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УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ

Nº
2
6



Nº

ПІД ОПІКОЮ
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ
МАРІЇ ОДІГТРІЇ

26

UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN

June 28 – 2015 – 28 Червня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

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Сердечна подяка усім жінкам, що приходили до кухні підчас 2014/2015 шкільного року, як рівно ж усім, що в який небудь спосіб допомагали, та всім спонзорам. Боже благослови!

Thanks are extended to all ladies who helped in the kitchen, all who helped in any way, as well as our sponsore and Alex and Marija and some others who are noti n the picture. . . God Bless!



“Ridna Shkola” - Graduates - 2015
with their mothers. Congratulations!

2
8



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CHURCH BULLETIN

June 28 – 2015 – 28 Червня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



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

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM +Olga Popadyn, +Charles Jones
(Mary Obermiller & Stephania Miller)

June 28 5 S. aft. Pent. – 5 Н. по ЗСД

12:00 For Parishioners – За Парохіян

St. Peter and Paul – Свв. Петра і Павла

Monday, June 29 Червня, Понеділок

10:00 AM +Петро, +Дмитро, +Тетяна (р. Поліщук)

Tuesday, June 30 Червня, Вівторок

11:00 AM +Mary Beth Sukmann (L.U.C. N.F.C.)

12:00 Akathistos - Акафіст

Wednesday, July 1 Липня, Середа

9:00 AM +Anna Gach (Mary Ann DuBois)

Thursday, July 2 Липня, Четвер

8:00 AM Intention of Mary Ann DuBois

Friday, July 3 Липня, П'ятниця

5:00 PM +Monk Augustine (Steven Camp)

Sat. July 4 Липня, Субота

4:30 PM **Fortnight for Freedom**

("Keeping the spirit of the Gospel means that Catholic institutions are to bear witness in love to the full truth about the human person by providing social, charitable, and educational services in a manner that fully reflects the God-given dignity of the human person.")

July 5 6 S. aft. Pent. – 6 Н. по ЗСД

12:00 For Parishioners – За Парохіян

The Eternal Light burns
For Peace in Ukraine

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М.
Горить За МИР в Україні

28 Червня: 4 Н. по З.С.Д.

10:00 р. +Дануся Марія Литвин
(Влодьо і Ненсі Литвин)

5 Липня: 5 Н. по З.С.Д.

10:00 р. +Ірина Чіп (ОЖ ОЧСУ)



The Parish Family of St
Nicholas Congratulates:

Dianna Serediuk,
Iryna Melenczuk,
Andrij Shutka

On their Graduation from High School this past week. May the Lord Bless You! Mnohaya Lita!
Good Luck with your future endeavours.

Bishop Richard J. Malone issued the following statement), following the U.S. Supreme Court decision redefining marriage.

I am bitterly disappointed that the majority of justices of the U.S. Supreme Court has decided to overturn the definition of marriage, which has remained unchanged for more than two millennia. Marriage is the lifelong exclusive union of one man and one woman, a font of unitive life and love as well as the foundation of a stable family and society.

Marriage is rooted in creation: God created marriage in the very same breath as He created the human person, and for the Catholic Church, that will not change.

It is my prayer that despite today's developments, we will embrace anew the truth, beauty and goodness of marriage as it has always been and always will be, between a man and a woman.

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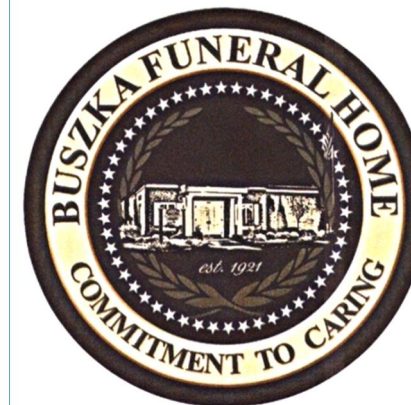
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More information and events
In our Ukrainian Community.

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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:

Procyk Family (IMO of Marija & Joseph Procyk) - \$200.00
Elaine Nowady - \$150.00
William & Irene Burda - \$100.00
Chrystyna Brown - \$100.00
Anna Tkalich - \$100.00
Bohdan & Halyna Nazarevych - \$50.00
Georgina Oros - \$25.00
Mary Ann DuBois - \$25.00

Total collected

as of June 25, 2015 - \$7040.00

2015 Goal

for St. Nicholas Parish - \$7,500.00

Amount needed to reach our goal -
\$460.00

Thank You for your GENEROSITY

Today: June 21st

Father's Day Picnic, sponsored by
St. Nicholas Religious Education
brought us \$17.03 (!), but it is not
all in monetary values.

Thank you for taking part!
ДЯКУЄМО!

Sacraments of Confirmation, Baptism, and Holy Eucharist

Was bestowed Saturday,
June 20, 2015, upon:

Tatyana Sofia Marusiak
Daughter of Roman Nichola
and Laryssa Sonia Petryshyn.

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

Congratulations!
Mnohaya Lita!



Татяна Софія Марусяк

Донька Романа Миколи
і Ляриси Соні Петришин
прийняла в суботу 20 Червня, 2015 р.
тайни хрещення, миропомазання і
Пресвятої Євхаристії. Хай Господь
благословить щастям і здоров'ям!
На Многая і Благая Літа!

Блаженніший Святослав подякував американським католикам за підтримку

24 червня закінчився візит солідарності і підтримки щодо України делегації Конференції католицьких єпископів США. Архієпископ Луїсвілля Джозеф Курц, Президент Американської Єпископської Конференції, Архієпископ Чикаго Блейз Супіч, голова підкомітету допомоги Церкві у Східній і Центральній Європі АЄК, провели кілька днів в Україні, щоб краще ознайомитися з ситуацією.

Президент Американської Єпископської Конференції наголошує на «силі духу українців та їхній волі до свободи»

«За три дні перебування в Україні мені запам'яталася передусім сила духу й віри українців, їхня воля до свободи, – сказав архієпископ Джозеф Курц, Президент Американської Єпископської Конференції. – Я повертаюся додому з усвідомленням того, наскільки важливо зараз продовжувати нашу співпрацю з Україною».

За словами архієпископа, спілкування з українськими єпископами допоможе визначити, куди конкретно надсилати допомогу від американців. «Ми хочемо й надалі підтримувати Україну, бо це допомагає нам ставати щедрішими», – зізнався він.

Президент АЄК також зазначив, що його делегації під час зустрічей з українськими духовними особами та вірними «вдалося не просто потиснути одне одному руки, а й відверто поговорити і разом помолитися».



«Крім того, ми мали можливість зустрітися з Прем'єр-міністром України Арсенієм Яценюком, – сказав він, – адже для нас важливо було дізнатися, як і чим ми можемо підтримати людей».

«Ми також хотіли дізнатися більше про гуманітарні ініціативи, – додав високий гість, – надто про життя людей, які вимушено стали біженцями, втратили родини. У нас була можливість відвідати особливо вразливі сім'ї в поселенні для біженців. У шпиталях ми спілкувалися з пораненими, покаліченими».

«Я зайшов до будинку однієї жінки з дівчиною, яку покинув чоловік, – поділився Президент АЄК Джозеф Курц враженнями про відвідання родини переселенців. – Один із хлопчиків мав синдром Дауна, і коли я хотів з ним привітатися, він стрибнув мені на руки і обійняв. Ти не можеш говорити відсторонено, коли побачиш обличчя тих людей. У шпиталі ми дізналися, що один із поранених не міг поїхати за кордон на операцію, бо не мав візи. Ідеться не про якусь велику кількість людей, а лише про одну особу, яка потребувала операції негайно».

Спілкування з людьми, за словами американського гостя, роблять їхні проблеми більш зрозумілими та близькими. «Тож я поїду до Америки, – сказав він, – не лише зі знанням ситуації в голові, а й з пам'яттю в серці».

(Департамент інформації УГКЦ)

ДЯКУЄМО!



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

- KITCHEN is now closed.
- Thank you for your patronage. Thanks are extended to all who helped!
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- Molebens to Our Lord will be Tuesday and Thursday during the month of June. 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. Щоб 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

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Субота - Saturday

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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!

A message on the results of meeting of representatives of the Catholic Church of Poland and Ukraine

This year is coming up the tenth anniversary of a historic moment, when in Warsaw and Lviv on 19th and 25th of June, 2005 – on occasion of Year of the Eucharist, bishops of Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and Roman Catholic Church of Poland announced a common Pastoral letter on occasion of act of a mutual pardon and reconciliation.

In this letter bishops called for moving up higher than political views and historical events, higher than religious rites and nationalities – Ukrainian or Polish, to say at the top of voice the words, “We forgive and ask for forgiveness”.

Ukrainian and Polish people, in their history, have a lot of examples of good-neighbourly relations, common heroic deeds, but, unfortunately, memory preserves painful recollections of the confrontation much better than a mutual cooperation.

Both nations went through horrible tragedies of the XX century, enduring great sufferings from totalitarian regimes – Nazi, communist and extreme nationalism. Ukrainians and Polish often helped one another to go through those hard ordeals. We are filled with compassion for families who died or suffered because of the war. We want to do everything what we are able to do for promoting peace in relations between nations and international relations. That is why we observe a tragic past and dramatic situation on East Ukraine from a Christian point of view, clinging to God’s mercy and praying to Our Lord of Hosts we ask to heal our wounds of history of nations from Central and East Europe.

Before our Churches stands an important task – with a guarantee of establishing modern

relationships between nations, and thinking about a shared future, we have to base only on a positive spiritual experience and authenticity of Gospel. We are striving to continue this act of reconciliation between the Ukrainian and Polish nations through a concrete cooperation, respect, understanding and mutual sustenance between the representatives of our nations and Churches to testify a unity in variety, and respond to the expansion of the secularism and military aggression, going out from East.

We express our big hope for realization of this program, developed by concrete groups between the Roman Catholic Church in Poland, Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and Roman Catholic Church in Ukraine, in a partnership between parishes of two countries via open contacts, interchanging visits and pastoral experience.

An important case is a desire of a just restitution according to Church property and setting a problem of temples’ ownership.

May Jesus Christ help Polish and Ukrainian nations to strengthen good-neighbourly relationships so that we could share our spiritual wealth glorifying God!

Archbishop of Poznań - Stanisław Gądecki,
The Head of Polish Bishops’ Conference

His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk),
The Head and Father
of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church

Archbishop Mieczysław Mokrzycki,
Archbishop of Lviv the Latins,
The Head of the Conference
of Roman Catholics of Ukraine

Archbishop Ivan (Martynyak),
Metropolitan of Przemyśl and Warsaw

Letter from Fr. Ray June 28, 2015

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

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

Hello, my dear One. Obviously, you are aware that I always must write your letter well in advance so you can have it on Sunday and the days following. Therefore, I am writing to you on Wednesday, June 24, and what a beautiful day it is to write. No, no, not because it is only six months to Christmas Eve from today! ☺ ☺ My Mom always used to “correct” me when I said stuff like that when she would say, “Don’t be wishing your life away!” She often would use those words when I was younger and would tell her how I can’t wait to be 12 or 16 or 18 years old so I could be doing some of the things appropriate for those ages like driving, hunting, getting out of school, etc. But I digress....

Today is a beautiful day to write because we just got back from the church and I guess you can say we’re on a spiritual high. June 24, according to the new calendar, is the ancient feast of The Nativity of St. John the Baptist. “It’s a boy!” We celebrate the birthday of a very special baby boy, who came in to the world to prepare a way for Jesus and then lead us to Him. “Behold the Lamb of God!” John said.

Do you know this holy day was already being celebrated in the fourth century? Wow! That’s one reason I get blown away when we have these grace-filled days of our liturgical calendar. Think about this.... St. John Chrysostom, St. Ambrose, St. Augustine and all the holy and great ones after them, have prayed and remembered St. John the Baptist in their Liturgy and preaching. This happy summer feast has been passed down through all the centuries, even to us this very day. How awesome it is that we too can stand in this long line of God’s people to remember this Holy One, as we celebrate, and even use the very same words of the Liturgy as did our ancient forefathers! Pretty exciting, huh?! I hope so! It is a very amazing church to which we belong!! Holy St. John pray for us. As part of our

service we also prayed for all the people and churches named after the Holy Baptizer and Forerunner. Through the prayers of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptizer John, save us, O Saviour!

I have written the last several weeks of the events of summer and we how we are beginning to chalk off the various milestones and seasonal markers of this beautiful time. New York schools having made up the snow days and completed all the other requirements are now ready to close for the summer. Our local high schools are having graduation ceremonies this Thursday, Friday and Saturday. God bless all our graduates and their parents! The classes almost made it into July this year.

Yesterday our family had one of our much anticipated seasonal markers, and that was our annual trip to the strawberry fields to gather those special, luscious, red summertime delights. There had been a lot of rain and storms the previous night and we were very concerned when we awoke that we would not be able to make our trek, thinking the place might not open. We were very concerned, not so much that we would not have strawberries, but very concerned as to who would break the news of a postponement of the loooooong awaited outing to the little children, who had been dreaming of this day for a long time.

Fortunately for us, the rains stopped about 6am and the good ol’ Farmer Brown opened his fields and invited us to come pick the berries. By the time we arrived out there, the sun was out and it was an ideal time for some great picking, which is exactly what we did. After we filled our baskets, the kids received promises that they would see some of their specially picked strawberries on a cake in the near future. That will happen tomorrow when we will be having a dual birthday party here at our house.

The strawberry picking day is now a family summer tradition. We’ve been doing it since our kids were able to go, and now we go with them and their children. How blessed we are! In one of the prayers of the wedding service we hear these words of one

of the priestly prayers for the couple: “May you see your children’s children...” And yes, thanks God, our children’s children were with us!

After we finish at the farm we now have another family tradition to fulfill. That is, we cannot return home until we have made a stop at a Tim Horton’s for a quick and delicious lunch. And that is what we did. The strawberries were lovely and tasty and we are so very glad we could go. The actual bringing home of the strawberries, while being of importance, was not the complete reason for us to be out there. Actually, all of it together...the strawberries, the ride out, the picking, the big fat donuts are all part of the make-up of a very special day, which each year creates, and adds to the memories of our life and lets us know we are truly blessed. It was so very good for us to be there!

Our Community Days celebration here in our Town of West Seneca are scheduled for the 26th and 27th of June. I hear there a lot of rain is forecast, which might dampen the parade. Anyway, the All-American celebration is really the kick-off to the celebration of Independence Day, the Fourth of July.

I think the Fourth of July has taken on a real significance and importance since the godless regime came to power in January of 2009. More than ever in these days, we are called to first of all be aware of the blessings and freedom of this great country, and then to stand up for them and not let them be taken away from us or from our children of the future generations. I think, for too many years now, we have simply taken our great gift and blessing of Freedom for granted. Now we have become aware how easily it can disappear. Yes, it is true as the good soldier says, “Freedom is not free!”

Have fun for sure as you celebrate the birthday of this great and beautiful country, under God, in Whom we trust! But also, please remember to pray for these United States of America. The United

States Conference of Catholic Bishops has called upon us to pray with them in the annual “Fortnight for Freedom” which is now taking place from June 21 to July 4. The theme for this year is “Freedom to bear witness.” Archbishop Lori, Chairman, Committee for Religious Liberty said this last year: *“Keeping the spirit of the Gospel means that Catholic institutions are to bear witness in love to the full truth about the human person by providing social, charitable and educational services in a manner that fully reflects the God-given dignity of the human person.”* At last year’s Fortnight for Freedom” Archbishop Lori said that the challenges to religious freedom in the United States are very real, yet sometimes less easy to see saying, *“Increasingly, government at all levels is asserting*



itself in the internal life of the churches.” (emphasis Fr. Ray) So we pray for Freedom and for God’s continued blessing and protection on our country. We pray for national repentance and return to God in the words of St. John the Baptist: *“Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand!”* (Matthew 3:2)

It is now the beautiful and blessed time of family, fireworks, baseball and apple pie. Celebrate the days wherever you are! Watch out for kids, bicycles and motorcycles! Whatever you choose to do, or wherever you will be, “Have a happy and safe summer.” And as priest I am obligated to say again, “We don’t take vacations from God! The church is open every Sunday, and you are supposed to be there!” Happy Summer! *“Bless, O Lord, your servants who are about to travel. Keep them from all dangers and difficulties. Direct their journey in peace unto the glory of Your Holy Name. Grant them safe and sound return.”* May God bless you and cause His face to shine upon you! May our Holy Lady Theotokos protect you beneath her heavenly veil!

In His Love, Fr. Ray

61st Holy Dormition (Assumption) Pilgrimage

August 8-9, 2015

Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate

St. Mary’s Villa / Sloatsburg, New York

Theme: *“Mary, Our Model of Perfect Commitment”*



Saturday, August 8th

- 12:00 p.m. Food Available at Pavilion
 - 1:00 p.m. **Akathist to the Mother of God** – Rev. Edward Cimbala, St. Mary’s Byzantine Church, Hillsborough, NJ
 - 2:00 p.m. **Presentations** (listed below)
 - 5:00 p.m. **Divine Liturgy** – Rev. Edward Cimbala, main celebrant /homilist (*grotto – English*)
Choir: St. Mary’s, Hillsborough, NJ - Blessing of Water in front of St. Mary’s Villa
 - 7:15 pm **Activity for children** – Children will also participate in the candlelight procession
 - 8:00 p.m. **Moleben to the Mother of God** with candlelight procession (*grotto – English*)
Most Rev. Kurt Burnette – Bishop of Passaic Eparchy - main celebrant / homilist
Panakhya – St. Mary’s Villa chapel
- ***Teen Camp Out begins Saturday at 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy through Sunday***

Sunday, August 9th

- 8:00 a.m. **Akathist to the Mother of God** –Rev. Roman Malyarchuk, Rector of St. Basil’s Seminary
- 10:30 a.m. **Pontifical Divine Liturgy** with procession to the grotto - followed by blessing of flowers
Most Rev. Stefan Soroka, Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia
Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, Bishop of the Eparchy of Stamford
Most Rev. Bohdan Danylo – Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma – Homilist
Most Rev. Basil Losten, Bishop Emeritus of the Eparchy of Stamford
Choir: Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church, Lindenhurst, NY
- 12:00 p.m. **Youth Liturgy**, Rev. Walter Pasicznyk, main celebrant / homilist (*chapel – English*)
- 1:00 p.m. **Activity for youth/children**
- 1:30 p.m. **Blessing of the Sick** (*St. Mary’s Villa Chapel & grotto steps*)
Blessing of Religious Articles (*front of St. Joseph’s Home*)
Presentation –V. Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak – “Sheptytsky as Metropolitan & Pastor”
- 2:00 p.m. **Stations of the Cross** –Rev. Maxim Kobasuk, OSBM
- 3:00 p.m. **Moleben to the Mother of God** – Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM –Celebrant & Homilist
Blessing of cars and buses – Rev. Ivan Tyhovych

Exhibits of Women/Men Religious Communities of the Eastern Church will be on display

CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE WEEKEND

Presentations - Saturday (English)

- 2:00 Rt. Rev. Mitred Msgr. John Terlecky – “Mary’s Commitment Expressed Through Her Icons”
- 2:45 Sr. Kathleen Hutsko, SSMI – “The Heartbeat of the SSMI’s – “The Charism of Bl. Josaphata”
- 3:15 V. Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak – “Sheptytsky as Metropolitan & Pastor”

Presentation - Sunday (Ukrainian)

- 1:30 V. Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak – “Sheptytsky as Metropolitan & Pastor”

Rt. Rev. Mitred Msgr. John Terlecky - Pilgrimage Spiritual Moderator

З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

Сьогоднішній празник Всіх Святих Українського Народу постав рішенням Синоду єпископів нашої Церкви, який таким чином закликає нас вшанувати праведних синів і дочок українського народу, які просіяли святістю на наших землях. Невипадково ми святкуємо його невдовзі після дня П'ятидесятниці, адже саме завдяки Зісланню Святого Духа ми маємо плоди діяльності Його благодаті серед українських християн.

Коли ми у цей день говоримо про «всіх святих», то маємо на увазі не лише офіційно проголошених Церквою святих через особливий процес канонізації, не тільки тих преподобних, мучеників, святих, ісповідників, безсребрників, чудотворців, яких бачимо на іконах і до яких молимося під час богослужінь. До всіх святих українського народу належать і незліченна кількість невідомих святих наших братів і сестер у Христі, які добре сповнили шлях свого християнського вдосконалення: гідно несли свій монаший подвиг, були зразковими священиками, вірчево виконували своє мирянське покликання. Це ті тисячі людей, які жили поруч з нами та у важких економічних і політичних обставинах не втрачали людського обличчя, не ішли на компроміс зі своїм сумлінням, протиставилися багатьом спокусам, віддали життя своє за ближніх, виявивши найбільший прояв любові. Це та незліченна кількість християн, які сумлінно сповняють Божі й церковні заповіді, Христові блаженства, не уявляють свого життя без Святих Таїнств Церкви...

Багато є святих, яких життя та подвиги Церква поки що не встигла дослідити, а тому вони не є проголошені чи канонізовані. Молимося сьогодні, щоб Господь і їх прославив славою святих і вони стали відомі цілому світу. Серед таких – мученики й ісповідники ХХ ст., яких знаємо, що було багато, але які, на жаль, поки-що не проголошені святими чи блаженними. З-поміж них – два великі мужі нашої Церкви – Митрополит Андрей (Шептицький) та Патріарх Йосиф (Сліпий). Молимося за їх прославу і якнайшвидшу беатифікацію та канонізацію.

Святі української землі, пам'ять яких сьогодні світло згадуємо, в свій час і в різних обставинах взяли на себе солодке ярмо Христове (пор. Мт.

11,29-30) і гідно виконували заповіді любові до Бога і до ближнього. Часи в які вони жили були нелегкі, можливо в багатьох випадках набагато важчі ніж ті, в яких живемо ми. Проте наші українські святі не склали рук перед труднощами, а «боролися доброю борнею, скінчили біг - віру зберегли» (II Тим. 4,7), своїм життям, словом і прикладом просвічуючи світ і роблячи його кращим. Слуга Божий Митрополит Андрей (Шептицький) так вказав нам шлях святості через сповнення Євангелії: "Причиною наших невдач і усіх язв нашого церковного й національного життя є те, що християнство, вчення Євангелія замало відносимо до себе і замало передаємо його як святість душі... Євангеліє це дорога до неба, це життя без плями, без закидів, без пороків, це життя чисте, невинне, святе, в якому смертна людина зривається до того, щоб суперничати з небесними ангелами. Життя по Євангелію це надприродне життя Божої благодаті, це життя Божої любові й жертви для Бога, або одним словом: це життя, в якому людина шукає і змагає до святості" (Андрей Шептицький, Про виховання). Прислухаймося до слів цього Христового праведника і великого сина українського народу!

Дорогі у Христі, ми зобов'язані не тільки почитати святих і до них звертатися у наших молитвах, але й наслідувати їхнє життя і святість. Свято всіх святих українського народу має дві найважливіші цілі. По-перше, ним наша Церква подає до наслідування своїм синам і дочкам практичні приклади, як треба жити згідно християнських засад, щоб досягнути вінок святості. Кожна людина серед усяких обставин може бути святою й зобов'язана прагнути святості, адже до цього кличе нас Бог: «Святими ви мусите бути, бо я - святий, Господь, Бог ваш», - читаємо у Святому Письмі (пор. Лев.19,2; 11,44; 20,7; I Пт.1,16). До всіх нас каже Господь наш Ісус Христос: "Тож будьте досконалі, як Отець ваш небесний досконалий" (пор. Мт.5,48). І святий апостол Павло пригадує нам про обов'язок святості: "Це ж саме воля Божа — святість ваша" (I Сол.4,3). Якщо шляхом духовного вдосконалення пройшли наші брати й сестри по крові, які жили посеред нас, говорили та думали подібними з нами словами, носили подібні імена, то й ми здатні повторити їх християнських подвиг та стати святими...

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

A little girl on her way home from church, turned to her mother and said, "Mommy, the priest's sermon this morning confused me." The mother said, "Oh! Why is that?" The girl replied, "Well, he said that God is bigger than we are. Is that true?" "Yes, that's true," the mother replied. "He also said that God lives within us. Is that true too?" Again the mother replied, "Yes." "Well," said the little girl. "If God is bigger than us and He lives in us, wouldn't He show through us?" Jesus came to offer Eternal life to all that would receive Him. He came



to offer a deeper meaning to our spiritual existence. All too often, people become content with who they are and where they find themselves in life. They do not want to do more, and they simply forget that the Lord still desires to show through each of us. Our spiritual existence should be more about attainment than about contentment. There is no such thing as arriving, until we are one with God. There is always something that we can do in order to reach a higher level of spirituality, and a much deeper relationship with God. But are we willing to allow God to show through us? Are we willing to invite Jesus to be our Master, so He may change our lives for the better?

The Gospel for the fifth Sunday after Pentecost tells us of how Jesus healed a case of diabolic possession, and how the demons entered into a herd of swine which then hurled itself into the Sea of Galilee. We have already come across this episode in the Gospel for the twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost. The same episode is also found in the Gospel according to St. Mark. Although there are some differences of detail in these accounts, their substance is identical. In today's Gospel reading,

Jesus encounters two men who are possessed and tormented by demons. At the request of these demons, Jesus sends them out of these men into a herd of swine that perish into the sea. The two men are freed from their torment and return to their families and friends, to tell them what Jesus has done. One would think that the people of Gerasa would be grateful to have their loved ones restored to health. Their friends have been returned to them, possibly their fathers, brothers, husbands, or cousins, but instead, they ask Jesus to leave their town and depart from their district forever.

Perhaps it was because they had lost their herd of swine in the sea, no doubt a large investment of the community. But still, their friends had come back to them; those who had been dead were alive again. So what happened here? It may be hard to say, but what we know is that they encountered the living God, and they became fearful. Their herd of swine was more important to them than their own family and friends, then even our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. Perhaps they encountered the Holy God, and were faced with their sinfulness. Maybe they witnessed the power of God, and it overwhelmed them. One thing we do know, their Master was not God, and these people became fearful of Jesus. We too are guilty of having more than one Master. For some of us it is work, building a career, and making more money. For some of us it may even be alcohol or drugs, and for some it is even abuse or sexuality. But in the end, we need to ask ourselves, who is our Master? And only when we can honestly say 'Jesus Christ is our one true, Lord and Master'- are we then on the spiritual path toward salvation. The people in today's Gospel have many Masters, but none of them are Christ. What we really need to do is to

come to trust in the Lord. I have heard people say, "I've just sinned too much, and there is no way that God can forgive me. I don't feel worthy." But the greater truth is that God's love is given, not because we are worthy, but rather because God loves us. This is never something we earn, something we buy, something we can even work for. God's love and forgiveness is what God gives to us freely and all we need do is accept Him. We must learn, first and foremost, to trust in God, allowing Him to show through each of us.

Three soldiers trudged down a road in a strange country. They were on their way home from the war. Besides being tired, they were hungry. In fact, they had eaten nothing for two days. "How I would like a good dinner tonight," said the first. "And a bed to sleep in," added the second. "But that is impossible," said the third. On they marched, until suddenly, ahead of them, they saw the lights of a village. "Maybe we'll find a bite to eat and a bed to sleep in," they thought. Now the peasants of the place feared strangers. When they heard that three soldiers were coming down the road, they talked among themselves. "Here come three soldiers," they said. "Soldiers are always hungry. But we have so little for ourselves." And they hurried to hide their food. They hid the barley in hay lofts, carrots under quilts, and buckets of milk down the wells. They hid all they had to eat. Then they waited. The soldiers stopped at the first house. "Good evening to you," they said. "Could you spare a bit of food for three hungry soldiers?" "We have no food for ourselves," the residents lied. "It has been a poor harvest." The soldiers went to the next house. "Could you spare a bit of food?" they asked. "And do you have a corner where we could sleep for the night?" "Oh, no," the man said. "We gave all we could spare to the soldiers who came before you." "And our beds are full," lied the woman. At each house, the response was the same -- no one had food or a place for the soldiers to stay. The peasants had very good reasons, like feeding the sick and the children. The villagers stood in the street and sighed. They looked

as hungry as they could. The soldiers talked together. The first soldier called out, "Good people! We are three hungry soldiers in a strange land. We have asked you for food and you have no food. Well, we will have to make stone soup." The peasants stared. The soldiers asked for a big iron pot, water to fill it, and a fire to heat it. "And now, if you please - three round smooth stones!" The soldiers dropped the stones into the pot. "Any soup needs salt and pepper," the first soldier said, so children ran to fetch salt and pepper. "Stones make good soup, but carrots would make it so much better," the second soldier added. One woman said, "Why, I think I have a carrot or two!" She ran to get the carrots. "A good stone soup should have some cabbage, but no use asking for what we don't have!" said the third soldier. Another woman said, "I think I can probably find some cabbage," and off she scurried. "If only we had a bit of beef and some potatoes, this soup would be fit for a rich man's table." The peasants thought it over, then ran to fetch what they had hidden in their cellars. A rich man's soup and all from a few stones! It seemed like a blessing! The soldiers then said, "If only we had a bit of barley and some milk, this soup would be fit for a king!" And so the peasants managed to retrieve some barley and milk. "The soup is ready," said the cooks, "And all will taste it, but first we need to set the tables." Tables and torches were set up in the square, and all sat down to eat. Some of the peasants said, "Such a great soup would be better with bread and cider," so they brought forth the last two items and the banquet was enjoyed by all. Never had there been such a feast! Never had the peasants tasted such delicious soup, and all made from stones! They ate and drank and danced well into the night. The soldiers asked again if there was a loft where they might sleep for the night. "Oh, no!" said the townsfolk. "You wise men must have the best beds in the village!" One soldier spent the night in the priest's house, one in the doctor's house, and one in the mayor's house. In the morning, the villagers gathered to say goodbye. "Many thanks to you," the people said, "For we shall

never go hungry now that you have taught us how to make soup from stones!"

Imagine what life would be like if we were willing to share everything we have with one another. Just think of the difference we could make. The crowd of people gathered in today's Gospel reading refused to share their lives with Christ; they did not care about making a difference for others. They were content in the life they had, and did not desire any greater attainment in God. They could only see the means of their wealth and livelihoods, running as swine to be drown in the sea. They would not accept Christ, and went so far as asking Him to leave. They neglected the one, true God by whom we should all call Master. Our Lord purchased our freedom, provides for all our needs, and then gives us the free will to decide whether we will choose to serve Him. Today, and every day, somebody needs you. Somebody needs your affection, your patience, your love, and your understanding. That someone may be a family member, your best friend, your worst enemy, or someone that you have yet to meet. But that someone has a deep need: To know that there is a hope in this world in which he or she lives, to know that our Lord is a good and loving God, and

to know that you have not abandoned him or her. Today, something needs to be done. Today and every day, we need to make it our aim and our purpose to reach out to those in need, and especially those of our brothers and sisters who have not yet felt the love of Christ within their own hearts. We are a people of faith and we must place our trust in Christ alone!

New AMHERST BRANCH



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Tuesday – Thursday | 9:30 am – 5 pm | З вівторка по четвер
Friday | 9:30 am – 6 pm | П'ятниця
Saturday | 9 am – 1 pm | Субота

Our existing branch on **GENESEE STREET** will remain open; however, we will be **CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS** starting **JULY 1.**

Філія на **GENESEE STREET** буде **ЗАЧИНЕНА ПО СЕРЕДАХ**, починаючи з **1 ЛИПНЯ.**

BUFFALO BRANCH BUSINESS HOURS:
(Closed Wednesday | Зачинені по середах)
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday | 9:30 am – 5 pm | Понеділок, Вівторок, Четвер
Friday | 9:30 am – 7 pm | П'ятниця
Saturday | 9 am – 1 pm | Субота

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