



"Ridna Shkola"
 (& Choir "Mriya")
 From
 the concert
 dedicated
 to
 poet,
 artist
 and our
 freedom fighter
**TARAS
 SHEVCHENKO**
 =====
 Osyp Hawryluk
 singing
 with Barber
 Quartet

SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
 УКРАЇНЬСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



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



CHURCH BULLETIN
 March 15 – 2015 – 15 Березня
 ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

Сьогодні ми співаємо:
**«Хресту Твоєму
 поклоняємось, Владико,
 і святе воскресіння
 Твоє славимо»**

Без хреста нема воскресіння. Хресна доро-
 га — це школа любові, і її мета — бути з Бо-
 гом, воскреснути. І хоч хрест нам видається
 страшним, по суті, нічого кращого від нього
 нема, адже через нього Господь Бог веде нас
 до себе. Будьмо за це Йому щиро вдячні.



**Світла пам'ять загиблим
 в боротьбі за вільну Україну!**

CHURCH BULLETIN

March 15 – 2015 – 15 Березня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



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

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM +Osup Tschip (wife Irene)

March 15 4 Sunday of Lent – 4 Неділя Посту

12:00 PM За Парохіян – For Parishioners

Monday, March 16 Березня, Понеділок

8:15 AM В нам Галини Лиутваківської і її сина Марка (Оля Чмола))

Tuesday, March 17 Березня, Вівторок

8:00 AM +Edward Verostko (Marianne Chort)

Wednesday, March 18 Березня, Вівторок

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

Thursday, March 19 Березня, Четвер

8:15 AM За Зд. Насті і Мілі (Марія Синишин)

Friday, March 20 Березня, П'ятниця

12:00 PM Presanctified gifts & Sorokouste

Sat. March 21 Березня Субота

10:00 AM +Dmytro Baranyukj +р. (Family) – 2 years

4:30 PM +Pylyp Plotycia (wife Maria)

March 22 5 Sunday of Lent – 5 Неділя Посту

12:00 PM No noon Liturgy – Annual Parish Meeting

**March 22 – Annual Parish Meeting
One Liturgy at 10 AM**

22 Березня, 2015 12 год.

Річне Парохіяльне Засідання

Тільки Одна Літургія о 10 р.

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

15 Березня: 3 Неділя Посту

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

22 Березня: 4 Неділя Посту

10:00 р. +Ярослав і Галина Литвин)

ВАЖНЕ – IMPORTANT

Просимо допомоги з кошиками,
як рівнош спеки щось для **ЗБІРКИ ДЛЯ
ПОСТРАДАЛИХ У ВІЙНИ В УКРАЇНІ**

Що відбудеться 29 Березня
у залі Православної Церкви.

Просимо взяти участь!!!

The organizers of the Pierogi's for Peace Fundraiser have asked for the help of our parish in their endeavor. We have been asked to donate pyrohy, baked goods, and Theme Baskets. Our Parish Friday Kitchen will take care of the pyrohy donation. We are asking the Parish Family of St. Nicholas for their help in donating Baked Goods and Theme Baskets (value around \$25.00). If you don't want to make up your own basket, you can donate money for the purchase of a basket, or gift card. You can put your donation in the collection basket, marked Theme Basket, send it to the rectory, or give it to Father Marijan or Elaine. If you are donating money for a theme basket, you must have the money at the rectory by March 22nd. Already made theme baskets can be brought to St. Nicholas Hall until Saturday, March 28th. Baked goods can also be delivered to our church hall. These items will then be transported to the Orthodox Church Hall. As our parish is one of the sponsors of this fundraiser, we hope we can count on you, the Parish Family of St. Nicholas, for your help.

Please take part!!!

Ukrainian Treasures & More



Judie Hawryluk

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West Seneca NY 14224

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photos on facebook.com

jahawryluk@gmail.com

PHONE 893-1025



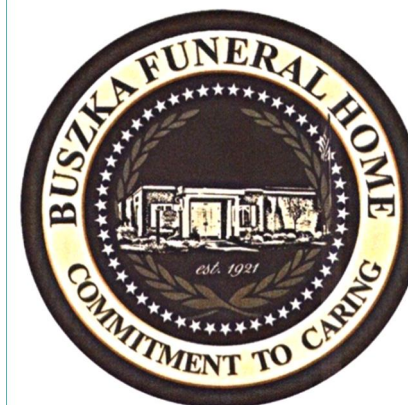
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www.rufcu.org

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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 |

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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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Are you listening "Good Samaritan"
Ukr. Radio Program on WJLL 1440 AM Every
Sunday at 2:00 PM?

Thank you for your donations!
We welcome your comments.

Чи ви слухасте нашу радіо передачу
«Милосердний Самар'янин»
Неділя, 2 год. на WJLL 1440 AM? Сердечно
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Please include Our Church
In Your charitable donations!

Просимо підтримувати Рідну Церкву
талантами, часом і жертвами.

Cell Phones - Мобільні Телефони:

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

Donations Towards Coffee Hour
Yearly Communication Assessment Fee

Luba Joven

Roman & Lyuba Khoma

Dolores Baranyckyj

Peter & Olga Pucak

Thank You! – Дякуємо!



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.



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, on Friday
May 29. More info later.

Blessed Josaphata Hordashevskia

The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate will be in our parish on Saturday, April 18, 2015, with the pilgrimage icon of their foundress, Blessed Josaphata Hordashevskia, with a "first class relic." She was beatified in 2001 by Pope (St.) John Paul II. At least one miracle has been attributed to her intercession. The Sisters pray that one day soon, Blessed Josaphata will be canonized! The afternoon will begin at 2:00 with the moleben to Blessed Josaphata followed by a light lunch and then the Sisters will give a presentation about the life of Blessed Josaphata in English and Ukrainian. You will also have the opportunity to pray before the icon for that miracle you may need in your life. Sr. Kathleen, Provincial Superior and the sisters encourage you to come and pray together with them for the intercession of Blessed Josaphata. This event is sponsored by Catechetical Program of St. Nicholas and League of Ukrainian Catholics.

Blessed Josaphata, Pray for us!

Please attend! – Просимо до участі!

Сестри Службениці будуть в нашій парохії 18 Квітня 2015 з іконою їхньої Засновниці Блаженної Йосафати Гордашевської. Короткий молебень до Св. Йосафати о 2 год, а опісля легкий обід і слово сестер.

Блаженна Йосафата, моли Бога за нас!

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!**

My Ukraine photography exhibit

As I Wake, I Cry:

Revisiting Ukraine weaves together recent travel photos to Ukraine with family photos and cultural artifacts to reveal the emotional story of one artist's road to cultural identification. This work is dedicated to the 'Celestial 100' who died at Euromaidan, the growing number of dead, wounded, and displaced, the many illegal prisoners of war, and the people of Russia – all suffering the effects of the illegal and undeclared Russian war in Ukraine.

Please join artist Lukia Costello in her solo exhibition at CEPA Gallery titled
'As I Wake, I Cry - Revisiting Ukraine'

The show opened Friday January 30th 7-10 pm and runs through March 28th 2015. CEPA Gallery is located at 617 Main St. Buffalo, NY 14203

A portion of all sales will be donated in the name of Maria and Vasyl Sywenkyj to benefit the Ukrainian Freedom fund as administered through Ukr. Federal Credit Union @ Dnipro.

<http://www.cepagallery.org/portfolio/wake-cry-revisiting-ukraine-lukia-costello/>

**We need help in the kitchen
every Friday to make Easter
orders. Thank you!**

**Потребуємо помочі до
церковної кухні у підготовці
до Велекодних свят
кожної п'ятниці. Дякуємо!**



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**

**УКРАЇНЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ**

(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРИЇ)

Parish E-Mail: stnbuffalo@yahoo.com

Web Page: <http://www.stnbuffalo.com>

Dioc. Web: <http://www.stamforddio.org>

308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

Rectory: (716) 852-7566

Fax: 855-1319 ~ Kitchen: 852-1908

Confession: Before Liturgies
Сповідь: Перед Св. Літургіями
Baptism: By appointment
Хрещення: За домовленням
Marriage: Contact 6 months in advance
Вінчання: Голоситися 6 місяців скорше
Religion classes – Релігійна Програма
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!**

Blessed
Josaphata Hordashevskia



Foundress of the
Sisters Servants
of Mary Immaculate

- Beatified in 2001
- by Pope (St.) John Paul II
- A woman for all times
- A miracle has been attributed to her intercession.

The Sisters Servants
of Mary Immaculate
are bringing the
special icon of
Blessed Josaphata with
her “First Class Relic”
to various parishes.

The icon will be here
at St. Nicholas parish.
The Sisters invite all to pray
and present your petitions to
Blessed Josaphata, praying for
whatever “miracle” you may
need in your life and receive a
special medal and holy card.

Saturday, April 18, 2015

It will begin at 2:00 pm
Moleben/chaplet to
Blessed Josaphata
Presentation about
Blessed Josaphata in
English and Ukrainian

Please attend! Просимо до участи!

Letter from Fr. Ray March. 15, 2015

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear _____

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

Good Morning and Hello! You did it! Don't know if you noticed, but in your letter of last week, I did not mention one single thing about the weather. However, I cannot resist today. It is too, too good.

I think we finally got the “Hoodie-Hoo” thing figured out!! Life on the outside is absolutely glorious these past few days, don't ya think?!! Western New York and Northern and Western Pennsylvania are enjoying the much prayed for “slow melt.” We are indeed grateful for that super gift! While down in the hard-coal region of PA and on to Philly, New Jersey and Virginia, I've heard that it is absolutely spectacular! They've even witnessed the return of the robins there. We might get wacked once or twice more, but it certainly looks like **SPRING IS HERE!!!!** Hoodie-hoo, Baby! Hoodie-hoo!

What a winter! We've had a few straight days of above freezing and you can't even imagine what that is like around here. People are busting out of hibernation left and right. Can you imagine the populace rejoicing at a 39 degree day? (Fahrenheit). That is exactly what is happening. As I write, I can see a neighbor down the street....far down the street, who looks like the crazy cousin Eddie (Randy Quaid) from the Griswold's Family Christmas. He's down there wearing a winter hat, the kind with the big flaps, to cover the ears, just like Eddie wore in the movie, winter boots, a sweatshirt and Bermuda shorts! I told you, 39 degrees means different things to different people! He's happily knocking down snow piles to increase melting at his house. What a sight! He won't be the only one wearing that “uniform” either. It is Buffalo and we are always aware of the two seasons of the year: Winter and Fourth of July!

Speaking of sights here's one for you. Almost everyone has had some kind of water/ice problem due to the great build-up of snow and ice on the

roofs and in the rain gutters. Some people do nothing but hope for the best; some get out the snow rake and attack it from the ground, but some put up big extension ladders and either climb on the roof or work from the ladder. Not a good idea, not a good idea. For as many as have spoken of water problems, there are almost as many that have had some kind of physical injuries as they have attempted to tackle the ice/snow problem by themselves. One of those climber guys is the “sight” of which I speak.

Last week my barber called me to tell me things “weren't so good” at his house and was informing me that he would not be cutting hair for at least three months. According to his report, he was up on his old extension ladder removing ice from the drain pipes. Yep, after getting to within three feet of the end of the pipe, the connection on his old ladder broke and the extension slid down with him on it! After hitting the bottom section, he continued straight down to the ground, standing straight up. I suppose the snow there acted as a sort of cushion and he ended up with “only” two broken heels! Yes, it could have been a lot, lot worse. Basically he said that since he rode the top extension down, he “only” fell thirteen feet. But the sight, yes the sight.....as he was coming down the top part, he was sliding right past the window where his wife was at her computer and she saw it all! Today her beautiful brunette hair is a lot whiter!! “I was just trying to protect my house,” he said. And by the way, if you see “yours truly” starting to get that bear-like look you'll realize I didn't find a barber. I've gone to him forever.

I know there have been many, many other incidents, extremely life-changing or even deadly. When we are referring to the weather, that's what we mean when we say, “It's a battle.” Wherever you are, or whatever you are doing, “Be careful! It's not worth your health or your life to do some of the stuff we think is so necessary. Congratulations to the rest of the country on this winter event! Buffalo and New York have been very happy to ‘share the wealth’ with you. And now we turn our attention to the good Saint

Patrick and all the celebrations about to be held in his "honor."

Buffalo has two great parades this weekend. On Saturday, in the Old First Ward, we will have the first one. This event started slowly, but now competes with the 'big one' downtown. The First Ward parade is all the real Irish from South Buffalo, while the much publicized march is Everybody. This is where you will be able to see your favorite (or not) politician pretending to be Irish so he/she can get a vote or two.

Are you back on schedule with the change to Daylight Saving Time? Don't you feel sorry for homes with small babies and old people?! The babies don't know what's going on, and the old people are simply all mixed up. Anyway, enjoy the light around dinner time! Pretty soon it will be light when we get up. As I write it is now only seven days till that much searched after day of the first day of spring. March 20 at 6:46 pm is the much talked about and much longed for day! Got any good seed catalogues???

Speaking of growing things...how are your poinsettias? We have two, one small one/one big one, which were purchased 'on sale' at Aldi's in November before Thanksgiving. They are still thriving and blooming! Such a deal, huh? I've also got two amaryllis that are making their big climb to flowering. I know they are usually seen around Christmas, but I just didn't get around to getting them in the dirt. They are doing great right now, loving the western window, which isn't too warm yet. And the Flowering Shamrock, the oxalis is thriving and blooming right on time for St. Patrick's Day. I wouldn't say I have a green thumb, but I love flowers and growing things in the house and even more outdoors. We'll be out there pretty soon. BTW, did I tell you how beautiful it is out there today?!!! ☺

Ok, you Snowbirds, who have been hiding out in Arizona and Florida....it's time to begin packing up and heading on home. Thanks for all your GREAT letters and allowing me to find something in my mailbox every single week. FANTASTIC! Safe trip home....looking forward to seeing you again.

In our liturgical cycle this letter is for Sunday March 15, the fourth Sunday of the Great Fast. Can you believe it is only three weeks until Pascha? Next week, the 22nd, is the 5th Sunday with Annunciation on the Wednesday of that week. The 29th is Palm Sunday, with Holy Week and then Glorious Pascha! The Great Fast really is almost over! Time flies when you're having fun, I suppose!

This past Wednesday we had the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at Holy Protection with special prayers for all on our parish prayer list, and for all the sick. I thought about you and prayed for you and those you love when I saw your name there. May our Lord, the Good Physician, touch you and heal you! Yes, may He send you His great Love and healing power, even from a distance as He once healed the Centurion's serving boy!

I would like to leave you with some of the words from the Ambo Prayer at the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts: "O Almighty Master, grant us also, to fight the good fight, to complete the course of the fast, to preserve the faith undivided, to crush the heads of invisible serpents, to be shown to be conquerors of sin, and without condemnation also to attain to and to worship the holy Resurrection." Indeed, Dear One, Be Blessed! Mary, Holy Theotokos, protect us! God willing and the creek don't rise, I'll write to you again next week. Be Blessed! Stay with God!

In His Love,
Fr. Ray

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

**ЧЕКИ МОЖНА ВИПИСІВАТИ: UKRAINIAN
NATIONAL WOMENS LEAGUE.**

**МИНУЛОРІЧНІ ЗВІТИ Є
У РЕФЕРЕНТОК СТИПЕНДІЙ:**

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

St. Basil Seminary
195 Glenbrook Rd.
Stamford CT 06902

Open House - March 20-22



On **March 20-22** St. Basil Seminary is organizing an **Open House Weekend** for young men **ages 18 and up**. The purpose of the event is to introduce and familiarize St. Basil Seminary to them and, hopefully, to nurture the seed of a priestly vocation in them. We kindly ask you to spread the word about our Open House. There will be no charge for the participants. The costs for the weekend will be covered by St. Basil Seminary.

Participants must register via e-mail at: stbasilopen@gmail.com.

Friday, March 20: 4:00pm Registration

Sunday, March 22: 3:00pm Departure

For more information please contact **Very Rev. Roman Malyarchuk**, Rector of the seminary (rostyslav7777@yahoo.com)

Or see web page:

<http://www.stamforddio.org/page45.html>

IN MEMORIAM VICHNAYA PAMIAT

Fell asleep in the Lord

+Norma H. Dubois (nee Holinski)

(May 2, 1921 – March 7, 2015)



Beloved wife of the late Nathaniel Dubois; dear mother of Edward (Hazel), Mary Ann Dubois, Margaret (David) White and the late Nathaniel (Karen) Dubois; grandmother of 19 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren; sister of the late Edward Holinski, Martha Mansell, Laura Hammer and Charlotte Sartori; survived by many nieces and nephews.

We extend our sympathy to the Family.

May she rest in peace!

Eternal Memory!

Vichnaya Pamiat!

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**Упокоїлася в Господі
Св. Пам. Норма Дубойс
Пхорон віднувся у четвер.**

Доньці Мар'яні

**та іншим членам родини скла-
даємо співчуття, а їй хай буде**

ВІЧНАЯ ПАМ'ЯТЬ

З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

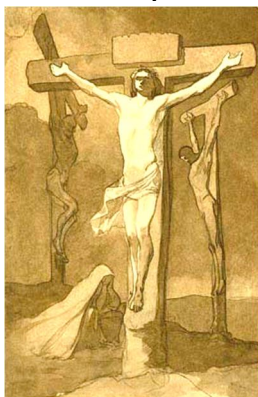
Погляньмо на хрест: на ньому розп'ятий Ісус Христос. Ми питаємо себе: чому Він взяв той хрест, чому ніс його, навіть більше, чому дав себе на ньому розп'яти? Спробуймо відповісти на це запитання.

Щоразу відмовляючи молитву «Вірую», ми кажемо: «Ради нас і ради нашого спасіння». Тому коли стоїмо перед хрестом і питаємо: чому? - відповідь така: задля нас і задля нашого спасіння. Іншого пояснення немає. І усвідомивши це, вдивляючись в той хрест, раніше чи пізніше ми глибоко в серці почуємо слова Ісуса: «Я люблю тебе». Тоді в кожного з нас природно з'явиться відповідь: «Я Тебе також люблю».

Хрест — це любов. Нам важко вповні прийняти хрест: ми можемо йти за хрестом, за Ісусом, як багато за Ним пішло, ми можемо навіть визнати Його Сином Божим, як це зробив Петро, однак є загроза пізніше відректися Ісуса. Тому помиляється той, хто вважає, що хрест — це щось таке, що трапляється тільки раз у житті. Насправді нести хрест — означає щоденно приймати те, що Господь нам посилає, ставити Бога на першому місці. Як це втілити в нашому житті? Потрібно прийняти те, що Бог нам дає, довіритися Йому. Ось, для прикладу, я запланував собі якусь поїздку і перед виїздом зламав ногу, лежу нерухомо в ліжку. Тоді мушу прийняти це, сказавши Богові: я планував інакше, але Ти дозволив, щоб я зламав ногу, значить це краще, ніж я мав би кудись їхати. Ось що означає прийняти все.

Бог — прекрасний педагог: Він не вимагає від нас, щоби ми, вийшовши з церкви, відразу дали себе розп'яти на хресті, або щоб ми зробили щось понад свої можливості. Тому Він нас до цього готує. Господа можна порівняти з досвідченим тренером спортивної команди, який готує спортсменів до майбутніх досягнень. Коли добрий бігун пробіжить певну віддаль, усі йому

плескають. І він собою задоволений. Однак тренер, який знає, що треба зробити, щоб «втягнути» з людини якомога більше, каже: «Біжи швидше, біжи далі». Якщо бігун послухає свого тренера, то, можливо, стане олімпійським чемпіоном. Так само і Господь Бог готує нас до того, щоб ми змогли прийняти усі Його дари. Він хоче зробити нас кращими, але ми часто не піддаємося, впираємося і тому не можемо піти далеко вперед. Однак милостивий Господь не покидає нас, вдається до різних засобів, чи то до заохочення, чи навіть до хвороби, нещастя, одне слово, усіма способами хоче нас підготувати прийняти Його дар.



Кожна хвилина нашого життя запрограмована Богом, кожна дрібниця нашого життя — це школа, це нагода прийняти Господній дар. А в сумі все це означає нести хрест. Нас іноді дивує те, чому терплять порядні люди, а злодіям і бандитам живеться добре. Читаючи життя святих, ми дізнаємося, що їхнє життя було безперервним ланцюгом терпіння. Тому коли Господь Бог посилає нам терпіння, ми повинні Йому дякувати, бо Він нас готує до чогось більшого. І що ближче до Бога, то важче. Такий закон.

Через хрест Господь хоче не мучити нас, а звільнити, показати, що все ми отримуємо від Нього. Роздумуючи над своїм життям, стараючись зрозуміти, як Бог нас веде, ми починаємо усвідомлювати, що ми, люди, є тими, хто просить, надіється, довіряє і отримує. Ісус Христос сказав: «якщо Ви не станете такими, як діти, не увійдете в Небесне Царство». Дитина не має турбот: вона знає, що тато і мама її люблять, що вони про неї подбають, що вона від них усе отримає. Тільки тоді, коли ми дійдемо до дитинного розуміння свого ставлення до Бога, почуватимемося вільні і щасливі. Господь Бог веде нас до цього своїми щоденними маленькими випробуваннями, тим, що ми називаємо хрестом.

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

Today is the fourth Sunday of Great Lent, and on this day in a simple, but sublime way, the Gospel reading reveals to us the path of deliverance, and the tender love and mercy which our Lord holds out to a hurting humanity. Today our lesson opens with a father caught in the grips of an understandable fear, lost in his worry over the illness of his child, this father seeks out Jesus. His child is suffering from a horrible illness, which the Gospel refers to as being tormented by demons; the Apostles cannot seem to cure him no matter how hard they try, so the father goes to Jesus. He comes to Him, explaining how a demon has cast his son into the fire and into the water, and how he could only with great difficulty save his son from being burned or drowned alive.

Christ says to the man, "All things are possible to him that believes." This is perhaps the most powerful verse from today's scripture reading, because it reaffirms our hope in the divine power of our Lord. If we accept these words of Jesus to be true, if we let them settle into our hearts and especially on those occasions when we feel like our life is a "mess", then we can truly believe that God can and will do what we ask of Him. That God can turn our "mess" into His message of faith. We read the lives of the saints, we read the scripture, and we believe that when Lazarus came out of the tomb, God had brought the breath of life back into him. We believe. We understand this. We accept these words. We believe that absolutely, God can do everything! But do we believe that God can deliver us from our sins, from our passions and afflictions, from the things that ail us the most?

We are faced with a dramatic Gospel reading in that each of us can certainly feel the pain and anguish that this father must be going through. His child is sick, and it seems that no one can heal him. Considering when my own son has been ill or needed surgery in the hospital, I think of how badly I needed to cling to the belief that he would be okay. As a parent, we need certainty because the love between a child and a parent is an unbreakable bond. This father falls before Jesus and asks him to heal his son, the child he loves more than anything in this world. Jesus then says to the man, "Do you believe that I can do this for you"? I often wonder that if Jesus came to you or me today and said, "Do you believe that I can do



this for you"? What would our response be to Him? The beautiful reality of today's Gospel is that it reminds us of God's unending mercy, and how in light of His compassion and love for us, Christ can and will heal anyone who comes before Him in need. But we must believe that the Lord can and will do what we ask of Him. Torn by years of grief and anguish, this father cried out to Jesus in complete desperation, with tears: "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief." And Jesus takes pity on the father, He accepts his level of faith, and heals the son. "All things are possible to him that believes." I believe the words of this man are recorded in today's Gospel, so we may more readily believe in the healing power of Christ when it comes to our own afflictions.

Furthermore, Christ explains after the healing that if your faith is as a mustard seed, God will do anything. A mustard seed is tiny; you can barely see it, but it is a very potent seasoning, and it can grow into a great tree from very meager beginnings. And because of the faith of the father, Christ heals his son and the demon is cast out of the boy, never to return. So many times in life, we doubt our faith. We wonder if our belief is enough to get us through the difficulties in life. But when I read today's Gospel and I think about the father's plea to Jesus: "Lord, I believe, but help my unbelief". I

think about the miracles that touch our lives, those healings beyond explanation, the protection in times of danger, the unseen force and magnificence of God that is very much present in our lives at all times - the way that sometimes, through miracles, the Lord helps our unbelief in order to remind us that He is still in control - healing us, protecting us, loving us at all times and in all circumstances. Jesus can and will make us whole again. He can take any "mess" and leave us with a message of grace.

The father in today's Gospel reading was faced with a horrible situation, he had an ailing son that he was desperate to heal. Consider the "mess" that comes into our lives every now and then. The curve ball we are thrown that changes everything, unexpectedly, and how that sometimes makes us question whether God can do what we ask of Him. This father certainly never thought that his son would grow up to be so ailing as to throw himself into fire and water and act out like a child possessed by an evil spirit. I am sure that when his son

was born, this father experiences his greatest joy and imagined the many things that he would one day be able to do together with his son; the many accomplishments that his son would be able to make, and he envisioned what any parent hopes for when they have the blessing of a child. But today, we realize that nothing which this father hoped for came to fruition and we feel the heartache and the suffering he has endured watching his beloved son go aimlessly through life in great torment and agony. Instead, his son was plagued by a terrible illness and that unexpected “mess” took over their lives, perhaps it even placed a great strain on his family and his marriage – because nothing was what this father had hoped.

There is a story about a mother who had similar hopes for her son. He was an all-star athlete, near the top of his class in grade school. This mother dreamed about him making something really special out of his life, she even smiled at the thought of the grandchildren she might have one day, only to have her dreamed shattered when her son ended up in prison serving a life sentence. She wrote about the holidays and how what use to be celebrated around the family table with all the delicious ethnic foods, turned into holidays spent at the prison, sharing food from the vending machine, just so they could still be together and share a meal for Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter. She cried at the thought of her son never having children of his own or the life she had dreamt for him. Like the father in today’s Gospel reading, this mother certainly never expected this kind of “mess” to enter into her life either, but then she realized something extraordinary. While visiting her son in prison, she met other mothers facing the same precarious situation, the same hopelessness, and she found out that by sharing their hardships together, they could learn to support each other. She started bringing her Bible to the prison, and she and other mothers would read from the Word of God and discover that their burdens were no longer as great with the Lord by their sides. Somehow her “mess” had become a great message of faith. She found great relief in scripture and through sharing the word of God with others. It was no longer about her problem, her “mess”, but rather it became about reaching out to others in the same predicament and using the message of God to



strengthen their faith as well as redeem hers. The father in today’s Gospel brought his son before Jesus; he handed over the “mess” in his life and found the greatest message of all. The father’s plea to Jesus: “*Lord, I believe, but help my unbelief*” showed great courage and faith which led to Jesus healing his son. When we come face to face with God and respond in obedience, we will see supernatural results. What seemed impossible will be made possible, and our faith will be strengthened, because the Lord will help our unbelief. He will help us move past the “mess” in our lives and make the impossible, possible.

During this time of Great Lent, we need to feed our faith with activity, with fasting, and with prayer. Then, God will hear us when we say, “Lord, I believe, help my unbelief.” Jesus further said, “Blessed are those who have not seen and believe”. The African impala is an animal capable of jumping nearly nine feet into the air, although it is a very small creature, only about three and a half feet tall. Yet, did you know that any zoo can keep the impala confined to a yard with a stone wall only 4 feet high? Why, you may ask? Because the impala will never jump anywhere, unless it can see the place where its feet will land! Our faith must be greater than our sight, and our doubts can only be removed when we are willing to maintain a relationship with Christ! The Bible is filled with many people who spent time in the presence of God and were fulfilled by their faith. From the very beginning of God’s Word, I am often drawn to Noah. Here was a man who placed all his faith and trust in God. It was not the fact that Noah built an ark or preached for 120 years that made him righteousness with God. And it was not that Noah was sinless either, for no man or woman is without sin. It was Noah’s faith in what God told him to do that made him righteous before God. It was the fact that he was willing to change his mind about himself, his world, and his future based solely on the Word of God. He walked by faith - and so must we! My brothers and sisters, during the remainder of our Lenten Journey, we must approach God with the faith of a mustard seed yearning to grow, coming before Jesus with an attitude of trust and humility - and when we say: “Lord, I believe, help my unbelief”. We must trust that the Lord can and will make us whole again.

Молитва на Піст Св. Єфрема Сирина (+373)

Господи і Владико життя мого, духа лінивства, недбалости, властолюб’я і пустослов’я віджини від мене. *(поклін)*

Духа чистоти, покори, терпеливості і любови дай мені слугі твоєму. *(поклін)*

Так, Господи царю, дай мені бачити провини мої, і не осуджувати брата мого ні сестри моєї, бо ти благословен еси на віки вічні. Амінь! *(поклін)*



Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life, take away from me the will to be lazy and to be sad, the desire to get ahead of other people, to boast and brag. *(Prostration)*

Give me instead the pure and humble spirit. The will to be patient with other people and to love them. *(Prostration)*

Let me realize my own mistakes, and keep me from judging my brothers and my sisters. For You are blessed, now and forever. Amen. *(Prostrat.)*

Fr. Ile Babota, Assistant Pastor from St. Jospahat in Rochester will conduct this year retreat in our Parish of St. Nicholas only Saturday March 28 at 4:30 P.M. and Sunday March 29 at 10 & 12. Please attend, so that we can properly prepare for Easter.



О. Ілля Бабота, молодий сотрудник в церкві Св. О. Йосафата буде мати реколекції в нашій церкві Св. Миколая у суботу і неділю 28-29 Березня. О. був висвячений у Серпні минулого року, так що це буде його перша Св. Літургія, тзв. «Приміції». Він уділить нам благословення нового єрея. Просимо прийти на ці місії/реколекції, щоб належно приготувитися до Великодних Свят.