Hejmanowski, Jennifer (Salvatore) Tulumello, Emily (Scott) McLaughlin, Lindsey (Craig) Semrau, Daniel, Megan, Catherine (Adam) Ballard; great-grandmother of Madelynne, Anna, Vincent, Dominic, Gabriel, Brody and the late Gianna. **Eternal Memory! Vichnaya Pamiat'!** 

Упокоїлася в Госполі Св. Пам. +Марія Муцин (1921-2012) Родині складаємо співчуття, а їй хай буле Вічная Пам'ять!

### 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 parishiones Please also include e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers. \* \* \*

Просимо виповнити ресстраційні картки. Поставте також Е-мейл і число мобільника.

# ЗАПРОШЕННЯ

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

# СУМІВСЬКУ ЯЛИНКУ

# Святочна Програма

відбудеться в суботу, 4-го лютого 2012 р. о год. 4:30 по пол. в Українському Домі Дніпро при 562 Дженесі вул. Бофало.

Каву і солодке приготовлює Батьківський Комітет

3 СУМівським привітом:

Честь України! Готов Боронити!

### Булава Ю-СУМ

### Please say a prayer for the vocation!

\* \* \*

Просимо помолитися за свяшеничі покликання!

**Please Remember Our Church in Your Will!** 

Пам'ятаймо про Рідну Церкву та про її майбутність

# 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 кількісьть немічних осіб, яких ми могли б відвідати і в таки спосіб принести кілька радісних хвилин у їхнє життя. Молодечі організації можуть також це зробити, нпр. заколядувати у цей час. Просимо перечетати інформації по англіськи. Дуже дякуємо.

### From the desk of Fr. Ray Palko

### January 29, 2012 **CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**

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

Good Morning! Looks like God is willing, the creek didn't rise and the snows didn't pile up, so here I come with some mail for you again this week. Thanks and glory to God! And "thank YOU" for allowing me to come into your life!

vou are close to the Lord, and are blessed with much health and happiness, for we know how very much sadness and sickness abounds in our families and communities. If you ever need to see this first hand, and you would like to count your blessings, simply go into the chapel of most any hospital. There you can usually find a book, either in the back, or perhaps in front near the altar. This book contains the prayer list where people are able to write the names of their loved ones who are sick, and for whom they are requesting prayers. Generally, people write far more than just the name of the sick person, and that is what is so interesting about it, and the reason I mention it to you. They actually pour out their hearts to God as they write the purest and deepest prayers for their loved ones. Many times those notes confirm and strengthen our own faith as we see "what other people are going through," and how they are living through the struggle of illness and fear. Next time you visit someone in the hospital, go into the chapel and read that book. I guarantee it will be beneficial to you, and also, you will immediately find yourself praying for the intentions that are written there. Often, as you read, and then pray for those intentions, your prayers for them will definitely be accompanied by tears, as you will certainly be moved by their calls to God. I

know when I read those pleas I realize how small my cross really is.

In our small community here on the Niagara Frontier and wherever this letter goes, we know of broken wrist/arm, broken hip, biopsy, blood infection, new pacemaker etc., etc. This brokenness and suffering will always be with us in this 'mystery of Life,' but we are called to wholeness and healing. We must let the sick know they are always remembered in our prayers our thoughts and This letter always comes with the prayer that in our visits. May the Lord, the Divine Physician touch and heal His servants!

> Last weekend in my sermon at the 4:30pm Liturgy at St. Nicholas, and again at Holy Protection on Sunday morning the Spirit guided me to speak of a great outrage that occurred on Friday January 20. On that day, Archbishop and Cardinal-elect Timothy Dolan, as President of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, received a call from Kathleen Sebelius, the head of the Dept. of Health and Human Services. In that call Archbishop Dolan was informed that beginning on August 1, 2012 (less than eight months from today), the insurance premiums we pay, including premiums paid by Catholics who are employees of churches and schools, will be required to cover drugs and procedures that are in direct conflict with the teaching of the Church. Catholics must pay for birth control, sterilization and even abortion causing drugs. The Archbishop said, "we are now being told by the United States government "to violate our consciences!"

Do you know why they chose that particular day to announce this? Because the following days of the weekend would find thousands of pilgrims in Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life and it was just another way for them to say, "Go ahead,

Catholics...march all you want. Watch what we can do!"

This is just more of the lies and hypocrisy and EVIL that is out there, especially guided and promoted by government. Three months ago after personally meeting with Mr. Obama, Archbishop Dolan came out of that conference and said that the president understood the Catholic position and that he (Dolan) even felt very good about how well the meeting went. Well, he doesn't feel very good today! He wrote an article on Wednesday January 25 in the Wall Street Journal to protest this latest outrage by the administration and its cohorts such as Planned Parenthood. In that article the Archbishop wrote: "This latest erosion of our first freedom should make all Americans pause. When the government tampers with a freedom so fundamental to the life of our nation, one shudders to think what lies ahead."

**Retired Cardinal Mahoney of Los Angeles** responded to the decision saying, "This decision must be fought against with all the energies the Catholic community can muster....there is no other fundamental issue as important as this one as we enter into the Presidential and Congressional campaigns....if any candidate refuses to acknowledge and to promote those rights, then that candidate will not receive my vote."

I'm 68 years old, gonna be 69 in October. Not too much shocks me anymore, but I've got to tell you I was really shocked last week after those Liturgies when I preached about this. I was told there are actually people who call themselves Catholics, Christians and Ukrainians, but, for whatever reason, fail to see the evil, hypocrisy and "clear and present danger" in all this. There are people in our churches, and in other Christian churches and in the Jewish synagogues who call themselves

"Obama girls." Give me a break! How anyone who says they are Catholic, Christian, Ukrainian or simply God-fearing could desire the things that have been happening in this country is beyond me. It is time for a lot of us to really check our faith, to really examine our consciences, and maybe even to go to confession and seek forgiveness for our part in the Holocaust of Abortion. We must stop siding with those who promote this agenda! There is nothing more important or valuable than LIFE. No not even JOBS, the Economy, the Environment or even free handouts! Without LIFE there is nothing!

Since I always try to bring you a smile or show you a bit of sunshine when I write, I thought maybe I should say, "I'm sorry for writing about such serious stuff." But I can't say that. It is serious stuff. And this is only the beginning. Thankfully, many of our bishops are already speaking up about this latest outrage.

But we are always people of hope and once again, as in all things, the smile is there, the sunshine is there for, if we have faith and trust in our Lord, we know He is the answer...The Way, the Truth and the Life. We have only to be Christian, Catholic, and God-fearing! May the blessing of the Lord come upon you Father, Son and Holy Spirit! May our Holy Lady keep you beneath the protection of her heavenly veil.

God willing and the creeks don't rise (and they have been, as the "rain of God is upon us"...thanks Fr. Tom <sup>(2)</sup>), or the snows don't come (this week end is the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Blizzard of '77), I'll write again next week.

### In His Unending Love, Fr. Ray

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

There is a journey we all have to make, a pilgrimage we are all called to undertake as Christians, and that is the journey from pride to humility. That is the pilgrimage that the Pharisee in today's Gospel (Luke 18:9-14) still needs to make. His attitude shows that he is in need of such a spiritual journey. Currently his point of departure is, "I thank you God that I am not like the rest of mankind, and especially that I am not like this tax-collector" (Luke 18:11) but the destination of his heart needs to be more like the publican, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner." (Luke 18:13) Recently, I read an interesting story about a royal family in Vienna, Austria and it reminded me of this progression toward humility that we must all make. In Vienna, Austria there is a church in which the former ruling family in Austria, the Hapsburgs, lay buried. When royal funerals used to arrive, the mourners knocked at the door of the church to be allowed permission to enter in. The priest inside would ask 'Who is it that desires admission here?' A guard would call out, 'His apostolic majesty, the emperor'. The priest would answer, 'I don't know him'. They would knock a second time, and again the priest would ask who was there. The funeral guard outside would announce, 'The highest emperor'. A second time the priest would say, 'I don't know him'. A third time they would knock on the door and the priest would ask 'Who is it?' The third time the answer would be, 'Your brother, a poor sinner.' Upon which, the funeral procession was then allowed entry into the church. The royal Hapsburg family in Austria was allowed into the church when they leveled the playing field, when it was understood that no one is greater or less, but that we are all poor sinners before the mercy of the Kingdom of God. We are all called to make the journey from the Pharisee to the publican, to the point in which we can profess, "God be merciful to me, because I am nothing more than a sinner." (Luke 18:13)

There is some of the pride of the Pharisee and some of the humility of the publican in each of us. To a greater or lesser degree, we are all called by Jesus in today's Gospel to make that journey from pride to humility. That is why in the parable the humble publican who asked God for mercy went home at peace with God and why the proud Pharisee did not. If we are not sensitive to the needs of other people, we are not very sensitive to God either. The publican was aware of his failings and weaknesses and was also sensitive to God. Quite often, the proud cannot bring themselves to hold out empty hands to God, they insist on offering virtues, good works, selfdenials. They want to be beautiful for God from their own resources, whereas we are beautiful only because God looks upon us and makes us beautiful. God cannot give himself to us unless our hands are empty to receive him. The deepest reason why so few of us are saints is because we will not let God love us. We assume we know better than God, and that lack of humility is why the Pharisee did not go home justified. On the other hand, we have the publican who goes to the temple in humility. It is above all in his prayer that we see his repentance, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner." (Luke 18:13) Unlike the Pharisee, he did not try to conceal who he really was or put on false pretenses to hide his real self from God. He came to God as he was. Therefore God met him where he was and lifted him up, so he went home justified (Luke 18:14). The tax collector is really living the first beatitude, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God." He was poor in spirit and so are we. He was just like another tax collector, Zacchaeus, whom we heard about last Sunday, who humbly meets Jesus in a spirit of repentance and is also saved (Luke 19:1-10). Throughout Scripture, we see God coming to those who know they are in need. So surely the Lord is saying to each of us in today's parable that we have

nothing to fear in approaching Him just as we are.

On a flight from Johannesburg, a middleaged, fairly well-off Caucasian lady from South Africa had found herself sitting next to an African man. She called the cabin crew attendant over to complain about her seating. "What seems to be the problem, Madam?" asked the attendant. "Can't you see?" she said. "You've sat me next to a kaffir. I can't possibly sit next to this disgusting human. Find me another seat!" "Please calm down, Madam." the stewardess replied. "The flight is very full today, but I will go and check to see if we have any seats available in first class." The woman cocked a snooty look at the outraged black man seated beside her (not to mention at many of the surrounding passengers as well). A few minutes later the stewardess returns with the good news, which she delivers to the lady, who cannot help but look at the people around her with a smug and self-satisfied grin: "Madam, unfortunately, as I suspected, economy is full. But I have spoken to the cabin service director, and it seems that we do have one seat in first class". Before the lady had a chance to move up from her seat. the stewardess continued, "It is most extraordinary to make this kind of upgrade, however, and I had to get special permission from the captain. But, given the circumstances, the captain felt that it was outrageous that someone be forced to sit next to such an obnoxious person." With which, the stewardess turned to the African man seated next to the lady, and said: "So if you would like to collect your things, Sir, I have a seat ready for you in first class." At which point, the surrounding passengers stood and gave a standing ovation while the African fellow walked up to first class, leaving the snooty lady to drop her jaw in disbelief.

We are all shocked at the prejudice of this South African lady, we feel sorry for the insulted African man and we can identify with the other passengers who applauded the stewardess for moving the man up to first class. Those who exalt themselves irritate others. Pride, boasting

and snobbery fools no one and does not earn respect from others. The proud and boastful do damage to themselves by exalting themselves. How much dignity are we willing to lose, by making ourselves appear greater than others? "For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." (Luke 18:14) Our value as human beings is that we are all equal in dignity before God as sons and daughters of Abraham. Those who are proud or boastful do not realize that everything they have comes from God. None of us has anything that was not first given to us by God; therefore the only thing each of us can boast about is God. For many of us the problem is not just our pride or lack of humility, it is forgetting that since our baptism we have become heirs to God's kingdom, forgetting that we, by ourselves, are not capable of saving ourselves and are saved only by the death of Jesus on the cross. We have all been purchased for the Father at a great price. That is the only thing we should boast of, and no more. Christ died on the cross for you and for me, and for the person sitting next to us and the people living in our home, and also for the neighbors we may not always get along with, the people who perhaps annoy us at work, and even those persons who have hurt us deeply. Christ died for all of humanity, so we are all equally precious in the eyes of God. Unfortunately, in today's society it does not always work like that, which is probably why so many of our teens and young adults act as if the world owes them so much. But equality is Jesus' plan for His kingdom where we are all equally loved before God - no matter who we are or where we come from. St. Paul writes: "Continue yourself in the things that you have learned and have been assured of, knowing of whom you have learned them." When we come before God, whether in Church or in prayer, we should come humbly, acknowledging our sinfulness without any excuses of righteousness or false pretenses. Let us simply pray as the publican in today's Gospel: "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner."