



Resurrection - Glass Window in St. John (photo: Bill Kurlak)



Palm Sunday 2014 – Egg Hunt



Good Friday – Our Shroud (Наша Плащаниця)
The Noble Joseph...
Благообразний Йосиф...



Liturgy in St. John the Baptist for PEACE in UKRAINE & Panachyda for those who were recently killed in Ukraine



Holy Thursday in St. Jsaphat, Rochester



Just after returning from Rochester on Holy Thursday



Lord, Hear us and Have Mercy – Господи, вислухай і помилуй

SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ

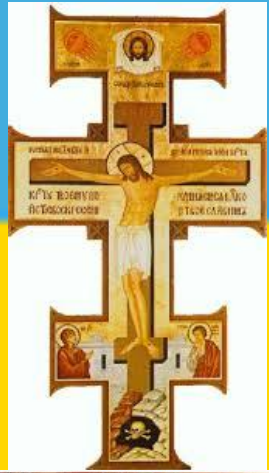


№ 16
ПІД ОПІКОЮ
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ
МАРІЇ ОДІГТРИЇ
UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF
MOTHER OF GOD

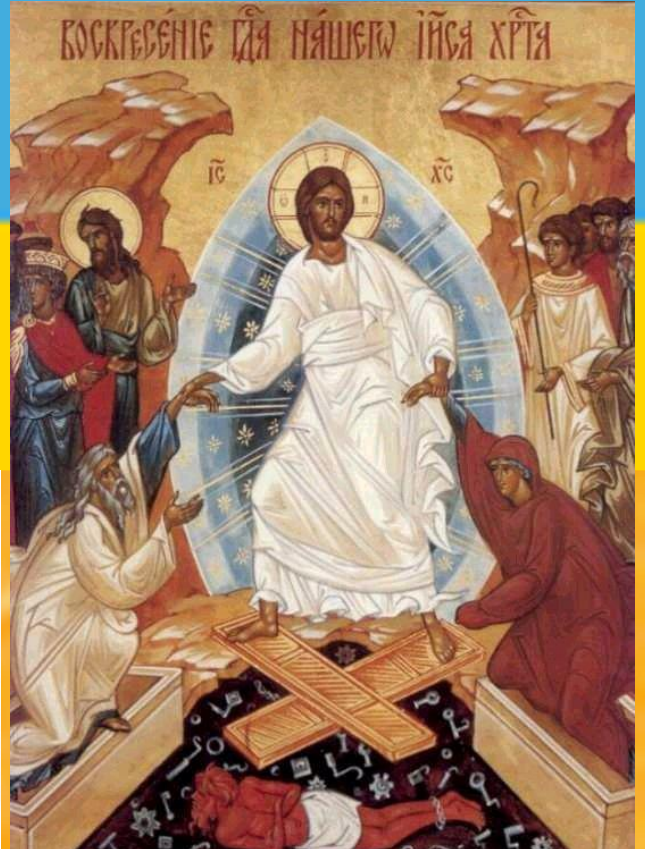


CHURCH BULLETIN
April 20 – 2014 – 20 Квітня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

№ 16
A P R I L
20
2014



Тайна Вечера – Last Supper



ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС! ВОІСТИНУ ВОСКРЕС!
CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

CHURCH BULLETIN

April 20 – 2014 – 20 Квітня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



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

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

Great Saturday – April 19 Квітня

3:45 PM Blessing of the Baskets
4:30 PM Lit. of St. Basil – Св. Василя
(No Sunday Liturgy at 4:30 today)
6:00 PM Blessing of the Baskets
Confession before and after Blessing

April 20 Квітня: E A S T E R

7:00 AM Nadhrobne - Надгробне
7:20 AM Matins – Воскр. Утреня
8:30 AM Easter Liturgy - Літургія
12:00 PM. For Parishioners–За Парохіян

April 21 Bright Monday - Вел. Пон.

10:0 AM For PEACE in UKRAINE
6:30 PM For LUC Members

22 Bright Tuesday - Вел. Вівторок

10:00 AM For all volunteers
Wed. April 23 Квітня, Середа
10:00 AM For all sick and suffering
Thursday, April 24 Квітня, Четвер
9:00 AM В нам. Пилипа

Friday April 25 Квітня, П'ятниця

8:15 AM За родину, дітей Мартина і
Олега – здоров'я і всяке про-
шення (Олександра Савка)

Sat. April 26 – Субота, 6 Квітня

9:00 AM Intention of the donor (M)
4:30 PM For health of John & Rosemary
Maxim (Peter Maxim)

April 27 Thomas Sunday – Томина Неділя

10:00 PM. For Parishioners–За Парохіян
Свяченне – Easter Dinner

19 Квітня: Велика Субота

3:45 в. Благословення Кошиків
4:30 в Літургія Св. Василя Вел.
6:00 в. Благословення Кошиків
Сповідь перед і після благословення

20 Квітня: ВЕЛИКДЕНЬ

7:00 р. Надгробне
7:20 р. Воскресна Утреня
8:30 р. Св. Літургія

21 Квітня: Світлий Понеділок

10:00 р. За МИР в Україні

22 Квітня: Світлий Вівторок

10:00 р. За працюючих при парохії

27 Квітня: Томина Неділя

10:00 р. +Олекса і Анна Король,
+Марія Лесик, +Катерина
Луців (Степан Король)

**CHRIST IS RISEN – ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС!
Indeed He is Risen – Воістину Воскрес!**

**Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М. го-
рить за тривалий мир в Україні.**

**Eternal Light burns for
PEACE in UKRAINE.**

**No noon Liturgy April 27. Please
come on Sat. 4:30 or Sunday at 10.**

Ukrainian Treasures & More



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Ukrainian Eggs, Jewelry & Embroidery

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jahawryluk@gmail.com

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(ROLAND J. KUHN)

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Buffalo, NY 14206

Tel.: 895-1404

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Ukrainian Cultural Center
562 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14204 856-4476
www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com
Hall and bar rentals are available.
See your old friends on Friday night.
Help rebuild our Ukrainian Home.
**Please Contribute to the
\$100,000 Building Fund.**
Donations are tax deductible.

EURO DELI AND GIFTS



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Cheektowaga, NY 14225 Amherst, NY 14068
Tel. 716-630-0131 Fax 716-630-0133 tel. 716-688-1495

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

Simon Pasnik & Matthew Pasnik

3003 South Park Avenue
Lackawanna, New York 14218
(716) 824-3007

UKRAINIAN  **УКРАЇНСЬКА**
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ФЕДЕРАЛЬНА КРЕДИТНА СПІЛКА

562 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY 14204
(716) 847-6655 - Toll free 877-968-7828

www.rufcu.org

Monday & Tuesday 9:30 am – 4 pm |
Wednesday 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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FCU and save money with lower
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higher interest on your savings,
and save time with our convenient
online services!**

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ФІНАНСОВІ ПОСЛУГИ**

ОЩАДНІ ТА ЧЕКОВІ РАХУНКИ | СЕРТИ-
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ТАРІУСА |

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

DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS

Anonymous - \$5,000.00
Marianne Chort - \$2,000.00
“Special Appeal”
IMO Anna Jacyszyn
Ulana Loza - \$30.00

Donations Towards Coffee Hour
Yearly Communication Assessment Fee

Maria Plotycia
Andrij & Maria Petryshyn

Молитви за Україну

Отче Небесний, Твій Син учив нас:
«Блаженні миротворці, бо вони синами
Божими назвуться».

У цей час ми гаряче молимося, щоб Твій Дух
Святий надихав людей в Україні ставати
миротворцями.

Щоб вони шукали примирення і діалогу,
Щоб припинилися гостра конфронтація та
убивства, Щоб на цій багатостраждальній
землі запанував мир в народі, відродилися
людські права, принципи демократії та
релігійної свободи.

Боже, Отче наш, молимо Тебе: заспокой
страждання, зціли поранених і прийми душі
полеглих у Твоєму Царстві Небесному.

Пресвята Мати Божа, накрий своїм благо-
словенним та захисним покровом всю Україну.
Нехай життя буде для створення Твого
Миру в Україні і світі.

Аміль.

**April 21, LUC Meeting at 7:30
following the Liturgy for LUC
Members at 6:30.**

76th Annual Convention
League of Ukrainian Catholics
October 11, 12, 13, 2014
Holiday Inn – Johnstown, PA
Sponsored by the All Saints Chapter
Hope to see you this October!

=== === ===
76 Конвенція Ліги Католиків
буде від 11 до 13 Жовтня ц. р.
Просимо запланувати свою участь!

Prayers for Ukraine

Heavenly Father, Your Son taught us
“Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall
be called Children of God.”

At this hour, we fervently pray that Your Holy
Spirit may inspire men and women in Ukraine to
become Peacemakers.

May they seek reconciliation and dialogue and
end the violent confrontation and killing.

May they restore tranquility to their nation and
restore human rights, democratic principles
and religious liberty to their troubled land.

God, our Father, we beseech you to comfort
the suffering, heal the wounded and accept the
souls of the departed into Your Heavenly King-
dom.

And may the Most Holy Mother of God, extend
her Blessed Mantle of Protection over Ukraine.

And may each of us always live our lives as
instruments of Your Peace.

Amen.

Молитва на Святу Пасху



Воскресення Христове бачивши, поклонімся святому Господу, Ісусу, єдиному безгрішному. Хресту Твоєму поклоняємося, Христе, і святеє Воскресення Твоє оспівуємо і славимо. Ти бо єси Бог наш, крім Тебе іншого не знаємо, ім'я Твоє іменуємо. Прийдіть, усі вірні, поклонімся святому Христовому воскресенню, ось бо прийшла через хрест радість усьому світові. Повсякчас благословляючи Господа, оспівуємо воскресення його, бо, перетерпівши розп'яття, Він смертю смерть розрушив.

As part of the new Church Directory, which will be published this year. We are adding "Memorial Pages" to the book. You can submit a picture, (pictures) of your loved ones for a cost of \$20.00 a picture. You can put the picture and check payable to St. Nicholas in an envelope and put it in the collection basket or drop it off at the rectory.

If you have any questions, contact Elaine at the parish office Monday or Thursday from 9:00-1:00.



"Good Samaritan Project Fund" is collecting donations for medical expenses of wounded in Ukraine or whatever else needs arise there. Your donations will be sent to the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC or ZUDAK). If you prefer, your tax deductible donations can also be made online through their web page:

www.uuarc.org



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

- KITCHEN – is open Fridays 11 AM - 3 PM. Thank you for your patronage.
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- We need help in the kitchen. Thank you!
- Bible Meeting – Every other Thursday 6:30

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 хворими

Family members should call the Rectory

Родина повинна повідомити священика

IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME

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 ліжничці або приковані до ліжка!

Please Note: - УВАГА!!! Увага!!

St. Nicholas Easter Dinner

Will be held on April 27, 2014
After the Liturgy at 10:00 AM

Свяченне

церкви Св. Миколая
Відбудеться 27 Квітня, 2014.
По відправі о 10:00 год.

Thank You! Дякуємо!

Сердечна Подяка

Пані Анні Мельник

і жінкам в кухні за їхню працю
продовж року, а головно перед
святами, коли набагато більше
потрібно. Нехай Господь поверне
вам сторлицю і нехай сповнить усі
бажання ваших сердець.



Торжественне Св. Причасття

Буде у неділю, 18 Травня.
У цей день Св. Літургія буде
о 11 год. Пів на пів.

Solemn Holy Communion

Will take place Sunday, May 18
at 11:00 AM.
No noon Liturgy this day.

From the desk of Fr. Ray Palko

April 20, 2014 A.D.

Christ is Risen! He is Truly Risen!

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

I am writing to you on Holy Thursday. We've already had the first service for today, the Vespers/Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, in the morning, and then tonight at 7pm we will be celebrating "Strasty," the Service of the Twelve Gospels. *Strasty*, or "Matins of the Passion of our Lord" is a favorite Holy Week service among our people. I am always happy to pray with my people and can always count on 7 to 12 people to show up for any of the services. You don't know how very important your attendance at services is for your priest! Thank you for coming and praying, especially these most beautiful prayers of Holy Week and Pascha. Kinda makes a guy feel like a priest when you are in the church!

Did the Great Fast zip by for you? In some ways the preparation days of February, and then Cheesefare Sunday, and the beginning of the Fast on March 3, all seem like ancient history. However, in another way, the days of our 'Paschal Pilgrimage' have quickly disappeared, and we find ourselves tired and worn out, but on the verge of the glorious, beautiful and radiant days of Pascha. As a matter of fact, when you read this, our "spiritual tithe" for the year will have been paid, and we will, please God, be indeed celebrating the "Feast of Feasts." See, it wasn't so hard, was it? Glory to our God who has given us this blessed time of renewal and repentance! Now the job for all of us is to continue what we've begun in the struggles of the fasting time, and to truly make it a part of our lives from now on. We want to cling with all our strength to the Life-Giver, our God, our Resurrected God, and never let go!

There is some real fasting going on in this house, and I'm sure in many of our households all around the world. During these final days of preparation the 'vegan fridges' slowly begin to be replaced with what some call "real food." Hah! Bye - bye tofu and soy

milk! Or as one priest's wife (not mine!) said, "No more grass and twigs." I suspect she was really speaking about *Triscuits* and lettuce. ☺ Yes, the fridge fills up with all kinds of earthly delights as the cooks of the house head out to the markets and return home laden with all the foods from which we have been fasting. Best thing is not to even open the refrigerator, if you don't have to. Doing so gets you blasted with the sights, and worse than the sights, the mouth-watering smells of those items there. Behind the big door now sit those wonderful foods which will be placed in our baskets and taken to the church for the blessing, and will become our Paschal breakfast. It'll be even more tantalizing when those foods become part of recipes and are boiled and cooked and baked and then kitchen is filled with those fragrant aromas. Yep, there is some real fasting going on in our homes these days! It all smells terrific but I know you don't sneak any of those foods until after Liturgy on Sunday morning when the Lenten fast ends after the Liturgy. Do you? All the glorious services, all the abundant foods, have been given to us as gifts from our God to help us celebrate this radiant and glorious day. Indeed, "this is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!" The "Great Day" has finally dawned! Did you ever think about the first Resurrection? What was it like in the nether world when our Lord descended in the dark depths? St. John the Baptist, our tradition tells us, had one more job to do for he then announced to all the dead that the Savior had come and will rescue all from their tombs. He became prophet one more time as he told them their time of waiting was ended...the Savior has trampled death, by death and to those in the tombs He grants Life. Yes, Eternal Life!

What unimaginable joy there must have been on that Great Day! What glorious songs of thanksgiving and praise must have filled the world and the heavens that day! Where were Adam and Eve? What were they doing? How did they react to the coming of the Messiah, the Savior, and the completion of that long-

awaited promise from their time in the Garden of Eden?

Our beloved icon, The Descent into Hades, depicts Christ having broken the gates of hell, now reaching down and holding the hand of a man and a woman as He lifts them from their imprisonment of the dead. Yes, He takes Adam by the hand....He takes Eve by the hand and they are redeemed and renewed. Imagine the joy of our first parents, their eyes once blinded by sin, now beholding the Heavenly Light of the Divine Savior. The long separation is now over and they once again walk and converse, and live with God, even as they had so long ago in the Garden of Eden. They are back...they are redeemed....they are now one with their God! What a great day! What joy!

And guess what? Today this same One, this Jesus Christ, the Ever-living and Resurrected Conqueror of Death comes to us and rescues us. Yes, He takes us by the hand and lifts us to Himself from our depths of sin and separation. Yes, He comes and shines the brilliant, illuminating Light of the Resurrection on us and upon all. He renews us and makes us, as He did Adam and Eve, renewed and redeemed children of Light, children of the Day! We are now the “new people, the royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people all His own.” The Risen Christ through His Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection has raised us and redeemed all of us, giving us the gift of our own Resurrection and entrance into the everlasting Kingdom!

May our lighted candles and the exquisite liturgical songs and movements of this holy time cause the light of Christ to shine in our darkened world and free us from sin, disbelief, despair and conflict! Let us all proclaim the Risen Lord in all we do and say. We are always and everywhere “people of Pascha, people of the Resurrection!”

Dearly beloved, may He who rose from the dead be for you and yours, Life, Sanctification and Joy! Indeed let us celebrate the Day! From my family to you and yours, we greet you on this most radiant day and pray that one day, please God, we will

“partake of Him more perfectly in the Kingdom, for this is the Day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!” May this “Feast of Feasts,” this “Day of Days,” be the day we experience and welcome the Everlasting Joy of the Holy Resurrection and our promise for Eternal Life! He rescued Adam and Eve, He rescued all those in their tombs, He comes and rescues us. What joy! What promise! What a blessing! Let us forever grasp on to the outstretched hands of our Savior, who comes to rescue us and to save us! May we cling to the Giver of Life and NEVER LET GO!! In the words of Martin Luther King, “Free at last! Free at Last! Thank God, Almighty, free at last!” May our Holy Lady, who never abandoned her Son, always be with us and lead us to Him! Blessed Pascha! Christ is Risen! He is truly Risen!

In the Love of Christ Risen,

Fr. Ray

Fruit of the Vine
Wine Tasting Fun Raiser
May 30th, 2014 6 pm – 9 pm
Protection Blessed Virgin Mary Church
2715 Ferry Ave, Niagara Falls, NY
14301

Fruit of the Vine
Wine Tasting Fun Raiser
Featuring premium Finger Lakes wines
hand-crafted by Eagle Crest and O-
Neh-Da Vineyards, Hemlock Lake, New
York.

For tickets and additional information
Please call Father Ray at
716-675-0629

To All Visitors, Friends And Parishioners:

Welcome to our Ukrainian Catholic parish of St Nicholas. Make yourself at home.

Every married couple or single person over 18 years old should be registered with the parish. Your donations to support our parish indicate your willingness to be a member of St. Nicholas Parish. In other words, to be considered a member of this parish attendance and support is strongly recommended. We use the system of envelopes. In the case you decide not to use envelopes, you can choose other method of supporting the parish, but your support is appreciated and much needed. May good Lord bless you all!

* * *

Вітаємо до нашої і Вашої Церкви Св. Отця Нашого Миколая. Двері завжди відкриті. Господній дім є нашим домом. Хай Господь благословить усіх!

Подружжя і самотні особи понад 18 років можуть зареєструватися. Якщо ви не бажаєте вживати систему коверт, будь ласка дайте нам ваші адреси і телефони, щоб могли з вами сконтактуватися по потребі. Ваші датки просимо вложити у коверту і написати Ваше ім'я, бо в противному Ваші пожертви будуть анонімними.

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.

Дякуємо!

1914 SAVE THE DATE 2014

The Ukrainian American SITCH is celebrating its 100th Anniversary on Sunday, September 28, 2014 at Salvatore's Italian Gardens Restaurant. SITCH is the oldest continuously active Ukrainian cultural organization in the Buffalo – Niagara area (interrupted only by W. W. II). **EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

We would love to have at least 100 guests—one for each year. Please save the date and come celebrate with us. Details will follow shortly. Thank you.

Michael Liskiewicz – President
Maria Malaniak, Secretary

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УВАГА! УВАГА

Даємо до відома, що в неділю, 28-го Вересня, 2014 Товариство Українська-Американська Січ відмічує 100-ту річницю свого існування! Це найстарша активна українська культурна організація на Боффалівському терені. (Активність перервана тільки 2-гою Світовою Війною). Ювілей відбувається в ресторані Salvatores Italian Gardens. Просимо усіх. Наша ціль: мати хоч 100 гостей – одного за кожний рік!

Дальші інформації будуть подані незадовго.

Михайло Ліскевич, голова
Марія Маланяк, Писар

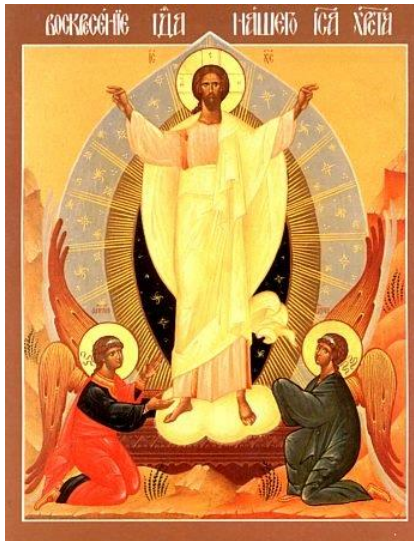
З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

Сьогодні Воскресіння Христове, найбільший празник у церковному році, бо сьогодні Христос Воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав і тим що в гробах життя дарував. Якщо Христос не воскрес то марна наша віра. У історії спасіння людського роду усі події перед воскресінням, прямують до нього, а ті опісля пояснюються у світлі воскресіння.

З великої любови до нас, Господь наш Ісус Христос став людиною, навчав, оздоровляв, потішав, чуда творив, пішов на хрест і своєю власною силою воскрес із мертвих, а все це зробив Він, щоб піднести нас до гідности Божих дітей, і притягнути всіх до себе.

Радіймо з приводу Христового Воскресіння. Нехай ця радість буде виявлена у взаємній любові, головно по наших родинах. Радість Великодня хай просякне ціле наше єство. Зберігаймо цю радість щоб вона була в нас невичерпною і щоб ми передавали її іншим.

Бажаємо Вам усім, щасливих Великодних Свят. Нехай радість запанує у наших неспокойних серцях. Хай Господь принесе мир у наше життя, по наших родинах і у відношенню поміж народами.



З нагоди Христового Воскресіння вітаємо проводи усіх наших церков. Просім сьогодні воскреслого Христа, щоб Він привернув єдність у своїй святій але нажаль поділиній церкві, щоб католикі і православні та й усі що визнають Ісуса Господом могли чим скорше разом зійтися, щоб взяти участь у Його трапезі.

Господь за нас усіх народився і за нас усіх помер, і воскресіння його ми усі разом повинні з радістю вільно прославляти.

Помолімся за кращу долю нашої Батьківщини, щоб по терпінню, яке вона саме тепер переносить – прийшло Воскресіння,

пам'ятаючи, що по розп'ятті в житті Ісуса Христа прийшло воскресіння, таксамо по наших терпіннях з Господом що страждає - приходить злука з Господом який воскрес. Важним є щоб ми не зрадили Христа як Юда, не засудили його як Пилат, не відреклися його як Петро, не насміхалися з нього як воїни і один з розбійників, але як другий скажимо йому: "Згадай нас Господи, коли прийдеш у царство Твоє."

Нехай Господь поблагословить нас усіх, щоб ми постійно ішли дорогами справедливости!

Христос Воскрес! Воістину Воскрес!

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

The resurrection of Christ is the sure pledge of our own resurrection to everlasting life. Just as Christ rose, so too shall we rise one day into a new and glorious Eternal life. Christ assured us of this when he said: *"The hour is coming in which all who are in their graves shall hear the voice of the Son of God. And they*

who have done good shall come forth unto resurrection of life. For this is the will of the Father who sent me, that whoever beholds the Son and believes in Him, shall have everlasting life, and I will raise Him up on the last day" (John 5:28-29, 6:40). One of the things that makes the resurrection story so believable is just that sense of unexpectedness – the disciples do not come to the empty tomb and say, 'Well, there you have it; just like Jesus said.' They arrive skeptical, never having really believed that their Lord would return from the dead, and now they find themselves in a new and unexpected atmosphere where anything is possible; and so bright is the light in that new morning that even the familiar face of Jesus becomes unrecognizable to them. But as the story goes on in the Gospel of St. John, we are told that the disciples, while anxiously gathered in their locked room, were 'filled with joy' when they saw Jesus among them. Easter changes everything!

I have always loved the traditional celebrations of Easter. The butter lamb with the red bow and the dainty flag for a tail, the pysanky eggs so colorfully painted and delicately handcrafted, the pascha bread we wait all year to bake and

garnish atop with the cross, our symbol of victory over death. The mystery surrounding the empty tomb, and most importantly the reality of what the resurrection truly means. The fact that there is life after death, the fact that our loved ones who have passed are not in the graves we visit, but rather alive and in heaven with our Lord who transcended



death and brings us into new life. Heaven is for real – that is the very certainty we believe in come Easter morning, and sometimes we become so accustomed to the everyday realities of our lives here on earth that we forget the newness of Christ. Doesn't the same thing also happen to us when something completely new occurs in our everyday life? We stop short, we do not understand, we do not know what to do. Newness often makes us fearful, including the newness which God brings us, the newness which God asks of us. We are like the Apostles in the Gospel: often we would prefer to hold on to our own security, to stand in front of a tomb, to think about someone who has died someone who ultimately lives on only as a memory. We are afraid of God's surprises but God always surprises us! The Lord is like that. Every year

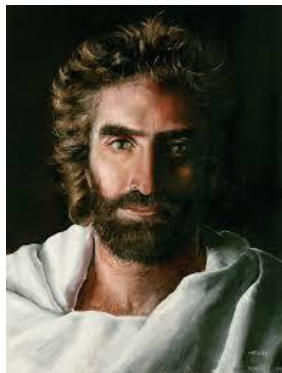
we come together to celebrate the finding of the empty tomb, the body of Jesus is not there, something new has happened, *"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; but has risen"* (Luke 24:5-6).

What was a simple act, done surely out of love – going to the tomb – has now turned into an event, a truly life-changing event. Nothing remains as it was before, not only in the



lives of those women, but also in our own lives and in the history of mankind. Jesus is not dead, he has risen, and he is alive! He does not simply return to life; rather, he is life itself, because he is the Son of God, the living God. Jesus no longer belongs to the past, but lives in the present and is projected towards the future; Jesus is the everlasting "today" of God. This is how the newness of God appears to the women, the disciples and all of us: as victory over sin, evil and death, over everything that crushes life and makes it seem less human. And this is a message meant for you and me, and for all of us who seek the living beyond death.

I recently watched the movie *Heaven is for Real*, about a four year old boy, Colton, the son of a pastor, who had a near death experience and spent a period of time in that newness of life with Christ. Some people would dismiss his experience as simply a manifestation of his dreams or an accumulation of his childlike innocence, but the things he knew about, and the certainty of his



encounter with the Divine certainly strike at the fabric of our faith. The movie is about our humanness because nearly all of us question where it is we go when we die. We may not be part of a pastor's family, and surely most of us have never had a near-death experience, but we go about our lives doing much like the family portrayed in this movie, doing the best we can

at making sense of things in day-to-day living, until the unexplainable happens. In heaven, Colton meets his miscarried sister whom no one ever had told him about and his great-grandfather who died 30 years before Colton was even born. He shared impossible-to-know details about each, according to his parents. Colton went on to describe the horse that only Jesus could ride, and how the Holy Spirit "shoots down power" from heaven to help us. The release of this film during Holy Week seems ideal as it calls us to reaffirm our own faith about what we believe and what the resurrection of Christ truly means. Easter changes everything!



Saint John Maron Church

2040 Wehrle Drive, Williamville, NY 14221
Invites you to pray with us, The First Annual International Rosary, on Thursday, May 1, 2014 at 7:00 pm. A rtesveption will follow in the Cedars Banquet Facility. We will be so honored to have you joining us and other Catholic Churches from the greater Buffalo area to pray the Holy Rosary and pay this beautiful tribute to our Blessed Mother. For more information please call: 634-0669.

Rev. Elie G. Kairouze, Pastor

=====New Saints===== Нові Святі =====



Pope John XXIII

- Anybody can be Pope; the proof of this is that I have become one.
- See everything, overlook a great deal, correct a little.
- The true and solid peace of nations consists not in equality of arms, but in mutual trust alone.
- It often happens that I wake up at night and begin to think about a serious problem and decide I must tell the Pope about it. Then I wake up completely and remember that I am the Pope.
- Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.
- The feelings of my smallness and my nothingness always kept me good company.
- Men are like wine-some turn to vinegar, but the best improve with age.
- Prayer is the raising of the mind to God. Always remember this. The words matter less.



April 27 27 Квітня



Pope John Paul II

- God assigns as a duty to every man the dignity of every woman.
- Women have the right to insist that their dignity be respected. At the same time, they have the duty to work for the promotion of the dignity of all persons, men as well as women.
- There is no true peace without fairness, truth, justice and solidarity.
- A society will be judged on the basis of how it treats its weakest members; and among the most vulnerable are surely the unborn and the dying.
- The twentieth century was the great century of Christian martyrs, and this is true both in the Catholic Church and in other Churches and ecclesial communities.
- Be not afraid!
- Totus Tuus - All Yours. (to *Theotokos*)
- Peace is possible. It needs to be implored from God as his gift, but it also needs to be built day by day with his help, through works of justice and love.
- Never again war! Never again hatred and intolerance!