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Secretary Branch 360
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Our Church Web-Page Is:
<http://www.stnbuffalo.com>

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

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Thanks are extended to all Sponsors

N^o
25

**SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**



**УКРАЇНЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ**

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

Parish E-Mail: stnbuffalo@yahoo.com

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

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

308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

Rectory: (716) 852-7566

Fax: 855-1319 ~ **Kitchen:** 852-1908

Confession: Before Liturgies

Сповідь: Перед Св. Літургіями

Baptism: By appointment

Хрещення: За домовленням

Marriage: Contact 6 months in advance

Вінчання: Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

Religion classes – Кляси Релігії

Saturday, 11:45 AM – Субота, 11:45 р.

Ministry to the sick - Опіка над хворими

Family members should call the Rectory

Родина повинна повідомити священника

IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME

В разі потреби завжди можна закликати

**UNDER THE PROTECTION
OF MOTHER OF GOD**



**ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ**

CHURCH BULLETIN – N^o25

June 19 – 2011 – 19 Червня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК – Ч. 25



Sunday of all Saints – Неділя Всіх Святих

**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE
ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ**

June 19: All Saints – Н. Всіх Святих

10:00 AM +Володимир Пасіка
(родина Правак)

12:00 PM +Wasył Prystajko (Family)

Mon., June 20 – Понеділок, 20 Червня

9:15 AM +Diana Hawryluk Burns
(Michael, Michelle Michalow)

Tue., June 21 – Вівторок, 21 Червня

9:15 AM Private Intention

10:00 AM Moleben – Молебень Хр. Чол.

Wednesday, June 22 – Середа, 22 Червня

8:15 AM +Tom Pappas – 40 days & pan.
(Family)

12:00 AM +Sławko Michaliw (D.D.Baranyckyj)

Thursday, June 23 – Чет., 23 Червня

9:15 AM +Параскива Михайлів
(М. М. Петришин)

Friday, June 24 – П'ят., 24 Червня

9:15 AM +Мілька і Марія Процик

10:00 AM Moleben – Молебень Хр. Чол.

Saturday, June 25 – Субота, 25 Червня

9:15 AM +Домка Завадівська (О. Салдит)

4:30 PM +Pawlo & Rosalia Nyznyk (A. K.)

June 26: All Saints – Н. Всіх Святих

10:00 AM +о. Андрій і Емілія Стасюки
(М. Л. Стасюк)

12:00 PM За Парохіян-For Parishioners

**Eternal Light honoring Mother
of God burns for all fathers
Вічне Світло в честь ПДМ
горить за всіх батьків**

**Remember all Fathers
during Sunday Liturgies!**

**Згадаймо усіх батьків
на Недільних Літургіях!**

In the Beginning . . .(cont.)

(week 13) Chris now sleeps, awakens, and exercises the muscles energetically (we should take some lessons from this). Turning of the head, curling of the toes, making a fist, opening and closing the mouth while “breathing” the amniotic fluid to help develop the respiratory system, Chris is very active in the womb. Chris is still a light-weight – weighing about one ounce – about as much as a letter. If the doctor uses a Fetal Doppler, it won't be the weather that is seen but the baby's heartbeat is heard which sounds like galloping horses.

*“But the angel said to him,
‘Zechariah, do not be afraid,
your prayer has been heard...’”*

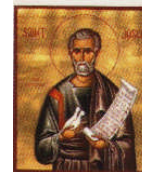
Happy Father's Day!

**Fell asleep in the Lord at age 86
after a long illness**

**+Iryna Ostapchuk (nee Klapishchak)
(+June 13, 2011)**

**In Jupiter, Fla; former our parishioner.
To daughter Roma Hanson, sons Myron
and Dr. Andrew, and to sister Olha Han-
kevych we extend our sympathy. May
She rest in peace. Vichnaya Pamiat!**

**Eternal Light burns for
+Irene Ostapchuk
Requ. By. Swiatkiwsky Family**



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**There is still space for your ad.
Маємо місце для Вашого оголошення**

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

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2321 Millersport Hwy
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Amherst, NY 14068
tel. 716-688-1495

**Сердечна подяка усім спонзорам!
Просимо їх підтримати!**

**Ukrainian Home Dnipro
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Свій До Свого По Своє

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ДЯКУЄМО – THANK YOU!

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

Simon Pasnik & Matthew Pasnik

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(716) 824-3007

**Melvin J. SLIWINSKI
FUNERAL HOME**

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

(716) 894-1772

**UPCOMING
CHURCH
EVENTS**

Просимо звернути
увагу на дати:



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

- CHURCH KITCHEN – is open. Thank you for your help and patronage.
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- August 7: Church Picnic

TOP'S GIFT CARDS:

Please help us raise money for our Church by purchasing



Top's Gift Cards from us. If you buy in Tops anyway, why not help. You do not lose or gain anything by doing this, but our Church will benefit greatly. We receive back 5% of your spending. To take advantage of this program, see Mary Bodnar or call 655-3810, or call the rectory. Thank you and God Bless!

Please note: You can purchase gasoline with this card at Tops Gasoline Station.

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

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

ЦЕРК. ВІСНИК видається тижнево
Інформації подавати до четверга вечора.

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

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

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

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

V. Rev. Marijan Brygh

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

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

**DONATIONS TO
2011 Stamford Bishop's Appeal**

- Barbara & Anna Andruszko - \$200.00
- Andrew & Gertrud Diakun - \$200.00
- Elaine P. Nowadly - \$150.00
- Iryna Staszkiw - \$125.00
- Wolodymyr Muzyczka - \$100.00
- Norma & Mary Ann Dubois - \$50.00
- Ann & Dorothy Kordrupel - \$50.00
- Roman & Lyuba Khoma - \$30.00
- John & Zoriana Armesto - \$25.00
- Zenon & Jaroslawa Derhak - \$25.00
- Bohdar & Anna Malaniak - \$20.00

Total collected
as of June 13, 2011 - **\$7040.00**

2011 Goal
for St. Nicholas Parish - \$7,300.00
Amount needed
to reach our Goal - **\$260.00**

**DONATIONS TO
St. Nicholas "Special Appeal"**

IMO Diana (Hawryluk) Burns

- Michael S. Holowaty - \$50.00
- Ann Holowaty - \$50.00
- Elaine P. Nowadly - \$25.00

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Annual Parish Summer Picnic
Sunday, August 7, 2011 – 12:00PM - ?
On the Church Grounds
Volunteers needed to help!

IMPORTANT!
**PICNIC MAILING MEETING, TUESDAY,
JULY 5, 2011 AT 4:00PM. ----- HELP IS
NEEDED IN MAILING OUT THE RAFFLE
BOOKS. PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP.**

ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

On Sunday, August 7, 2011 our parish will be holding it Annual Picnic on the Church Grounds beginning at noon.

As always we are asking for your help and support in make this year's picnic a success.

Your help and support is needed in many ways:

- We need Theme Baskets – to donate contact Mary Beth Sukmann 824-1433 before July 24, 2011.
- Items for Kitchen Jar Table such as: paper towels, sugar, flour, kitchen gadgets etc. (Make sure items are new and please watch the Expiration dates)
- Help is needed during the week preceding the picnic preparing the food. Contact Anna Melnyk to volunteer your services.
- Baked Goods are also needed, to sell in the kitchen and the baked goods table. It would be nice if each family could donate some sort of baked good.

Please remember

We DO NOT need items for Attic Treasures, since we do not have this booth at the Picnic. If you have any ideas or can help in any way, Please contact Lesia Petriwsky at 826-7321.

**REMEMBER: THIS PICNIC IS ONE OF
OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISING EVENTS
OF THE YEAR. PLEASE SUPPORT US!**

The Niagara Frontier
Council League of Ukrainian

Catholics will have its first
Convention mailing meeting
at 6:30 PM Monday, June 20th in the
church hall. Any help with this mailing
would be

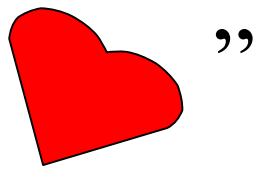


Smile.

It's Free!

Westermeier Martin
Dental Care
announces their
7th annual gift to the
community

*“Dentistry
from the*



The purpose of this special
event is to fill the unmet
needs of our community
by offering

**FREE DEN-
TAL CARE**

*To low or fixed income individuals
who would normally go without*

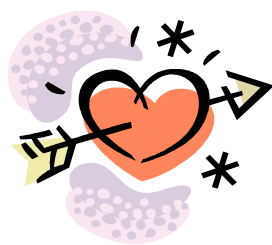
Drs. and team members will be
volunteering their services

**from 8am to 4pm
on Friday, June 24th**

at their office,
located at
950 Main Street
(corner of Brooklea)
in East Aurora.

→ First come, first served. ←

Doors open at 8 am.
Children under 18
must be accompanied
by a parent or guardian



Thanks are extended to
**Westermeier
Martin Dental Care**
Who really care
For those in need!

End of the Kitchen Year Pork Chop Dinner

Sunday, June 26, 2011 After Liturgy
Baked Goods greatly appreciated

If you haven't yet Donated to the 2011
Bishop's Appeal, you still have time. Dona-
tions are still being accepted. To date only
78 out of a mailing list of nearly 300 have
donated. We have still not reached our goal.

Український Конгресовий Комітет
Америци – Відділ Боффало запрошує Вас
на Святкування УКРАЇНСЬКОГО ДНЯ
В неділю 21-го Серпня, 2011 р.
При Українському Домі „Дніпро”
562 Дженесі Вул. Боффало, Н.Й.
Початок о 1 год. (Спільний молебень в
наміренні Українського Народу о 1:45.)

Програма Дня:
Проклямація Української Самостійности,
Українська музика і танці, смачні страви,
різні напитки, льотерія, гра і забави.

За інформаціями просимо дзвонити на:
821-0711 – Василь Середюк
856-4476 – Укр. Дім „Дніпро”
674-4916 – Акація Бельмега
632-4212 – Др. Андрій Дякун

* * *

Th Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Inc. – Buffalo Branch Invites everyone
to attend Our Annual UKRAINIAN DAY
On Sunday, August 21, 2011.

Ukrainian Cultural Center “Dnipro”
562 Genessee St., Buffalo, NY
Beginning at 1 PM (Moleben at 1:45 P.M.)
Featuring Traditiona Ukrainian foods, pas-
tries, beverages, music, crafts, lottery, raffles.
Free Admission – Ample Parking available.

For more Information contact:
Dr. A. Diakun: 632-4212; A. Belmeга: 674-4916;
W. Sereidiuk: 821-0711; “Dnipro”: 856-4476

From the archives – 3 Архівів



Pentecost 2011-Зіслання Святого Духа



U.N.W.L.A. Picnic 2011 - Пікнік С.У.А.



LUC - Fr. P. Iwachiw Scholarship, 2005

З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

Ніхто не спасається сам і ніхто сам не був засуджений. Бо якщо спасаємося, то ми на чолі тих, на яких мали вплив, які ідучи за нами дійшли до місця де немає болізни ні печалі ні зітхання але життя безконечне, а якщо в наслідок свого життя доведеться нам бути засуджені, то ми стоїмо на чолі тих, на яких мали негативний вплив, а які нам довіряли і сліпо прямували за нами.

Не вистарчить бути охрещеними і миропомазаними, і приступати часто до Пресвятої Євхаристії. Для нашого спасіння потрібно троха більше. Потрібно святости. Святими зможемо стати тільки тоді, коли будемо старатися робити добро, не тому що мусимо, бо Господь нам це наказує, ані тому що інші нам так сказали, але тому, що з любови до Христа ми любимо робити добро. Усі ми повинні взяти на себе свій хрест, тобто свої менчі чи більші терпіння і прямувати до святости, а по дорозі помагати іншим, щоб і інші могли якнайкраще наслідувати нашого Господа. Станьмо усім для усіх. Робім добрі діла завжди, бо добрі діла це найкраща молитва, і просім святого Духа, якого зіслання на апостолів і на нас ми прославляли минулої неділі, щоб Він дав нам силу зрозуміти наші завдання в житті. Просім Його, щоб зійшов освятити наш нарід, і щоб нам приніс свій мир, так дуже потрібний у сьогоднішні часи. Хай нам дасть зрозуміти, що в єдності є наша сила, та що єдності нема без любови і взаємного прощення...

Так як перші Християни могли бути святими і ми можемо. Спісїб, як ту святість осягнути, напевно буде різнитися від їхнього способу, бо ми живемо у інакших обставинах, і кожний і кожна з нас є інакшою особистістю. Не сміємо і не можемо 100 процентово наслідувати когось, бо нічого з того не вийде. Кожна особа своїм шляхом має прямувати до єдності з Богом, до синівства Божого. Для нас святі є тільки доказом що можна осягнути царство Боже. Придивляймося їм пильно, але стараймося жити своїм

життям любови. Хай усі в нас побачать Христа. Поможім тим, що потребують нашої допомоги і тим сповнимо закон Христовий і будемо на добрій дорозі, щоб себе освятити, на дорозі, яка поведе нас до єдності з Богом, і напевно сповнемо завдання, що нам їх учитель доручив.

Щоб могли осягнути святість у нашому житті, ми мусимо плекати свою віру, старатися розуміти її вимоги, і жити нею.

Віра є та, що провадить нас до Христа, яка остаточно дає нам участь у царстві Божім, дає нам можливість дійти до неба.

Де те небо є, і коли воно в дійсності приходить? Чи шойно після смерти, після того як ми багато натерпілися? Зовсім ні. Терпіння немає вартости, якщо Христос його не освячує. Смерть не є знищенням бо своєю смертю на хресті Христос смерть переборов. Той що з Господом постійно живе, той і по смерті з Ним буде жити, бо він насправді не вмере, а переставиться до вічного божественного життя, а той, що без Господа живе, і при життю він мертвий, і смертю помре і не буде мати участі у небесному царстві.

Не шукаймо за небом десь там далеко у просторі чи в часі. Воно зачинається вже тут на землі з нашим зачаттям а ми стаємо його учасниками при хрещенні. Воно підтверджується миропомазанням, а доказується євхаристією. Різниця між Небом, в якому ми тепер повинні перебувати, і Небом якого у вічності будемо втішатися є в тому, що ми тепер боремося за нього, а в майбутності будемо його посідати в міру нашої досконалости. Небо, оте царство Боже є в наших серцях, у нашому внутрішньому спокою, у нашій любові.

Постараймося наслідувати Христа, який "втерпів хрест не звертаючи уваги на сором, і який возсів праворуч Божого престолу", щоб ми удостоїлися стати учасниками Царства Божого.

Усі Святі, Моліть Бога за нас!

From the desk of Fr. Ray Palko

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

GLORY FOREVER!

June 12, 2011

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

It's the third Sunday in June and you know what that means don't you? HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! To our Dad's who are no longer with us, we send our prayer and we remember. To our Dad's who are with us, we are so blessed and thankful to have them among us and we send our prayer and our love. It's a great time of special meals and presents and we thoroughly enjoy being made to feel so important. All the gifts, all the special meals or whatever you do for your Dad, whether he is alive or reposed, must come alive in the real meaning of the day. That translates to the phrase: "There's nothing more in this world that a father wants to hear, but his family saying, "Thank you! Love you, Daddy!" And that says it all...good times, bad times, prayer, togetherness, but most of all FAMILY. All of us Dad's try to be a reflection of our Heavenly Father's perfect love, and we try to give it our best shot according to our talents and personalities and, for the most part, always try to give one hundred per cent to be the Best Dad!

What a difference a week makes! I wrote to you last week from the peace, quiet and beauty of Soyuzivka and now that time already seems like an ancient memory. Boy this week went fast! Part of it all was getting back in the groove after being away for those three days and then catching up on chores and duties and preparing for the weekend services. It's now Wednesday, June 15 as I begin your letter.

Pentecost Sunday was reverent, and special and green. And no, it was not Kermit T. Frog's feast day as one priest suggested. ☺☺ We could "feel the Spirit" at Liturgy and it was really beautiful both on Sunday and Monday. Glory to God in the most Holy Trinity! Remember how when the envoys of St. Vladimir

first saw the Byzantine Liturgy they said, "We didn't know if we were in heaven or on earth!" I hope all of us get that feeling, at least once in a while, at the DIVINE Liturgy. God truly lets us see heaven and we are amazed.

Later in the day I got to go to my old stomping grounds of Welland, Ontario and the parish of St. John the Baptist. In addition to the celebration of the parish feast day (a few days early) they also were honoring their parish deacon, Fr. Laszlo Maroszian. (See! Another parish with a Deacon...How blessed they are). When I was a deacon myself and serving at St. Michael's parish in Welland, I often served also at St. John's, which quickly became a very special place for our family. It is a small parish like Niagara Falls and they accepted us with open arms and great sincerity and we always felt at home there, and always part of their family.

That was why it was so important to be with "Fr. Les" last week. I knew him before he was ordained, so the celebrating of 25 years brought back that flood of all sorts of memories, and certainly makes me feel old. Yikes, I remember it like it was yesterday, and now it's twenty-five years later! The parish was established in the 50's, mostly of Hungarian Greek-Catholic refugees from Communist persecution. Father Les himself often tells the story of his own escape as a sixteen year old teenager making his way to freedom through fields, woods and streams, all the time avoiding the Russian soldiers on their patrols. At one point he said he could "smell their boots" as they were so close to him as he lay face down in a muddy cornfield to avoid capture. He attributes his safety to his devotion to the Mother of God who led him and protected him.

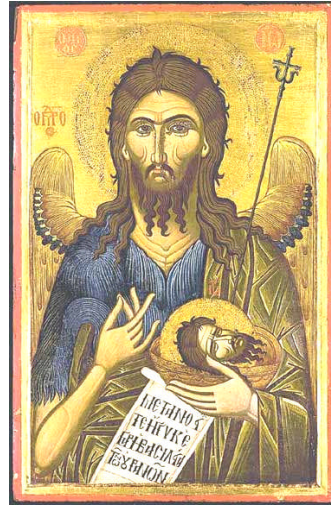
St. John's is such a young parish but has already has been blessed with two vocations, Fr. Laszlo to the diaconate and Fr. Miklosz to the priesthood. How wonderful! These two clerics, their families and all those of that parish are such special people. It was good to be there! After the Liturgy all were invited to the parish

hall for the traditional feast day dinner. Boy is that Hungarian food good! And you know in this day and age that if something tastes extraordinarily good, it's probably not good for you. ☹️ But that sugar, fat and salt, which they so abundantly use, is SOOOO delicious. Lipitor anyone? (for you lucky ones who might not know, 'Lipitor' is a cholesterol lowering medicine).

Near the end of the meal there is always a raffle for door prizes. As usual they had a ton of things donated as prizes from soap to wine to fruit baskets. There was also a really special prize this year donated by the Niagara Parks Commission which was a voucher for four people to enjoy some of the Niagara attractions on the Canadian side, such as the Maid of the Mist, the Butterfly Conservatory, etc. They saved the big prize for the very final number call and guess who won?!! Whoo Hoo! Yep, I did. And today we had four out of town visitors who went to see the Falls and they got to go on the boat ride. I know everybody says it, but I hardly ever win those things, and there I am walking out with the biggest prize. Of course I when I went to pick up the prize I was greeted with the traditional cry to the priest who wins a raffle: "Fixed! Fixed!" It was a lot of fun and those tickets will be put to good use. Looking forward to "a walk behind the Falls."

Tomorrow begins the "Petrvika" or Apostles Fast as we prepare for the great feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul, which is June 29. The fast this year is very short due to the lateness of Pascha so we have to begin in earnest and continue for the nine days. As you know the fast ends at the Liturgy on June 29.

Another beginning happens on Tuesday the 21st and that is the first day of summer. Lovers of the hot weather can't wait. I had all the hot, humid stuff I wanted when we were at Soyuziv-



ka last week. It was a sticky 90 something. Yecccchh. Gimme 72 and nice breeze any day!

Friday, June 24 is the Holy Day when we celebrate the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. Our local parish of St. John will be having their parish celebration and all of us are invited. To all our parishes of St. John we say, "Z praznykom! Happy Feast Day!"

I see the bottom of the page coming closer, signaling that I must end this. Before I go I need to remind you about our parish outreach to the Franciscan Center. Please don't forget them during the summer months. They need us more now than ever. Thank you to all who are so regular and generous, and even to those in other parts of the country who send a five or a ten "for the Franciscans" from time to time. God save you!

Have a beautiful safe summer! May the angels guide you in all your travels! Hopefully, some of those travels will bring you to visit us in Niagara Falls. Sunday Liturgy at 9:30 am. Coffee hour is the first Sunday of each month, which means the next one is July 3. Everyone is invited! Please come and see our "new" church.

We send our love and prayers to all, especially to our sick and shut ins. Today we pray especially for our Dad's. "Vichnaja Pamjat!" to those who have gone to prepare a place for us. (Remember the Sunday walks in the woods when Dad would go ahead to make the way safe for us?) To the Dad's who are with us, "Mnohaja Lita! and Happy Father's Day! Love you, Daddy!

In the Love of our Heavenly Father,

J. Ray
Your Father Ray

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

The first Sunday after Pentecost is dedicated to the commemoration of all the Saints. Sanctity is the work of the Holy Spirit; thus all Christian holiness is the fruit of Pentecost. The Feast of All Saints completes the cycle of movable feasts. Over four months ago, the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, preceded the weeks of fasting for Great Lent, which led up to the central event of the whole Church Year - the Resurrection of Christ. Since then we have followed the services of Bright Week and the Sundays after it to the Ascension, Pentecost, and now today. The Feast of All Saints is the result of everything that has gone before it. Today's feast celebrates the identity of the Church, of her sacred personality. On this day the Eastern Church pays particular veneration to all those who are the fruit of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We celebrate this feast all over the world. Our Holy Fathers instituted this feast and directed it to be kept after the feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, to set before us an example of how the coming of the Holy Spirit enabled many persons to attain sanctity.

The Servant of God, Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky said: "The veneration of the Saints not only does not oppose in any way the worship that is due God, but eminently contributes to it. We honor Saints as servants of God, as our heavenly protectors who intercede for us before God and obtain from Him, for us, the forgiveness of our sins and Heavenly graces." Holiness is not an achievement, it is a Grace. One of the many teachings of Christ implies: 'God is closer to sinners than to saints.' I was still a youngster in grade school; when a priest explained this to me with such clarity. This is how he elaborated: 'God in heaven holds each person by a string. When you sin, you cut the string. Once you show sincere repentance, God

ties the string up again, making a knot and thereby bringing you a little bit closer to Him. Again and again your sins cut the string and with each further knot of grace, God keeps drawing you closer and closer to Him.' As an adult, the image that was painted in my mind as a child has never left me - God drawing us closer, in spite of ourselves. And there is no greater comforter than the Holy Spirit to remind us of the presence of the Almighty in our lives.



All Christians are called to holiness by virtue of the sacrament of Baptism. Every person, regardless of status or condition of life, can become a Saint and is duty-bound to strive after holiness of life. Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky wrote: "The source of our failures and of all the plagues that afflict our Church and national life, is failure to apply ourselves seriously to living our Christianity and the teachings of Christ, yet we must do so not only as a Church but as a people of faith in order to convey to others the aura of holiness." The Second Vatican Council encourages us to venerate the saints: "It is supremely fitting, therefore, that we love those friends and co-heirs of Jesus Christ who are also our brothers and sisters and extraordinary benefactors; that we render due thanks to God for them and suppliantly invoke them and have recourse to their prayers, their power, and their help." Our Lord, Jesus Christ addressed all people without exception when He said: "Therefore, be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). Saint Paul also reminds us of our duty to pursue holiness: "This is the will of God, your sanctification". Holiness is living according to the commands of God and the Church; it is the daily fulfillment of God's wills, constant fidelity to the duties of one's state, or more briefly, holiness is the Gospel translated into action...