

Wednesday, August 6, a celebration of Rochester's vibrant faith and ethnic communities through music, dance, food and fellowship took place in the Asbury First Methodist Church's tent. In this Interfaith Festival Ukrainians from Rochester and Biffalo took part.



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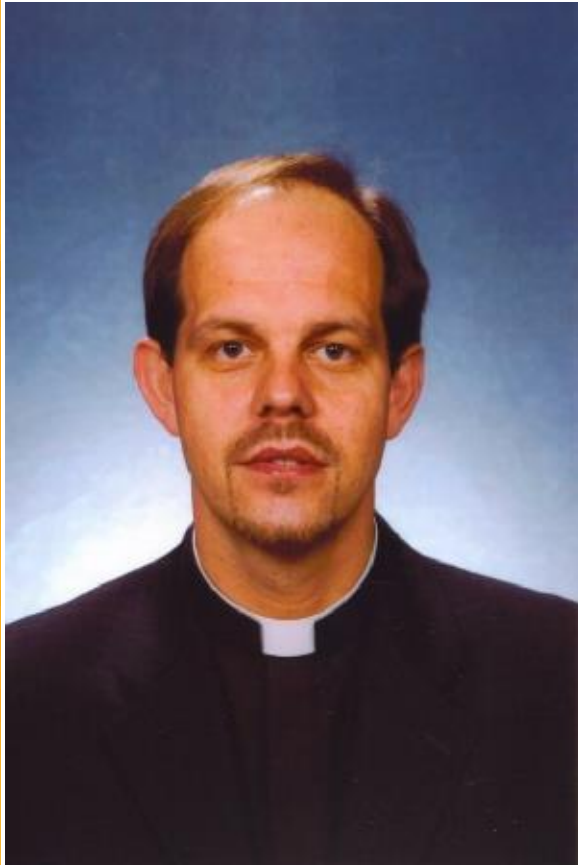
SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
 УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



№
32
ПІД ОПІКОЮ
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ
МАРІЇ ОДІГТРИЇ
UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN
 August 10 – 2014 – 10 Серпня
 ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



New Bishop Bohdan J. Danylo
Новий Владика Богдан Данило

На Многая Літа, Владико!
 Happy Many Years, Bishop Danylo

У четвер, 7 серпня 2014 року, у Ватикані повідомлено про те, що Святіший Отець Франциск призначив всечесного отця Богдана Данила, із кліру Стемфордської єпархії УГКЦ в США, дотеперішнього ректора Стемфордської духовної семінарії святого Василя Великого, Правлячим єпископом єпархії Святого Йосафата в Пармі.

The Holy Father, Francis, appointed as Bishop of the Eparchy of Saint Josaphat in Parma of the Ukrainians (USA), the Rev. Fr. Bohdan Danylo, from the clergy of the Stamford Eparchy of the Ukrainians, the present Rector of the Seminary of St. Basil the Great in the same eparchy.

Гідний - ἄξιος – worthy!

CHURCH BULLETIN

August 10 – 2014 – 10 Серпня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

4:30 PM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

August 10 9 Sunday aft. Pent. - 9 Н. по З.С.Д

10:00 AM. For all deceased under Brody & p.

Monday, August 11 Серпня, Понеділок

8:15 AM +Леся Лисак-Руда-Тивонюк
(О. Чмола)

Tuesday, August 12 Серпня, Вівторок

8:15 AM +Helen Maxim (Peter)

Wednesday, August 13 Серпня, Середа

9:00 AM +Гриць Святківський (родина)

Thu., August 14 Серпня, Четвер

8:15 AM +Анна Коман (Анна Teluk)

DORMITION – УСПІННЯ П.Д.М

Friday, August 15 Серпня, П'ятниця

9:30 AM +Paul & Helen Nowadly (Elaine)

Saturday, August 16 Серпня, Субота

8:15 AM +Eugenia Sukmanowsky
(Jaroslaw & Karin Sukmanowsky)

4:30 PM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

August 17 10 Sunday aft. Pent. - 10 Н. по З.С.Д

10:00 AM. See Julian

No noon Liturgy in August
(Except, Sunday, August 31)

Нема відправи у 12 год. підчас Серпня.

Eternal Light burns for for the
Int. of Iwanyszko Family (Eliane)

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М.
горить за МИР в Україні.
For Peace in Ukraine.

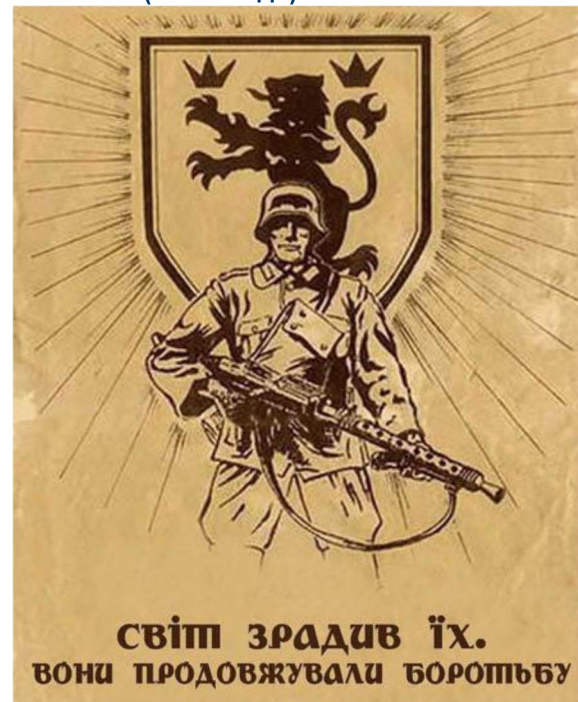


Saint Nicholas Church
Церква Св. Миколая
(Під Опікою П.Д.М.)

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

10 Серпня: 9 Неділя по З.С.Д.

10:00 р. За поляглих під Бродами 70-ліття
(і панахида)



17 Серпня: 10 Неділя по З.С.Д.

10:00 р. +Іван і Катерина Реґула, Галина
Щерба, Ірина Войчак (Роман Войчак)

Рідна Школа починається у суботу, 6 Ве-
ресня. Служба Божа за учнів, учительок
та батьків буде того дня о 9 год. р.
Просимо прийти на час.

Просимо зголошувати своїх дітей до
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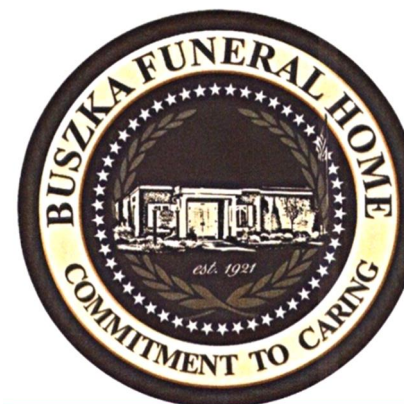
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Friday 9:30 am – 7 pm | Saturday 9:00 – 1 pm |

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Please turn off or silence your cell phone before entering the church.

Thank you!

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We welcome your comments.

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Our Church in Your Will!

Пам'ятаймо про Рідну Церкву та про її майбутність у нашому Завіщанні!

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.

Picnic - 8/3/14	Income	Expenses	Profit
Kitchen	\$2,020.25	\$482.00	\$1,538.25
Slawko's Bar (and grill)	\$903.75	\$78.95	\$824.80
Baked Goods	\$311.50		\$311.50
Kitchen Jar	\$169.00		\$169.00
Cake Raffle	\$26.00		\$26.00
Julia's raffle	\$52.00		\$52.00
Donations	\$191.00		\$191.00
Theme Baskets	\$1,943.00		\$1,943.00
Bounce House	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$5,716.50	\$660.95	\$5,055.55
RAFFLE	\$2,195.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,095.00
RAFFLE Donation	\$550.00		\$550.00
RAFFLE Total	\$2,745.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,645.00
Grand Total	\$8,461.50	\$2,860.95	\$6,700.55

Bounce House & Raffle Donation of \$550.00, which was used to double raffle prizes, donated by a parishioner. Picadilly's appearance donated by Emily Swiatkiwsky.

**Saint Basil The Great
Ukrainian Catholic Church
Lancaster, NY**

Ukrainian Day Picnic And BBQ
Sunday, August 17 Please attend!
Donations for \$25 basket for the Chinese Auction would be greatly appreciated.

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17 Серпня Просимо прийти на Український день і Пікнік до Св. Василя в Ланкестері

**Annual Ukrainian Day
At U. N. Dnipro
Sunday, August 24th**

Like every year: food, music, Ethnic dancing and fun for all.
Moleben at 1 PM.

Please attend!

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**Український День
24 Серпня, 2014**

При Укр. Домі «Дніпро»
Молебень о 1 год.

З участю Деканального Хору.

Our Annual Church Picnic was very successful. Thank you all! Thank you for your donations. Congratulations to the winners!

Special thanks to Anna Melnyk, who prepared food with the ladies. God Bless!

===

Сердечна подяка усім, що допомагали при Церковному Пікніку. Дякуємо всім за участь! Дякуємо Пані Анні Мельник і жінкам у кухні, що приготували їжу. Дякуємо!

THANK YOU! ДЯКУЄМО!
СЕРДЕЧНА ПОДЯКА ЗА ВАШУ
ДОПОМОГУ ПРИ ПІКНІКУ!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
THIS PICNIC IS ONE OF OUR MAJOR
FUNDRAISING EVENTS OF THE YEAR.
IT WAS THE BEST IN 10 YEARS.



76th Annual Convention League of Ukrainian
Catholics - October 10, 11, 12, 2014
Holiday Inn – Johnstown, PA
Sponsored by the All Saints Chapter.
Hope to see you this October!
76 Конвенція Ліги Католиків
буде від 11 до 13 Жовтня ц. р.
Просимо взяти участь!

<https://www.facebook.com/LUCofAmerica>

1914 SAVE THE DATE 2014

The Ukrainian American SITCH is celebrating its 100th Anniversary on Sunday, September 28, 2014 at Salvatore's Italian Gardens Restaurant corner of Genesee St. & Transit Rd.
Cash Bar 4PM – 5PM,
Dinner/Program 5PM.

The Program will be bilingual.
Included in the entertainment are:
Women's Choir MRIYA and award-winning bandurist from Toronto:
BORYS OSTAPIENKO.
EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Let's show our support for Ukraine with our presence.

Cost per person: \$40.00. Also please consider and "ad" in our program booklet. Full page \$100.00; ½ page \$50.00; ¼ page \$25.00; patrons \$10.00 per line. **PHOTOS WILL BE RETURNED.** Tickets are available from: Michael Liskiewicz, Maria Malaniak, Elaine Nowadly, Nadia Marc, Julia Blendonohy. For tickets and ads make checks payable to:
Ukrainian American Sitch

1914 УВАГА! УВАГА! 2014

Даємо до відома, що в неділю, 28-го Вересня, 2014. Товариство Українсько-Американська Січ відмічує 100-ту річницю свого існування! Ювілей відбувається в ресторані Salvatore's Italian Gardens при роздоріжжю вул. Transit і Genesee.

Бара від 4-5 год.

Програма/обід від год. 5:00.
В програмі беруть участь Хор Мрія і молодий банурист з Торонта Борис Остап'єнко. Просимо усіх.
Вступ: \$40.00 дол. Віс особи.
Також продаємо оголошення/реклами до нашої одноднівки.
Повна сторінка: \$100; ½ сторінки: \$50; ¼ сторінки: \$25; і за одну лініє друку \$10. Фота Вам повертаємо.

Квитки можна купити від:

Михайла Ліскевича,
Марії Маланяк,
Елейн Новадлей,
Надії Марк,
Наді Блендоногої.

Чеки вписувати на
Ukrainian American Sitch



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

- KITCHEN is closed during the summer Thank you for your patronage.
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- Ukrainian Day – August 24, 2014.
- Bible Meeting – Summer Vacation.

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
УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА
СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ
(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
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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 хворими

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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 ліжці
або приковані до ліжка!**

42nd Annual



August 14-17, 2014

Ukrainian Food

Varenyky (Pierogies), Holubtsi (Cabbage Rolls), Ukrainian Sausage, Borshch

Ukrainian Arts & Crafts

Embroidery, Ceramics, Amber, Easter Eggs, Paintings, Icons, Jewelry

Ukrainian Folk Dancing & Entertainment

Zolotyj Promin Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Hartford, Connecticut
UAFGR Dancers from Rochester, N. Y.

Live Music for Dancing

Thursday, "Melody Lane"
Friday & Saturday, "My Razom"

Interactive Rides by

"Adventures in Climbing"
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

St. Josaphat Church Tours

Saturday & Sunday @ 3:00pm

Free Parking/Admission/Entertainment

www.RochesterUkrainianFestival.com



Soaring to New Heights!

Join other men at the Eparchial Men's Conference which will be held at St. Basil Seminary in Stamford, October 4, 2014, 8:30am to 4:30pm. Make Plans Now!

Запрошуємо усіх чоловіків на день віднови та духовних роздумів, який відбудеться 4 жовтня 2014! Реєструйтеся прямо зараз! Просимо зголошуватися через вашу парафію або за телефоном: (203) 324 4578

Letter from Fr. Ray August 10, 2014 A.D

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

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

And do you know with the above two lines your letter is already half-way completed? Yep, I know there are several languages, German, French, Welsh and Spanish to name a few that have such a proverb saying, "Well begun is half done." Some even say, "A good beginning is two-thirds finished." So here we are already at least half finished.

I don't know if there is such a proverb in Ukrainian, although I do know the Ukrainian language has many, many great ones. Baba always had one on the tip of her tongue. Here's two I recently heard: "The church is near, but the way is icy.....the tavern is far, but I'll walk carefully." ☺☺ Another meaningful one is: "To see a friend, no road is too long." I'll bet you have a ton of them in your memory and family too. One of my favorites is from Hungary, "Joyful like a monkey for his tail." Or how about these two from the internet? "Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday as they lie on a hospital bed and die from nothing." "All of us could learn something from the weather...it pays no attention to criticism." Many of these and other "modern" ones are readily found on the church signs we have become accustomed to reading as we drive past. Always great food for thought, especially when the meaning is not clear at first and you have to give it some thought to figure it out.

All of these are little guides to our daily life, but the best proverbs, and those upon which the above are ultimately based, are to be found in The Holy Bible. The Book of Proverbs can be found immediately following the Book of Psalms and just before Ecclesiastes in the Catholic Bible. The lines of the proverb always express the basic thought of the contrast between good and evil, wise and foolish or virtuous and evil. The Proverbs of Holy Scripture show us "Wisdom" as a companion of God from the beginning, and this "Wisdom" is ultimately revealed

in Jesus Christ. "Wisdom" is also applied to the Theotokos in the Holy Liturgy. This Book of Proverbs is really a wonderful collection of parables, hidden sayings, wise words and riddles which, if pondered and taken to heart, will be for us a magnificent guide through this life. Check it out sometime when you are asking yourself questions about this crazy, mixed up world. Yes, it is there..... "The Wisdom and Power of God, Jesus Christ!"

Our trip to Olean last week was interesting and quite nice. Remember, I told you I would be celebrating Liturgy down there last Saturday and again on August 9. It was a joy to find basically the same people I had remembered from my earlier visits years ago, as well as some new families I would meet for the first time. The distance of the journey down there is about 70 miles from our house to the church door, or about an hour and a half for travel time. We arrived in good time for the preparation of the Liturgy and to say hello to the early comers. Oh, and by the way, if you are driving either north or south through Salamanca there is a serious, long detour of which you need to be aware. We were ready for it as we had earlier come across it on our trips down to Johnstown. The detour is now very well marked and much improved from what it had been earlier in the summer, but one still needs to be careful and attentive to the road and the directions.

While it was a wonderful experience to celebrate the Holy Liturgy for those pious and good people, there was also a tinge of sadness associated with it. The parish is hanging on by a thread, a very thin thread, and is experiencing some very shaky and hard times. Looming overhead is the possibility of closure. The church building is very old and in need of some major = costly repairs. Whatever solution/decision the Bishop will make, I hope it will have some provision for keeping the community together, even if it means services in another church in the city. I surmise the parish is nearly a hundred years old, if it hasn't already passed that. Too many churches are closing these days! May God strengthen and protect that little "vibrant" commu-

nity there in Olean. I'll probably write about this a bit more next week after I finish my second week there.

Today as I write it is August 6, Holy Transfiguration, according to the new calendar. We had a wonderful, inspiring Liturgy today. Ten people came, which is about half of the Sunday attendance. Not too many priests can say they have half of their congregation attend Liturgy for a holy day! Glory to God!

They came and they brought the beautiful decorated baskets laden with the various fruits for the blessing. Prior to the Liturgy the wheat, wine, oil and bread of the Lytia were blessed. At the end of the service, everyone was anointed with the blessed oil and received a piece (or two) of that very tasty bread. On the major feasts we have different varieties of Lytia bread. Today we had a cranberry-whole wheat bread. Sometimes we use a lovely one which contains orange zest and cinnamon. I think that is everyone's very favorite. These are breads we use for the special Lytia and not for the Liturgy. Bread for the Liturgy always remains the same.... pure wheat bread with NO additives or flavor enhancements.

So the congregation left the church after partaking of the bread and sharing of the fruit of their baskets. Nobody went out the door hungry today, either spiritually or physically. It was one of those Liturgies when we understood the line from the gospel when St. Peter in his exuberant joy said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here." Indeed we rejoiced at being on the Holy Mountain with them, and we, too, were filled with that same joy, wonder and excitement. We, too, were prompted to say, "Lord, it is good for us to be here!" I hope you feel the joy of His presence at the Holy Liturgy and would like to remain with Him forever. Do you know there are some people who think the service is too long and can't wait to make an exit? I know we have things to do and places to go, but God gets priority!

We are now in the fasting time as we prepare for the Feast of the Holy Dormition. Wouldn't this be a great time to examine our conscience to review how

much time we freely and ungrudgingly give to the Lord, especially when it comes to the Holy Liturgy. How about coming a bit early to prepare, and staying a few minutes later in thanksgiving. One of the misconceptions about the Divine Liturgy is the starting time. Yes, the formal service of the Liturgy actually begins at a certain time, but the doors are open much earlier. For example for our Sunday 9:30 service the doors are open at 8am. Everyone should arrive as early as possible for personal preparation, and as we do in Niagara Falls, to hear the reading of "the Hours," prior to the start of the Liturgy. The example of St. Peter must be our example. We want to become so enthralled and in love with the Liturgy that we can't wait to get there, we won't want to leave, especially on those days when we say, "It was so beautiful. I didn't know if I was in heaven or on earth!" About our Byzantine church we can only say, "So beautiful, so rich, so little time!"

I hope you are loving the church and caring for it as best you can, or however you can. The best way is by your presence and support of course. The Bishop says we must be a missionary church and let people know there is a great treasure behind the doors of our parishes and we must do our best to be inviting and welcoming people. Maybe someone we invite will say, "It is good for us to be here! I wish we never had to leave." What a Church! Our Ark of Salvation! Come and see (and don't bring a watch). It's time for me to close for now. Before I leave, here's one more parable for you. "Dad's know a lot, but Grandpa's know everything!" ☺☺ May the Lord bless you and keep you and may He make His face to shine upon you! May our Holy Lady Theotokos pray for us and protect us beneath her heavenly veil.

In His Love, Fr. Ray

Господи, Спаси Україну!

Lord, Save Ukraine!

Ukrainian Festival **August 16th and 17th, 2014**

Ukrainian Homestead

1230 Beaver Run Drive * Lehighton, PA 18235 *
(610) 377-4621 * www.ukrhomestead.com

Innesa Tymochko-Dekajlo

(Lviv, Ukraine)

Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble

(Schuylkill County, PA)

Dobriansky Brothers &

Karpaty Folk Song and Dance Ensemble

(New York)

**Traditional Ukrainian foods,
folk art and exhibitions,
Children's games * Swimming
Gift & craft vendors**

Programs

Saturday, August 16th

2:00 – 3:30 pm Stage Show

4:30 – 6:30 pm Stage Show

Sunday, August 17th

11:00 am Divine Lit. at St. Andrew's Chapel

2:00 – 4:30 pm Stage Show

Festival Admission

\$5/person- one day

\$7/person- both days

FREE – Age 14 & under

8 :00 pm Zabava (Dance)

**Cultural Exhibit: Avramenko - History
of Ukrainian Dance in U.S. and Canada**

FREE PARKING



**St. John the Baptist
Ukrainian Catholic Church
3275 ELMWOOD AVE.,
KENMORE, NY 14217**

**Invites everyone to
UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL
Sunday, SEPTEMBER 7, 2014**

**Featuring:
Colorful and Exciting Ukrainian
Dance Performances, Music for
Everyone. Ethnic Food:
(Home-Made Pyrohy/Pierogi
and Stuffed Cabbage;
Sausage and Sauer-kraut)
Theme Baskets and Raffles
Free Parking and Admission
Vendors
Indoor and Outdoor Seating
Come One, Come All...**

**Усі запрошені на ФЕСТИВАЛЬ
Церкви Св. Івана Хрестителя
У неділю 7 Вересня, 2014**

(З радіо «Милосердний Самар'янин»)

Зараз і ми переживаємо нелегкі часи, на нашій Батьківщині запанувала ніч. Ніч неспокою, ніч непевности; Чекаємо на світанок.

В тій неспокійній ночі, про яку розповідає сьогоднішнє Євангельське читання, Ісус показав нам, як переживати разом з Ним усе, що на нас приходить. Слід пам'ятати про це, коли знову настане спокій.

Тиверіядське озеро подібне на кожного з нас. Воно досить мале – 20 км довге, 12 км широке – і не дуже глибоке – приблизно 48 м. Це, звичайно, не велике море..., але, коли на ньому бушують вітри, воно немов зривається з ланцюга, нагадує розлючений океан.

Не думаймо лише про ті бурі, які нападають на нас зі всіх сторін, але також про ті бурі, ще небезпечніші, які, коли надовкола нас неспокійно, хитають нас ізсередини та, здається, ось-ось перекинуть човен нашого життя. Хвилі накочуються на нас, ми боремося із зустрічними вітрами – пригніченням, внутрішнім заціпенінням, жорстокістю, образами, гнівом, себелюблям – а ті несподівані, нездоланні підводні течії, через які часом уже не знаємо, куди пливемо: ми виснажені, не маємо сили йти в період, а ніч темна.

Здається, настає крах, а де в той час Господь? Він недалеко від нас, Він ближче, ніж будь-коли, у ще тіснішій єдності з нами, ніж раніше: Він по умноженню хлібів, про що ми чули минулої неділі, вийшов на гору, осторонь, щоб помолитися, щоб подякувати Отцеві за всі ласки, і коли настав вечір, Він тут, на самоті. У ці божевільні часи, коли нашу батьківщину стараються присвоїти, Ісус найперше просить нас про те, щоб ми зійшли на гору (а це завжди нелегко!) – на гору молитви, і стояли там разом з Ним перед

лицем Отця. Нам треба лише розчинитися в Його молитві. Зараз ми менше, ніж звичайно, уміємо молитися «як слід»; але коли перебуваємо в Ньому перед лицем Отця, то навіть, опинившись «самі» посеред бурі, далеко від Батьківщини, будемо з усіма Його стомленими братами і сестрами на Україні: разом з Ним будемо для них правдивою Церквою.

Коли інші нападають на нас, коли хочуть знищити все що нам дорогоцінне, і волю і культуру, історію і мову, це немов оті вітри на морі. Якщо піддамося оцій руйнівній силі, і самі станемо подібними до отих вітрів, то і ми будемо руйнувати. Важним є збереги рівновагу, звернутися до Господа, який з нами, бо Він по стороні тих, що бажать спокою, що не дишуть ненавістю.

О четвертій сторожі ночі, тобто після третьої години, Господь іде до нас, «ступаючи морем» (Мт. 14, 25). Якщо ми тільки те й робили, що веслували проти розлученого вітру, нам важко впізнати його, бо нашим єдиним горизонтом є наша стривожена уява. Але якщо ми молилися, поки веслували, в тиші серця та серед галасу смерті чуємо голос того, хто «розстелив землю над водами» (Пс. 136, 6): «Заспокойтесь, – це я, не страхайтесь!» (Мт. 14, 27).

Можливо, – це залежить від нас – що, як Петро, вагаючись між довірою та сумнівом, ми захочемо піти далі..., щоби бути з Господом. Але знаймо, що ми зможемо піти назустріч бурі лише за умови, що не дивитимемося на себе самих, ані на загрозливі хвилі, ні на свою слабкість, а лише на Нього, на нашого Господа і Спасу Ісуса Христа.

Господи помилуй нас і спаси нас,
і подай мир на нашій Батьківщині.

From "Good Samaritan" Ukrainian Radio Program

Jesus gave us the eight Beatitudes in His Sermon on the Mount, recorded for all posterity in the Gospel of St. Matthew. It is here that Jesus offers us a way of life that promises eternity in the Kingdom of Heaven. While the Ten Commandments, given to Moses on Mount Sinai in the Old Testament Book of Exodus, relates a series of "Thou shall not's," evils one must avoid in daily life on earth, in contrast, the message of the Beatitudes given to us by Jesus is one of humility, charity, and brotherly love. He taught transformation of the inner person. Jesus presents the Beatitudes as virtues in life which will ultimately lead to reward. Love becomes the motivation for the Christian. All of the Beatitudes promise us salvation - they initiate one of the main themes of St. Matthew's Gospel - that the Kingdom so long awaited for in the Old Testament is not of this world, but of the next, the Kingdom of Heaven. St. Augustine called the Beatitudes the ideal for every Christian life. *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"* (Matthew 5:3-10).

These Beatitudes have become our outline for the type of people God intends us to be. We begin to understand that what our Lord desires is not just an awareness of His Presence in our lives, but rather our willingness to follow His teachings of camaraderie and love for one another. We begin to see that Jesus is concerned more about an attitude, than He is about doing certain things the

"right" way. We understand that He is addressing a condition of the heart, rather than just an observance of rules. Christ is teaching about our need to have a sincere openness with God the Father and one another. Nowhere is this "heart and soul" relationship with our Lord more evident, than in these teachings of the Beatitudes. Jesus desires each of us to have a new heart, a new mind, and a new attitude. One of the first contemplations on the Beatitudes came from St. Gregory of Nyssa, who described the Beatitudes this way: "Beatitude is a possession of all things held to be good, from which nothing is absent that a good desire may want. Perhaps the meaning of beatitude may become clearer to us if it is compared with its opposite. Now the opposite of beatitude is misery. Misery means being afflicted unwillingly with painful sufferings."

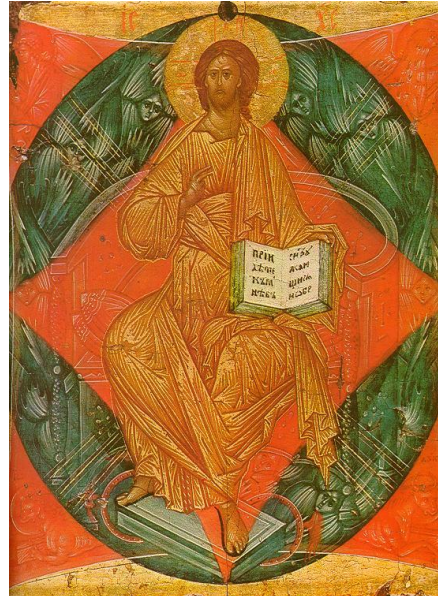
A thousand years ago, the great achievement of that age was to build an immense Cathedral. All over Europe they planted soaring churches, whose towers seemed to pierce the skies. Magnificent structures with steeples, finger like projections pointing to Heaven. Those who served our Lord and wanted to direct people toward a spiritual journey did so by aiming toward Heaven with their architecture. But then the walls of these Cathedrals, they did something even more. On the walls they designed magnificent windows of stained glass. And high on the upper tiers, they would picture the great Saints of our Catholic Church. They would tell in glass the stories of those who had achieved magnificent things, spiritually. Of the suffering they endured for our Lord, and the grace revealed onto them, through their great spiritual convictions. With the Beatitudes, Jesus paints a similar picture of spiritual unity with our Heavenly Father. And if we are willing to climb the stairway to Heaven, entering the upper tiers and balcony of our Lord's construction, then we too must start by

acknowledging our needs before God with a humble and contrite heart. *"Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God."* To be 'poor in spirit' means to be humble. Humility is the realization that all our gifts and blessings come from the grace of God. To have poverty of spirit means to be completely empty and open to the Word of God. When we are an empty cup and devoid of pride, we are humble. *"Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted."* Humility brings openness and an inner peace, allowing one to do the will of God. It is pride that brings misery, and our sinfulness that causes us to mourn. If every man and woman were humble and poor in spirit, there would be no need for conflict and strife. If we are humble and appreciate that all of our gifts and blessings come from God, we grow in love and gratitude for one another and especially for our Lord, Jesus.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." A humble person becomes meek, or becomes gentle and kind, and exhibits a gentleness of spirit, even in the face of adversity and hardship. St. Augustine advises us to be meek in the face of the Lord, and be obedient to him. We also discover that the Beatitudes build on one another. *"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."* A continuous desire for justice and moral perfection will lead one to a fulfillment of that desire - a transition and conversion to holiness. This is true for all the virtues - if we hunger and thirst for the Lord, then we will move forward with this goal in mind. *"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."* Mercy is the loving disposition towards those who suffer distress. Love, compassion, and forgiveness towards one's neighbor will bring peace in our relationships. We say in the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us". As we are merciful to

others, so our Heavenly Father will be merciful with us. Jesus reminds us that *"Whatever you did to the least of my brethren, you did it to me"* (Mt 25:31-46).

A merchant in a small town had two sons. The boys worked for their father in the department store he owned and, when he died, they took over the store. Everything went well until the day a ten dollar bill disappeared. One of the brothers had left the bill on the cash register and walked outside with a customer. When he returned, the money was gone. He asked his brother, "Did you see that ten dollar bill on the cash register?" His brother replied that he had not. But the young man kept probing and questioning. He would not let it alone. "Ten dollar bills just don't get up and walk away! Surely you must have seen it!" There was subtle accusation in his voice. Tempers began to rise. Each brother was too proud to settle the dispute reasonably, so resentment set in. Before long, a deep and bitter chasm divided the young men. They refused to speak. They finally decided they could no longer work together and a dividing wall was built down the center of the store. For twenty years hostility and bitterness grew, spreading to their families and to the community. Then one day a man in an automobile licensed from another state stopped in front of the store. He walked in and asked the clerk, "How long have you been here?" The clerk replied that he had been there all his life. The customer said, "I must share something with you. Twenty years ago, I was "riding the rails" and came into this town in a boxcar. I hadn't eaten for three days. I came into this store



from the back door and saw a ten dollar bill on the cash register. I put it in my pocket and walked out. All these years I haven't been able to forget that. I know it wasn't a great deal of money, but I had to come back and ask your forgiveness." The stranger was amazed to see tears well up in the eyes of this middle-aged man. "Would you please go next door and tell that same story to the man on the other side of this store?" he asked. The man did just that, and after retelling the story he was even more amazed to see two middle-aged men, who looked very much alike, embracing each other and weeping together in the front of the store. After twenty years, their brokenness was mended. The wall of resentment that divided them came down and mercy reigned in their hearts.

"Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God." Moses, John, and Paul are recorded to all have said that no one can see God here on earth, but Jesus says the pure of heart shall see God. To be pure of heart means to be free of all selfish intentions and self-seeking desires. How many times have we performed an act perfectly free of any personal gain? Such an act is pure love. An act of pure and selfless giving brings happiness to all that encounter it. *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."* Peacemakers not only live peaceful lives but also try to bring peace and friendship to others, and to preserve peace between God and man, but we cannot give something if we do not possess it ourselves. Therefore, Jesus wants us first to be filled with the blessings of peace and then to communicate it to those who have need of it. By imitating God's love of man, it is the peacemakers who become the children of God. *"Blessed are*

they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." Jesus said many times that those who follow Him will be persecuted. *"If they persecute me, they will persecute you"* (John 15:21). The twentieth century with its two World Wars certainly saw its share of martyrs, but the Lord promised that those who suffer for His sake will be rewarded in the Kingdom of Heaven. Selfless acts of love, doing what is righteous, becoming peacemakers – these are the commands of Christ that we must hold dear, and in doing so we may one day break the surly bonds of this world and touch the face of God.

The eight Beatitudes given to us by Jesus are for all people living in all ages. The fundamental idea throughout them is a glimpse into the character Jesus expects in His followers, His true disciples; citizens of the Kingdom of God! The Beatitudes also show us that the Christian life is just that, a life, not an activity. Jesus is not here giving us the entrance requirements for Heaven. Instead, He is talking about the nature of the Kingdom of God - a kingdom that is radically different from this world. We often admire people who are better, faster, richer, and stronger than us. We look up to them and try to be like them. But Jesus was not what we would have expected; instead He was everything we needed. Salvation is given not from trying to attain an impossible standard of perfection. Our deliverance could only take place because Jesus willingly became like us, and experienced firsthand what it means to suffer for our sins when He died upon the cross. Yet the Beatitudes are around us every day, because they are a reflection of not only what Christ spoke to us, but also a transition into the modern times of faith that we experience every day. When all is said and done, God will not ask us how many friends we had or how many people loved us, rather He will ask how many people we were a friend to and loved in His Name.