



## Heads of Ukrainian Churches Pray for Ukraine In Washington, DC

Patriarch Sviatoslav celebrated a Moleben to the Mother of God for her intercession for a peaceful resolution to the turmoil in Ukraine on Wednesday, February 5, 2014, at the Taras Shevchenko Monument in Washington. Patriarch Filaret also joined the Ukrainian Greek Catholic clergy. Many faithful were also present to pray for peace in Ukraine.

The Shevchenko Monument has served as a gathering place for the Ukrainian-American community for 50 years. This was especially true during the communist era when Ukrainian-Americans would gather to call attention to the denial of basic freedoms and human rights to the people of Ukraine by the communist overlords.

<http://www.ukrarcheparchy.us>



## SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



Нині відпускаєш раба твого, Владико, по глаголу Твоєму з миром; бо виділи очі мої спасення Твоє, яке Ти уготовив перед лицем усіх людей: Світло на одкровення народам і на славу людей твоїх Ізраїля. (Лк. 2,29)

## УКРАЇНЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ

N<sup>o</sup>  
06

ПІД ОПІКОЮ  
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ  
МАРІЇ ОДІГТРИЇ

UNDER THE  
PROTECTION OF  
MOTHER OF GOD



### CHURCH BULLETIN

February 9 – 2014 – 9 Лютого  
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

### УВАГА – ЗАКЛИК - УВАГА



Стипендійна Акція 49-го Відділу США повідомляє, що з початком Лютого розпочалася збірка на Степендійний Фонд США для незаможної молоді в Україні.

Чеки просимо виписувати на:  
Ukrainian National Women's League  
Минулорічні звіти є у референток США.  
За інформаціями просимо дзвонити до:

Зоряна Яцишин Бунч 668-9504

Оксана Салдит 832-9331

**Дякуємо!**

✠ N<sup>o</sup> 06 ✠  
F E B R U A R Y 9 ✠  
2 0 1 4 ✠



## CHURCH BULLETIN

Feb. 9 – 2014 – 9 Лютого

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

4:30 PM В подяку і в наміренні  
Марії і Андрія Петришин

**Feb. 9 Publican & Pharisee – Мит. і Фар.**

12:00 PM За Парохіян - For Parishioners

Monday, February 10 – Пон., 10 Лютого

5:00 PM +Афанасія

(Антін і Марія Приймачук)

Tuesday, February 11 – Пон., 11 Лютого

9:00 AM +Dmytro Varanyskyj (E. Domino)

Wed., February 12 – Середа, 12 Лютого

See Julian

Thu., February 13 – Чет., 13 Січня

3:00 PM +Осура & Andrij Deneka (Amy D.)

Friday, February 14 – П'ятниця, 14 Лютого

7:00 AM +Katherine & Michael Chort

(Marianne)

Sat. 15 February – Субота, 15 Лютого

10:00 AM +Александра Г'рега (Богуслава)

4:30 PM За Парохіян - For Parishioners

**Feb. 16 Prodigal Son – Блудного Сина**

12:00 PM +Michel & Jula Michalow

(Michelle & Michael)

Bible Meeting will be Thursday,  
Feb 20, at 6:30 PM. Please attend!

Біблійні зустрічі, Четвер, 20 Лютого  
о 6:30 веч. Просимо до участі!

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М. горить  
В наміренні тих що на МАЙДАНІ  
ХАЙ ГОСПОДЬ ЗАХОРОНЕТЬ!



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

## ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

**9 Лютого – Митаря і Фарисея**

10:00 р. +Оля Басараб (49 Відділ СУА)

**12 Лютого – ТРЬОХ СВЯТИТЕЛІВ**

10:00 р. В нам. жінок в кухні

(Уляна Іваничко)

**15 Лютого – СТРИТЕННЯ Г.Н.І.Х.**

10:00 р. +Александра Г'рега (Богуслава)

**16 Лютого – Блудного Сина**

10:00 р. В. Нам. Михайла Ліскевича  
Int. of Michael Liskewicz (Daughter & Family)

As part of the new Church Directory, which will be published early next year, we are adding "Memorial Pages" to the book. You can submit a picture, (pictures) of your loved ones for a cost of \$20.00 a picture. You can put the picture and check payable to St. Nicholas in an envelope and put it in the collection basket or drop it off at the rectory. If you have any questions, contact Elaine at the parish office Monday or Thursday from 9:00-1:00.

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**49. відділ СУА запрошує Вас  
на смачний обід, сьогодні, 9-ого  
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**UNWLA Branch 49 invites you to  
lunch on Sunday, February 9, after  
10:00 am Liturgy. Price is \$10.00.  
Please come and spend an enjoyable  
time among parishioners and friends.**

**2014 LUC dues are now payable.  
Please make checks (\$7.00) payable to  
League of Ukrainian Catholics,  
Niagara Frontier Council.  
Dues can be sent to Ihor Pereyma,  
38 Lester St., Buffalo, NY 14210.**

**Prayers – Молитви**

“We also pray to the Almighty Lord for the people of Ukraine who are struggling these days to defend their God given rights and freedom of speech, choice and religion. Grant them all and especially leaders of the Ukrainian nation wisdom, good judgment and discernment to find mutual understanding and respect that would lead to a peaceful resolution of the ongoing conflict, we pray to You, O Lord, and have mercy.”

“O merciful Lord and Lover of Mankind, look down mercifully upon those who laid down in sacrifice their lives for the improved future of Ukraine in the ongoing conflict and for hundreds of people that are wounded and hurt. Bestow your healing power upon all who need it that their sufferings be lessen and receive full recovery, we pray to You, O Lord, and have mercy.”

Ще молимося Всемогучому Господеві нашому за український народ наш, що цими днями бореться захистити свої Богом дані права та свободу слова, вибору та віроісповідання. Подай йому, а особливо лідерам української нації, мудрості, розсудливості та добру раду і волю знайти взаємне порозуміння та повагу, які дозволять дійти до мирної розв'язки в цьому протистоянню, ми молимося Тобі, Господи, вислухай і помилуй.

Милосердний Господи і Чоловіколюбче, споглянь милостиво на тих, які поклали і пожертвували своє життя задля кращого майбутнього України і на сотні поранених і мучених людей. Подай свою ласку зцілення всім, хто її потребує, щоби їхні муки зменшилися і вони повністю видужали, ми молимося Тобі, Господи, вислухай і помилуй.



Сьогодні 33 неділя по Зісланні Св. Духа що є десятою неділею перед Великодними Святами. У цей день Ісус пригадує нам, де починається наш шлях до Великодня, де є початок, з якого зможемо іти за Ним, аби стати учасниками величної пасхальної події, аби поєднатися з Ним і бути звільненими. Тому це притча про правду, яка визволяє нас (Йо. 8, 32). У ній ідеться про правдивість нашої молитви. Бо справді, як ми живемо, так і молимося. У хвилини молитви, як і в кожну хвилину нашого життя, ми маємо однаковий стан серця. Слова нашої молитви виражають те, якими ми є у своєму серці.

У цій притці є два моменти, що просвічують наше розуміння молитви. Перший стосується саме наших слів. Фарисей розповідає про себе; перед Богом і перед людьми він виставляє своє ідеалізоване «я». Він дбає про важливість своєї особи, і в цьому бачить своє життя.

Митар у кількох словах виражає все. «Боже», – промовляє він, тобто вже від початку він звернений до Бога і залишається таким надалі. Навіть коли він говорить про себе: «Надо мною, грішним» (Лк. 18, 13), то знову ж таки показує себе через погляд Бога. Митар правдивий. Він віддає себе, в прямому розумінні слова, приносить себе перед Богом таким, яким є. Він не показує себе в ідеальному світлі. Він – митар, а тому брехун і злодій в очах людей. Митар визнає це перед Богом, у світлі Божого погляду, не надягаючи маски. Він правдивий у своїй молитві. То ж коли Бог очистить і виправдає його, він зможе бути правдивим у своєму житті.

Його молитва пливе у тому ж напрямку, що й молитва Церкви, яка заносить нас перед Господом – «Киріє, елейсон!», тобто

«Господи, помилуй!». Наше відкрите серце зустрічається з відкритим серцем Бога, з Його милосердям. Назустріч хвилі наших скорбот пливе хвиля Його милосердя, щедро виливаючись у наше серце. Це Він виправдовує нас, визволяє нас, дає нам життя.

Другий момент, що дає розуміння того, як нам бути правдивими: фарисей виставляє напоказ те, що він робить, тоді як митар чекає дії Бога. Відмінність між «робити» і «діяти» – це не гра слів. Коли моє життя обмежується тим, що я роблю, коли я цікавлюся лише своїми справами, переймаюся ними, моє «я» виступає до переду, назовні. А проте, хто діє в усьому, що ми робимо? Митар же відкриває своє серце до глибини, він визнає, що сидить в ямі, визнає порожнечу того, що він зробив, бо діяв сам, відділений від Бога (стан, у якому перебуває грішник, насамперед полягає у такій гордині), і чекає, щоб у ньому діяв Бог. Чекає, благаючи Його, і чим більше в ньому смирення, тим більше любов Бога діє в ньому і з ним.

Бог таємничим способом діє в нашій душі. Це Він, наш Отець, діє першим, бо першим любить нас і діє, вихлюпуючи свою любов у нас, як тільки ми віддаємо себе Йому у правді серця. Саме такої молитви нам найбільше бракує. Молитва – це дія, що приносить найбільше плодів, бо вона – найвільніша дія нашого серця – єднається з дією Святого Духа, аби дозволити Йому здійснити те, чого Отець бажає для нас.

Саме так молиться Ісус. Просім Його, щоб навчив нас «понижуватися» так, як Він, бути правдивими, з радістю визнавати, ким ми є. Тоді Святий Дух сходить до нашого серця і звідти разом з Ісусом підносить нас до Отця у єдності з усіма тими, за кого ми молимося «Господи, помилуй нас», хто, як і ми, перебуває у скорботах. (о. Жан Корбон)



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

- KITCHEN – is open Fridays 11 AM - 3 PM. Thank you for your patronage.
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- We need help in the kitchen. Thank you!
- Our Christmas Dinner will be on Jan 12, after the Liturgy at 11 AM.

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

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### From Good Samaritan Ukr. Radio Program

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) 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, *"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.*

On a flight from Johannesburg, a middle-aged, 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 man. 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: "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 gentleman walked up to first class, leaving the snooty woman behind to drop her jaw in disbelief.

We are all shocked at the prejudice of this white woman, we feel sorry for the insulted African man and we can identify with the other passengers who applauded the stewardess for moving the gentleman 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)

### From the desk of Fr. Ray Palko

February 9, 2014 A.D.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!  
Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

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

Hello, my Dear Reader. And you've got mail! Congratulations to all our great mail carriers, who have been out and about delivering our mail during the tough "weather days" of this winter. I can only imagine what their work days have been like, especially "the real carriers" down in the rural snowbelt. For all of us who really like to receive mail, our carriers have never failed us. I know it's their job and the US Postal Service has a lot of financial problems, but think about the great blessing, convenience, pleasure and joy they bring us as we have the opportunity to receive mail, every day except Sunday. To paraphrase the great comedian, Yakov Smirnoff: "What a great country!" ☺ ☺

I am thinking about the mail delivery first of all, because as you know, I like to receive it. I always knew many others also greatly enjoy finding mail in their boxes, and the other day that fact was again clearly proven to me. On Monday and Tuesday between winter storms, we made a quick trip to Pennsylvania to see Fr. Elijah, Presbyteria Laryssa, Jonah and Nathanael. We had to finally get down there because we are "helpers of Santa Claus," and he left a lot of presents at our house on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Since we are his "helpers" 'good ol' Saint Nick' expected us to get those special gifts to the proper people in due time. Well, it just hasn't worked out until now.

Our 5 hour trek to their house takes us down "the 219" into two states, five counties and a lot of towns, villages and cities. Those rural towns in NY and PA all seem to have a store, a library, several saloons, a few churches, and of course, the post office. In almost all the towns we saw the citizens on their way to, or coming back from, the post office. It was really

neat to sort of delve into their lives as we passed through the town and saw them coming and going, holding the mail in their hands. I also know that the post office in those little towns is the new 'town square', a great meeting place, where one can find out all the news, local, national and international. And if the right town character happens to be getting his or her mail, then for sure there will even be a lively discussion and commentary on the news of the day. The post office in the morning, and the barroom at night are the "Think Tanks" of the area!

It was really great to see everyone in search of their mail, as if, like little children on Christmas morning, they couldn't wait to see what they got. On one stretch of the highway, we were a bit behind one of those great carriers who stop on the edge of the road and pop the mail into the mailbox. No sooner did he put the mail in the box, than the occupant of the house was coming down the drive or crossing the very busy road to check the day's delivery. Seeing the people coming and going in all those towns early in the morning, and the great anticipation of getting a letter, or some other "good mail," confirmed my theory that everybody loves to get mail. And that's why I'm writing to you right now. Hope you enjoy your letter, and I hope it made your day a little brighter just to find "your letter."

Actually, the story of this trip to PA goes back to November, and our Thanksgiving holiday. The Bremers were supposed to come visit us here in West Seneca, but one of the first blasts of winter hit, their trip was cancelled, and we had a lot of left-over turkey. Presbyteria Laryssa's birthday is on December 5, and we had planned to celebrate that very special event with all the trappings of the day, the candles, songs, presents and a special cake. So since they didn't come and we couldn't get there, the presents went into the "Bremer corner" of our family room where we store their things till we can get together, and the cake was put into the freezer.

Next, we hoped we would have the time and opportunity to go to see them. But the weather still would not cooperate, then the "High Holy Days"



came, and still more weather. Finally, we found our day to go and we quickly jumped at the chance. By this time, “the Bremer corner” was overflowing with things to take down: the birthday and Christmas presents; clothes for the kids; recipes for Mom; church info for Father. It was a super-quick visit, but we got to celebrate Presbytera Laryssa’s birthday (finally), Christmas (new calendar and Greek Christmas), Nathanael’s sixth birthday as well as his Dad’s, Fr. Elijah, who also has a February birthday. It was wonderful to be with them! I think Santa will still let us be his helper’s again next year, even though it did take us so long to deliver the presents. I know you realize how it is to be away from family, and how exciting and wonderful it is to get together when we can!

I won’t say anything about the weather in this letter because if I get started, it will sound just like last week’s. The harsh winter has indeed caused many hardships and difficulties, but it really has also put a damper on one of our beloved and beautiful customs for this time of year. Has your house been blessed yet? Please be patient....if it’s not cold or snow or illness it’s something else. This has been the most difficult year to do these visits, not only for me, but for all the other Fathers, too. One of our priests said, “Be patient, I’ll get to your house, if it takes me till Pascha!” The cold and snow has brought *cabin fever* to a lot of folks. Our trip this week took us through Punxutawney and we heard that ol’ Phil, the forecasting groundhog had seen his shadow. Only six more weeks (actually only five as you read this) of winter. See, it’s almost over...hang in there.

This week we are celebrating one of my favorite Feastdays, *The Encounter of our Lord in the Temple*. Since last Sunday, we have been praying and thanking God for His coming among us and revealing Himself to us. We bless candles and rejoice that the Light has come into the world. With this holy day, our Christmas cycle

comes to an end. Eighty days since the beginning of Philip’s Fast on Nov. 15. Forty days of preparation and forty days of Christmas celebration! That’s the way it is supposed to be! Thank you for all your efforts, gestures and Christian greetings to keep Christ in Christmas, and to truly celebrate Christmas and Christmastime! One more time: “Christ is Born! Glorify Him!”

Family visits, friends, church services, “your letter”, even getting mail are all about our love for each other. This coming Friday is St. Valentine’s Day, that special day for lovers. Even though it is a “Hallmark Holiday,” we can very easily “baptize” it and make it into a day of real Christian love, for that is its true meaning. This Friday we will be sure to express our love to our spouses, family members and friends, and to all who are very special to us on this important day of LOVE, wherever they are in this world, or in the next. Let us renew our love for one another and know that this great gift is but a reflection of our great God, who is Himself LOVE! The Divine Love of our God, who comes to us, gives us His Life and sustains us in His never-ending and eternal Love is in us and in each other. Never can we feel unloved or unwanted for our God is with us! All throughout Sacred Scripture this is told and revealed over and over again. Two beautiful examples: “*God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in Him.*” (1 John 4:16b); “*Whoever does not love, does not know God, because God is love.*” (1 Jn. 4:8)

So I send you my love, Dear One. May we always be renewed in our love for each other and in our God, Who loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son to us so that we would not perish, but have Life Everlasting. May this God bless us with His eternal Love! May our Holy Lady shower us with her heavenly and maternal kisses! Happy Valentine’s Day! Love Ya!

YourValentine,  
Fr. Ray

#### From Good Samaritan Ukr. Radio Program

Today is the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. It also marks a formal beginning to our preparation for the Great Lent. Therefore, we are now in a period of time to make ready ourselves – only 4 more weeks. Next week follows the Prodigal Son, then the Sunday of Last Judgment, and lastly the Sunday of Forgiveness. This time is given for us to reflect upon what it is that we need to do to improve ourselves. The Church, in order to help us on our journey toward repentance, sets before us today’s Gospel reading, a parable in which two men go to the Temple to pray, one is a Pharisee and the other a Publican, of whom only one is justified on account of his humility and sincere act of contrition. The Pharisee states that he fasts, that he gives tithes, that he is free of the grosser sins; and this is all true. Moreover, the Pharisee does not take credit for his good action; he recognizes that they came from God, and he gives thanks to God. “*God, I thank you that I am not like other men. I fast twice a week, and I tithe from all that I receive.*” But there are two ways in which the prayer of the Pharisee errs: it lacks repentance and humility. The Pharisee was not condemned for keeping the fasts. He was not condemned for doing righteous acts. Rather, the Pharisee was condemned for being so confident of his own righteousness that he looked down on everyone else around him, including the publican who was also in the temple praying. “*Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*” The publican stood at a distance in the temple and would not even look up to Heaven. He beat his chest, deeply aware of his sinfulness, and bowed his head as he fell to his knees praying, “*Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner!*” The publican was able to see that without God’s mercy, he could not be saved. But in order to fully understand the lesson we must see that the Pharisee was not completely wrong and the publican was not completely right, and yet as the Gospel tells us, one of them was justified and the other was not.

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, self-denials. 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 the Lord as he was. Therefore God met him where he was and lifted him up, so he went home justified (Luke 18:14). The publican is really living the first beatitude, “*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God.*” He was poor in spirit. 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 us in today’s parable that we have nothing to fear in approaching Him just as we are.**