



The icon of Eucharist (Mystical Supper)
Donated in memory of +Marusia Procyk
By Fr Ray and Presbytera Joanne Palko,
+Norma & MaryAnn DuBois. Thank you!

Solemn Holy Communion, May 17, 2015



SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СЬВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



№
21

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



CHURCH BULLETIN

May 24 – 2015 – 24 Травня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

Згадаймо сьогодні усіх тих, що віддали
життя за кращу долю Батьківщини!
Зі святими упокой, Христе, душі усопших
Слугинь і Слуг Божих. Вічна Пам'ять!

Панахиди – Memorial Day Services:

Неділя – Sunday, May 24
at 2:00 PM

Святого Матея – Saint Mathew
Panachydas – @ St. Luke & St. Mark
(Пан. на гробі +Братчика Славка)

Понеділок – Mon., May 25

Кальварія – Mt. Calvary: 9:30 AM

Св. Хреста - Holy Cross: 12:00 PM

Св. Матея – St. Mathew: 2:00 PM

(Пан. на гробі +Мар'яна Борачка)

Вічна Пам'ять! Eternal Memory!



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CHURCH BULLETIN

May 24 – 2015 – 24 Травня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



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

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM +Maria Bumbar (R. Vouchak)

May 24 PENTECOST – Зісл. Св. Духа

12:00 AM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

Monday, May 25 Травня, Понеділок

8:00 AM For all deceased parishiners
За всіх покійних бувших парохіян

Tuesday, May 26 Травня, Вівторок

11:00 AM +Frank Sommers (Requ. by Rusin Family)

Wednesday, May 27 Травня, Середа

11:00 AM +Богдан Сорока (Оля Чмола)

12:00 PM Akathistos to Mother of God - Акафіст

Thursday, May 28 Травня, Четвер

9:00 AM +Володимира і Зиновій Гіль (син)

12:00 PM Moleben to Theotokos - МОЛЕБЕНЬ

Friday, May 29 Травня, П'ятниця

9:15 AM +Мирослав Грешишин (родина)

Sat. May 30 Травня Субота

9:00 AM +Sophia Pucak (Stefan & Anna Chomyn)

4:30 PM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

May 31 All Saints – Н. Всіх Святих

12:00 AM +Tom & Mary Glascott
(Mary Ann DuBois)

6:00 PM +Joseph Andrew Procyk (1st Anniv)

The Eternal Light burns in mem. of
+Michael Burtniak
Requ. by Catherine Eckhart

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М. горить
За +Василя Райца
Пожертва: Діти і внуки

24 Травня: Св. Отців в Нікеї

10:00 р. +Станислав Ващак (родина)

31 Травня: ЗІСЛАННЯ СВ. ДУХА

10:00 р. +Ольга, Лев, Юрій, Андрій
(Роман Войчак)

6:00 в. +Йосиф Андрій Процик (1. Річниця)



First Anniversary of Joseph is Monday, June 1, but since we start clergy day that day, and I will not be here at evening, we have Liturgy the day before, just in the case somebody would like to attend. God Bless you for your prayers!

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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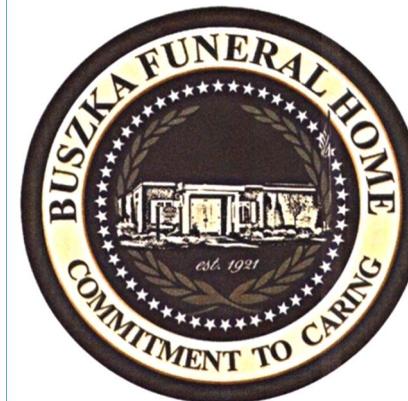
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Щоб довідатися більше інформацій про це що діється в громаді,
Просимо відвідати веб-сторінку.
<http://www.ukrainiansofbuffalo.com>

Is the the web-page to find
More information and events
In our Ukrainian Community.

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Cell Phones - Мобільні Телефони:
Please turn off or silence your cell phone
before entering the church. Thank you!

Просимо вилучувати ваші мобільні
телефони підчас Святої Літургії.

**DONATIONS TO
2015 Stamford Bishop's Appeal**

Each member of our Parish is also a member of the Eparchy and should support and participate in this fundraiser. The following parishioners have already contributed:

- Michael Liskiewicz - \$600.00
- Maria Malaniak - \$300.00
- Emilia Swiatkiwsky - \$200.00
- S & G Swiatkiwsky - \$200.00
- Anna Holowaty - \$200.00
- IMO A & M Hanitzky - \$100.00
- Olha Czmola - \$100.00
- Halyna Biloholowskyj - \$100.00
- Michael Ilkiwskyj - \$100.00
- Markian & Lidia Stasiuk - \$100.00
- Rose Serediuk - \$100.00
- Mykola & Orysia Dobrykewych - \$100.00
- Emil & Vera Marc - \$100.00
- Michalow Family - \$50.00
- Zoriana Bunche - \$50.00
- Ihor Gill - \$50.00
- Ellen Papisz - \$50.00
- Lidia Hreshchyshyn - \$50.00
- Gloria Grega Long - \$25.00
- John & Zoriana Armesto - \$25.00
- Mary Warren - \$25.00
- Anna Melnyk - \$20.00
- Eliana Iwanyczko - \$20.00

Total collected as of May 21, 2015
\$2,765.00
2015 Goal for Our Parish is: **\$7,500.00**

Amount Needed to reach our goal
\$4,735.00
Thank You for your GENEROSITY

**DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS
"Special Appeal"**

IMO Bertha Skolarczyk

- Anna Holowaty - \$25.00
- Elaine Nowadly - \$25.00

IMO David Nestico

- Anna & Michael Holowaty - \$50.00

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6 pm – 9 pm**

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Featuring premium Finger Lakes
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For tickets and additional
Information please call
Father Ray at 716.675.0629



Holy Trinity
Ukrainian Orthodox Church
Українська Православна Церква
Святої Трійці



Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church

200 Como Park Blvd, Cheektowaga, NY 14227 Phone 684-0738

We are invited to: Zeleni Swiata

Sunday, June 7, 2015

Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.

Dinner: 11:45 a.m.

Adults \$20.00 Students \$10.00

Children under 10 FREE

Tickets

Fr. Yuriy Kasyanov 684-0738

Halyna Antonyshyn 662-3532

DON'T STAY AWAY FROM THE CHURCH

- **Because it rains.** You go to work in the rain.
- **Because it is hot.** So is the golf course.
- **Because it is cold.** It's warm and friendly inside.
- **Because you are poor.** There is no admission charge.
- **Because you are rich.** That can be cured.
- **Because no one invited you.** People go to the movies without being asked.
- **Because you have children.** God loves them.
- **Because there are hypocrites.** You associate with them daily.
- **Because you have company.** They will admire your loyalty if you bring them along, or ask them to wait till you get back.
- **Because your clothes are not expensive.** Churches are not supposed to be fashion shows.
- **Because the church always wants money.** So does your grocer.
- **Because you have plenty of time to go later....** Are you sure?



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

УКРАЇНЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ

(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРИЇ)

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

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

308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

Rectory: (716) 852-7566

Fax: 855-1319 ~ Kitchen: 852-1908

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

Ministry to the sick - Опіка над xvorymy

Family members should call the Rectory
 Родина повинна повідомити священика

IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME

В разі потреби завжди можна закликати

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor & dean

Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

Please call if you are hospitalized, homebound and need a priest.

Просимо закликати якщо ви у 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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presents

GRADUATION – 2015

Marta Kasiyan

Bohdan Melenchuk

Taras Nazarevych

Khrystyna Sobko

Ostap Tkalich

SATURDAY

JUNE 13, 2015

5:30 PM – CEREMONIE

7:00 PM – DINNER

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST UK. C. CH.

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ADMISSION:

\$25.00 ADULTS

\$10.00 CHILDREN UNDER 16



Letter from Fr. Ray May 24, 2015

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Dear _____

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

Wow! Seems like so long ago that I've written to you. It has been about two weeks that I actually last wrote, even though you probably received your letter last Saturday, Sunday, or perhaps earlier this week. Oh, the magic of the computer, huh?! I'm glad I was able to get your letter to you, and so you would not experience that awful empty mailbox syndrome when I was away. I hope you enjoyed it, and even though I haven't written for a while, you have been in my thoughts and prayers, as you always are.

I'm doing well today, this Thursday May 21 as I sit down to write. As a matter of fact, I'm doing really well. Just came back from a teeth cleaning/exam visit to the dreaded dentist....Look Mom, no cavities! Those are some of the nicest words to hear, don't you think? Especially for an old guy who still likes his more than occasional Hershey Bar or Turtle. (Did you ever try frozen M&M's?...I actually got that one from the dentist's hygienist who said she would deny it, if I ever told anyone!) ☺ ☺

We're back home from a very nice getaway, and already have a few days of work and 'back to the routine' under our belts. Nice to go....nice to come home. This weekend we will begin another phase of the year 2015, living and celebrating these blessed and God-given days of our lives, when we, as they say on the radio station Kiss 98.5, "Kiss Summer Hello". As you know, the Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial start of summer and you may even be reading these words as you sit on your patio, near the grille, with a cooler in your hand. I hope so! It is Buffalo, and we all know how short summers can be, so without a doubt this Memorial Day weekend will be an activity packed few days. The parks are open, some gardens are in, a few polar bears have opened their backyard pools, and everyone is ready for some summer days. Let me be the first kid on the block to say, "Happy Summer, Everyone!"

With thoughts of the carefree summer days ahead, it is time for us congratulate our graduates, prom kings and queens, and all our students who will be heading out for bigger and better things. It will be pretty much the end of June before our West Seneca schools release everyone for the summer break. Down in good ol' PA the kiddies will be all finished up the first week in June. Nice job everybody! Keep up the good work, and as Dr. Seuss says, "Oh the places you'll go! You have brains in your head. You have feet on your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose... You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, So... get on your way!" May God grant you success in all your endeavors and may He bless all your comings and goings!

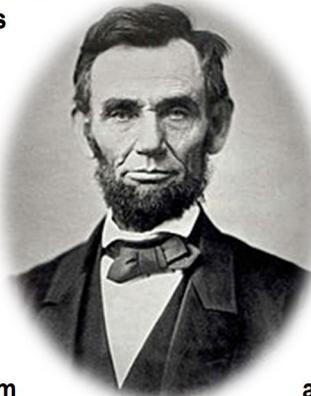
As I think about graduation ceremonies, I am reminded of one of the major news stories being reported today. President Obama gave the commencement address to the graduating class of the Coast Guard Academy having as his major theme, "climate change as a threat to national security." The best line of his speech was to tell the cadets that if they did not take climate change seriously they would be guilty of "neglect and dereliction of duty." Too much for me! I wonder if "His Kingship" ever read his own oath of office. There's a lot of neglect and dereliction of duty around these days! How sad, how sad... I often wonder how all that "Hope and Change" is working out for everyone. Definitely there isn't much hope, but certainly a LOT of change! ☹ ☹ ☹

On this Memorial Day we are remembering our true leaders and warriors who gave their lives for these United States. Did you ever think of it that way? This day of 'the beginning of summer' is, in fact, a day of the dead. We will pray for them all in our churches and in our private prayers. The Kingston trio used to sing a song where the question was asked: "Where have all the young men gone?... gone to soldiers, everyone... where have all the soldiers gone?... gone to graveyards everyone." No, in reality, not all to graveyards yet. But these we remember and honor this day have. We thank God for every one of them,

for their service, and especially for the consecration of their very lives for liberty here and in all the world. "Greater love than this no man hath, than to lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) May they all be in that place where there is no longer any sickness or sighing or bullets or horrors of war. God grant them memory eternal! May they be in that place of rest, already gazing on the face of God!

As we remember the dead warriors, we pray that they have not died in vain. In this prayer we naturally pray for our country and for all the good for which it stands. Liberty is in grave danger! "It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and the government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." This, of course, is from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address of November 19, 1863, but his words continue to rise like a prayer and a call for all men of peace to strive for liberty. Yes, we'll have our fun and our picnics and whatever else we do on this special week end, but we can never forget those who died so that we could have it and enjoy it. With them there was no 'neglect nor dereliction of duty,' but only Duty, Honor, Country and the knowledge that this great country was indeed one nation under God. May it always be!

Today on the new calendar, and then next week on the old calendar, our churches will be celebrating the glorious and blessed feast of Pentecost. Fifty days have already passed since Pascha. If you've never been to one of our churches on this great Holy Day, you should try it sometime. The color of the day is green to teach us that the coming of the Holy Spirit



brings New Life. The priest wears green vestments, the altar, tables, icon stands, etc., are covered with green material and many of the faithful will even be wearing green. Besides all that, greenery, preferably Linden branches, will be placed inside the temple, and outside on the doors, as decoration proclaiming the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is a most special day of our Liturgical Cycle and a most special day for our spiritual lives. Don't miss it! Come Holy Spirit!

As it is our custom to pray for the dead at Pentecost, during the coming days our priests throughout the whole world will be going to the cemeteries to bless the graves and to pray the Panachyda for those buried and remembered there. I always stand in awe when I remember how we are united all around the world in our faith. It doesn't really matter whether or not we are on the same calendar. This faith of our Fathers which we celebrate this Sunday, or next Sunday, is our Way to heaven. I am always awed when I think of how we do it today, but also to think that for centuries and centuries our people have been living and loving and praying and growing in this very same faith. Now we hold this treasure and it is up to us to preserve it and to pass it on to our children. Happy Birthday to the Church! "...and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Mt. 16:18)

Enjoy the lush green of the world as even the earth proclaims this beautiful promise of our Lord to send the Spirit to us! "May the Holy Spirit come upon us, and the power of the most High overshadow us!" St. Paul wrote to the Romans saying, "If God is for us, who can be against us." (Romans 8:31). May we all come to know the blessings and power of the Life of God within each and every one of us! May He bless us and keep us and bring us to Everlasting Life! May our Holy Lady Theotokos protect us!

In His Love,
Fr. Ray

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-й 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.

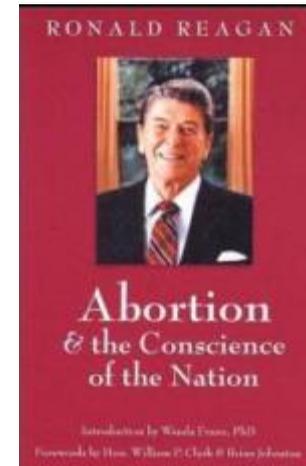
The week of Pentecost is "Zahalnytsia" or "Fast Free Week." There is no fasting this week, if you follow Gregorian, and no fasting next week if you follow Julian calendar as we celebrate this great Feast of Pentecost. That meand: Meet could be used even on Friday.

Зіслання Св. Духа за новим є сьогодні, і цілий тиждень є тзв. «Загальниця», що означає, що і в П'ятницю можна їсти м'ясо.

The "Apostles' Fast begins on Monday June 1 and lasts till after Liturgy on June 29, the Holy Day of Sts. Peter and Paul, according to Gregorian. According to Julian will start June 8 and will last until thr Feast of Peter and Paul, which is July 12.

Піст Петрівка з новим починається 1 Червня, і триває до Празника Свв. Апостолів, Петра і Павла, 29 Червня, а за старим 8 Червня і триває до Празн. Св. Петра і Павла, 12 Липня.

Former president Ronald Reagan is known for his work in attempting to free the oppressed.



One issue he actively spoke out against was abortion.

On one occasion, Reagan said, "Abortion is advocated only by people who have already been born."

The people that do have the right to choose are the ones whose parents chose life.

Why change from this precedent? And who is to say that some should live while others die as a result of abortion?

Furthermore, Reagan once compared abortion to slavery. He is quoted as saying, "We are not a free land when we are bound to abortion."

Reagan commented, "Abraham Lincoln recognized that we could not survive as a free land when some men could decide that others were not fit to be free and should therefore be slaves."

Likewise, we cannot survive as a free nation when some men decide that others are not fit to live and should be abandoned to abortion or infanticide."

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.

З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

Під час читання сьогоднішнього Євангелія можливо приходить нам на думку запитання: Чому Ісусові було потрібно молитися? Хіба Бог Отець і без того не бачив і не знав думок свого Сина?

Очевидно, що бачив, і знав ... Бо Отець є нероздільний з Сином, як нероздільні сонце і проміння ... але Боже провидіння хотіло, щоб цю молитву почули ми.

Тайна Пресвятої Тройці для людського розуму закрита, так як очі перед огляданням Бога. Тому "прилюдна" молитва Ісуса, або молитва перед світом, – це "відкриті" проблиски (проміння) Божого світла.

Господь знаходиться при кінці свого земського життя. Перед ним страсті, розп'яття але і Воскресіння. Він не старається розв'язувати труднощі, що перед Ним. Не шукає помочі від інших, ані навіть не роздумує, як самому втекти від ворогів. Він має повне довір'я до свого Небесного Батька. Він щоправда буде до нього звертатися словами: "Отче, якщо можливо відійми цю чашу від мене", але змістя додасть, "та нехай не буде Моя, але Твоя Воля." Ціле своє життя тут на землі Він старався сповняти Волю Божу і від нас того самого вимагає.

Важним є, щоб Всевишній був нами прославлений. Таке наставлення нераз пов'язане з великими терпіннями, але приносить благословенні овочі. Коли стараємося себе прославити, жити самолюбно, ми скоро зрозуміємо, що не йде все так, як би ми хотіли. Інші не поведуться з нами так як ми думаємо, що ми заслужили, і ми тоді чуємося упосліджені, всіма залишені. Нам тяжко. Терпіння стає тягарем, якого стараємося позбутися. Коли зможемо сказати: "Отче наш, не важне чи мої бажання сповняться, не важне чи мої пляни виконуються, не важне чи я страждаю,

але важним є, щоб Ти, через мої немочі був прославлений, бо наш Господь сказав апостолові Павлові: "Моя сила найкраще виявляється у твоїй безсилі."



Ми живемо в непевному світі. Христос є та певність, що ідучи за ним ми не спотикнемося, а коли навіть і впали би, він піднесе нас, поставить на ноги і вкаже нам найкращу дорогу, якою слід прямувати.

Через нього ми розуміємо хто ми є, що ми є Божими дітьми, що ми є Господніми братами і сестрами, і що наше місце у Його домі.

У цій молитві Христос просить про єдність, і мова тут про любов.

Одне і друге ми немов забули. Усі прославляємо Христа, а в той сам час ворогуємо проти себе. Нема єдності і нема любові.

Слід нам пам'ятати, що Христос оснував одну церкву, що всі мають горнутися коло Нього і разом прославляти свого Отця Небесного, люблячись таким способом, яким Господь нас навчив. Молімся, щоб ми всі, що призиваємо ім'я Господнє, чи православні, протестанти, чи католики змогли називатися християнами і при престолі разом ламати хліб та споживати його і пити з однієї чаші.

Людина поділила, але Дух Святий може наново з'єднати, якщо провідники різних віроісповідань дадуться вести Святим Духом.

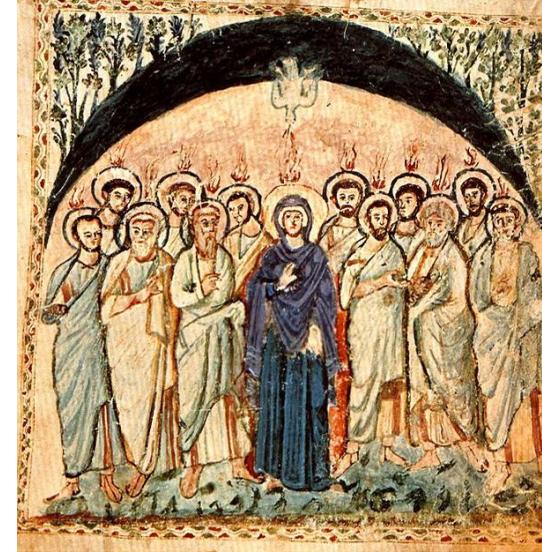
Не важне хто коли провинився, хто відділився, важним є дивитися, що нас єднає, що ми ще не затратили, що можемо привернути. Коли любов пануватиме в нас, коли зуміємо простити і просити прощення, то безперечно в нас запанує ота довгождана єдність і в нашій церкві, і ми всі будемо справжніми дітьми Божими, які любитимуться між собою як сестри і брати і знатимуть хто їхній Небесний Батько...

From "Good Samaritan" Ukrainian. Radio pr.

Today is the Sunday of Pentecost. This is the day when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples and empowered them to become Apostles of Christ. Pentecost was a transforming event for the disciples and our Church. On the day of Pentecost, when the seven weeks of Easter had come to an end, Christ's Passover was fulfilled with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon His disciples. The Church was then made manifest to the world on Pentecost. The Holy Spirit, having come upon them, empowered the disciples to continue Christ's ministry on earth; they were transformed into people of great courage and faith, who were sent out to preach the Gospel to an unbelieving world. Many of them would ultimately be martyred for their faith. These fishermen and tax collectors became the leaders of our Church. These men who fled when Jesus was arrested were now speaking out and converting others to our faith.

Pentecost is such a significant event because through the gift of the Holy Spirit, our return to paradise is achieved; we are elevated to the Heavenly Kingdom, and become once more the children of God. We are all familiar with the dramatic story of Pentecost recounted in the Acts of the Apostles (2:2-12), complete with a rush of wind and tongues of fire. When the day of Pentecost came, the Apostles were all together in one place. It was ten days after Jesus had returned to heaven. Before he had left them, He had made a promise. "The Holy Spirit will come to you. He will give you power to tell people about me." For ten days, the Apostles and some other followers of Jesus had stayed together, praying, and waiting. But now the great day had

come. Suddenly, a noise like a strong wind filled the whole house and the followers saw something that looked like flames of fire, falling on each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages. At that time Jerusalem was full of Jewish visitors from all over the world. They were surprised, because each one of them heard the Apostles speaking in their own language. They were completely amazed at this. They said, "Look! Are these not the same men that



we heard speaking from Galilee? But we hear these men now telling in our own languages about the great things God has done!" That day alone, over 3,000 people became followers of Christ and were baptized. They spent the rest of their time in Jerusalem learning all about Jesus from the Apostles, before returning to their homes.

This is certainly the biblical story that we have read and interpreted many times throughout our lives,

we know it so well that we could even imagine ourselves viewing it from the sidelines, as spectators. But this Pentecost, we also need to focus on the 'inside story' about what Pentecost means for you and me. What is the Pentecost that is going on inside each of us that finds expression in our daily lives? I have heard many priests explain how Pentecost boils down to grace, and how each of us receives this grace in the form of the Holy Spirit, but it is also important for us to understand that we do not always express this grace in the same way. One way to look at the purpose of Pentecost is that it is inviting people into a story with a better preface and a better ending than the stories that we each express with our own lives. These days, many people do not always know the basics of the story of

salvation. So our meditation on Pentecost should take the form of an invitation to the story of the Holy Spirit in progress in our lives. St. Paul tells us to "Turn to the Lord and the veil will be removed." Direct our attention toward what God is doing in our inner life; behold the 'inside story' capable of transforming our outside story. Pentecost is a story with a more reliable Protagonist. The Protagonist of this sacred story is God, and as St. Paul wrote in his second letter to the Corinthians: "Such is the confidence we have through Christ toward God, not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God" (2 Corinthians 3:4). So that with unveiled faces, beholding the glory of God - as though reflected in a mirror - we too can all be transformed into God's image from one degree of glory to another. As we take a look at what happened on Pentecost centuries ago, we see that God changed the lives of His people. The Holy Spirit, given to us through Christ, is what allows our souls to undergo this amazing transformation. We are better equipped to see the world as God intends. And the impact of the Holy Spirit, working its grace through the soul is what changes our lives for the better.

This weekend also marks the occasion when we honor the lives of the men and women who serviced our country and died preserving our freedom. Memorial Day is much more than a three-day weekend that marks the beginning of summer – it is a time for celebrating the lives of those who served our country. It means taking the time to thank God for the people who allowed our ancestors to escape from the grips of World Wars, and come to America in pursuit of freedom. Memorial Day serves as an important reminder of those who died on the battlefield while in service to our country, and all those who have passed beyond the surly bonds of this world to touch the face of God. The custom of placing flowers on graves is an old one that exists in many countries throughout the world. Almost everywhere around the globe, people have a special day to honor not only those who gave their lives in

battle, but also family members and friends who have gone to their Eternal rest. Let us remember all of them in our prayers and take the time to visit their graves and honor their memory - along with countless others throughout our nation.

Leo smiled whenever he called himself a "diamond cutter". The statement, however, was literally correct. Leo pushed the lawn-mower that tidied the baseball diamonds. However, cutting, chalking and raking was only part of his responsibilities at the Town's Parks Department. He also planted and pruned trees and grew and transplanted flowers. But the job he cherished above all was printing panels with the names of local youngsters who entered military service. Leo worked neatly and with a great eye for space. Leo made every name readable, and these names were lettered and tacked into position quickly and with the utmost care. But, sadly, the same day the War Department released its 'Killed in Action' lists; Leo went to the honor roll wall and painted a gold star on each service-person's panel, between the hero's first and last names. Each hand-painted star seemed identical in its size and brightness. Leo made sure to keep the downtown memorial quietly beautiful and carefully maintained. In fact, he seemed to keep his job forever – through World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, and, just before he retired, the Persian Gulf War. It was more than a job. It was Leo's contribution to the men and women who lost their lives preserving our country's freedom. Leo would call the parents of each new recruit and tell them, "Not to worry. God is on our side. And I will pray for your kid's safe return." To Leo, these young men and women were "kids"- his kids. He watched many of them grow up through the years, as he saw them

compete in team sports on his grass and cinders. And he even watched them work in his hometown – maturing into young men and women. And on those days when he painted gold stars, Leo would visit the families who lost a son or daughter and share in their grief. Leo brought the ceremonial gold star flags to their widows and parents, who displayed them on their front porch or in their front window. Each flag of honor was softly spotted with Leo's own tears.

Even though Leo never married, he had thousands of kids, most of who returned home. When he finally retired from the Park's Department, Leo still volunteered to update the honor roll (memorial) wall like only he could - neatly and with great love, talent and affection. When Leo was asked why he still tends the civic honor roll, he said, "It keeps me in touch with my kids. I know each of them by name - all of them."

We stand as a Nation that is strong and united under God. Yet we are humbled, because we remember that the wealth of this Nation's heritage, the strength of its ideals, and the extent of its freedom came with a tremendous price. These treasures were purchased with the lives of American service men and women, a cost borne prominently by several generations. We are humbled because so many bright futures, hopes, and dreams were sacrificed for the abundance of opportunities we now freely pursue. May we stand with diligence and with humility on the broad shoulders of those whose brave deeds and sacrifice we memorialize today. The loved ones we seek to remember on Memorial Day entered reverently into their Eternal rest with God. Those who suffered for our nation's liberty believed in what some people would like to see removed from both our currency and our courthouses: "In God we trust". Let us never lose



sight of their commitment and their belief in these words, to appease a small few who would take those words of conviction and faith away from them. We must continue their commitment today, not only in remembrance at their graves, but also as a faithful community of God. "Let us remember those who rest in the land they made free, under the flag they rendered stainless, under the solemn pines, the strong hemlocks, the tearful willows, the embracing vines, and the faithful words that they held to so dearly." On this Memorial Day weekend, let us remember those who have fallen asleep in the Lord and cherish the memories that they have left behind, both in our hearts and as "one nation under God and indivisible".

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.

Display is 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.

Please go downstairs and look!