



Mother's Day Breakfast
Thank you, ladies, for preparing May 10 event. Sophia, Marta and Marija (on right) will do it next time around. Thanks are extended to all those, who participated.



Awaiting Solemn Holy Communion



After the baptism of Mikhail Shcherbakov

The U.N.W.L.A. #49 Luncheon, May 3, 2015



SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



№
20

ПІД ОПІКОЮ
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ
МАРІЇ ОДІПТРИЇ

UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN

May 17 – 2015 – 17 Травня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

На Многая і Благая Літа, Преосвященнішому Владиці Кир Павлові Хомницькому, з нагоди 61-их уродин!
Happy Many Years to Bishop Paul on the occasion of 61st birthday. Mnohaya Lita!

Сьогодні вітаємо наших першопричасників: Калину Мазепу, Юрка Дармограя і Данила Гурбаки. Вперше приймають вони свідомо Тіло і Кров Господню під видом хліба і вина. Побажаймо їм щоб кожне наступне приємання Господа у Пресвятій Євхаристії було подібне до нипішнього.

Їх Господь запросив на бенкет небесної трапези і вони відізналися. Прийшли, прийняли Господа, і вельми утішилися радістю великою. Многих Вам Літ!

We welcome today Kalyna Mazepa, Yuri Darmograi and Danylo Gurbaki, who will solemnly receive Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus.

May He Bless You!



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CHURCH BULLETIN

May 17 – 2015 – 17 Травня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



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

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM +Irene Tschip – 40 d. (Family)

May 17 H. Fathers in Nicea – Св. Отців

11:00 AM Solemn Holy Communion

Monday, May 18 Травня, Понеділок

9:00 AM +Михайло і Домка Завадівські
(Л. і С. Головаті)

Tuesday, May 19 Травня, Вівторок

8:00 AM +М. і П. (родина)

Wednesday, May 20 Травня, Середа

11:00 AM Int. of Mary Anne DuBois

12:00 PM Akathistos to Mother of God - Акафіст

Thursday, May 21 Травня, Четвер

10:00 AM see Julian

Friday, May 22 Травня, П'ятниця

11:00 AM +Оксана Бережницька і +Люба Цьолко
(Лідія Грецишин)

12:00 PM Moleben to Theotokos - МОЛЕБЕНЬ

Sat. May 23 Травня Субота

4:30 PM +Maria Bumar (R. Voychak)

May 24 PENTECOST – Зісл. Св. Духа

12:00 AM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

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

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М. горить
в нам Владики Павла Хомницького
З нагоди 61-ліття! Многая Літа!
May 19 – 61st Birthday of Bishop Paul.
Happy Many Years!

17 Травня: Неділя Сліпородженого

11:00 р. Торжественне Св. Причастя

21 Травня: ВОЗНЕСІННЯ

10:00 р. За Парохіян

24 Травня: Св. Отців в Нікеї

10:00 р. +Станислав Ващак (родина)

The Parish Friday Kitchen will be closed
Friday, May 22nd, for the Memorial Day
weekend. We will reopen Friday, May
29th. At the close of Friday, June 19th,
the kitchen will close for the Summer.

Кухня буде закрыта 22 Травня

Meeting of the League of Ukrainian
Catholics will take place in the church
hale, Thursday May 21 at 6:30 PM.

Засідання Ліги Українців Католиків
буде у четвер, 21 Травня о 6:30

Bible meeting, Thu. May 28 at 6:15 PM.

Бібл. зустрічі, Чет., 28 Травня, 6:15 в.

We sent Dioc. Ch. Appeal forms. Please
read a letter and send your donations.

Просимо пожертви на Епарх. Фонд.
Дякуємо! Thank you!

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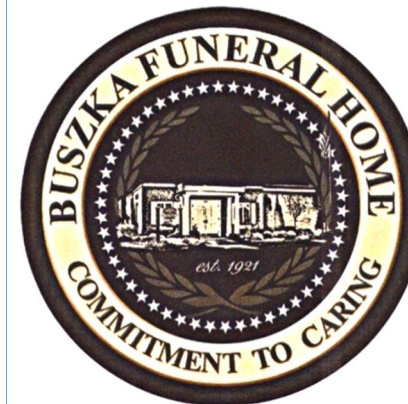
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Просимо відвідати веб-сторінку.

<http://www.ukrainiansofbuffalo.com>

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More information and events
In our Ukrainian Community.

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before entering the church. Thank you!

Просимо вилучувати ваші мобільні
телефони підчас Святої Літургії.

Thanks are extended to Elaine Nowady for preparing our Holy Communion Receivers, as well as to other catechists for teaching religion this school year. May the Lord bless you abundantly!

Дякуємо усім катехиткам
За навчання релігії!

Save the date!

UNWLA Branch 97 is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, May 31 at the St. John the Baptist UCC hall in Kenmore from 12 to 3 p.m. Proceeds benefit Ukrainian War victims fund and other UNWLA charities. Tickets \$10 adults, \$5 children 6-12 yrs old.

For tickets, call 716-984-4886

97-ий відділ Союз Українок Америки запрошує усіх на італійській обід "spaghetti dinner" в неділю, 31-ого травня, від 12 - 3 год в пополудне. Обід відбудеться в залі Св. Івана Хрестителя. Вступ \$10 для дорослих і \$5 для дітей від 6-12 літ. Дохід призначений для СУА Фонд допомоги жертвам війни гідності та інші акції СУА.

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 Pereyema,
38 Lester St., Buffalo, NY 14210.

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Information please call
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З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

Сьогодні тзв. неділя сліпородженого. Мова тут про чоловіка, який народився сліпим.

Не бачити світа, не розрізняти різних красок, не добачити схід сонця, не задивлятися на його захід, означає не милуватися Божим даром зору, якого ми усі задармо одержали.

Сліпота вважалася страшною карою за гріхи, і тому апостоли, побачивши сліпородженого, питають Господа: "Хто согрішив, що він сліпим народився. Чи він сам, чи може батьки його?"

Очевидно, що нераз хвороба є наслідком невідповідного життя, але не конче це карою за гріхи. Господь є милосердний і він прощас, бо не бажає смерті грішника, але щоб той навернувся і жив. І вчитель пояснює: "Ніхто не провинився, але він сліпим родився, щоб слава Божа на ньому виявилася."

І оздоровляє його Господь. Та фарисеї і книжники, які боялися, що їхня популярність в народі, помаліє, по всяку ціну стараються доказати, що Христос нічого надзвичайного не зробив. А може той чоловік насправді не був сліпим, а тільки таким представився, щоб затуманити. І питаються його батьків, чи то правда. Діставши позитивну відповідь, вони звертаються до нього самого, щоб його випробувати: "а що ти думаєш про цього, що відкрив твої очі?" Він його назвав пророком. І знова бажаючи зловити його на слові кількакратно питаються "Ну, як ти прозрів?"

Докучило це сліпородженому і він починає розмовляти саркастично:

"Та що ж хочете ще почути? Може і ви бажаєте бути його учнями?"

"Ти є його учнем," кажуть вони, "а ми є Мойсєві ученики.

Ми знаємо, що до Мойсея промовляв Бог, а цього не знаємо звідкілля він?"

"То ж і дивно", каже сліпороджений, "що ви не знаєте звідки він, а він мені відкрив очі. Знаємо, що Бог не слухає грішників, а хто побожний і чинить його волю, того він слухає. Від віку нечувано, щоб хто відкрив очі сліпому зроду.

Якби він не був від Бога, не міг би був зробити нічого."

Побачили фарисеї, що не переможуть і прогна-ли тоді його від себе сказавши: "Ти ввесь у гріхах родився і нас навчаєш?"

Показується, що не вистарчає тільки мати здорові очі, щоб могли бачити. Можна бути духово сліпим, помимо того, що посідаєм досконалий зір.

Ми усі до певної міри сліпі, і бажаємо прозріння. Працюємо в тому напрямку. Вчимося, набираємо досвіду, щоб темряву змінити на світло.

Що властиво є темрява - Чорний кольор. Чи це не брак світла, брак білого. Біле це мішанина усіх красок. У відповідних пропорціях. Посідання світла, це наші добрі діла і наміри, це добре відношення до інших не залежно як інші до нас ставляться, це принамання усього, що від Господа приходить, уповання на Всевишнього, різьнокольоровий килим приємний для ока, а коли все це стани Божою ьаскою досконале, приходить воскресіння – вічне життя – світло велике. Темрява натомість, це бачиння усього у негативному насвітленні, це відкидання чого небудь доброго, це уповання на себе самих і тим самим вічне відділення від Господа...

Сьогодні у нас, у Церкві Святого Миколая Було торжествене святе Причастя. Трійох дітей Господь запросив на бенкет небесної трапези і вони відізналися.

Ми також усі запрошені на небесний бенкет. Згідно з книгою приповідок (9,5) усі ми маємо нагоду прийти і їсти хліб і пити вино, що нам приготовано, знаючи що цей хліб і це вино у таїнствений спосіб стали тілом і кровю Спасителя, який задля нас народився, задля нас проповідував і чуда творив, і на хрест дався розіп'яти, і задля нас воскрес із гробу.

Чи Божем запрошенням можна знехтувати? Ні! У ніякому разі. Ніколи і з ніяких причин. Господь не тягне нас на силу, але хоче, щоб ми з власної волі прийшли і гідно споживали. Вимога є отже щоб зявитися...



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

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

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Religion classes – Релігійна Програма
Субота - Saturday

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IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME

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Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

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**Просимо закликати якщо ви у лічниці
або приковані до ліжка!**

РІДНА ШКОЛА RIDNA SHKOLA

презентує

ВИПУСКНИЙ - 2015 GRADUATION – 2015

Марта Касіян

Богдан Меленчук

Тарас Назаревич

Христина Собко

Остап Ткалич

СУБОТА

13 ЧЕРВНЯ 2015

5:30 – КОНЦЕРТ

7:00 – ВЕЧЕРЯ

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JUNE 13, 2015

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7:00 PM – DINNER

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Letter from Fr. Ray May 17, 2015

Christ is Risen! He is Truly Risen!

Dear _____

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

Good Day to you, my Dear One, wherever you are, or whenever you are reading your letter for this week. I'm beginning it on May 6, eleven days early. When our young people hear a statement like that they say, "Wait! What?" I won't blame you, if you say the same thing. And you also got a short letter last week which perhaps also made you say, "Wait! What?" Well, it's like this....I'm outa here! Goin' fishing!

I'm sure we've all had the same experience of preparing for a journey so I'm sure you know exactly what I mean. Before we can head out there are a hundred and one details to take care of before in order to keep things running smoothly, and then to insure a good transition back. Your letters, our church bulletins, preparations for services, baking prosphora and setting up substitutions are only a few of the "details" needing completion and attention before departure.

Here's the story: We have planned to be out of town from May 8 until May 16. That translates to the fact that I needed to write to you for Sunday May 10, and also somehow, get you another letter for May 17. You already know I got the May 10 one done, even though it was a bit early to write. I hoped you liked that Mother's Day letter, though it was a bit shorter than usual. Since our return will get us home very late on the sixteenth, and so that you will not have an empty mailbox, I need to write another "future" letter to you, and here it is. Wednesday May 6 and I need to project some of my thoughts to that time about eleven days from now.

One thing, of which I am absolutely sure, is that the beautiful month of May is going to be a blur. That's what happens when we have days filled with activities, and the days of this month are certainly just that- filled with activities. While it is still May, both the old calendar and new calendar people, will be celebrating the end of our glorious Paschal cycle

during the days of Pentecost. Before that will be Ascension Thursday and the 5th Saturday of the Dead. Then there will be the civil holiday of Memorial Day, or as Didi used to say, "Decoration Day." Memorial Day and Pentecost both mean we will be having our annual prayer visits to the cemeteries. The 29th, God willing, will see us at Holy Protection hosting our guests for our wine tasting event. Two days later, we will travel to St. John's in Kemore to try some of their pasta at the spaghetti dinner there. So hang on to your hat, we're off!

These first six days of May have been exactly what the doctor ordered! We've been waiting a long time for sunny and warm days and they've finally arrived. Isn't it amazing what only a few hours of sun and warmth can do to promote growth?! Talk about the world exploding! Wow! The magnolias and forsythia are now in spectacular mode. Trees have leaves and everything is coming to life and blooming! The world of nature is confirming exactly what we have been celebrating and proclaiming the last several weeks. The whole world rejoices today in the Resurrection of Christ....the earth is clothed with this new beauty; the meadows are in flower. That which was thought to be dead now comes back to life! Yes, in this natural world we clearly see the Resurrection of our Lord. The "dead" trees and plants now come back to life. Our "Dead Lord" is Risen! As the Psalmist says, "This is the Day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!" I hope and pray you are well and can truly enjoy this glorious time!

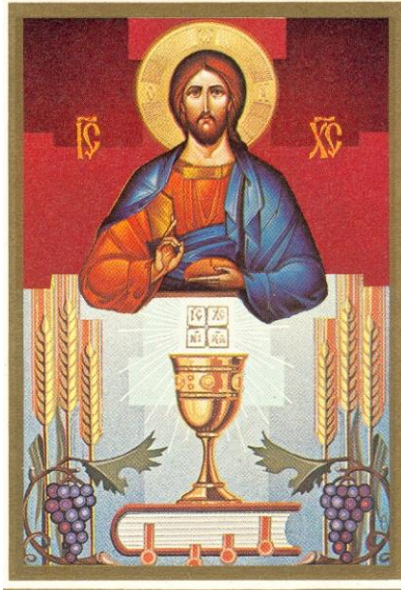
But then I suppose there are some who never see good or beauty in anything. How sad! Remember all during the winter when we kept wishing for sunny and warm days? With the coming of this real spring most people have been very happy and there have been almost universal positive comments. But guess what! Yep, the other day I met someone from the International Society of Moaners and Groaners. You guessed it! She was complaining about how warm it was! In the words of good ol' Charlie Brown, "AAAAGH!" Or as President Lincoln was wont to say, "You can please some of the people all of the

time and all of the people some of the time. But you can never please all of the people all of the time!"

Speaking of pleasing people....do you like our local delight called "Sponge Candy?" There is a great debate going on in these parts you know. One candy shop owner has started making sponge candy with the addition of peanut butter and has sparked arguments throughout the region. Is it plain old-fashioned sponge candy, or is it that new-fangled new stuff? Sometimes those in the discussion get quite loud regarding their preference. As for me, I like the new, and I like the old. Good ol' wishy-washy Charlie Brown. When I first tasted the peanut butter stuff I wondered why someone hadn't done it before. Seems like a great marriage, that chocolate and peanut butter. I don't have any stock in the store, nor do I have any relatives there, so I can say I buy mine at KO-Ed on Abbott Rd. in South Buffalo. I guess this may be another aspect of my life which I get to reveal in your letter. I do have a sweet tooth!

While I'm writing to you, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our parish outreach to the Franciscan Center. As a parish, both St. Nicholas and Holy Protection have been collecting non-perishable food, paper and hygiene products for the boys over there. This project has been going on for more than five years and is greatly appreciated by the directors of the Center. Our contributions are needed now, more than ever due to some very deep cuts in their budget caused by withdrawing of certain State aid. I know there are a lot of charities, and a lot of people want your money, but if you could donate a can of this or a tube of that, it all mounts up and is extremely helpful. Over the years we have delivered tons of supplies to them as well as grocery gift cards and even a lot of "the green stuff." If you

bring a donation to the church, you can place it in the box which is in the vestibule. Thanks and may God reward your kindness and charity. That's what we are all about as people of a Vibrant Parish!



My thoughts now turn to the children who will be receiving their First Solemn Communion at St. Nicholas church this Sunday. May God bless them on this very, very special and beautiful day. We think not only the children of that parish, but all the children everywhere receiving First Communion. We pray they will always be filled with the Love and Joy of our Savior, and always will remain close to Him. Is there anyone who does not remember their First Communion Day? How close to God we were on that day! How overwhelming was the feeling of the Divine! How blessed we were

on that day!

I am always very saddened when I hear that one of our sons or our daughters has left the church. It is extremely heart-breaking when they "give up on religion." It is equally heart-breaking when they leave the church and go off and join another denomination where the belief in the Eucharist is so different than ours. We pray that they will come back to us, to the Holy Mother and to our Blessed Lord where He is found in the Miracle and Mystery of the Most Holy Eucharist...the Real Presence, where He comes to us under the form of the consecrated bread and wine. We pray they will remember that First Holy Communion Day when they walked down, all dressed in white, carrying their special flower and then during that Holy Liturgy received the Lord on their own faith. We pray that the memories of that day will once again kindle the spark of faith and bring them back home. Dear One, your place at the Father's table is still there for you. Please come home.

Father Ray

From "Good Samaritan" Ukrainian. Radio pr. (3) yet they are at peace; for they have lived in relationship with God, and the step across the threshold from this world into the next holds no fear for them. A counselor knows Eternal life when he or she is with a group of men and women who trust each other enough to talk about their failures and disappointments in life, and are still able to support and pray for one another. Every day, men and women are able to see God at work in their lives and feel blessed. Each and every one of us knows Eternal life when we are using the gifts that God has given us, and we feel as though what they allow us to do is worthwhile, because they permit the work of God to flow through us and fill this world with His Eternal love.

During WWII, the Japanese took a group of 720 soldiers' prisoner. For a long time the prisoners lived in a state of hatred and resentment toward each other as well as their captors. They lived like animals, stealing food from one another, and letting the sick and the starving die. God had no part in their lives. One day a Japanese officer lined them all up and reported that a shovel was missing. The guilty man was asked to step forward and identify himself and admit his theft of the shovel. No one stepped forward. Then the officer threatened to shoot all of them if the guilty one did not speak up. There was no response. The officer again threatened to start killing prisoners until the guilty one came forth. Suddenly, one man stepped forward. The rest of the men were dismissed and the prisoner was taken away and tortured to death. A few days later it was learned that one of the Japanese guards had miscounted and that there was no missing shovel. Then it was finally realized by the other prisoners that the man had stepped forward only to protect the others from harm and had died to save their lives. This caused the whole atmosphere in the prison camp to change. Now they began to love and care for each other. Their relationship with God started to mean something to them. Many turned to Christ and started reading the Bible. One of the prisoners was

inspired because of this to enter the seminary after the war, and spoke at great lengths about God's love utilizing this very example. It all started when one man decided to follow the example of Christ in an unconscionable situation, by giving his life to save his comrades. The words of Jesus spring to mind, "Greater love has no man than to give his life for his friends."

When Christ Ascended to Heaven, He brought with Him the whole of humanity, and He reconciled us once and for all with the love of the Father. Mother Theresa put it best when she said, "To show great love for God and our neighbor, we need not do great things. It is how much love we put into doing that makes our offering something beautiful for God". We find joy when we share it freely with others. We find love when we consider those around us before ourselves. We glorify God when we participate in sharing His love with one another, and what better time to remember Christ's Love than when He Ascended into Heaven with God the Father. After all: 'Life is good but Eternal life is better!'

Oles & Lubov Cheren (dba Gerdan Ukrainian Merchandise), 31 Sherman Place, Clifton, NJ 07011-1407 Tel. 973-246-4827) will be visiting our parish on Saturday and Sunday May 23 & 24th with a large selection of UKRAINIAN BOOKS, both in Ukrainian and in English, including religious, academic, history, literature, arts and crafts, dictionaries, and children's. MAPS, GREETING CARDS, C-Ds, D-V-Ds, and JEWELRY, imported from Ukraine, EMBROIDERY, SCARFS, and much more also are available.

These will be displayed in the church hall. A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to our parish.

We encourage our members and guests to take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity.

From "Good Samaritan" Ukrainian. Radio pr. (2)

An old man and an old woman lived together in a small house at the top of a hill. They had been in love since they were teenagers, and although they occasionally bickered over petty things, they had been happily married for more than 40 years. Every morning, the man would ride his bike down to the market to pick up groceries for the day while the woman tended to the garden and house. They didn't have much money, so they mostly lived off of bread and stewed vegetables. Still, they were always grateful for what they did have, and that they had each other.

Once a week, after their usual dinner, the two would curl up in front of the fireplace and share a piece of cherry pie. It was the only luxury they would allow themselves, and some of their best times were spent together like that, sharing stories, hugging and laughing over their favorite dessert. Oddly enough, the man only loved the crust of the pie; the flaky, buttery shell that had only the thinnest remaining layer of sweet cherry coating. The woman, on the other hand, only loved the warm, gooey filling and didn't care so much for the outside. So, they would divide up the pie and both were happy. It was the perfect dynamic. The way they ate their pies was a reflection of their lives together, and how they fit into one another like one hand intertwined with the other. He completed her emptiness here, while she filled his voids there. One particularly harsh winter, the old man fell sick with pneumonia. It took a terrible toll on his health, and after a few days it was clear that he wouldn't make it. The grieving woman sat by his bedside in the dimly lit room, her eyes tearing up as she gazed down at his. "There's something I want to tell you," he said slowly, gently grabbing his wife's hand. "What is it, my dear?" she said, fighting back tears. "I love you so much." he



replied. "Well I know that, of course!" she interjected, laughing softly. "I love you too." He continued, "All I wanted to do with my life was to make you happy. I hope I succeeded in doing that. And, dear, don't be upset with me, but I've been lying to you all this time." The woman cocked her head inquisitively to the right, trying to hide her concern. "I don't much care for the crust of pies," he said slowly, smiling. For a moment, the woman was speechless. Then she burst out, "Then why?" "Because," he went on. "It gave me more joy to give you something I knew made you so happy than I ever would have gotten from a silly dessert." The

room was quiet for a few seconds as they stared at each other, smiling. She lowered her head and rested it on her husband's shoulder. "Oh, my dear husband," she said. "We are a pair. All of these years I have been trying to make you happy by telling you I love the filling... when in fact I prefer the crust."

Eternal life is about love and relationship. Relationship with God, relationship with Jesus Christ, relationship with one another lived out in love. It is experienced when we encounter the Almighty and His unbelievable love first hand, and then are willing to make sacrifices for one another out of the love we have receive from our Heavenly Father. Jesus' parting words to His disciples are: "And this is Eternal life that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." A priest knows Eternal life at the Lord's Supper, when he looks down into the face of a child waiting to receive the Body and Blood of Christ with wide-eyed awe and anticipation. As someone once said, "Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged with mankind." A medical professional knows Eternal life when he or she sits with a person on their death bed, whom the medical world can no longer help, whose life is coming to a quick end, and

From "Good Samaritan" Ukrainian. Radio pr. (1)

This past Thursday, which followed the fifth Sunday after Easter, we celebrated the day of our Lord's Ascension. When Jesus, having fulfilled his earthly mission, went to the Mount of Olives, took leave of His mother and Disciples, and Ascended from there to His Father in Heaven. It was His final act on this earth, but it was an act that opens to us, His followers, endless possibilities, for Jesus did not return to the Father alone. Through the mystery of the Incarnation, Jesus assumed all of humanity unto

Himself, and now each of us is a part of Christ as He lives in us. When the doors of the Kingdom of Heaven opened wide to receive our triumphant Lord, the whole of redeemed humanity was also received and accepted by the Father. The Feast of Ascension celebrates not only Jesus' glorification by the Father, but also the Father's acceptance of each one of us, regardless of our sins and imperfections. Jesus opens Heaven to us, where one day we will also be received by God the Father. Today, we are also one week away from Pentecost, when the living flame of the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. Pentecost was not the first time Jesus' believers had acted together. But it was the first time they had a complete message, an empowered mission and purpose beyond themselves. Before, they were just another small circle of followers: now, they become the Church that would eventually measure in the millions.

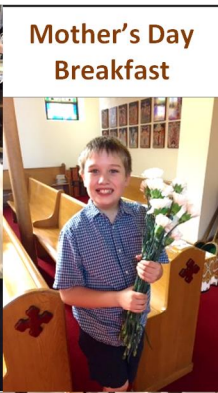
Holy Scripture writes: "God has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly

places in Christ Jesus." As if by proxy, we take possession of the benefits which are offered and made possible to us. The Church reminds us in this celebration that there are places destined for each of us in the Kingdom of God, if we are faithful - if we believe in and follow the Word of God, and that our presence is not only desired, but the Lord is waiting for us. This is meant to bring us great joy, because the Ascension makes thoughts of Heaven more immediate and more actual to us. But do we think of Eternity often enough? For most Christians, life in

heaven is no more than a supplement to life here on earth. Life in heaven is seen somewhat as a postscript, an appendix to a book whose text is formed by earthly life. But this is the opposite of what we know as a Church to be true. Our earthly life is but the preface to the book. Life in heaven will be its main text, and this text is endless. I saw a fabulous bumper sticker the other day that read: 'Life is good but Eternal life is better!' To make use of another image, our earthly life is but a tunnel - narrow, dark, and very short - which opens onto a magnificent, sunlit landscape more beautiful than we can even imagine.

We think too much about what our life is now, and not enough about what it will become. Even Holy Scripture writes: "Eyes have not seen, ears have not heard, what God has prepared for those who love Him." Our lives would indeed be changed and transformed, if from now on, we threw our hearts over the barrier, beyond this world, and into the Kingdom where is found not only our own true good, but also the true good of those whom we love and those in need of our love.





Mother's Day Breakfast



Mother's Day SUM - Dnipro



Ukr./Am. Sport Assn.



V.F.W Convention

