

Josaphata Hordashevka



Blessed **Josaphata Hordashevka, S.S.M.I.**, born **Michaelina Hordashevka**, (20 November 1869, Lviv - 7 April 1919, Lviv) a Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Religious Sister, was the first member of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. The process of her beatification started in Rome in 1983 and on June 27, 2001 she was beatified by Pope John Paul II in Lviv. Numerous miracles are ascribed due to her intercession after her death.

SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



№ 17
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№ 17 ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЄЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІПТРІЇ
UNDER THE PROTECTION OF MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN
April 26 – 2015 – 26 Квітня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



Було дуже гарно, що Сестри Службниці відвідали нас і поділилися з нами інформаціями про їхню засновницю Бл. Йосафату. Дякуємо!
It was nice that Sisters Servants visited us and talked about Blessed Josafata Hordashevka, who is their foundress. Thank You, Sr. Kathleen (who is Provincial Superior) & Sr. Tekla (who celebrated her birthday with us). Mnohaya Lita!

The collage on the back is created by:
← Mr. Roman Kuzminskyj (on this photo at right)



CHURCH BULLETIN

April 26 – 2015 – 26 Квітня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



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

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM +Sophie Pucak (Family) - 40 day

April 26 S. of Paralytic. - Н. Розслабл.

12:00 AM For living and deceased Members of
Sitch – We Welcome All Members!

Monday, April 27 Квітня, Понеділок

11:00 AM +Софія Пуцак (Василь Мандзій)

Tuesday, April 28 Квітня, Вівторок

8:00 AM У власному нам. – Private Intention

Mid-Pentecost – Середа Переполовнення

Wednesday, April 29 Квітня, Середа

9:00 AM Int. of Michael Michalow (Michelle)

10:00 AM Akathistos to Blessed Josaphata Hordashevska (for the int. of Marianne Chort)

Thursday, April 30 Квітня, Четвер

9:00 AM +Norma DuBois (Mary Vodnar)

ВІ. Клументій Шепт – Бл. Климемнтій Шептицький
Friday, May 1 Травня, П'ятниця

11:00 AM For the beatification of Servant of God Metr.
Andrew Sheptytskyj & Moleben - За Прославу
Сл. Божого Митр. Андрея і МОЛЕБЕНЬ до ПДМ

Sat. May 2 Травня Субота

10:00 AM +Володимир Пасіка (Родина Правак)

4:30 PM +Maria Bumar (Georgina Oros)

May 3 S. of Sam. Woman - Н. Самарянки

12:00 AM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

The Eternal Light burns in mem. of
+Mary Kolotylo
Requ. by Jagodzinski Family

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М.
Горить за поляглих за Волю України
і за МИР в УКРАЇНІ.

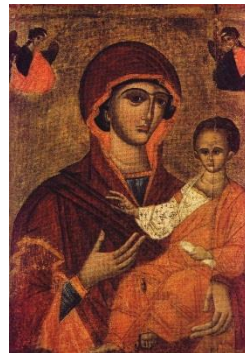
26 Квітня: Неділя Мироносиць

10:00 р. В наміренні давшого (Р. В.)

3 Травня: Неділя Розслабленого

10:00 р. +Jenifer Anne Zupicich (Nancy Weigand
& Family & Michael Liskiewicz)

Mother's Day Breakfast Sunday, May 10, 2015



The religious education students and their catechists would like to invite all parishioners and their families to attend the Mother's Day breakfast following Sunday liturgies. Eggs, pancakes, sausage, hash browns, fruit, desserts, and

beverages will be served for a minimal suggested donation of \$8 per person. Proceeds will benefit St. Nicholas Parish and its religious education program. We hope to see you there!

Bible meeting, Thu. April 30 at 6:30 PM.

We will alternate between Monday and Thursday. Our discussion is New Testament from historical point of view and its importance for us.

У Пон., 27 Квітня о 6:30 год. дискусія на тему Н. Завіту в історичній перспективі. Послухаємо доповідь Проф. Ермана на CD а опісля відбудеться дискусія. Просимо до участі.

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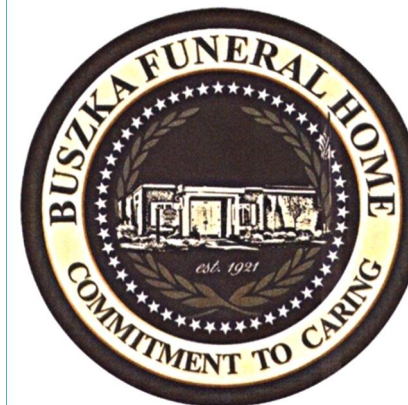
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before entering the church. Thank you!

Просимо вилучувати ваші мобільні
телефони підчас Святої Літургії.

The Family of Roman Voychak cordially invites parishioners downstairs for Coffee Hour to have some lunch or cake and sing "Mnohaya Lita" to Roman, after 10 am Liturgy. Thank You. Happy Many Years!

Просимо зайти на долину по Св. Літургії у неділю. Каву і солодке приготувала родина п. Романа Войчака. Многая Літа!



On Sunday, May 3rd,
WEATHER PERMITTING, St. Nicholas Religious Education will sponsor its **Annual Egg Hunt** after the 10:00 AM Liturgy. All children are invited to take part in this annual event. Prizes will be given out, with the grand prize to be awarded to the child who finds the "Golden Egg" Weather conditions prevented us from having an Easter Egg Hunt, before Easter. The Egg Hunt will be rescheduled if weather conditions prevent us from holding this event on the 3rd of May.

DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS
"Special Appeal" – Thank You!

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UNWLA Branch 49 invites you to
lunch on Sunday, May 3, 2015 after
10:00 am liturgy. A donation of \$10.00
is requested for the lunch. Please
come and enjoy spending time among
parishioners and friends.

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.

In Memoriam – Вічна Пам'ять!

Упокоївся в Господі
+Св. Пам. Михайло Буртняк



(+30 Березня)

Похорон був 1 Квітня

Св. Пам др. Михайло передав
Нам свої альбоми зі знімками
Деканального Хору, за що йому
належить признання і сердечна
подяка, що він подумав про нас.

Родині складаємо співчуття,
а йому хай буде
ВІЧНА ПАМ'ЯТЬ!

===

Fell asleep in the Lord
+Michael Burtniak, PhD

(+March 30, 2015)

Fell asleep in the Lord March 30, 2015, age 90, beloved son of the late Nicholas and Anna (nee Nakonechna) Burtniak; caring brother of Mary (Walter) Kozar and John Burtniak; dear uncle of Haly-na and Taras Kozar; predeceased by his parents and brother Nick. The late Michael Burtniak was born in Western

Ukraine and arrived in Canada in December 1938. He completed his secondary and college education at St Michael's College, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He pursued post graduate education in Slavic Studies at Belgrade University, Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Columbia University, New York City and the University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada, where he earned his Doctorate Degree. Dr. M. Burtniak was a professor of languages, Russian, Polish, Spanish as well as literatures of the above nations at Canisius College from 1961 until his retirement in 1995.

We extend our sympathy to the
Family. May he rest in peace!
Eternal Memory!
Vichnaya Pamiat'!

У понеділок, 40-го дня по похороні, 11 Травня о 11 год рано, буде Св. Літургія за Св. Пам. Михайла Буртняка
Просимо членів хору прийти і помолитися за душу довголітнього члена і офіційного фотографа Хору.

Liturgy for +Michael Bortniak will take place in our church May 11 at 11:00 AM. We ask all Choir members to come to pray for 40th Day of his passing into Eternal Life. Thank You!



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

- KITCHEN is now open.
- Thank you for your patronage.
We need your help in the kitchen. Thank you!
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- → Molebens to Theotokos will be Wednesday and Friday during the moth of May. See bulletin

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CHURCH BULLETIN is published weekly.
Deadline for information is Friday Evening.
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК видається тижнево.
Інформації подавати до П'ятниці вечора.

SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ

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V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor & dean

Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

Please call if you are hospitalized,
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Просимо закликати якщо ви у лічниці
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Христос воскрес! Воістину воскрес!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Dear Rev. Marijan Procyk and
 Parishioners of St. Nicholas
 Ukrainian Catholic Church,

Please accept our sincere gratitude for your gracious hospitality and generosity during our visit to our parish on April 18th bringing the icon of Blessed Josaphata Hordashevska with her 1st class relic for you to venerate and pray for spiritual graces and “miracles” through her intercession.

Sr. Tekla and I truly enjoyed our visit and hope that we have an opportunity to visit you and your vibrant parish again.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Kathleen Hutsko, SSMI
 Sr. Kathleen Hutsko, SSMI
 Provincial Superior



Dear League of Ukrainian Catholic members of
 the Buffalo region,

Sr. Tekla and I extend our sincere gratitude for the hosting us recently during our visit to St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church. The warm welcome and delicious food were much appreciated. Please continue to pray for miracles through the intercession, especially for the canonization of Blessed Josaphata as a saint in our church. What an honor it would be if that miracle that made her a saint came from the parish of St. Nicholas! We will pray for many spiritual graces to be bestowed upon each of you and your families.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Kathleen Hutsko, SSMI
 Sr. Kathleen Hutsko, SSMI
 Provincial Superior

Letter from Fr. Ray April 26, 2015

Christ is Risen! He is Truly Risen!

Dear _____

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

Wow, that was a quick April! Before we get to the end of this week, it's going to be the month of May! Time flies when you're having fun! I suppose Holy Week, Pascha, and Bright Week all have had something to do with having the days fly by, even more than they usually do. April 2015 has certainly been activity filled, and there doesn't seem to be any slowdown in sight.

This coming week, we have an important, but mostly unknown Holy Day. Wednesday, May 29 according to the New Calendar is “Mid-Pentecost,” and it is mostly “unknown” since it always falls on a Wednesday, and most parishioners do not attend weekday Liturgy, so they simply miss it, and the beautiful message of the day. The meaning of the feast is exactly that which the name implies, i.e., we are now half way to Pentecost and even as we continue to celebrate Pascha, we are also now beginning to focus our prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit to each of us. Try to attend this service, if you can.

We have had an excellent Great Fast, and now we've been gloriously celebrating Pascha in our church, in our home and in our parish halls. In these coming days we've got to remind ourselves, first of all that we are still in the Paschal season.....Easter wasn't just one day that happened on April 5th. Also, we are now made aware that we are praying for the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. How awesome and blessed are we, who are part of His Church formed over 2000 years ago when that Spirit came upon the disciples and changed them into powerful saints. “Come Holy Spirit!”

Most of our parishes have had the annual Paschal Meal, in Ukrainian called “Sviachenne.” There is hardly a parish in our Eparchy where there is not a “Sviachenne” held. Today, April 26, I know there are still a few communities where the parishioners and

friends will be gathering to celebrate Pascha in this special way once again this year. So if it is near, you have one last chance to attend and partake for one more meal of the traditional delights of the Blessed Baskets-the Paska, cheese, beet/horseradish, kovbasa, ham, etc., etc. Blessed Pascha! “Smachnoho-Bon Appetit!” In addition to the special foods, there is always some great, good old-fashioned Christian fellowship to be had.

On Saturday last, April 18, St. Nicholas parish in Buffalo was host to the icon of Blessed Josaphata Hordashevska. A small number of parishioners from St. Nicholas and Holy Protection parishes gathered to welcome Sister Kathleen and Sister Tekla, members of Sisters Servants, who brought us the holy icon. The afternoon began with a Moleben (Prayer Service) to Blessed Josaphata, sung very beautifully, I might add. Then, after the service in the church, and since we are of Ukrainian heritage, everyone was invited downstairs for a bite to eat. ☺ Following that brief repast everyone listened to a short talk on the life of Blessed Josaphata, the foundress of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate.

This Holy Nun, gave her life to our Eastern Catholic Church and to her God. Hers was a life of struggle and sacrifice, but also a life lived in the never ending joy of our Saviour. She took care of her people in Ukraine where the congregation was founded, but also sent Sisters to other countries. There are now Sisters Servants throughout the world. Pope John Paul II beatified Blessed Josaphata when he visited Ukraine in 2001. There is already one affirmed miracle attributed to her intercession. For her to be called a saint, a second miracle is necessary. While they cannot be termed true miracles, many people have also reported answers to various prayers at her intercession. Let us pray to God that there will be a second confirmed miracle, and we will soon have the joy of calling her “Saint” Josaphata.

It was a good thing for all of us to attend the welcome of the Holy Icon and to pray to this Holy Woman. Remember, all of us can pray to her for whatever it is necessary for our salvation. “Blessed

Josapahta, pray to God for us!" What a great blessing and gift it is for the Sisters Servants to have one of their own to be called a saint! What a joy it must be for the Sisters to carry in their hands this icon, containing a relic, to our churches. I would think it would make the Sisters feel as if they are with their Holy Foundress as they carry the icon and spread the message of the mission of the Sisters Servants and of Blessed Josapahta: "Educate the heart of the people and serve where the need is greatest." If the icon comes near your parish, don't hesitate to go and pray before it! She is a treasure among us!



I don't know if you remember, but sometime in the fall in one of your letters I wrote to you and told you about one of our visits to Fr. Eli, Presbyter Laryssa and their family. During that 2014 visit the grandchildren, Jonah, Nathanael and I secretly planted a bag of daffodil bulbs behind their house. It was our big secret for the rest of the winter, and into the coming spring, and would be a big surprise "for Mom." The boys and I have been talking about the progress of those flowers since the snow went away and things began to grow again. I am happy to report that those buried bulbs have come from the dark cold earth and have now exploded into bunches of brilliant yellow flowers! It was indeed a great surprise for Mom (Dad too), and made them very happy!

The bulbs are pushing through the earth here in Western New York, but the cold temperatures are hindering their growth. Some years spring comes in with a spectacular splash of color and warmth. In those years, everything seems to bloom at once, and it is breathtaking. Not so this year. Here and there one can see patches of hyacinths or daffodils, but in other yards they are still barely out of the ground. The forsythia is making a great effort to join the show as are the magnolia and crabapple trees. They've got a long way to go, however. Too cold!! But it is still so good to see flowers!

On Wednesday evening I put on my winter clothes and headed out and about the neighborhood for a long walk. It definitely felt like December, rather than April. The gray clouds definitely looked as if they were ready to begin dropping snow. Before I returned home that is exactly what happened! Big, wet flakes began to fall and melt as soon as they hit the ground. The snow showers came on and off into the night and when we woke in the morning there was 2-3 inches on the cars and grass. Aaagh! Scrapper day! Most of the roads stayed snow free, but the bridges were hazardous and required winter driving skills. Of course it melted quickly, but "Suzy Snowflake and Frosty the Snowman" were not welcome guests! Maybe, maybe, this will be the last of our snow till November or December, he said hopefully.

My walk took me "up to the high school" (West Seneca West-near our house). The high school baseball team was playing a game in football weather. The fans in the stands wore winter clothing and were wrapped in blankets. But the game went on. I stopped to watch a few innings and then moved on. The game made me feel old, not because I was tired from walking, but because I couldn't stand the sound of the ball on the bat. In the old days, it was known as "the crack of the bat" as the ball came in contact with that beautiful hard ash stick, the Louisville Slugger! These days the sound is a "ding" as the ball hits the ALUMINUM bat. Yecch! Never got used to that sound at all! But, that's me showing my age. ☹️ 😊

Time to go and get ready for Mother's Day, Ascension Thursday, Pentecost, Wine Tasting Event, First Communion, etc., etc. I hope this note finds you well and happy in the Lord. Be Blessed! In all our comings and goings, we continue our Paschal celebration: Christ is Risen! He is Truly Risen!

In the Love of our Risen Lord,
Fr. Ray

Sacraments of Confirmation, Baptism, and Holy Eucharist

Was bestowed Saturday,
April 18, 2015, upon:

Mikhail Scherbakov
Son of Boris Shcherbakov
and Vira Leshchinska.

May our good & loving Lord grant His blessings of peace, health, and happiness upon Mikhail as we welcome him into our Church of faith!

Congratulations!
Многая Літа!



Михаїл Щербаков

Син Бориса Шербакова
і Віри Лещинської

приймав в суботу 18 Квітня, 2015 р.
тайни хрещення, миропомазання і

Пресвятої Євхаристії.

Хай Господь благословить
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На Многая і Благая Літа!

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St. John Maron Church cordially invite you to pray with us The Second Annual International Rosary on Friday, May 1, 2015 at 7:00 pm. A reception will follow in the Ceders Banquet Facility. We will be honored to have you joining us and other Catholic Churches from the greater Buffalo area to pray the Holy Rosary and offer this beautiful tribute to our Blessed Mother. (Rev. Elie G. Kairouz, Pastor)

Wine Tasting at St. Mary

Fruit of the Vine

Wine Tasting Fun Raiser™

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May 30th, 2014

6 pm – 9 pm

Protection Blessed Virgin Mary Church

2715 Ferry Ave

Niagara Falls, New York 14301

For tickets and additional

Information please call

Father Ray at

716.675.0629

З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

У третю неділю після свята Христового Воскресіння задумаймося, чи Він воскрес у нашому серці, чи ми збагнули глибину жертви Ісуса Христа та неповторного чуда-правди - воскресіння? Його перемога над смертю - це наш квиток до вічності - єдиної мети нашого життя, того, до чого прямує кожен із нас. Чи ми прийняли й зрозуміли воскресіння так, що можемо без страху свідчити про це братам і сестрам у Христі? Звернімося до Євангелія та послухаймо, що воно розповідає. Жінки-мироносиці не знайшли в гробі Христа, й ангел говорив до них; "Ви шукаєте Ісуса Назарянина, розп'ятого, він воскрес, його нема тут" (Мр 16, 6). Ті, які близько знали Ісуса, ходили з Ним, чи повірили цим словам ангела? З якою вірою і завзяттям приймаємо й ми навчання святої Церкви? Чи віримо у її праведність і правдивість? Як приймаємо поради, зовнішні й внутрішні, що приходять до нас від Церкви або натхнення Святого Духа? Добре було б тут пригадати зі Старого Завіту про патріарха Авраама: усе його життя, подібно, як кожної людини, що бажає йти за голосом Божим, - було боротьбою. Господь не один раз наголошує, що середини не існує: можна йти з Богом або проти Нього. Повчання, котрі чуємо в церкві з року в рік, можуть здаватися вже нецікавими, слово Боже часто мертвіє в наших серцях, ми слухаємо, але не чуємо голосу. Слово перстає бути живим і діяльним у нашому житті (пор. Євр 4, 12). Якщо не йдемо за Богом, тоді йдемо неправильно - і це незаперечна істина, навіть коли хтось у це не вірить і насміхається з цього. Господь кожному з нас дає обітницю, але в нас не вистачає терпіння дочекатися виконання Божих обітниць. Повірмо, що Бога слухати краще, ніж себе! Якщо в нашому серці перемогло воскресіння, тоді зникає страх піти за Богом. Піти у своєму щоденному житті, приймаючи терпінням смерть свого "я", прийнявши тих, хто є поряд, такими, якими вони є. Прийняти неслухняних дітей, котрі не виправдали ваших сподівань; працю, якої не любимо; сварливу дружину; байдужо-

го, може, і щодня нетверезого чоловіка; докучливого сусіда тощо - усе це вимагає внутрішнього замирання нашого "я". Господь очікує, щоб ми довірилися Йому, Він бажає допомогти нам у труднощах життя.

Повернімося до жінок-мироносиць, що прибули зранку до гробу Ісуса: "І вони, вийшовши, втекли від гробу, бо жах і трепет огорнув їх, і нікому нічого не сказали, бо боялися" (Мр 16, 8). Страх, котрий виникає від недовіри, паралізує їхні уста, і вони мовчать. Жінки не виконали прохання Божого ангела, а Він просив їх сповістити про воскресіння Христа. Святий апостол Лука розповідає, що Марія Магдалина, Йоанна і Марія, мати Якова, та інші жінки оповіли апостолам, що вони не знайшли Ісусового тіла, що два чоловіки сказали їм про Його воскресіння. Але апостоли не вірили настільки, як пише євангелист, що почуті слова про воскресіння їм "видавалися пустим верзінням" (Лк 24, 11). Тепер варто поставити собі запитання: як моє життя свідчить про Христа, коли я молюся, виходжу із храму, спілкуюся з ближніми, залишаюся на самоті і взагалі на кожному місці?..

Ось ці жінки втекли й нікому нічого не сказали, бо насправді не зустріли живого воскреслого Бога у своїх серцях, попри те, що були побожні, йшли до гробу зробити добру справу - намастити тіло померлого пахощами. Він є Той, хто відбирає страх, даруючи свободу Божої дитини. І не треба примушувати себе до надзвичайних побожних актів - виняткових постів чи довгих молитов, бо Господь любить тебе не за добрі вчинки. Він любить тебе й тоді, коли твоя душа подібна до тіла прокаженої людини, Він бажає оздоровити нас від усякого роду гріхів, але за нашим бажанням і вірою. Роби з любові до Бога те, що в силі зробити, не вимучуючи себе і своїх ближніх побожними практиками, котрі тобі не під силу. Християнин мусить відмовлятися від гріха, а з усього іншого мудро користати для свого освячення й спасіння...

(Кир Ігор Возняк)

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

Christ is Risen – Indeed He is Risen!

The first two Sundays after Easter Sunday gave us the mystery of the Resurrection to contemplate, from various aspects. We saw the resurrection through the eyes of St. Thomas and the other disciples; we also saw the resurrection through the eyes of the myrrh-bearing women. Today is the Sunday of the Paralytic, commemorating a miracle which, historically, belongs to the earthly days of Christ's ministry. Jesus meets this paralytic man on the Sabbath day. In the Gospel reading, Saint John describes how a paralyzed man had been lying beside the pool of Bethesda waiting for the stirring of the waters by an angel so that he could be healed. His wait lasted not for an hour, or a few days, or even a few months, but thirty-eight years. As amazing as this man's patience and perseverance may have been, perhaps what stands out even more is the fact that no one – not a single person during the course of all these years had compassion on him and helped him into the pool. This aspect of the story is often forgotten, but it is important for us because we must never ignore the fact that situations of great suffering always exist in the world today. Countless people suffer every day from different afflictions and many have no one to care for them. So for us, this Gospel message must be a call to action: We are all made in God's image and as such, are called to love our neighbors as ourselves. All of us, therefore, are responsible for one another. This is part of our mission as followers of Christ.

But in caring for each other we must also be aware that a person's suffering may not be as outwardly obvious to us as the affliction of the paralytic. If we imagine ourselves out and about during a regular day, and we look at the people around us---we have no way of knowing how broken they are, how much pain and agony there is in their lives, or how many broken hopes, how much fear and rejection and contempt bring them down. But even if we can't see it, there is an illness inside of them — a spiritual struggle, which we all share in common: The same

disease, which is sin. So we can say then, that suffering is not only the outward physical, but also the inner, spiritual pain. Spiritual sickness is especially terrible because it harms our relationship with others and ultimately with God. There are those of us who are spiritually paralyzed – and that describes the majority of us, we who make little or no effort to appeal to the Lord for healing of our spiritual illnesses and ailments. We who make little or no attempt to cooperate with the powerful grace and energy that God sends to us every day and which we turn away from; we who confess our sins and then turn right around and do them all over again, demonstrating our complete lack of repentance and determination to change. If we are to answer this call to help others, we must do some housekeeping of our own. Before we are able to help others, we must first examine ourselves and see what sins are plaguing us. And it takes great courage to look inside, because when we do, we find things that we do not like about ourselves or do not wish to accept. We might try to place blame on someone or something other than ourselves instead of taking responsibility for our sins. But the truth is that the cause is inside us and cannot be avoided. We must also realize that in fighting our spiritual battles, our sinful problems will not change overnight. Change takes a number of things: One is patience:

Consider the Paralytic, who after 38 years of suffering, could have complained when Christ arrived asking him "What took you so long?" but he didn't. Instead of an angry, bitter response to the Lord's question: Do you want to be healed? The paralytic responded, calmly and patiently. He was struggling, but never gave up hope. And we cannot give up hope either. In our darkest moments, when things may seem hopeless, we must never forget that God is with us and that he loves us. The paralytic suffered in loneliness because he had no one to help him. He could not bring about healing through his own efforts. So what did he do? He waited patiently for Christ. The second thing change requires is a little work on our part. When the Lord

commanded the Paralytic to “Rise, be made whole, take up your mat and walk” he was giving the paralytic a command. Taking up one’s mat and walking involves obedience and work; a command, which we all received at baptism when we received the Holy Spirit, enabling us with the ability to follow the commandments and to become pure. Taking up the mat is like taking up our cross; it is our mission, to follow Christ’s example and how he lived. A mission that we must continue to say “yes” to throughout our lives in spite of our times of spiritual struggle. Lastly, it is necessary to trust in God by taking our free-will and submitting it to God by placing our hope in Him— then we can begin to see our sufferings turn to healing and we can also help others who suffer, by letting Christ work through us. It is only then, that we can look at one another with a true understanding and with proper attention, so that we can reach out to each other and truly love our neighbor as ourselves.

This leads me to share with you some thoughts about a movie that I watched last year in the theaters entitled *God’s Not Dead*. It’s a whole series of stories within stories of how people’s lives intertwine with one another through what seems like divine intervention. But the main story line throughout the movie deals with a professor of philosophy who requires his students to sign an agreement stating that ‘God is dead’ and the courage of one student to take on the challenge of proving to his class and his professor that ‘God’s Not Dead’. People from all walks of life are intertwined within this story, from lawyers to media professionals to doctors to pastors and students. It involves people helping each other, people getting involved in the lives of others and the



reality that even the small things we do can be profound examples of God’s work not only in our lives, but in the lives of others. Ultimately, the story reminds us that God is very much alive, working in our lives in ways that we cannot even imagine, and the importance of sharing and spreading our faith with one another. Truthfully, if life were some finite existence and God did not exist, then what would be the value in living life as we know it. Through our faith, we are reassured that God is very much alive, and that we can share in His infinite existence if we choose to follow Him and believe. The movie was quite inspirational and moving, and it touched base on so many different avenues and facets of life that every viewer cannot help but be impacted by its simple and profound belief that *God Is Not Dead*.

Today’s Gospel closes with a warning: which Jesus expressed to the Paralytic after his healing, but also to all of us: Jesus says: “*Sin no more, so*

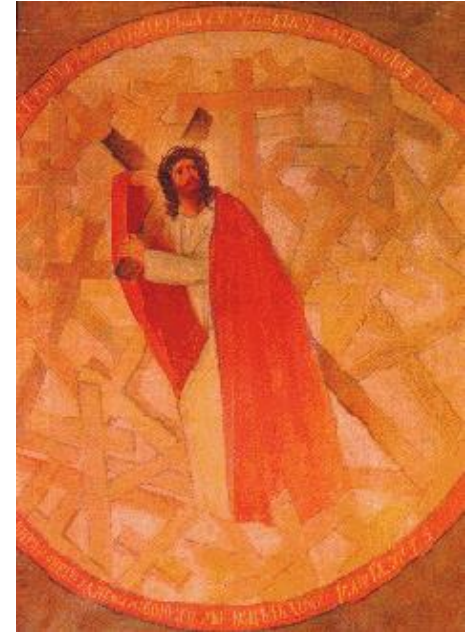
that nothing worse happens to you.” In other words, now you have been healed, be careful not to practice a sinful life, in order that nothing worse becomes of you. This is a warning to us: If we show no sign that we want to be healed; if we try to hide from our sins instead of facing them and taking responsibility for them... if we do not place our trust and hope in God and do not obey the command to rise and carry our cross, then we too will continue to lie in sickness, or fall into a worse spiritual sickness, which may make the Paralytic’s 38 years seem like a drop in the bucket. So what is the way out? What is our solution? A wise priest once wrote: ‘The answer is given in today’s Gospel. The way out is Christ, He who healed the paralytic. And we must be ready to receive him as did the paralytic. To trust God and let

him work through us. Christ can heal physical illness and spiritual illness not only because He overcomes sin, but also because He can overcome the ultimate consequence of sin - death itself.’ I find that as we journey through life, many people remain broken over past scars they have faced in their lives: hardships, rejection, broken dreams, tragedy, and heartache. It is important for us to know that scars only tell us where we have been, but they do not dictate where we are going - that is what our faith is for – and Christ bore the ultimate scars for our salvation, so we have nothing to fear!

Truthfully, many Christians fail to do what Jesus did by the Pool of Bethesda; we fail to acknowledge the reality of people’s hurts. But today’s Gospel offers hope by showing us quite clearly that we do have someone – a Savior who loves us and can heal us with His grace. During today’s service, the Church recalls three cases of divine healing: that of the Canaanite woman, the centurion’s servant at Capernaum, and the paralytic at Bethesda. We enter into the spirit of the Church by praying especially, this Sunday, that our Lord will relieve the sick and minister to all those in need of healing. We especially pray for their strength and courage as they face the challenges ahead of them, and that the good Lord in His grace will grant them the peace they so earnestly seek. Christ came to earth with a mission; He came to bring salvation to the world. Sometimes, we lose sight of our own purpose here on earth, because unlike Christ, we are not born with an awareness of our mission. So we live by the example and teaching of Christ, and we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide us in our daily actions. No matter how many years we are given in this lifetime here on Earth, we can all be certain of one very important and amazing detail: Jesus loves us with a love that we cannot even begin to comprehend. And this love of the Lord enables us to share his compassion and goodwill with one another. The Savior of the world is here, and He has come with the power and the glory of His Resurrection.

In Memoriam – Вічна Пам’ять!

Упокоївся в Господі
+Св. Пам. Богдан Щерба
 (7 Серпня, 1959 -19 Квітня, 2015)
 Пхорон був у П’ятницю
 Родині складаємо співчуття,
 а йому хай буде
ВІЧНА ПАМ’ЯТЬ!



Fell asleep in the Lord
+Dan Szczerba
 (August 7, 1959 - April 19, 2015)

Entered into rest April 19, 2015, devoted father of Daniel & Nicholas Szczerba; loving son of John and the late Halyna (nee Rugula) Szczerba; dear brother of Nadia Guthridge and Myroslava Bertalan; also survived by relatives & friends. We extend our sympathy to the Family. May he rest in peace!
Eternal Memory!