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

Buffalo Community Web-Page Is:
<http://www.ukrainiansofbuffalo.com>

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Thanks are extended to all Sponsors

**SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**



**УКРАЇНЬСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ**

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor/dean
Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

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 – Кляси Релігії

Saturday, 11:45 AM – Субота, 11:45 р.

Ministry to the sick - Опіка над хворими

Family members should call the Rectory

Родина повинна повідомити священика

IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME

В разі потреби завжди можна закликати

**UNDER THE PROTECTION
OF MOTHER OF GOD**



**ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ**

CHURCH BULLETIN – N°12

March 20 – 2011 – 20 Березня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК – Ч. 12



Благовіщення - Annunciation

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE (gr)

March. 20: 2 S. of Lent – 2 Н. Вел. П. 12

12:00 PM +Olga Leschuk (LUC)

Monday, March. 21 – Пон., 21 Березня

8:15 AM +Katherine M. Chort
(Marianne)

Tuesday, March 22 – Вівт., 22 Березня

12:30 PM +Зиновій Гіль (родина Гіль)

Wed., March. 23 – Середа., 23 Березня

12:00 PM Літургія Наперед Осв. Дарів
Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
Sorokousty - Сорокоусти

Thursday, March 24 – Чет., 24 Березня

9:15 AM +Іванка Горчинська і Юрій
Ференцевич (М. і М. Стасюки)

1:00 PM Video Presentation – Показ відео

ANNUNCIATION – БЛАГОВІЩЕННЯ

Friday, March. 25 – П'ят., 25 Березня

9:30 AM For Parishioners - За Парохіян

Saturday, March. 26 – Суб., 26 Березня

9:00 AM +Катерина Мельник
(Анна Мельник)

4:30 PM +Taras Sarachman
(Lesia Petriwskyj)

March. 27: 3 S. of Lent – 3 Н. Вел. П. 13

12:00 PM Living & Reposed members of
SITCH

Eternal Light burns for

+Mary Kolotylo

Requested by Jagodzinski Family

Вічне Світло в честь ПДМ горить за

+Марію Петришин

Пожертва: Текля Мочерняк

ПОР'ЯДОК ЛІТУРГІЙ (юл)

20 Березня: 2 Н. Великого Посту 12

10:00 AM +Осип, Гертруда і Галина
(М. Л. Стасюк)

27 Березня: 3 Н. Великого Посту 13

10:00 AM +Марія, Юліян, Іван
Розалія і Осип (Ірина Чіп)

In Memoriam – Вічна Пам'ять!

+Helen V. KLIMECZKO

(nee Klawitter)

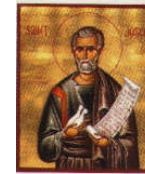


(+March 15, 2011)

Beloved wife of the late Joseph A.; dearest mother of Christine, Michael (Sue) and the late Antoinette Klimeczko; fond grandmother of Wilhelmina and Janine.

Panachyda service was held Friday at 4:15 PM. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Clare Parish (193 Elk St) Saturday at 9 AM. Helen was an Army Veteran of WWII and a member of the St. Stan's Girl Scouts for over 35 years. Memorials may be made to St. Clare Parish or Felician Sisters, 600 Doat Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14211.

We extend our sympathy to daughter Christine, son Michael (Sue), granddaughters Wilhelmina and Janine and other members of the family and friends. May she rest in peace! Eternal Memory! Vichnaya Pamiat!



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www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com

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See your old friends on Friday night.
Help rebuild our Ukrainian Home.
**Please Contribute to the
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Donations are tax deductible.

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Amherst, NY 14068
tel. 716-688-1495

**Сердечна подяка усім спонзорам!
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Ukrainian Home Dnipro Federal Credit Union

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info@uhdfcu.com



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We financially support Ukrainian causes

Свій До Свого По Своє

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ДЯКУЄМО – THANK YOU!

The Colonial Memorial Chapels, Inc.
of Ukrainian Heritage, Serving Western N.Y.

Simon Pasnik & Matthew Pasnik

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Lackawanna, New York 14218
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FUNERAL HOME

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

(716) 894-1772

**UPCOMING
CHURCH
EVENTS**

Просимо звернути
увагу на дати:



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

- CHURCH KITCHEN – is open. Thank you for your help and patronage.
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- Every Thursday at 1:00 PM during the Lent there will be video presentation in the church hall. Please attend.

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 допомагаєте церкві. Для Вас не робить різниці чи ви платили грішми чи карточкою, але церква дістане від „Топс” 5%. На \$1,000 церква одержить \$50. Що б закупити слід звертатися до п. Марії Боднар, або до канцелярії. Дякуємо! Також можна цією карточкою купувати бензину

CHURCH BULLETIN is published weekly. Deadline for information is Friday Evening.

ЦЕРК. ВІСНИК видається тижнево
Інформації подавати до п'ятниці вечора.

**SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА
СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ
(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРИЇ)**

Please call if you are hospitalized,
homebound and need a priest.
Просимо закликати якщо ви у
лічниці або приковані до ліжка!

Коли плянуєте дату вашого вінчання чи хрещення то просимо поговорити з парохом, щоб потім не було непорозуміння. Може статися, що в цей день буде неможливо відбутися заплановане.

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

V. Rev. Marijan Brygh

Are you listening "Good Samaritan"
Ukrainian Radio Program
on WJLL 1440 AM
Every Sunday at 2:00 PM?
Thanks for donations!

Чи слухаєте нашу радіо передачу
«Милосердний Самар'янин»
Неділя, 2 год. на WJLL 1440 AM?
Дякуємо за пожертви!

DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS

In Memory of Mary Petryshyn

Ulana Loza - \$30.00

Thank You! Дякуємо!

Meat Raffle

Sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary
Joseph Hriczko VFW Post #6245

Sunday April 3, 2011 - 1:30 PM

Doors open at 1:00PM

Joseph Hriczko Post #6245

29 Clemo St. (Off Clinton St.)

Buffalo, NY

854-1000

Admission \$5.00

Includes Roast Beef, Beer, Pop, Coffee & Snacks
Extra Sandwiches available to purchase

Raffle for Outdoor Grill

Do Not have to be present for drawing of Grill, Winner will be notified
cash prizes, 50/50 split

We Need Care – Потрібна Опіка

We are looking for a female person to do personal care and housework duties for an elderly woman: someone who is gentle, caring and strong: please call 716-901-5646 and leave a message... Thank you.

Шукаємо за ніжною і сильною жінкою, яка могла би опікуватися старшою панною. Просимо закликати на 901-5646 і залишити саписку. Дякуємо!

SITCH DINNER MEETING

Sunday, March 27, 2011 at Joseph Hriczko Post, Clemo St., Buffalo, NY (After 12:00 pm Liturgy for the reposed and living members of Sitch in St. Nicholas Ukr. Catholic Church, Fillmore & Oneida St.)

COCKTAILS at 1:00 pm

DINNER at 1:30 pm incl. 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 2011 year must be current and may be paid at the door.

For reservations call:

Mike Liskiewicz 837-0285 or

Maria Malaniak 668-5105

Reservation deadline is March 20, 2011

**ЗАПРОШУЄМО ВСІХ ЧЛЕНІВ
КРЕДИТНОЇ СПІЛКИ!!!
НА ЗВІТНО ВИБОРНІ ЗБОРИ
ЯКІ ВІДБУДУТЬСЯ В НЕДІЛЮ
3 КВІТНЯ 2011 О 2:00 ПО-ПОЛУДНІ
В УКРАЇНСЬКОМУ ДОМІ "ДНІПРО"
562 Genesee Street, Buffalo, New York**

СВІЙ ДО СВОГО ПО СВОЄ



**TO ALL
CREDIT UNION MEMBERS!!!
PLEASE JOIN US AT THE
ANNUAL CREDIT UNION MEETING
SUNDAY APRIL 3, 2011 AT 2:00 P.M.**



ОБ'ЄДНАННЯ ЖІНОК - ОЧСУ
Відділ Бюфало, Н.Й.
і Жіночий Хор «Мрія»
Влаштовує

ВЕЛИКОДНИЙ БАЗАР

Неділя, 3-го квітня, 2011р. після
Богослуження
в церкві, св. Миколая,
308 Філмор вул.

Печиво!! Смачний Обід!!
Писанки!! Картки!! Гердани!!

Ласкаво Просимо!

Easter Egg "Pysanka" Class

Learn to make beautiful
Ukrainian Easter eggs (pysanky)

Saturday March 26 and April 2
From 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

St. John the Baptist
Ukrainian Catholic Church
3275 Elmwood Ave.
Kenmore, NY

2 sessions for \$20

Sponsored by UNWLA Br. #97
For reservations and information
Call 885-0399



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION FOR
THE DEFENSE OF FOUR
FREEDOMS FOR UKRAINE, INC.
& Women's Choir "Mriya"

presents an

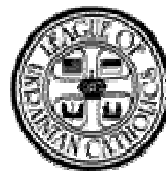
EASTER BAZAAR

Baked Goods!! Delicious Lunch!!
Ukrainian Greeting Cards!!
Pysanky!! Gerdany!!

St. Nicholas Ch., 308 Fillmore Ave.
Sunday, April 3rd, 2011
after Liturgy ends.

Everyone is most cordially invited!!

The 73 Annual Convention



of the League of
Ukrainian Catholics
will be held in Buffalo
October 7, 8, 9, 2011 at
the Airport Holiday Inn.
We ask the support of

our local Ukrainian community in this
endeavor. We especially ask that our
organizations not schedule any events
that weekend. Thank you!

Ліга Українців Католиків повідомляє, що Конвенція Ліги відбудеться тут у нас в Жовтні. Просимо в цей час не влаштовувати своїх імпрез.

Monday April 11th will mark the 40th Anniversary of the priesthood of Studite Father Ihumen V. Rev. Evtimy Wolinski. In order to worthily commemorate this, on the Feast day of the Annunciation, April 7th, the Holy Dormition of the Mother of God Church in Mississauga (St. Mary's), will host a celebration starting with a Pontifical Divine Liturgy celebrated by Eparch of Toronto and Eastern Canada Most Rev. Stephan Chmilar at 5:00 PM, followed by a reception and banquet in the church hall. Cost of tickets for banquet is \$50 each. All are invited. Call 905-279-9387 for farther info. Purchase tickets before March 25th.

Молитва

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 твоему. (поклін)

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

Lenten Prayer

of St Ephrem the Syrian (+373)

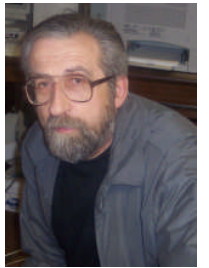
O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despondency, lust for power and idle talk. (Prostration)

But grant unto me, Thy servant, a spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love. (Prostr.)

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see mine own faults and not to judge my brothers and sisters. For blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen. (Prostration)

У пон. 11 квітня 2011 року припадає 40-ліття священничого служіння отця студита д-ра Ігум. Євтимія Волинського. Архисрейська Св. Літургія буде на Благовіщення, 7 Квітня, о 5 год. по обіді в Соборі Успіння Пресвятої Богородиці, Миссисага з участю владыки кир Степана Хмільяра. По Літургії – святочний бенкет. Білети в сумі 50 дол. можна набути до 25 Березня. Про дальші інформації слід дзвонити на: 905-279-9387.

МНОГАЯ ЛІТА! HAPPY MANY YEARS!



Video Presentation – Показ Відео

Journeying together through the Lent
Discussion about Liturgy
(Every Thursday of Great Lent at 1 PM)
Please take Part!

Продовж Посту в четверги покажемо різні відео і ведемо дискусії на літургічні теми. Просимо до участі!

At St. Basil Seminary:

195 Glenbrook Rd., Stamford

April 8-10, 2011

Ukrainian Easter and Spring Traditions.

April 30, 2011

Women in the Church
of the New Millenium.

We hope that we will have our representatives for this one, although we have Easter Dinner at that day.

Please check at

<http://www.stamforddio.org>

З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

Друга Неділя Великого Посту. Чули ми у Євангелію про паралітика, який не може рушитися, якому було потрібно допомоги.

Кілько надовкола нас можемо зауважити паралітиків чи на пів зпараліжованих. Одних на тілі, других 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 спокою нема у їхніх серцях. Шукають за розв'язкою і не знаходять, бо не можуть, бо не знають де і як її шукати.

Усі ми маємо якісь труднощі у своєму житті. Усі ми до певної міри спараліжованими. Нам усім щось докучає, хотіли би позбутися клопотів, визволитися з під тягару, стати вільними. У таких тяжких хвилинах Господь нам посилає допомогу. Треба її тільки побачити, зрозуміти - що від нас вимагається і одержавши силу прийняти зцілення. Можливо воно не буде таким, якого ми хотіли б, але воно буде згідне з волею Господньою. І ми маємо своїх приятелів, тих які несуть нас до Христа. Будьмо їм вдячними і постараймося відплатити добром за їхнє добро. Зі свого боку ми також повинні старатися інших приводити до Господа і знаходити спосіб, як до Нього добратися, щоб допомогти потребуючим. Немов по драбині і ми ідім до гори, до Христа, і провадьмо інших до Нього, і спускаймо їх перед Нього, щоб Він змилосердився і підкріпив їх на дусі та зцілив їх.



Під час посту ми стараємося бачити свої недомогання, усувати перепони, ставати чим більш святими, наслідувати Христа як найкраще, давати іншим добрий приклад, бути для них провідниками, дорадниками, вчителями і рівно ж від них вчитися і так разом

іти за Господом. Подумаймо на якому щаблі досконалости ми якраз находимося і що нам слід зробити, щоб вище підвестися.

Коли книжники чули, що Христос сказав: "Сину, відпускаються тобі твої гріхи", почали шептати поміж собою засуджуючи Господа, кажучи „хто може відпускати гріхи, хіба одинокий Бог". Очевидно вони були праві. Ніхто крім Бога не може відпускати гріхи. Вони ж не знали, ким Ісус був насправді, що він Сином Божим, другою Божою особою, і що Він може відпускати людські прогрішення.

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 інших замазували болотом.

Постараймося, дорогі в Христі, на початку Великого Посту зрозуміти наші хвороби, щоб просити Спасителя про оздоровлення на душі, а про оздоровлення на тілі Він сам подбає згідно з його святою волею.

From the desk of Fr. Ray Palko

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

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! Good Morning! But do you really read your letter? As I began your letter last week, I said that it was for the second Sunday of the Great Fast. Actually it was only the first Sunday, the day we bless icons. The amazing part of that is nobody got on me for the mistake. I get it, you really do read the letter, saw the mistake and didn't want to make me feel bad. Must be Lent! Thanks for not taking the time to jerk my chain! ☺☺ Gotta admit, sometimes I really do feel like Mr. Pickles the cartoon guy.

She was Soooo beautiful! I heard her singing even before I saw her. As soon as I heard that familiar voice and tune, I knew I just had to see her so I quickly ran to the back of the house before she would get a way. And there she was! Gorgeous and happy, sitting on the tallest branch of the pussy willow tree....Mrs. Robin had returned!!! First one I've seen since last fall. I know it's not officially spring yet, but you can't get much "springer" than that, can you?! A robin in a pussy willow tree! Wow! So Hoodie-Hoo and Happy Spring!!!

I welcomed that robin back earlier in the week and it is now already Thursday afternoon as I write to you on one of those long-awaited days that simply make us want to open the windows and/or go outside just to smell the air. Hope you too, can do that!

The temperature is 58 degrees, which we haven't had since last October, and the sun is sparkling in the heavens and on the earth. This is the kind of day when we are sure to see that Buffalo phenomenon for the first warm day: a native Buffalonian, usually a young male, wearing shorts and a t-shirt. He's even a better sight when the first warm day is only in the 40's! That's the same guy

we see riding his bike in the snow, but he's parked it for now. We don't know who he is, but we've all see him here in western NY.

Today is "St. Paddy's Day" and the "wearin' o the green." I am sitting on the front porch of the rectory on Ferry Avenue, feeling very much like a priest, as I watch over and pray for "my people" in the neighborhood. I can see how happy and uplifted they all are, young and old as they bask in the sunlight and the warmth and brightness of the day. You can just hear and see the new attitude brought on by the springtime sunshine. Sure was a long winter!! And it was not only here in Western NY, but everywhere this year. We all took our turns with the frost, cold, snow, sleet, ice, rain and fog. We'll get a bit more, I suppose, but 'ol Man Winter' is definitely on his way to bed.

Even now, as we wait for the annual resurrection of the earth, if we only stop and look around us, we will already see that miracle happening right before our eyes. The pussy willow tree, where I saw the robin, already had several branches that were beginning to reveal those furry little white "flowers." The crocus, magnolias, willows and forsythia only need a few continuous warm days and we'll see them exploding into springtime beauty, color and new life. That, which just a few short weeks ago in the dead of winter seemed an impossibility, now comes back to life. Glory to God, Who gives us this great gift, message and promise of life renewed! It is not only for the earth, but also for our very bodies and souls. Death is not the end, but only the winter of our life. Our good God calls us all to the day when we too, will make the Passover from death to life. We will go from the dead of the winter of our lives to the new life where we will not die again-EVER! What a beautiful, gorgeous day it is, "this day the Lord has made."

Now I'd like to take that previous paragraph and dedicate it to all who are grieving the loss of a loved one, especially our dear friend Michael Kimeczko and his family. Michael, director of the Pietzak Funeral Home, lost his dear Mother this week. We know she will rise again just as the winter comes to spring, just as the death of winter comes to the new life. I've heard that Mrs. K. and her late daughter Toni liked to mess around with the Casino and Bingo "from time to time." Mike told us that the "Great Bingo Caller" has invited her to the "Best Bingo Ever," to be reunited with her husband, daughter and the rest of their family and friends. I think we all should go out and buy a lottery ticket this weekend in memory of Mrs. Helen Kimeczko! May her memory be eternal! Sympathy and prayers to Mike and family from all!

As you read this on the second Sunday of the Fast, ☺ it's still the day of the wearin o' the green because this is the day of the big Buffalo St. Patrick's Day parade. As in other places where those of Irish descent, and those who become Irish for the day, gather, we find the entire city caught up in this yearly celebration (in honor of the great St. Patrick??) and there will be loads of people downtown, no matter what the weather. We all become Irish for a day, even those of us with Ukie blood! And 'kelly green' has always been my favorite color!

It's been a busy week. We've finally gotten around to covering our new ambo in Holy Protection church. The new carpet is being installed and I think you are going to be pleasantly surprised to see how nice it is next time you visit, hopefully soon. The temple is really beautiful, even if I do say so myself. Don't forget our monthly coffee hour on the first Sunday of the month. Next one is April 3 and we hope you can join us.

This coming Friday is March 25 on the 'new calendar.' That means only 9 months till Christmas because on that day we celebrate the great and important holy day of the Annunciation to our Holy Lady by the Archangel Gabriel. This holy day is one of the few weekdays of the year when we are asked to make every effort to attend the Liturgy. Please check your bulletins for the times in your parish as we gather to honor our Holy Lady and to celebrate the good news of our salvation.

BTW, do you know the day after the Annunciation we remember the Archangel Gabriel and also the holy martyr Laryssa. She was one of 26 martyrs killed in the 4th century in the Crimea area in the time of the terrible persecutions and became a beloved saint for our people, and many of our girls. What a beautiful name, don't you think? I've never seen an unattractive Laryssa! Happy Feast Day to all our Larissa's/Laryssa's!!

Our prayers go out to all who are suffering in Japan. No doubt about it, "Life is like a Fiddler on the Roof!" This is a good opportunity to offer up our trials, sickness and struggles as we unite ourselves in prayer for so many over there. But wherever we are, or whatever our circumstances are, we know: "Our hope is in the Lord!" He will never abandon us!

Have a good week and God willing, and the creek don't rise and the earth don't shake, you will get mail again next time. You are always in my prayers. May our good God bless you and our holy Lady protect you!

In His Love,
Fr. Ray



From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

During WWI there was a story of two friends, who were inseparable. They had enlisted together, trained together, were shipped overseas together and fought side-by-side in the trenches. During an attack, one of the men was critically wounded in a field, filled with barbed wire obstacles. He was unable to crawl back to his foxhole. The entire area was under enemy crossfire, and it was suicidal to try to reach him. Yet his friend decided to do just that. The lieutenant told him, "It's too late. You can't do him any good, and you'll only get yourself killed." But the man went anyway. He returned a few minutes later, carrying his friend. But he himself had been wounded. The lieutenant was both angry and deeply moved. "I told you it wouldn't be worth it," he said. "Your friend is dead, and you are wounded." "It was worth it, though, sir," the soldier said. "How do you mean, 'worth it'?" responded the lieutenant. "Your friend is dead!" "Yes sir," the private answered. "But when I got to him, he was still alive, and I had the chance to hear him say, 'Buddy, I knew you'd come for me.'" Many times in life, whether a thing is worth doing or not, really depends on how you look at it. Faith enables each of us to take up all of our courage, and do something that our heart tells us to do; something that is both kind and compassionate, something that is divinely inspired. True friendship extends a helping hand to lighten a load, without expecting any other reward than the privilege of doing so. The late Leo Buscaglia that effervescent educator, speaker, author, and lover of life, used to tell his university students that there is a world out there dying to be loved! He challenged his students to love and often told them that serving others is the way they can find such things as happiness and joy in God.



How many times have we been willing to really help someone in need – to really make a difference? Scripture tells us that: "*In all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose*" (Romans 8:28).

The focus of this parable does not rest solely on the need of one paralytic man, but rather the activity of his four faithful friends. I often wonder, while

we are in Church and in God's presence, what are the things that keep us from reaching out to Jesus and becoming more like Him? We are so close and yet so far away. Could it be that our attitudes sometimes separate us from God? We allow something that happened, a difficulty we are facing to fester in our minds. Or could it be our own need for forgiveness? We stand before Christ, but find it difficult to admit our past and present mistakes. We never touch Jesus because of some obstacle we have created in our lives. But have no fear – the Lord is always reaching out to us. Jesus embodied faith - He was a man of reflection and action. Jesus not only talked about manna from Heaven, but He became living bread and fed thousands of hungry souls. He not only talked about a curative remedy in Gilead, but He healed the sick and raised the dead. Jesus not only preached the forgiveness of sins, but He took the weight of our sins so that we could be forgiven. Jesus practiced what He preached. And during these weeks of Lent, we are given a perfect time to focus on our own faith. You see, faith is more than just believing in God and reflecting upon His Word, faith is also using that belief and knowledge to make a difference in the world.