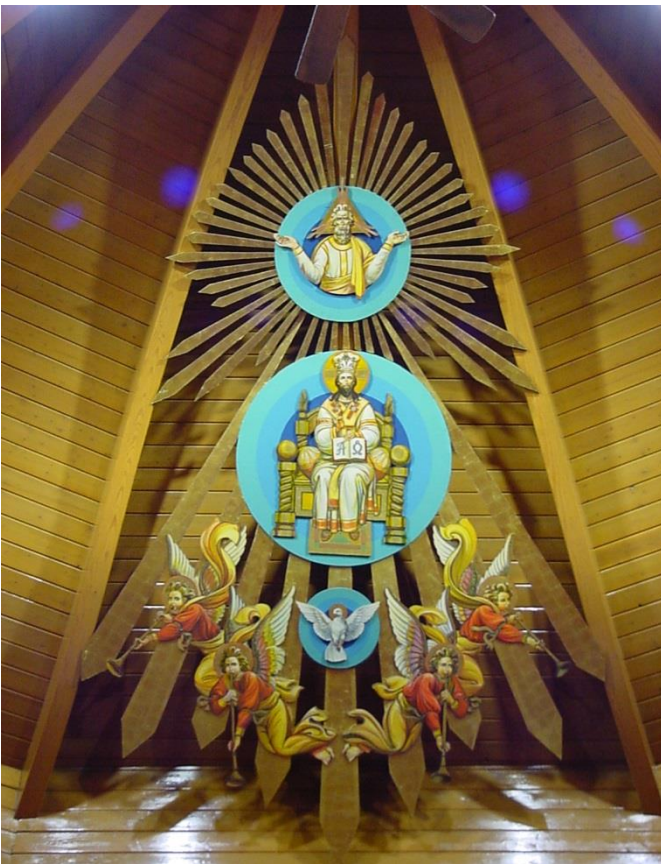


ВІЧНАЯ
ПАМ'ЯТЬ!
ETERNAL
MEMORY!



Repairing the sanctuary after one "ray" fell down.
It was not fastened properly, as well as other wooden sticks, and they were all ready to fall. Thank you, Mr. McHugh, for prompt service. We are thankful to the Lord that nobody was injured by it during these twenty plus years.

Cardinal Edward M. Egan, who served as Archbishop of N. Y. from 2000 to 2009, passed away Thursday at the age of 82. "Cardinal Egan was a courageous leader of the Catholic Church: in New York, on the national level and at the Vatican. A gracious priest, he served the Church with great faithfulness, was an inspiration to others and was a friend to the Diocese of Buffalo, as evidenced by his presence last month for the 25th anniversary celebration for Bishop Edward Grosz. He was a wise advisor to me and my brother bishops. May God grant him eternal rest." (Bishop Malone)

Here is my last conversation with Cardinal Edward Michael Egan. After the Liturgy in honor of 25th Anniversary of Bishop Edward Michael Grosz, as we priests were passing by him: Cardinal Egan: "Are you Byzantine." Yes", I said. "Ukrainian", he asked. "Yes". "Nice to meet you", he added while extending his hand in greetings. I kiss his hand. "Nice to meet you!"
Eternal Memory!, Cardinal Edward M. Egan! Vichnaya Pamiat'

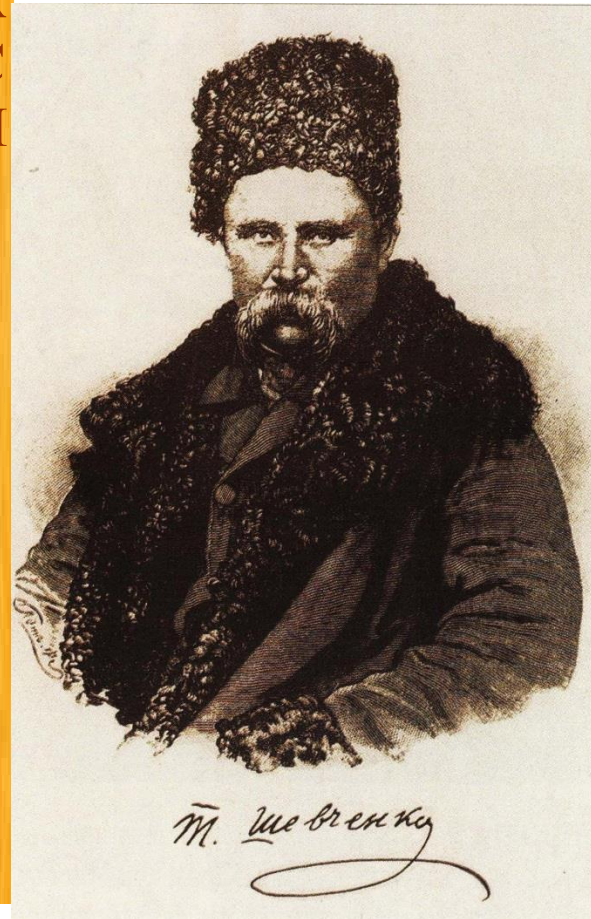
SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



Тарас Г. Шевченко (9. III. 1814 – 10. III. 1861)
Taras H. Shevchenko (3. 9. 1814 – 3. 10. 1861)



№
10

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



CHURCH BULLETIN
March 8 – 2015 – 8 Березня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

Мені однаково - Мені однаково

*It makes no difference to me,
If I shall live or not in Ukraine
Or whether any one shall think
Of me 'mid foreign snow and rain.
It makes no difference to me.*

*In slavery I grew 'mid strangers,
Unwept by any kin of mine;
In slavery I now will die
And vanish without any sign.
I shall not leave the slightest trace
Upon our glorious Ukraine,
Our land, but not as ours known.
No father will remind his son
Or say to him, "Repeat one prayer,
One prayer for him; for our Ukraine
They tortured him in their foul lair."*

*It makes no difference to me,
If that son says a prayer or not.
It makes great difference to me
That evil folk and wicked men
Attack our Ukraine, once so free,
And rob and plunder it at will.
That makes great difference to me.*

**St. Petersburg
Citadel Prison May, 1847**

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CHURCH BULLETIN

March 8 – 2015 – 8 Березня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



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

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM +Mary Bumbar (Pankiw Family)

March 8 3 Sunday of Lent – 3 Неділя Посту

12:00 PM За Парохіян – For Parishioners

Monday, March 9 Березня, Понеділок

8:15 AM +Katherine Chort (Marianne)

Tuesday, March 10 Березня, Вівторок

5:30 PM За зд. Надії і Володимира (Антін і Марія)

Wednesday, March 11 Березня, Вівторок

9:00 AM Presanctified gifts – Нан. Осв. Дари

Thursday, March 12 Березня, Четвер

--.00 AM Funeral of +Norma DuBois
(Please check the papers or call)

Friday, March 13 Березня, П'ятниця

12:00 PM Presanctified gifts & Sorokouste

Sat. March 14 Березня Субота

4:30 PM +Osyap Tschip (wife Irene)

March 15 4 Sunday of Lent – 4 Неділя Посту

12:00 PM За Парохіян – For Parishioners

The Eternal Light burns in mem. of
Fallen Soldiers
For Peace in Ukraine and in the World.

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М.
Горить За Поляглих Воїнів
І за МИР В УКРАЇНІ

March 22 – Annual Parish Meeting
One Liturgy at 10 AM

22 Березня, 2015

Річне Парохіяльне Засідання
Тільки Одна Літургія о 10 р.

8 Березня: 2 Неділя Посту

10:00 р. +Зиновій і Володимира Гіль (син Ігор)

15 Березня: 3 Неділя Посту

10:00 р. +Осип і Гертруда (М. Л. Стасюк)

Pysanka Workshop

Saturday, March 14, 2015

St. Josaphat Ukrainian
Catholic Church
940 Ridge Road East
Rochester, NY 14621



Program Schedule
Adults & Teens only

8:45 Registration/Coffee

9:00 – 12:00 Make Your Own Pysanka

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

❖ Registration Fee \$15.00, includes:

- All materials and supplies (egg, stylus, wax, pencil, sheet of designs)
- Refreshments & Lunch

❖ Payable upon arrival

In order for us to know how many supplies we need to order, please register no later than Sunday, March 8, by calling the Parish Office (585-467-6457) during office hours, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or sign up in the Mosaic, located in the lower level of the church.

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jahawryluk@gmail.com



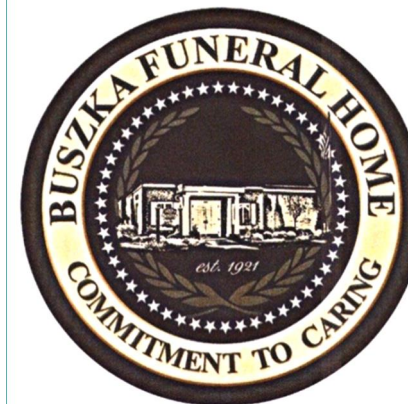
PHONE 893-1025

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www.rufcu.org

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9:30 am – 2pm | Thursday 9:30 am – 6 pm |
Friday 9:30 am – 7 pm | Saturday 9:00 – 1 pm |

Become a member of Ukrainian FCU and save money with lower rates on loans, make money with higher interest on your savings, and save time with our convenient online services!

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ОЩАДНІ ТА ЧЕКОВІ РАХУНКИ | СЕРТИФІКАТИ | ММ | ПОЗИКИ | КРЕДИТИ НА НЕРУХОМІСТЬ | ПЛАТІЖНІ КАРТКИ VISA | MONEYGRAM | ГРОШОВІ ПЕРЕКАЗИ | ЕЛЕКТРОННІ ПОСЛУГИ | ПОСЛУГИ НОТАРІУСА |

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

Щоб довідатися більше інформацій про це що діється в громаді,
Просимо відвідати веб-сторінку.

<http://www.ukrainiansofbuffalo.com>

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

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We welcome your comments.

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

Просимо вилучувати ваші мобільні
телефони підчас Святої Літургії.

DONATIONS TO SAINT NICHOLAS

"Special Appeal"

IMO Dorothy Kordrupel

Mr. & Mrs. James Krickoviolt - \$60.00

Michelle Michalow – \$20.00

IMO Luba Ciolko

Kpff Consulting Engineers - \$200.00

Donations Towards Coffee Hour

Yearly Communication Assessment Fee

Marija Dranka

Aleksandra Prawak

Ola Czmola

Olena Czmola May

St. Mary – Niagara Falls

On Friday May 29, Protection of the Most Holy
Mother of God Catholic Church, 2713 Ferry
Ave. Niagara Falls, NY 14301 is having another
wine-tasting event with Eagle Crest/Oh-ne-Da
winery. More info later.



2015 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.

Просимо заківалених ставати
членами Ліги Українців Католиків.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

L.U.C. ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT

The League of Ukrainian Catholics of America (L.U.C.) sponsors a Lenten (Great Fast) Retreat for all faithful of the byzantine catholic community. This year the retreat will be held March 20-22 at St. Mary's Villa Retreat Center, Sloatsburg, NY. Everyone is invited to participate in this retreat; the program is conducted in English.

The Journey to Pascha (Easter) through the Great Fast, is a special time in our Liturgical year cycle for reflection, fasting, prayer and renewal; a time to 'escape' from the daily routine for a weekend to refresh oneself spiritually and physically.

League religious director, Sr. Olga Faryna, OSBM has engaged Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM of the Holy Dormition Friary in Sybertsville, PA to be the retreat master. His theme, "Fellowship of the Holy Spirit", will lead us on an exploration of this "fellowship" from several perspectives. As Fr. Jerome relates, this theme impels us to open our Bibles (be sure to bring yours, or one will be provided) as we also open the Divine Liturgy for deeper, prayerful awareness and understanding.

The program begins with a conference at 7:00pm on Friday evening March 20th, and concludes with Lunch on Sunday March 22nd. Ample time is provided for individual reflection, mediation, fellowship, and for the sacrament of reconciliation (confession) in preparation for Pascha (Easter). Registration form and a complete program are available. Please complete the form, include payment, and return as indicated to reserve your place.

Don't miss this opportunity to prepare yourself for the most joyous day on the Christian calendar surrounded by the spacious, serene, lovely grounds of St. Mary's Villa. The Retreat Center houses a fine chapel designed in the Byzantine style, an outdoor Lourdes grotto, adjacent outdoor Stations of the Cross, and a meditation pool and garden with walking trails. It is our hope you will be inspired to come and join others in prayer and "fellowship". And don't come alone, bring a friend!

Глава УГКЦ подякував мальтійцям за гуманітарну допомогу для постраждалих в Україні



6 березня 2015 Р.Б. Блаж. Святослав, зустрівся з послом Суверенного мальтійського ордену в Україні Антоніо Газзанті Пульезе ді Котроне. Зустріч відбулася на території Патріаршого центру УГКЦ у Києві.

Під час розмови сторони обмінялися думками щодо діяльності Мальтійської служби допомоги в Україні як під час Революції гідності, так і під час війни на Донбасі. Пан ді Котроне розповів Главі УГКЦ про різні гуманітарні проекти для осіб, які постраждали від бойових дій: вимушеним переселенцям, пораненим.

Блаженніший Святослав пригадав про прохання, яке він висловив Папі Франциску під час нещодавньої прощі до Апостольської Столиці, ініціювати на міжнародному рівні збір гуманітарної допомоги для постраждалих. Предстоятель УГКЦ подякував, що Мальтійський орден одним із перших відгукнувся на такий заклик.

Глава УГКЦ також висловив слова вдячності за організацію міжнародної акції допомоги пораненим воїнам. «Щиро дякую вам за всі ті численні автомобілі невідкладної медичної допомоги, які зараз перебувають в зоні проведення бойових дій. Завдяки їм вдалося врятувати багато життів», – сказав Блаженніший Святослав.

На завершення зустрічі сторони обговорили перспективи розвитку волонтерського руху в Україні та можливості співпраці УГКЦ і Мальтійського ордену.

Департамент інформації УГКЦ

Pierogi for Peace Fundraiser

To support the war victims of Ukraine

Palm Sunday, March 29 - Noon – 5pm

At Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church Hall
200 Como Park Boulevard,
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

▣ Pierogi (variety) ▣ Cakes and cookies
▣ Cabbage rolls ▣ Chinese auction

Sponsored by the Ukrainian Community in
Buffalo, ODFFU, Ukrainian Churches:
St. Nicholas, St. John the Baptist, Holy Trinity,
Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Our Coffee Hour Donations Fund, used to buy food for the Sunday Coffee Hours, is depleted. Donations 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 \$3600.00. Thank you for your help. Elaine

**Reminder:
Jars of Honey are for sale. The cost per jar is \$8.00 or 2 for \$15 It will be available in the hall during Coffee Hour.**

**Thank you all
who helps in the kitchen.
May the Lord bless you!**



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

- KITCHEN is now open.
- Thank you for your patronage.
We need your help in the kitchen. Thank you!
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- Lent starts February 16 according to Gregorian and February 23 according to Julian Calendar.

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**

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ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ**

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Fax: 855-1319 ~ Kitchen: 852-1908

Confession: Before Liturgies

Сповідь: Перед Св. Літургіями

Baptism: By appointment

Хрещення: За домовленням

Marriage: Contact 6 months in advance

Вінчання: Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

Religion classes – Релігійна Програма
Субота - Saturday

Ministry to the sick - Опіка над xvorymy

Family members should call the Rectory

Родина повинна повідомити священика

IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME

В разі потреби завжди можна закликати

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor & dean

Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

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

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

Школа Українознавства

“Рідна Школа”

Запрошує на концерт
присвячений
легендарному
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**ТАРАСА
ГРИГОРОВИЧА
ШЕВЧЕНКА**

в Неділю, 8 березня 2015
року о 1-й годині

В залі церкви
Святого Івана Хрестителя
3275 Elmwood Avenue,
Kenmore

12:00 - 1:00

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добровільні датки!

School of Ukrainian
Studies

“Ridna Shkola”

Cordially invites you
to concert dedicated
to poet,
artist and our
freedom fighter

**TARAS
SHEVCHENKO**

On Sunday, March 8, 2015
at 1 pm

St. John the Baptist Ukrainian
Church Hall
3275 Elmwood Avenue,
Kenmore, NY

12:00 - 1:00

Parents Committee will be
serving Ukrainian
sandwiches,
coffee and homemade
sweets

Donations will be greatly
appreciated!

Letter from Fr. Ray March. 8, 2015

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear _____

(Say your name right here for your very own personal letter)

Because I never know for sure where you will be, or exactly when you will be able to read your letter, I'm never quite sure how to begin. Sometimes you read it on-line as “tomorrow's news today;” some of “My People” read it on Saturday evening; sometimes you read it Sunday morning, or Tuesday, or even later in the week whenever the ‘snail-mail’ gets it to you. So wherever you are, and wherever you happen to be, and whenever it is that you are reading, I say, “Greetings to you!” I hope this note finds you well and happy in the Lord. Grab your cup of coffee, relax and let me send a few thoughts about nothing, and about everything. Thanks be to God, He is willing and the creek (Creek?) didn't rise!

One very interesting, and I think, most important part, of this past week happened to be the visit of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the United States. Yes, it's true he came as a political figure, a head of state, and spoke to our politicians, but make no mistake about it, the message was not only political, it was very religious. I'm sure I just heard someone say, “What are you talking about?”

True, he spoke about Iran and the on-going discussions regarding their developing atomic weapons, but the bottom line of his speech in my humble opinion, was speaking about good and evil. First of all he underscored the dangers we face in this world from unbridled terrorism. He called attention to the evils of this world. He spoke as statesman (that's something that hasn't been seen or heard very much in those hallowed halls lately), but he spoke as a God-believing and God-fearing human being. He took on the appeasers and reminded me of Winston Churchill's statement: “An appeaser is one who feeds the crocodile hoping it will eat him last.” How utterly refreshing it was to hear Mr. Netanyahu's words!

One radio announcer said he was “clear, focused, fearless and right. He was moral, ethical, spoke with legal clarity. The Prime Minister's speech was one to rally and show how western civilization could be

saved. He certainly was everything our President is not.” He certainly was everything most of our lawmakers are not. He completed his speech by pointing to a marble sculpture of The Holy Prophet Moses which hangs on the back wall of the gallery of that House of Congress. (Wonder how long that will stay there now that the atheists have seen it?)

The final words of Mr. Netanyahu were a quote from that same Holy Prophet Moses in his parting words to the Chose People. “Be strong and resolute, neither fear nor dread them.” This is from Deuteronomy 31:6. The final words of that scripture verse (not quoted by Mr. N.) are, “For the Lord thy God, He Himself, is thy leader and will not leave thee, nor forsake thee.” What a wonderful message this “statesman” brought to our country, and to each and every one of us, as he called our attention to those words of Moses to the Chosen People, and then to Joshua: “But the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not be afraid, nor be terrified.” (Deut. 31: 8) “Be not afraid!” “My Jesus, I trust in Thee!” May God Bless and keep Mr. Netanyahu!

Thanks be to God, you've got mail! He is willing, and the creek didn't rise, so here I am again coming into your home, and your heart, sending you my thoughts, prayers and love as I remind you of THE ONE who comes to us with every blessing and good gift, our Good and Loving God! Yes, our God is with us! He has come to be with us, walk with us, even live with us! “And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.” (John 1:14) Literally, this means, “He has pitched His tent among us!” Isn't that a magnificent picture? God so loves us that He comes and makes His dwelling place with us!

How awesome are thoughts of this kind when we remember the Incarnation, the taking on of our humanity by Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ! He has come to us, become like us in every way except sin, as St. Paul writes. In Him we have come to know the One True God! In Christ we now become heirs to the Kingdom, to Everlasting Life. And not only that, not only did He *once upon a time*, come

here and live with us, but He STILL lives among us, His tent is still here! He calls us to Himself and bestows upon us every grace and blessing. God among us! God living and guiding us and calling us to Himself. Wow! How blessed we are! As we have been hearing the last few weeks in St. Basil's Liturgy, we are indeed a "Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation!"

Our time of the Great Fast, this time of "Bright Sadness," as Father Hopko describes it, among other things, has as its purpose to remind us of the great presence of God among us. These days, given to us for our salvation, are to remind us of our God among us, and of all He has done for us and of all He wants to do for us, now and always. Yes, our God dwells among us! By our prayers, fasting and penance we are reminded of the incredible gift we have in our Lord, Who heals us and saves us and blesses us.

Last night I was talking with a young lady, who is well in her 80's. This person is one of the most beautiful people you could ever meet. She has always been pious and devout, and loves God, the Mother of God and all the saints deeply and intimately. She is always there for anyone in need. She is a true believer, and I always say when speaking of her, that she already has one foot in heaven, even as she walks this earthly path. She is one of the holiest people I know because she lives and breathes her Faith, our Faith. This is the same faith which allows us, yes, even compels us to say, "God is with us!"

She recently told me a family story and I'd like to share it with you. Her son and his wife were expecting a baby. When she was five months pregnant the doctor informed them that there were serious defects with the unborn child and abortion would probably be "the best plan." However, because of their faith, this could not be an option.....and so they prayed....and prayed.....and prayed!

One night, as the girl describes it, "A man appeared to me in the middle of the night and told

me not to worry, that our baby is healthy and is a boy." And Matthew is still a healthy boy, eighteen years later! She doesn't know who the "man" was, nor do I. One devout nun is sure it was the baby's Guardian Angel. What I am sure of, however, is it was the presence and blessing of God, answering heartfelt and faithful prayers and coming among His people. God's healing and presence are so often spoken of as something rare or unusual. But we know this is not the case. He is always with us!

One minister, with whom I worked in the VA, when he heard stories of God's being with us and blessing us and giving us good things, always would say to the people relating the "unusual" story: "The wonder is not that marvels happen, but that we recognize them when they do happen." He is always here! He is always with us. He has pitched His tent among us, right here and right now! Glory to God for all things!

I pray you will come to know this God dwelling with us, and in us! I'm sure you have your very own story of divine visitation and blessing. All of us do. That's because it is not as unusual as we think. The wonder is not that these blessings occur, but that we recognize them when they do. And for them, we then give God the glory! For you, my dear reader, I pray for mercy, life, peace, health, divine visitation and for all things necessary unto your salvation! God bless you and our Holy Lady Theotokos protect you!

In His Love,
Fr. Ray

**СТИПЕНДІЙНА АКЦІЯ
49-ГО ВІДДІЛУ СУА
ДЛЯ НЕЗАМОЖНОЇ МОЛОДІ В УКРАЇНІ.**

**ЧЕКИ МОЖНА ВИПИСИВАТИ: UKRAINIAN
NATIONAL WOMENS LEAGUE.
МИНУЛОРІЧНІ ЗВІТИ Є
У РЕФЕРЕНТОК СТИПЕНДІЙ:**

**Зірка Яцишин-Банч - 668-9504
та Оксана Салдит - 832-9331**

КОНЦЕРТ - CONCERT

Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine Concert
Sponsored by Ukrainian Federal Credit Union

The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus

(www.bandura.org) brings its

"Brothers! We Shall Live!" tour to Rochester NY as part of a Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine Concert. The concert selections will include many songs from the newest UBC recording, "Brothers! We Shall Live!"

Sunday, March 15 at 2:30pm

Hochstein School of Music & Dance
50 Plymouth Avenue North,
Rochester, NY 14614

TICKET INFORMATION

Purchase your tickets at Ukrainian FCU branch locations in Rochester, Webster, Syracuse, or Buffalo. Visit http://rufcu.org/contact_us.php for branch information or call the main office at (585) 544-9518.

\$25 - General Admission

\$20 - General Admission for Ukr. FCU members

\$10 - Students (ages 21 and under)

General Admission Tickets can also be purchased online at:

<http://ubcrochester.eventbrite.com>

Please note that discounted tickets for Ukrainian FCU members and student tickets cannot be purchased online.

We did not have enough people, so there is no bus, but you could drive there on your own.

Hope the weather will be fine.

"The Vibrant Parish..."

Dearly beloved in Christ! In listening or reading these words, many of you may ask: who will implement these important and much needed initiatives? Who will ensure that our parishes are truly vibrant? The bishop, perhaps? Maybe our pastor together with other members of the clergy? Perhaps this is partially the work of catechists or consecrated religious if their monastery is located on the territory of the parish? The answer to this question is simple: each and every one of us is responsible for the renewal of our parish communities. Christ's commandments apply to all faithful Christians without exception. Together, we all form the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. That is why all of us need to be "living stones" as we build our parish community, through which the Church is present where we live.

Therefore, I encourage all of you: open the doors of your hearts and your homes to Christ, allow His Holy Spirit to transform you, purify and strengthen you in God's love! And I invite all – laity, religious, and clergy – to the renewal of our church life on our native lands and abroad. Let us move forward, strengthened in God's grace, and trusting in His Holy Providence, which guides our Church through the ages!

I entrust all of you, dearly beloved in Christ, to the motherly protection of the Most Holy Theotokos. May our heavenly Mother lead us to her Son! May the holy protectors of the Ukrainian lands, in particular, the blessed martyrs of the last century, intercede for us. Through their suffering, often with the greatest sacrifice of their very lives, our persecuted Church, which found itself in the catacombs for decades, was truly vibrant and life-giving. By their example and their intercession may they be a sign of hope for us and a promise of the Lord's blessing in our ministry.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you!

+ SVIATOSLAV

Given in Kyiv, December 2, 2011 AD
at the Patriarchal Sobor of the Resurrection of our Lord

З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

Піст вже почався і сьогодні Друга неділя посту. Це час на покаяння, час на роздумування про зміну свого життя, час на молитву. В цьому святому часі ми кожного дня, крім неділі і суботи відмовляємо наступну молитву з поклонами:

"Господи і Владико життя мого, духа лінивства, недбалості, властолюб'я і пустослів'я віджени від мене.

Духа чистоти, покори, терпеливості і любові дай мені слугі твоєму.

Так, Господи царю, дай мені бачити провини мої, і не осуджувати брата мого ні сестри моєї, бо ти благословен єси на віки вічні. Амінь!"

У євангельському читанні чули ми, що Христос оздоровляє паралітика.

Кілько і сьогодні надовкола нас можемо зауважити різного роду паралітиків чи на пів паралізованих. Одні хворіють на тілі, другі на душі. Одні не можуть ходити, другі не можуть бачити, треті не може чути, інші ненавидять своїх братів чи сестер, ще інші шукають відплатитися за кривди заподіяні, і так постійно нема спокою у їхніх серцях. Шукають за розв'язкою і не знаходять, бо почасти не знають де і як її шукати.

Паралітик з нинішнього євангелія не може сам собі зарадити. Але він щасливий бо має добрих приятелів. Чотирьох з них беруть його разом з його постелею і несуть його до Христа. Чули вони про нього, що він виліковує, і подумали собі попросити його о поміч про їхнього хворого друга.

І ми, коли бачимо інших, що терплять повинні бути для них добрими друзями, які допоможуть їм, зроблять все можливе, щоб олекшити їхню ситуацію, привести їх до Христа. Бути для них Христом.

Навіть, коли зустрінемося з труднощами у тій допомозі, не повинні ми зневіритися, подібно до приятелів розслабленого. Багато людей було надовкола Христа, так що не можна було до нього доступитися. Не один подумав би, що тут нема що робити, треба вернутися звідки і прийшов, забути що колись була надія на оздоровлення. Але тоді дійсно усе перепало би, обвинувачували би когось іншого за невдачу, а насправді ми самі були би причиною.

Коли є труднощі, то треба підвестися понад них, так би мовити вилізти на дах. Не девитися негативно на все що нас оточує, думаючи що усі проти нас, що нема виходу, а радше у позитивному навітленні постараймося достосуватися, змінити, відкинути або в який інший спосіб зарадити, і наша впертість у доброму розумінні буде винагороджена.

Під час посту постараймося побачити свої недомагання, усунути перепони, стати чим більш святими, наслідувати Христа як найкраще, давати добрий приклад для інших, бути для них провідниками, дорадниками, вчителями і рівно ж від них вчитися і так разом іти за Господом. Подумаймо на якому щаблі досконалості ми під цю пору находимося і що нам слід зробити, щоб підноситися вище, щоб досягнути нашу мету – Єдності з Богом.

Коли книжники чули, що Христос сказав: "Сину, відпускаються тобі твої гріхи", почали шептати поміж собою засуджуючи Христа кажучи „хто може відпускати гріхи, хіба одинокий Бог”...

Як часто і ми готові засудити інших, бо не розуміємо їх, або хочемо підсміхнутися з них, щоб інші указували на них пальцем, а все на це щоб себе оправдати, підвищити себе в чужих очах, щоб про нас усі гарно говорили, а на інших пальцем показували.

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

There once was a soldier whose courage broke during battle. He was a skillfully trained medic, assigned to treat the injured men brought back to the trenches during WWI. But unable to handle his fear and the violence anymore, he ran one night from the front-line. He hoped he could make it to the coast, and catch a boat returning back to his homeland. After a number of hours groping in the dark of a moonless night, the soldier realized he was totally lost. The cold and his own fear had gripped him. Finally, still trudging around in the night, he ran into what he thought to be a signpost, but it was so dark he could not see what it said or which way it pointed. So the soldier climbed up the signpost to the very top, and struck a match. In the glimmering of that match, he looked square into the face of Christ. Startled, he tried to collect himself and soon realized he was looking at a wayside crucifix. Then, he remembered the One who had died for him, the One who had endured all, who had never turned back no matter what the odds. Though it took all the energy this soldier had left, by the time the sun broke over the morning's horizon, he had returned to his post in the trenches.

On this Third Sunday of Lent, we come face to face with the cross Christ died upon to save us from our sinfulness. The cross is a very personal and up close reminder of how much Jesus truly loves us. The Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross teaches us to understand the great significance the Cross has for us, not only during Lent, but also throughout our lifetime. We read scripture describing it, every time we celebrate Liturgy; we face it on the altar every time we participate in service. Lent is a reminder to us that the cross Jesus took signified the choice He made in giving His own life as a ransom for many. The cross was the ultimate sacrifice that Christ bore for each of us, so we could one day know our Heavenly Father. Great Lent is a time of reconciliation, prayer, and reflection; it is therefore the time of year whereby we turn our attention to the cross. We focus on that which God has given us, and we are challenged to go forth and do likewise. Lent is about turning over our lives to Christ in order to save them, about receiving

Eternal life by finding the presence of Christ within us. "For whosoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whosoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel will save it" (Mark 8:35). Today, having reached the middle of our Great Fast, we take this time to commemorate the precious, life giving cross of our Lord and Savior!

A young man was at the end of his rope. Seeing no way out, he dropped to his knees in prayer. "Lord, I can't go on," he said. "I have too heavy a cross to bear." The Lord replied, "My son, if you can't bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then, open that other door, and pick out any cross you wish." The man was filled with relief. "Thank you, Lord," he sighed, and he did as he was told. Upon entering the other room, he saw many crosses; some so large the tops were not visible. Then he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a far wall. "I'd like that one, Lord," he whispered. The Lord replied "My son, that is the cross you just brought in." In today's Gospel reading, Christ is not just talking about giving up our material possessions, the things we desire most in life, but rather Christ is asking us to give ourselves over to God – to desire to be with God more than anything else. If we are going to follow Jesus, then only He will make those final decisions, when the great issues of our lives hang in the balance. Only then, are we able to accept the second step that immediately follows: "Let him deny himself, and take up his cross". Christ not only asks his disciples, He is also asking each of us, to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. "Then Jesus called the crowd to Him, along with His disciples and said: 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'" (Mark 8:34-35).

I am sure these very words, even falling on the disciples' ears, were almost incomprehensible to them. How could they know what Jesus meant? To them, the cross was but a vague, hazy blur on the horizon of their minds. They did not understand where Jesus was heading. But Christ knew that after His Passion, after the suffering He would endure in those three days: there was to be a renewed joy, through the glory of His Resurrection. But at that time, the disciples could not possibly understand what Christ meant by taking up the cross, they did not know it would become the symbol of His victory over death.

They would not know until much later. But what does the cross mean for each of us listening today? We, who are well aware of Christ's love and the tremendous sacrifice He made for us - we claim the Lord comes first in our lives, but how much of our daily actions are devoted to Him? The cross is not some ordinary symbol of triumph - but rather our Lord's promise of the Kingdom to come. On the cross, Christ gave us His final message, as He made the ultimate sacrifice for our salvation - He promised there would be a renewed joy waiting for each of us on Easter morning. So during the most difficult times of our lives, we can always look to the cross with hope. Jesus never sought to lure men to Him by the offer of an easy way. He came not to make life easy, but to make the hearts of men great. Jesus never calls upon us to do or face anything that He was not prepared to endure Himself.

I read an amazing story about Thomas Carlyle, a famous Scottish writer. After completing the first volume of one of his most famous books, *The French Revolution*, which was painstakingly produced by hand since this was one hundred fifty years before computers; Carlyle bundled up the manuscript and handed it to a good friend to read. A few days later, the friend's servant mistook it for waste near the garbage, and used the manuscript to start a fire to warm the house. Carlyle's book and years of hard work were destroyed. Days later, as he sat, sad and depressed by the window, he watched a stonemason building something in front of the great cathedral, brick by brick, hour by hour, and day by day. Many weeks later, he saw what the stonemason had worked so diligently to build - it was the cross of Jesus. This cross inspired Carlyle deeply, and he began to rebuild his manuscript, word by word, page by page, chapter by chapter until it was redone. To this day it is still considered to be one of his greatest literary works! All of us, at some point in time, experience great loss. But, whether the loss is great or small, if we allow the presence of Christ in our lives to lift us up from our sorrows, we can rewrite the pages of our lives. Therefore, whenever we come face to face with disappointment or loss, remember that our Savior sees a masterpiece deep inside of us, waiting to be created and sometimes recreated. Christ did not just go to the cross for those who accomplish great things; Christ went to the cross for each and every one

of us: young and old, rich and poor, black and white, man, woman, and child. Christ makes no distinction in his love for humanity, and that is why He so humbly took the cross for our sins. He believes in us and He loves us beyond compare.

Each of us, in our own personal way, needs to actively build a genuine relationship with Christ - because He is always there, reaching out to us in love - but sometimes, we fail to see Him. The good news in today's Gospel is this, if we are willing to lose our life, to let those worldly concerns die, then we shall gain Eternal life. God will be glorified in the life you receive after this temporary existence. The good news is that wherever we find the Cross, there we will find our strength, our victory, and our salvation. Today, as we celebrate the veneration of the cross, we acknowledge the sacrifice and the glory of the Son of God. Building a sincere relationship with Christ requires our daily participation - it requires our love to play a part in His Glory. As glorious as Jesus was in this life, He was still yet to be glorified. There was still a level for Him to ascend. I would have thought He was glorified when the heavens opened up and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him and our Heavenly Father said, "*This is my beloved Son*". But the glory of Jesus was greater than this. I would have thought He was glorified when He stood on the bow of a boat in the midst of a raging sea, and said, "*Peace, be still*" and the roaring seas became calm still waters. But no, there was still a greater glory than this. Some would have surmised that Jesus had ascended to glory when He raised Lazarus from the dead, but no - there was still an even greater glory to come. Jesus allowed his enemies to nail him to the cross; and yet He prayed, "*Father, forgive them for they know not what they do*." Christ ascended to His glory after He was buried in a borrowed tomb, when on the third day, He rose from the dead and stood before His disciples and declared, "*All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me*." Jesus ascended into glory, so that we too may ascend into the glory of a living God. Today, the Church places before us this venerable image of the cross so that we may begin to see, that in the midst of our own suffering and passion, in the midst of our waiting and Christ's veneration: we can already experience His Resurrection! That is what "carrying our cross" truly means...

«Бути людиною в нелюдських обставинах – сьогоднішній заповіт для нас від митрополита Андрея», – Блаж. Святослав

Патріарх Йосиф Сліпий, за свідченням його сучасників, коли перед ним поставала складна дилема, ставив собі запитання: «А що на це б сказав митрополит Андрей?» Готуючи Послання на Рік митрополита Андрея Шептицького, ми ставили перед собою те ж запитання. Адже, перебуваючи в обставинах військової агресії, Україна вкотре у своїй історії стає жертвою несправедливого нападника.

Так сказав у відеоблозі для «Живого.ТБ» Отець і Глава Української Греко-Католицької Церкви Блаженніший Святослав.

Як відомо, митрополит Андрей Шептицький пережив дві Світові війни. Тому, за словами Глави УГКЦ, добре відчував і розумів те, що діється з душею людини, яка з мирного часу неочікувано занурюється у час воєнного лихоліття. «Про це Митрополит влучно сказав, що під час війни навіть між тими, що не воюють й тими, яких нічого не ділить, нагромаджуються небувалі кількості непорозумінь, спорів, ворожнечі і ненависті. Таким чином, суспільне товариське життя стає «війною всіх проти всіх». Наслідком цього є те, що проста зичливість і християнська любов стає дорожчим товаром, аніж масло та сало», – цитує Предстоятель УГКЦ.

Під час війни людська психіка особлива зранена. Тому, на думку Блаженнішого Святослава, душпастирям та й усім людям важливо плекати християнську любов і милосердя. За його словами, лише в такий спосіб, як навчав митрополит Андрей, можна успішно перебороти ці труднощі.



«Великий Митрополит нам радить не вдаватися до будь-яких актів насильства або непослуху, зберігати розважливість та спокій, єдність та згоду. Він радить нам керуватися розумом, просвіченим вірою, – продовжує Блаженніший Святослав. – Божий Закон має стати правилом нашого життя і нашою метою. Таким чином, це найкраща дорога, в якій ми можемо послужити Батьківщині і для майбутнього нашого народу. Ніякі людські думки і приречення не оправдовують гріха проти Божої Заповіді».

Однак митрополит Андрей застерігає, що можуть «прийти хвили, в яких нам будуть радити чинити проти нашої совісті і Божого Закону». Але ми повинні завжди чинити, як християни, вірні Божому Заповіті».

«Бути людиною в нелюдських обставинах – заповіт для нас від митрополита Андрея. На думку Митрополита, християнин може і повинен бути патріотом. Проте його патріотизм не може бути ненавистю і накладати обов'язків, які є супротивні вірі. Це те, що сказав би нам сьогодні Митрополит.

(Департамент інформації УГКЦ)