

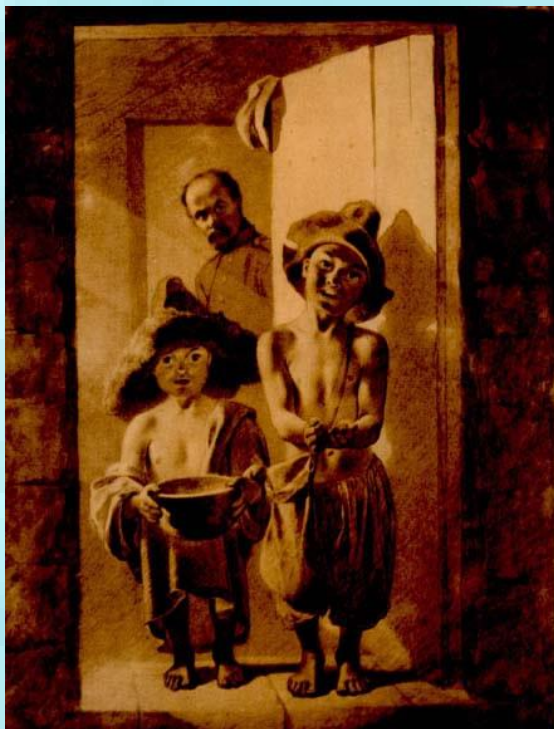
Taras Shevchenko



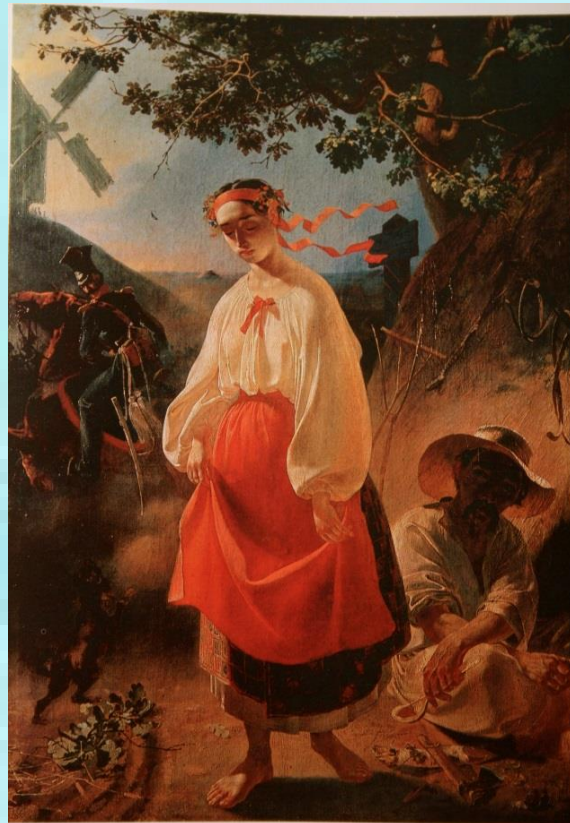
Interior of Pecherska Lavra 1846



144. ЦЕРКВА ВСІХ СВЯТИХ У КИЄВО-ПЕЧЕРСЬКІЙ ЛАВРІ.
Сеня. [IV—IX 1846].



Kazakh Beggar 1853



Kateryna 1842

№ 10
SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

УКРАЇНЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



№ 10
ПІД ОПІКОЮ
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ
МАРІЇ ОДІГТРІЇ
UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN

March 10 – 2013 – 10 Березня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

✠
M
A
R
C
H
10

Taras Shevchenko

(March 9, 1814 – March 10, 1861)

“V nevoli, v samoti nemaie”

In captivity, alone there is no one
With whom to join your heart.
✠ Alone, I'm searching for someone
To talk to.
I'm searching for God, but I find only
2 That God forbid I say it.
0 This is what the years and cruel fate
Have done to me; add to this
1 That my precious youth
3 Has passed in clouds, that there isn't
Even a single event
That's worth recalling.
✠ But you have to comfort your soul,
For it so wants, so pleads at least
For a word of peace. You can't hear,
It's as though the snow in the field is
Drifting over a still warm corpse.



М. Шевченко

1848

CHURCH BULLETIN

February 24 – 2013 – 24 Лютого

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

4:30 PM For Parishioners—За Парохіян

March. 10 4. S. of Lent. – 4 Н. Посту

12:00 PM. Int. of Martelli Family
(Peter Maxim)

Monday, March 11 – Пон., 11 Березня

8:30 AM +Michael Holowaty (Anna wife
& Michael; Michael & Michelle)

Tuesday, March 12 – Вів., 12 Березня

2:00 PM +Петро і Марія Турчин
(донька)

Wed., March 13 – Середа, 13 Березня

7:30 AM Presanctified Gifts
& Great Cannon

Thu., March 14 – Чет., 14 Березня

12:00 PM +Phillip Procyk / +Пилип Процик

1:00 PM Journey through Lent (eng.)

Fri., March 15 – П'ят., 15 Березня

8:15 AM Presanctified Gifts

Sorokousty - Сорокоусти

Sat., March 16 – Субота, 16 Березня

9:00 AM For Parishioners—За Парохіян

4:30 PM +Phillip Plotycia (wife)

March. 17 5. S. of Lent. – 5 Н. Посту

12:00 PM. Living & dec. members of Stch

Front & Back Cover: - 1 і 4 Ст. обкл.:

Taras Shevchenko's Art – Т. Шевченко

Middle pg. dsgn. by Roman Kuzminskyj

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



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

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

10 Березня: М'ясопусна Неділя

10:00 р. +др. Зиновій Гіль (Ігор)

17 Березня: Сиропусна Неділя

10:00 р. +Олекса Курляк

(дружина з дітьми)

On Sunday, March 17 at 10 AM

There will be special Liturgy

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17 Березня о 10 год. Спеціальна

Свята Літургія для дітей

(учнів «Рідної Школи та інших)

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М. горить за Вічний Спокій Тараса Шевченка, що помер 10 Березні 1861 р, і за мого тата Пилипа, що помер 11 Березня, 1979.

Eternal Light burns
For Eternal Memory of
Taras Shevchenko
Who died March 10, 1861
And my father Phillip
Who died March 11, 1979

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Fred & Nadia Marc - \$25.00

Mary Bodnar - \$20.00

Elaine Nowadly - \$25.00

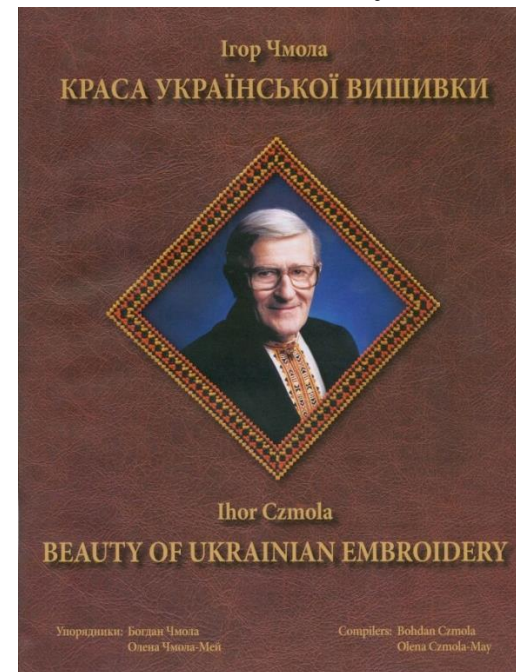
Dmytro & Dolores Baranyuckj - \$25.00

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Wasyl & Mary Ann Puhacz - \$25.00

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Thank You! Дякуємо!



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A new supply of birthday and get well
cards are available in the church hall.

Please attend
Parish retreat
March 22-24.
Retreat master:
**V. Rev. Archpriest dr.
Ivan Kaszczak**
The Pastor of Holly
Trinity Ukr. Cath. Church in Ker-
honkson and Adm. in Hunter

* * *

Цогорічні Реколекції-місії при церкві
Св. Миколая відбудуться 22-24
Березня. Проповідатиме. О.
Протоєрей др. Іван Кащак,
Парох Церкви Пр. Трійці в
Кергонксоні коло Союзівки
і в Гантеру.

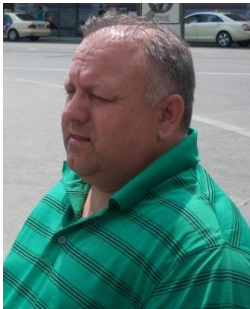
Просимо до участі!

Постать Патріарха Йосифа є не лише обра-
зом сповідництва і непохитності віри, але й
палкої і жагучої спраги знань, духовності,
церковної розбудови, спраги «великого».

Патріарх Йосиф у своєму Заповіті закликає
кожного з нас: «Будьте свідками» Христа в
Україні і на землях вашого вільного і не-
вільного поселення, в усіх країнах ...

Датки на Святу Софію, Патріарший
Фонд можна складати до членів Пат-
ріархального Товариства Миколи
Паславського або Онуфрія Білого-
ловського. Сердечна подяка.

2013 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.



*“I чужому
научайтесь,
й свого не
цурайтесь”...*

М. Шевченка

Школа Українознавства
“Рідна Школа” при УККА

Запрошує на концерт,
присвячений творчості
нашого легендарного поета,
художника та борця за волю
українського народу

**Тараса Григоровича
Шевченка**

який відбудеться

в Неділю, 10 березня 2013 року
Починаючи з Соборної Панахиди о 1-
ій годині в залі Української
Православної Церкви Святої Трійці
200 Como Park Blvd, Cheektowaga

Після мистецької частини
Батьківський Комітет Рідної Школи
та парафія Української Православної
церкви матиме для присутніх
канапки, каву та солодке.

Вступ Вільний

*Будемо вдячні за
добровільні датки!*



*“Learn
from all others,
but do not forget
your own”...*

М. Шевченка

School of Ukrainian
Studies
“Ridna Shkola”, UCCA

Cordially
invites you
to a program
in honor of our poet, artist
and our freedom fighter

**Taras Shevchenko Con-
cert**

On Sunday, March 10, 2013
at 1:00 pm

At the
Holy Trinity
Ukrainian Orthodox Church Hall
200 Como Park Blvd,
Cheektowaga

After the concert,
the Parents Committee &
Parish of Ukrainian Orthodox church
will be serving Ukrainian sandwiches,
coffee and homemade sweets

Free Entry

Donations will be greatly appreciated



Sunday Coffee Hours: If anyone 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 patronage.
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after
Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- We need help in the kitchen. Thank you!
- Thanks are extended to all our good helpers
in the Kitchen. Mnohaya Lita to you all!!!

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звертатися до п. Марії Боднар, або до кан-
целярії. 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
УКРАЇНЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА
СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ
(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
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Хрещення: За домовленням

Marriage: Contact 6 months in advance

Вінчання: Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

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Субота - Saturday

Ministry to the sick - Опіка над хворими

Family members should call the Rectory

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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 ліжниці
або приковані до ліжка!**

49 Відділ Союзу Українок

Повідомляє що розпочинаємо щорічну збірку на стипендії для незможної молоді в Україні. Чеки можна виписувати на Ukrainian National Women's League.

Дуже дякуємо! За інформаціями просимо звертатися до референток 49-го Відділу:

Зоряни Яцишин-Банч – 668-9504
Оксани Салдит – 832-9331



49th Chapter of UNWLA announces that "we are accepting Scholarship donations for needy students in Ukraine." If paying by check please make it out to UNWLA – Branch 49. Thank you very much!



St. John the Baptist
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EASTER BAZAAR

Saturday
March 23, 2013
10 am to 4 pm



FEATURES:
Raffles
Theme Baskets
Ethnic Food



Baked Goods Easter Bread and Eggs
Trash & Treasures
Vendors
Hot Lunch
Free Parking & Admission



A trip to see NOAH at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster has been arranged. The AAA organized trip is May 29-31, 2013. The trip includes roundtrip motorcoach transportation from Buffalo to Lancaster, PA.

- 2night hotel accommodations
- 4 meals: 2 American Buffet breakfasts at the hotel
- Family style dinner at Hershey Farm Restaurant
- Buffet dinner at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre including the stage production of CATS
- Orchestra Seating for Noah at Millenium Theatre
- Behind the scenes tour at Sight & Sound Millenium Theatre
- Visit the Flight 93 Memorial
- All hotel and meal taxes, including gratuities
- Services of a Professional AAA tour director
- Gratuities for your AAATour Director and motorcoach driver

The cost of the trip is \$510.00 for double room. For more information call Dora Horbachevsky – 903-5485.

Payment for the trip is due, March 11th. If you are interested call Dora as soon as possible.

SITCH DINNER MEETING

Sunday March 17, 2013

At Joseph Hriczko Post
Clemon St., Buffalo, NY
After 12:00pm Liturgy

For the reposed and living members of our organization at

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church
Fillmore & Oneida Sts., Buffalo, NY

COCKTAILS at 1:00PM

DINNER at 1:30PM includes refreshments

Meeting to be held after dinner.

Dinner cost is \$10.00 for members and \$15.00 for guests

Membership dues of \$5.00 For the 2013 year must be current and may be paid at the door.

For reservations call:

Mike Liskiewicz – 837-0285 or

Maria Malaniak – 668-5105

Nadia Marc – 839-3016

Reservation deadline is

March 10, 2013

Reservations are a must and liable.

Thank you!



SAVE THE DATE

The 75th Annual Convention of the League of Ukrainian Catholics will be held in Buffalo October 4, 5, 6, 2013 at the Airport Holiday Inn. We ask the support of our local Ukrainian community in this endeavor. We especially ask that organizations not schedule any events that weekend. Thank you!

75 Конвенція Ліги Українців
Католиків відбудеться в
Бюффало, 4-6 Жовтня, 2013 р.

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Сердечно дякуємо за пожертви!

Shakespeare, Burns & Shevchenko

By Andrew Gregorovich

(from the Speech at the Shevchenko Museum, Toronto, year ago March 10, 2012)

Yesterday was the anniversary of the birth on March 9, 1814 of Ukrainian poet and patriot Taras Shevchenko. Today is the anniversary of his death on March 10, 1861...

Taras Shevchenko, the national bard of Ukraine, and the greatest Ukrainian, has often been compared to Robert Burns, the national bard of Scotland. Born in 1759 and dying at age 37 in 1796 Burns was part of a generation before Shevchenko. It has been said that Shevchenko knew about Robert Burns. Like Shevchenko, Burns was born into a farm family and was called a peasant. Like Shevchenko he was first taught to read and write by a deacon.

The first book of poetry by Burns was published in 1786 when he was 27 and it was mainly in Scottish rather than English. From their books of poetry both Burns and Shevchenko became very famous and very popular among the common people. Also both entered intellectual circles and had friends in the upper classes and literary circles.

Every year Scots celebrate Robert Burns Day on January 25 with a dinner and haggis. Every year Ukrainians celebrate Taras Shevchenko with a concert of his poetry put to music and sung by choirs or solo singers close to March 9 or 10. Often they will include bandura player musicians. When the Ukrainian National Anthem was prohibited by Moscow Ukrainians would spontaneously stand when Shevchenko's Zapovit (Testament) was sung so it served as a substitute for the missing anthem.

Ukrainian communities around the world have spontaneously erected monuments of Shevchenko in many countries such as the United States, Canada, France, Greece and Argentina. In 1999 I established the world's first Shev-

chenko web-site and it has now served over one-third of a million visitors. The Taras Shevchenko Museum web-site on infoukes in Toronto has pictures of over 80 Shevchenko monuments and statues around the world but there are actually many, many more. By contrast Shakespeare has extremely few monuments. There are two Shevchenko monuments in Canada (Winnipeg and Ottawa) but only one Shakespeare monument which is in Stratford.

Shevchenko's poem Testament (Zapovit) has been translated into over 140 languages of the world. Burns is most famous for the New Year Eve song Auld Lang Syne.

There is one huge difference between Burns and Shevchenko. All his life Burns was a free man and his poetry was not suppressed. Shevchenko was born a serf, similar to a slave, and was a free man for only 9 out of his 47 years.

The Shevchenko Museum in Toronto plans to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Shevchenko in 2014 by publishing a book of his poetry in Ukrainian, English and French. By coincidence another great writer, William Shakespeare (1564-1616), will be celebrated that year on the 450th anniversary of his birth.

Both Shevchenko and Shakespeare were poets and dramatists of genius, but Shevchenko was also an artist. Shevchenko was mainly a poet with only one play, Nazar Stodolya, to his credit. Shakespeare was mainly a dramatist with 37 plays and 154 poems his lifework. His plays like Hamlet, Romeo & Juliet, and King Lear, are known around the world and performed everywhere including Ukraine. A portrait of Shakespeare is included in the Odessa Opera House. There is a six volume collection of Shakespeare's plays published in Ukraine in 1983-86. His 154 sonnets have also been translated and published in Ukrainian although they are not considered as important as his plays.

There is an interesting contrast between these two geniuses of literature. We still don't know for

certain how Shakespeare looked because there is still controversy about all his portraits. By contrast, because Shevchenko was an artist he created a dozen self portraits including his early years before photography was invented or available. After his 1847-1857 exile in Siberia Shevchenko had ten portraits taken by photographers. We also have the death mask of Shevchenko and the Toronto Shevchenko Museum has one of the three that exist in the world. Shevchenko loved to sing but we do not have his voice because a system of recording had not yet been invented in his time. Many of Shevchenko's great poems have been put to beautiful music by many composers.

Their lives were as different as you could imagine. Shevchenko was born a serf in the Russian Empire which then dominated Ukraine and he was not a free man until age 24 in 1838. By contrast Shakespeare enjoyed complete freedom his entire life. When I visited Stratford-on-Avon in England in 1964 I was surprised at how large his birthplace home was. So Shakespeare was born in a wealthy family compared to Shevchenko. I was pleased to see in a Shakespeare book exhibit that a Ukrainian book was included. Both writers have house museums dedicated to them.

When Shevchenko became a free man he enrolled as a student at the Royal Academy of Art in St. Petersburg and published his first Kobzar book of poetry in 1840. In 1847 he was arrested by the Russian police and exiled to Siberia for ten years. The Russian Emperor, Tsar Nicholas I, himself added to his sentence that he was forbidden to write and paint. But in exile Shevchenko secretly wrote poetry while serving as a soldier in the Russian Army which treated him with brutality.

In 1857 Shevchenko was free again and lived in St. Petersburg, the Russian capital, because he was not allowed to live in Ukraine. When Shevchenko died on March 10, 1861 there were huge crowds of mourners and prominent people paid homage to him. Finally his body was allowed to return to Ukraine and he was buried in Kaniv by the Dnipro

River. Kaniv on the Dnipro River is the Mecca of Ukraine which every Ukrainian would like to visit at least once in their lifetime.

Shakespeare never was persecuted like Shevchenko. He lived a free and comfortable life in London as an actor and dramatist. The Englishman was never censored by his government while Shevchenko's poems were censored by the Soviet government especially in the 1930s...

The English language and the Ukrainian language were influenced by the genius of Shakespeare and Shevchenko. In fact, Shevchenko is credited as the founder of the modern Ukrainian language. The Encyclopedia of Ukraine says: "Shevchenko firmly established the literary Ukrainian language."

Not only is Shakespeare the greatest English writer he also has world significance. Shevchenko was a patriot and the national poet of Ukraine but he is also a world poet because his themes are both Ukrainian and of world significance. For this reason UNESCO twice, in 1961 and 1964, celebrated Shevchenko internationally around the world. Shevchenko read Shakespeare's plays and attended some performances. One of his engravings was of King Lear inspired by Shakespeare's play.

In 2014, we will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of our great genius the immortal Taras Shevchenko. In his Zapovit Shevchenko commanded the Ukrainian people to win their freedom and independence, which happened in 1991, and he concluded with these words: "And in the great new family, the kinship of the free, with a kindly and gentle word, remember also me."



We remember.



З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"



В історичному розвитку України Шевченко — явище незвичайне як своєю обдарованістю, так і місцем у літературі, мистецтві, культурі. Походженням, становищем та популярністю Шевченко — виняткове явище також у світовій літературі. З 47 років життя поет пробув 24 роки у кріпацтві, 10 на засланні, а решту — під наглядом жандармів. Трагічно важкий шлях Шевченка до творчих висот визначив в образній формі І. Франко: «Він був сином мужика і став володарем у царстві духа. Він був кріпаком і став велетнем у царстві людської культури. Він був самоуком і вказав нові, свіжі і вільні шляхи професорам та книжним ученим».

Почасто намагалися нам Шевченка представити як атеїста, але читаючи твори Тараса знаходимо у них його велику побожність. Він немов провадить нас до Христа Страстотерця.

У поемі «Неофіти» він так пише:

«Що Він зробив їм той святий, той Назорей, той Син єдиний Богом ізбраної Марії?

Що він зробив їм? І за що Його, святого, мордували, во узи кували; і главу Його честною терном увінчали.»

І на іншому місці у тій самій поемі:

«Тоді вже сходила зоря над Вифлеємом: правди слово – святої правди і любови –

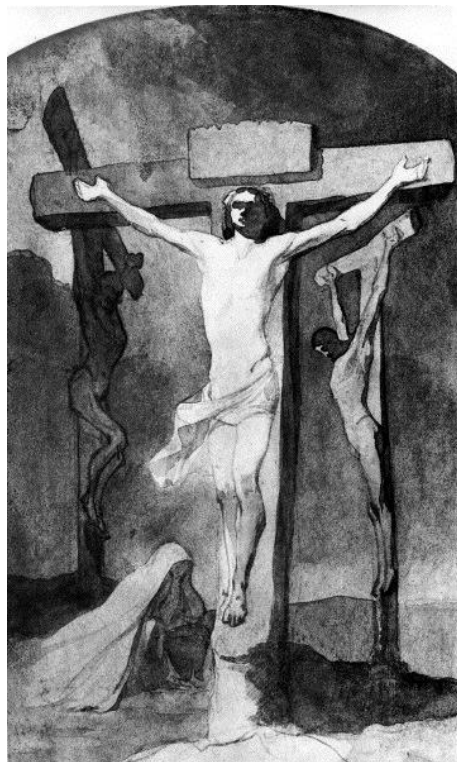
Зоря присвітня зійшла, і мир і радість принесла на землю людям.

Фарисеї і вся мерзена Іудея заворушилась, заревла, неначи гадина в болоті, і Сина Божого во плоті на тій Голгофі розп'яла меже злодіями; і спали упившись кровію кати – Твоєю кровію!..

А Ти возстав од гробу. Слово встало – і слово правди понесли по всій невольничій землі Твої апостоли святії.»

* * *

**Раз добром нагріте серце
Вік не прохолоне! («Сон»)**



From the desk of Fr. Ray Palko

March 10, 2013 A.D.

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

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

As I begin your letter on Tuesday night I must tell you I've seen some things today that have been hidden for a very long time. That would be: sunshine and blue skies earlier in the day, and now that darkness has fallen, the moon and starlit sky. The moon is in the last quarter, and I last saw it about a week ago when it was full. That's how long the clouds have been around. Sure was nice to open the curtains in the morning saying, as we do each day, "Good Morning World!" and have the room become flooded with the brilliant sunshine. Hopefully there will be a lot more of those days in the near future. Nothing like a bright and "sunshiny" day to lift everyone's spirits. In other words, the more sunshine we have, the less crabby people we have. ☺

By the way, did you ever know the full moon in February is called the "Snow Moon?" The reason is simply because February is cold and snowy. The next full moon is going to be on March 27 and it will be a very important one. Its importance comes from the fact that it will be the first full moon after the first day of spring. The date on which we celebrate Pascha is determined by this moon. Our great Holy Day of the Resurrection of our Lord is set as the first Sunday, after the first full moon occurring after the spring equinox. March 20 will be the first day of spring. March 27, a Wednesday will be the full moon, so therefore, Sunday, March 31 will be Pascha. Dear "Fasters", keep up the good fight. It will be here before you know it.

And that is just three short weeks away. The Great Fast will very soon be over and we will, God willing, begin the forty day celebration of the glorious Holy Day of Pascha. (That's new calendar, of course.) So now as we renew our spiritual journey and efforts to prepare for that great day, let us pray for each other that the Lord will bless our fast and lead us to His holy resurrection.

I think about you in a number of ways during the week and especially when I write to you. During this time of the year when you come to mind I wonder how your Lent is going. Yesterday I met 'one of the saints', who told me, "My Lent is going great, I'm actually enjoying it, and I can't believe how quickly it is going by." As priest, it brought tremendous joy to see this lover of God trying his best to allow the grace of God to fill his soul. What a beautiful encouragement to me and to those around him!

It is not this one individual, but I think of you, wherever you are in your own personal desert. I know you, too, are striving to attain the Spirit and to get safely to that empty tomb. It is such an edifying time as we are encouraged by those around us. All we have to do is to look around us, and we see so many attending the Lenten services, and taking up the mantle of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, preparing to meet the risen Lord in this life on March 31, but even more importantly, preparing to meet our Risen Lord in the Kingdom "on that day that has no end." I think we often forget it, but when we are good and faithful to our Church and the Faith we are become a beautiful example and powerful encouragement to those around us. Let us ever be that zealous evangelist; that joyful witness. As we work out our salvation, may we

also aid and bring others to that peaceful shore by our prayer, good works, faith and love.

I think of you in your sickness and loneliness as you bear your cross of illness and suffering in this place where there still is sickness and sorrow and sighing. I think of you as you look down the road and wait for your prodigal to return home. I think of you when you are the caregiver to a loved one, and I pray that you will have the strength and courage to continue in this blessed charity. I think of you when I pray that this present burden will not go to waste, but that we can accept His cross and know the power of “redemptive suffering,” and “offer it up.” I think of you and pray that you will know you are not alone. I think of you and come to you with our too infrequent visits and poor prayers. But far more than that, may you be comforted, strengthened and healed by the presence of the Divine Healer, the Holy Mother of God and all the saints. No, you are never alone. “Be not afraid!” He tells us.

I need to thank you for your excellent and ongoing response to our parish outreach to the Franciscan Center. The non-perishable foods, health, personal care items and checks continue to fill the boxes at St. Nicholas and Holy Protection. In addition, we also receive various shopper’s cards from places like Tops, Wegmans, BJ’s and Sam’s Club, which we forward to Fr. Joe. I wish you could see the care and concern that go into the shopping that results in this positive project. The best part of this charity is that every single contribution goes directly to helping the boys at that Franciscan

mission. God bless you for your charity to them.

Regarding this charity, there also is a small group, thankfully, of very nice and honorable people, who from time to time make a donation to “the Frannies.” These are those ‘techies’ who forget to turn off their cell phones prior to services in church. It began as a bit of a joke a long time ago during a sermon. The priest upon hearing the phone ring during his sermon said, “That better be God calling. And if it’s not, I think you should donate \$5.00 to the Franciscans.” Not long after that, the same person’s phone went off in the same place. Father said, “Ten dollars for a second infraction.” Payment is according to the “honor system” and you would be amazed at what honorable people we have among us. More often than not, Father doesn’t even hear the ringing, but the “culprits” come forth and confess. God bless them and reward them! By the way, as good as the monetary donation is, it is still better not to disrupt the services with one of those magic machines.

Even though the Christmas poinsettias are still growing and blooming beautifully, when you read your letter, daylight saving time will have arrived, we will be a little over a week till the first day of spring, and only three weeks till Pascha. And so we journey on...Be strong, be faithful, be of good cheer!

May God bless you and cause His face to shine upon you. May He grant you His peace! May our Holy Lady protect you beneath the mantle of her heavenly protection!

In His Love,
Fr. Ray

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.



Every year, Ukrainians around the world celebrate the brilliant mind of the great Ukrainian poet, artist and thinker, Taras Shevchenko, who suffered much in servitude and exile, but likewise liberated even more in inspiration and devotion the freedom of the people of Ukraine. Taras Shevchenko, the son of serfs, was born on the estate of Baron Vasili Engelhardt on March 9, 1814. One of six children, at his birth he was little more than another possession of his lord and master. The place of his birth was the village of Moryntsi, some 120 miles south of Kiev, then part of the Russian Empire. His parents, Hryhori and Kateryna Shevchenko, were serfs on the land. Amongst the peasantry, burdened by the brutal and unjust system of serfdom, tales of folk heroes and their struggles for freedom were commonplace, a relief from the toils of the day, as well as a hope for a better future. It was in such an environment that the young Taras and his siblings were raised.

At home, the life of the family was a happy one in terms of the human relations, but a hard one in terms of material possessions and human want. Often, there was a shortage of food, particularly after the hard winter months. Shevchenko himself noted that his mother would often refuse to eat after



working the fields all day, claiming she was not hungry. Taras later concluded that she did not eat because she wanted her children to be better nourished.

The greatest influence on the boy, however, was simply the hard fact of peasant life. Until the abolition of serfdom in 1861, ironically, the year of Shevchenko's death, a serf was free to be worked as an animal, beaten for any perceived misdemeanor, killed in extreme cases, sold or traded. Shevchenko as a boy was witness to all this, including the beating of his own grandfather for not showing proper respect for the master. This was very hard for him to witness, because his grandfather was a beloved influence on his life, and he never forgot such blatant injustice. It is not surprising that in later life so much of his poetry is devoted to the recurring themes of peoples' struggles against injustice and a vengeful hatred of those who oppress. When Taras was nine, his mother died. Soon after, his father remarried, but life was unbearable with his new stepmother. She had brought three children with her and, as perhaps is natural, favored her own over the Shevchenko children. When Taras was eleven, his father died. Shevchenko later summed up his childhood and his feelings

in the following words:

*"I don't describe that little cottage
Beside the pond, beyond the village,
A paradise right here on earth.
That's where my mother gave me birth,
And singing, as her child she nursed,
She passed her pain to me. 'Twas there,
In that wee house, that heaven fair,
That I saw hell... There people slave
from morn till night... There to her grave
My gentle mother, young in years,
Was sent by want and toil and cares.
Their father, weeping with his brood
(And we were tiny, tattered tots),
Could not withstand his evil lot
And died at work in servitude." ...*

Смерть Шевченка

В травні 1859 р. Шевченко одержав дозвіл виїхати на Україну. За поетом встановили суворий таємний нагляд. Шевченко кілька днів жив у Кирилівці, бачився з рідними. В цей період він написав чимало поезій та малюнків, мав намір купити недалеко від с. Пекарів ділянку землі, щоб збудувати хату й оселитися на Україні.

15 липня поблизу с. Прохоровки його заарештували, звинувативши в блюзнірстві. Шевченка звільнили, але наказали виїхати до Петербурга. 7 вересня 1859 р. поет прибув до Петербурга. На початку 1860 р. вийшов друком "Кобзар", двома накладками вийшов альманах "Хата" з дев'ятьма новими поезіями Шевченка, об'єднаними під редакційною назвою "Кобзарський гостинець". 2 вересня 1860 р. Рада Академії мистецтв ухвалила надати Шевченкові звання академіка гравірування. 1861 р. Шевченко видав підручник для недільних шкіл, назвавши його "Букварь южнорусский". На початку 1861 р. поет почував себе дедалі гірше. 13 січня він одержав від Білозерського два примірники першого номера журналу "Основа", де на перших десяти сторінках вміщено його поезії під назвою "Кобзар". У рецензії "Современника" на цей номер журналу підкреслено першорядну роль Шевченка в українській літературі, світове значення його творчості.

В своєму останньому вірші "Чи не покинуть нам, небого" поет висловив

впевненість, що його творчість не потоне в річці забуття.



10 березня 1861 р. о 5 годині 30 хвилин ранку помер Тарас Григорович Шевченко. Над домовиною Шевченка в Академії мистецтв виголошено промови українською, російською та польською мовами. Поховали поета спочатку на Смоленському кладовищі в Петербурзі. Друзі Шевченка одразу ж почали клопотати, щоб виконати поетів заповіт і поховати його на Україні. 26 квітня 1861 р. домовину з тілом поета поїздом повезли до Москви. На Україну труну везли кіньми. До Києва прах Шевченка привезли 6 травня увечері, а наступного дня його перенесли на пароплав "Кременчуг". 8 травня пароплав прибув до Канева, й тут на Чернечій горі поета поховали. Над ним насипали високу могилу, вона стала священним місцем для українського та інших народів світу.

ВІЧНАЯ ПАМ'ЯТЬ, ТАРАСЕ!

199 річниця з дня народження Тараса Г. Шевченка

Т.Г.Шевченко — центральна постать українського літературного процесу XIX ст. Його творчість мала вирішальне значення в становленні й розвитку нової української літератури, утвердивши в ній загальнолюдські демократичні цінності та піднісши її до рівня передових літератур світу. У своїй поезії Шевченко звернувся до тем, проблем та ідей (соціальних, політичних, філософських, історичних, художніх), які до нього ще не порушувалися в українській літературі або порушувалися надто несміливо й соціально обмежено.

Збагачуючи українську літературу новими життєвими темами й ідеями, Шевченко став новатором і в пошуках нових художніх форм та засобів. Автор "Кобзаря" виробляв і утверджував нове художнє мислення. Його роль в історії української літератури більша, ніж роль Пушкіна в російській, Міцкевича — в польській літературі. Його значення в розвитку передової вітчизняної суспільної думки, соціальної і національної свідомості народу не менше, ніж в історії поезії.

Наша дума, наша пісня
Не вмре, не загине...
От, де люде, наша слава,
Слава України!
Без золота, без каменю,
Без хитрої мови,
А голосна та правдива,
Як Господа слово.

<http://www.pisni.org.ua/persons/30.html>



Чи не покинуть нам, небого,
Моя сусідонько убога,
Вірші нікчемні віршувать,
Та заходиться риштувать
Вози в далеку дорогу,
На той світ, друже мій, до Бога,
Почимчикуєм спочивать.
Втомилися і підтоптались,
І розуму таки набрались,
То й буде з нас! Ходімо спать,
Ходімо в хату спочивать...
Весела хата, щоб ти знала!..
Ой не йдімо, не ходімо,
Рано, друже, рано —
Походимо, посидимо —
На сей світ поглянемо...
Поглянемо, моя доле...
Бач, який широкий,
Та високий, та веселий,
Ясний та глибокий...
Походимо ж, моя зоре...
Зійдемо на гору,
Спочинемо, а тим часом
Твої сестри-зорі
Безвічній попід небом
Попливуть, засяють.
Підождемо ж, моя сестро,
Дружино святая!
Та нескверними устами
Помолимось Богу,
Та й рушимо тихесенько
В далеку дорогу —

Taras Shevchenko

March 9, 1814-March 10, 1861

Taras Shevchenko was born March 9, 1814 in Moryntsi, Ukraine. His literary heritage is regarded to be the foundation of modern Ukrainian literature and, to a large extent, the modern Ukrainian language. To a lesser extent, Shevchenko is also remembered for many masterpieces as a painter and an illustrator.

The Shevchenko family moved to Kyrylivka soon after the birth of Taras. In the fall of 1822 Taras started to take some grammar classes at a local school. On September 1, 1823 Taras' mother passed away. A month later his father remarried. In 1824 Taras, along with his father became a traveling merchant. Shortly there after, at the age of eleven Taras became an orphan when, in the spring of 1825, his father died. Taras soon found work as an apprentice.

Unhappy with this arrangement Shevchenko left to seek out an apprenticeship with a painting master. In 1827, by chance Shevchenko encountered Oksana Kovalenko, a childhood friend. With her help Shevchenko was hired as a household servant to Russian aristocrat lord Pavel Engelhardt in Vilnius.

Engelhardt noticed Shevchenko's artistic talent, and apprenticed him to artist Jan Rustem. There he met a Ukrainian artist who introduced him to other compatriots. Through these men Shevchenko also met the famous painter and professor Karl Briullov.

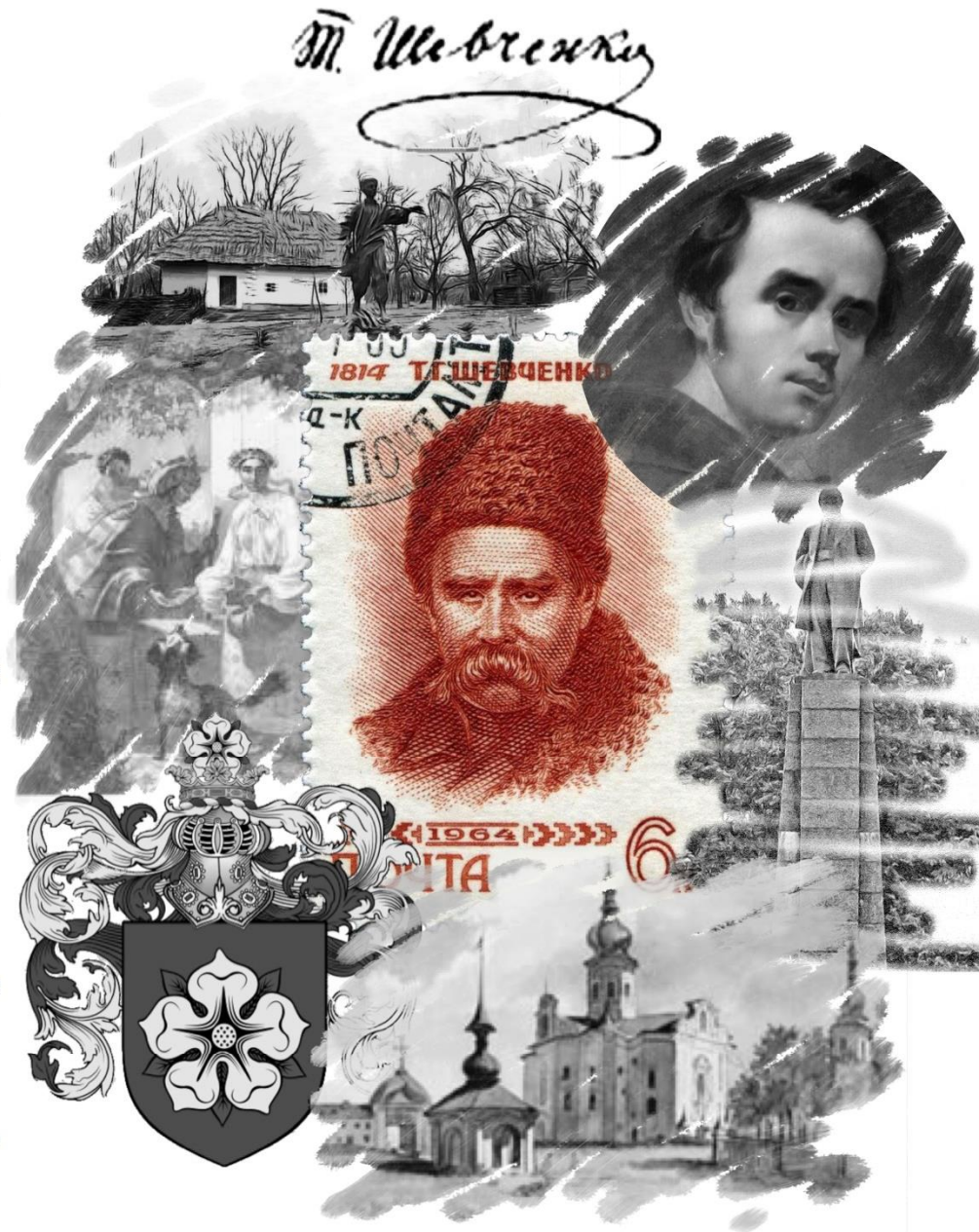
Within months Shevchenko was accepted as a student to the Academy of Arts in the workshop of Karl Briullov. At the annual examinations at the Imperial Academy of Arts, Shevchenko was given a Silver Medal for his artistic portrayal of a landscape. One year later, in 1840 he again received the Silver Medal, this time for his first oil painting, *The Beggar Boy Giving Bread to a Dog*. The next year he became a resident student and in September of 1841, Shevchenko was awarded his third Silver Medal for *The Gypsy Fortune Teller*.

In addition to painting, he began writing poetry. In 1840 his first collection of poetry, *Kobzar*, was published. Ivan Franko, the renowned Ukrainian poet in the generation after Shevchenko, had this to say of the compilation:

"[Kobzar] immediately revealed, as it were, a new world of poetry. It burst forth like a spring of clear, cold water, and sparkled with a clarity, breadth and elegance of artistic expression not previously known in Ukrainian writing"

While residing in Saint Petersburg, Shevchenko made several trips to Ukraine. The difficult conditions under which his countrymen lived had a profound impact on the poet-painter. In 1844, distressed by the condition of Ukrainian regions in the Russian Empire, Shevchenko decided to capture some of his homeland's historical ruins and cultural monuments in an album of etchings, which he called *Picturesque Ukraine*.

On March 22, 1845, the Council of the Academy of Arts granted Shevchenko the official title Artist. He again travelled to Ukraine where he met members of the Brotherhood of Saints Cyril and Methodius, a political society dedicated to the political liberalization of Ukraine. Upon the society's suppression by the authorities, Shevchenko was arrested along with other members on April 5, 1847.



During their search his poem "*The Dream*" ("Son") was found. This poem attacked Slavophilism, personally attacked Emperor Nicholas I and his wife Alexandra and therefore was considered extremely inflammatory. Of all the members of the dismantled society Shevchenko was punished most severely. He was exiled as a private with the Russian military. Tsar Nicholas I, in confirming his sentence, added to it, "Under the strictest surveillance, without the right to write or paint."

With the exception of some short periods during his exile, the enforcement of the Tsar's ban on his creative work was lax. The poet produced several drawings and sketches as well as writings while serving and traveling on assignment as a military sketch painter. Ten years after his arrest Shevchenko finally returned from exile after receiving a pardon paid for by Ukrainians and the auction of a Karl Briullov painting. A condition of his pardon required that he live in Novgorod. In May 1859, Shevchenko sought and got permission return to his native Ukraine. He intended to buy a plot of land not far from the village of Pekariv. In July, visiting friends he was arrested on a charge of blasphemy, but was eventually released and ordered to leave Ukraine. After his return from exile Taras Shevchenko spent the last years of his life working on new poetry, paintings, and engravings, as well as editing his older works. These new works are marked by more frequent allusions to the Bible, especially the Psalms of King David, classical literature, and by the increasingly dominant role of contemplative lyricism. During this time Shevchenko tirelessly worked and prayed not only for his beloved Ukraine's independence and prosperity, but also to resurrect a country which is culturally moral and devoted to God's faith and commandments. In his later poetry he expresses his prayers for God's- blessed Ukraine and prophetically for future generations. He did so by drawing inspiration from psalms, most notably King David's psalm 53: *The folly and Wickedness of Men*

A fool thinks that there is no God.

People (like that) are bad. They are evil.

None of them does anything that is good.

God is looking down from heaven on the people on earth.

He wants to see if there is:

anyone that understands

anyone that is looking for God

But they have all turned away and have become evil.

Nobody does anything good, not one person.

These new works coupled with his difficult years in exile and his final illness proved to be too much. Shevchenko died in Saint Petersburg on March 10, 1861, the day after his 47th birthday. He was first buried at the Smolensk Cemetery in Saint Petersburg. However, fulfilling Shevchenko's wish, expressed in his poem "Testament" ("Zapovit"), to be buried in Ukraine, his friends arranged to transfer his remains to his native land. Shevchenko's remains were buried on May 8 on Chernecha Hill, now Taras Hill by the Dnieper River. Taras Shevchenko is a towering figure in Ukrainian culture and history, he is sometimes seen as both a spiritual and patriot leader of the Ukrainian nation. His works and life are revered by Ukrainians to this day and his impact on Ukrainian literature is immense.

UKRAINA