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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
37

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

Vacations - Вакації.

Ministry to the sick - Опіка над хворими

Family members should call the Rectory

Родина повинна повідомити священика

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^o37

September 11 – 2011 – 11 Вересня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК – Ч. 37



First glimpse:
Aerial view of
Ground Zero
taken from
Washington
Street the day
before the official 9/11 memorial service.



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

Sep. 11: 13 S. Aft. Pent.-13 Н. По ЗСД 14

10:00 AM +Іван і Марія Правак
(родина Правак)

Панахида за постраждалих 9 Вер., 2001

12:00 PM +Katherine M. Chort (Marianne)

Panachyda for victims of 9/11

Mon., Sep. 12 – Понеділок, 12 Вересня

8:15 AM +Мирослава, Борис, Андрій (О. Чмола)

Tue., Aug. 13 – Вівторок, 13 Вересня

8:15 AM +Іванна Городецька (О. Чмола)

Elevation of the Cross – Воздвиження (Gr)

Wednesday, Sep. 14 – Середа, 14 Вересня

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

Thu., Sep. 15 – Чет., 15 Вересня

8:15 AM +Марія і Пилип Процик

Friday, Sep. 16 – П'ят., 16 Вересня

8:15 AM За зд, і всяке прошення (Мартин,
Олег, Леся Савка)

Saturday, Sep. 17 – Субота, 17 Вересня

9:00 AM За зд. Ореси Перейма (родина)

4:30 PM +Metr. Ambroz Senyshyn & p.

Sep. 18: 14 S. Aft. Pent.-14 Н. По ЗСД 15

10:00 AM +Любомир Стасюк
(М. Л. Стасюк)

12:00 PM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

Eternal Light burns for

+Joan Biernot

Requ. By: Jagodzinski Family

Вічне світло в честь ПДМ горитьза

+Гриця Святківського/+Harry

Requ. By: Swiatkiwsky Family

In the Beginning . . . (cont.)

(week 25) I'm really beginning to bulk up. I gained 6 ounces this week! I think most of it was muscle but also some bone mass and some organ development. My taste buds allow me to distinguish bitter, sweet and sour. My lungs have developed so well, I'm now officially considered viable. Chris could live outside the womb.

Each parent contributed 15,000 genes that determined not only what Chris looks like but how Chris interprets tastes, Chris's athletic abilities, allergies, health, and much more.

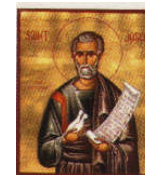
"Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast."

Religion Classes for the upcoming school year will begin Saturday, October 15, 2011 at 11:45AM in the Church Hall. Any children eligible to receive Solemn Communion should be registered in our program. Stamford Eparchy policy suggests two years of Religious Education before receiving the Sacraments of Penance and Solemn Communion. For more information you can call the rectory on Mondays and Thursdays between 9:00AM and 2:00PM, or call Elaine Nowadly at 825-8169. Help is needed. We need Religion teachers to cover all the classes. Anyone interested in volunteering to work in the Religious Education Program should contact Father Procyk.

Печення бараболі на Новому Соколі

Пластуни Сеніори влаштовують 2- жовтня, 2011 р. традиційне печення бараболі на Новому Соколі пополудні. Гостям раді.

Scout Seniors sponsoring "Potatoes Bake" at Scout Camp in North Collins on October 2, 2011 in Afternoon. No admission. All welcome



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DNIPRO  **ДНІПРО**

Ukrainian Cultural Center

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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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.

- **KITCHEN** – is open Fridays 11 AM - 3 PM. Thank you for your help and patronage.
- **Coffee Hour** - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!

HAVE A BLESSED DAY!!!

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 помагате 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 Proyk

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

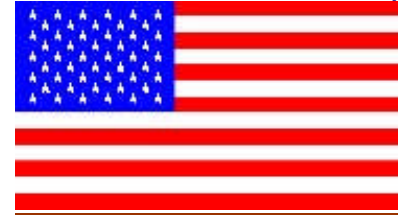
**Чи слухаєте нашу радіо передачу
«Милосердний Самар'янин»
Неділя, 2 год. на WJLL 1440 AM?
Дякуємо за пожертви!**

GOD BLESS AMERICA SONG'S LYRICS

*Author: Irving Berlin, 1918;
Revised 1938*

Spoken Introduction:

While the storm clouds gather far across the sea,
Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free,
Let us all be grateful for a land so fair,
As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.



God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above
From the mountains To the prairies,
To the ocean white with foam
God bless America, My home sweet home.

Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist

Was bestowed August 14, 2011, upon:
Roman Michael Nicholas Marusiak

Son of Roman Nicholas and Laryssa (nee Petryshyn). May our good & loving Lord grant His blessings of peace, health, and happiness upon Roman Michael Nicholas as we welcome him into our Church of faith!

Congratulations! Mnohaya Lita!

Роман Михайло Микола Марусяк

Син Лярисы (був. Петришин) і Романа Миколи прийняв тайни хрещення, миропомазання і Пресвятої Євхаристії 14 Серпня. Хай Господь благословить щастям і здоров'ям! Гратулюємо батькам!

На Многая і Благая Літа!

DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS

"Special Appeal"

IMO Harry Swiatkiwsky

Myron & Terrie Savicki - \$25.00

Maria Bodnarysky - \$20.00

Joanne Bader - \$20.00

IMO Illija Procyk

Maria Bodnarsky - \$20.00

IMO Wasyl "Billy" Lechnowskyj

Maria Bodnarsky - \$20.00

Donations Towards Coffee Hour

*(Coffee Hour Benefits - Yearly
Communication Assessment Fee)*

Teodozij & Halyna Pryshlak

Eva Kowtalo

Thank you – Сердечна Подяка!

SITCH DINNER MEETING

Sunday September 25, 2011

At Joseph Hriczko Post

Clemo St., Buffalo, NY

After 12:00 pm Liturgy for the reposed and living members of Sitch St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church Fillmore & Oneida Sts., Buffalo, NY

COCKTAILS at 1:00PM

DINNER at 1:30PM incl. refreshments

Meeting to be held after dinner.

Dinner cost is \$10.00 for members and \$15.00 for guests

Membership dues of \$5.00

For the 2011 year must be current and may be paid at the door.

For reservations call:

Mike Liskiewicz – 837-0285 or

Maria Malaniak – 668-5105

Reservation deadline is Sept. 18, 2011

73rd Annual Convention,
League of Ukrainian Catholics
October 7, 8, 9, 2011
Holiday Inn Airport
- Cheektowaga, NY



The League of Ukrainian Catholics, Niagara Frontier Council cordially invites the Buffalo area Ukrainian community to join with them in celebrating their 73rd Annual Convention from October 7, 8, 9, 2011 at the Holiday Inn-Airport in Cheektowaga, NY. The theme of this year's convention is "Grant me the wisdom of our Eastern rite, to hold it, to renew it and develop it." Taken From the *Servant of God Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky's Prayer of the for Divine Wisdom.*

The Convention will begin on Friday, October 7th with a general meeting of delegates. Following the meeting there will be a workshop conducted by Rev. Ivan Kaszczak.

A "Buffalo Fest" Welcome Party will begin the weekends festivities.

Saturday will begin with breakfast followed by a keynote address by Rev. Kaszczak. Then its on to Niagara Falls, NY. A Panachyda service for deceased members of the League will be held at Protection of the BVM Ukrainian Catholic Church. After the service its on to various locations in Niagara Falls and the Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Lewiston, NY. At the Saturday evening Banquet, Reverend Czeslaw Michal Krysa, Director of Worship of the Diocese of Buffalo will be the Main Speaker, entertainment will follow the banquet.

Sunday morning will begin with Liturgy at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Buffalo, NY. , Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, Eparch of Stamford, will be the main celebrant. The convention will conclude with Brunch and closing activities at the hotel.

Again, please know, you are most cordially invited to join with us for all the weekend festivities.

SCHEDULE OF CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

Friday, October 7, 2011

REGISTRATION	10:00 am – 5:00 pm	\$15.00
HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN	10:00 am – 5:00 pm	
GENERAL MEETING	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	
WORKSHOP	3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	
WELCOME PARTY	6:30 pm – 10:30 pm	\$25.00

Saturday, October 8, 2011

BREAKFAST & KEYNOTE SPEAKER	8:30 am - 9:45 am	\$20.00
TOUR LEAVES FOR NIAGARA FALLS	10:00 am – 4:00 pm	\$20.00

Protection of the BVM Ukr. Cath. Ch.
Niagara Falls and Area Attractions
Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, Lewiston, NY
Leave Niagara Falls for Holiday Inn 3:15 pm

FESTIVE BANQUET

Cash Bar	6:30 pm – 7:00 pm	
Dinner	7:00 pm – 11:00 pm	\$45.00

Sunday, October 9, 2011

Leave Holiday Inn	8:30 am	
Liturgy at St. Nicholas Church	9:00 am	
Return to hotel after Liturgy		
Brunch at Hotel	12:00 pm	\$25.00

Final Deadline for tickets is
September 28, 2011

For ticket information contact:

Mary Beth Sukmann	824-1433
Maria (Slabyk) LaPaglia	826-0281
Elaine Nowadly	825-8169

LUC News Reminder:

The deadline to put an ad for 2011 League of Ukrainian Catholics Convention Journal is Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011.
* * *

Просимо взяти участь у Конвенції Ліги Укр. Католиків. Інфо по англійськи.

BASILIAN SISTERS

The Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great are celebrating 100 Years in America as a praying, healing, life-giving presence. Please mark your calendars for following Centennial Events:

Centennial Pilgrimage

October 2nd - Fox Chase

Closing of the Centennial Year
Divine Liturgy and Banquet
November 6th Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

For more information:
www.stbasils.com

Проща до Сестер Василіянок
На Факс Чейс з нагоди 100-ліття
Чину Сестер Василіянок у Америці
буде 2 Жовтня. Просимо до участі!

Please accept the invitation to all men of our Eparchy to join me and some exciting speakers for a Day of Reflection on Saturday, September 24th on the grounds of St. Basil's in Stamford. The theme of the day is BE A MAN. You may sign up at the website www.stamforddio.org or pick up a registration form at your parish.

Most Rev. Paul P. Chomnycky, O.S.B.M.
Eparch of Stamford

BE A MAN! Eparchial Men's Day of Reflection

*"Planted and build in Jesus Christ,
firm in the faith"*

September 24, 2011

St. Basil Seminary

Schedule

- 9:00-9:30am Arrival & registration
- 9:30 *Moleben to Mother of God* – Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM
- 10:00 *"Be a Man"* - Father Paul Luniw
- 11:00 *Coffee break*
- 11:30 *"Who am I"* - Richard Pucher
- 12:30pm *Lunch*
- 1:30 Workshop Sessions 1
 - Workshop: *Bob Douglas*
 - What Conditions Challenge Us to Be a Good Christian Today & how can we overcome them?**
 - Workshop: *Orest Kozicky*
- “Our lives: family, work, community”
- 2:30 *Coffee break*
- 3:00 Workshop Sessions 2
 - Workshop: *Andy Bamber*
 - How to Bring Out the Best in Your Wife: To help her have a richer and fuller life as a wife and mother!**
 - Workshop: *Richard Pucher*
 - “What pew do I sit in?”
- 4:00 “What it means to be a Man in the Church Community?” - Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM
- 4:30 Departure

З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

Пригадуємо 10 років тому літаки, які мали литі високо понад білі хмари влітали у будинки, і вже по будинках, і вже по багатьох. І то не сон, а дійсність, і це не видумка а правдиве, тяжке, жахливе. Залишилися матері і залешилися батьки, і кохані особа і діти...

Сьогодні минає 3,652 дни від подій терористичного нападу в якому загинули тисячі невиних людей. Ненависть привила до такого нерозумного кроку. Ненависть одної частини людства до другої. Тяжко а то й неможливо знайти оправдання для такої жахливої події, де людина і то не одна, порішає віддати життя за свої ідеї, яких значіння не можемо зрозуміти.

Можна віддати життя, коли спасаємо інших, можна віддати його і за свої переконання, так як апостоли, мучиники перших століть і найновіші, але не можна віддати його, щоб забрати життя багатьох безборонних людей. А це власне сталося 10 років тому у Нью Йорку і Вашингтоні і коло Пітсбургу. Таке можуть зробити тільки фанатики, ті для яких життя не святе.

А життя походить від Бога і ніхто не має права його нищити. І не важне чи мова про аборти, або евтаназію, або терористичний акт, або пімсту. Вбивство є гріхом що прямо виступає проти Божого авторитету.

Тяжко думати про прощення у цьому випадку, але це одинока дорога, яка разом зі справедливістю мусить іти в парі.

Христос простив, тим які говорили проти Нього, сміялися з Нього, били Його по голові тростиною - по терновому вінці, що наложили Йому на голову, які Його на хрест розпіяли, і коєм бік Його проклоли. Але ми знаємо також що Христос себе обороняв. Воїну, який його вдарив у лице Він казав: „Якщо я говорив зле, докажи, а якщо ні, то чому мене бсш?” Ми які наслідуюмо Христа, маємо подібно поводитися.

Потрібно себе обороняти, але також потрібно і прощати.

„Мені належить пімста і я відплачу”, каже Господь у Второзаконю 32 глава 35 стижок.

Господь є той що судить, ми не збераймося того робити. Пам’ятаймо, що не можна засуджувати цілий нарід чи цілу країну задля одного чоловіка чи кількох осіб. Не всі німці такі самі, бо Гітлер позабивав мільйони, не всі росіяни однакові, бо Сталін знищив ще може і більше, не всі араби винні тому що кілька фанатиків, під проводом одного вождя, спричинили оце зло. Кожний перед Господом відповідає за свої вчинки, і я за свої відповідим, і ми всі за свої дамо звіт перед справедливим судею, коли то прийде судити живих і мертвих. Нехай Господь буде милосердним для кожної людини.

По наших церквах сьогодні відправляються панахиди, за душі покійних. Хай в Господі усі вони спочивають, там де немає болізни, ні печалі ні зітхання, але життя безконечне. Нехай молитви наші линуць за тих, які були насильно знищені, за тих що ще й далше терплять фізично і душевно. Нехай Господь буде їхнім рятівником, нехай допоможе.

Не забудьмо також у своїх молитвах тих, що спричинили оце нещастя, і тих, що намірилися подібне виконувати, щоб Господь був милосердним для них, щоб змінював їхню ненависть через покаєння на любов до життя своє і життя інших.

Любити Бога, любити ближнього. Любити своїх ворогів, це заповіт нашого Господа Ісуса Христа. Позбудьмося ненависти, що так легко нас опутує і стараймося бачити близько себе завжди присутного Господа. А коли його бачемо, то нема навіть жодної можливості на ненависть чи відплату. Є тільки справедливість і любов.

From the desk of Fr. Ray Palko

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

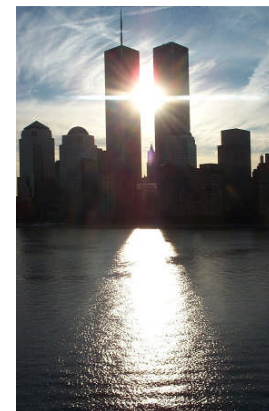
GLORY FOREVER! September 11, 2011

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

I remember: It was a beautiful late summer Tuesday morning here in Buffalo, New York City, Washington, D.C. and Shanksville, PA. I was on my way to St. Catharines, Ontario for an appointment. I didn't have the radio or TV on at all that morning until I got into the car, but as soon as I turned it on, it became clear there was a serious situation in New

York City, “something about a plane hitting a building.” I was in the car shortly after the second plane had hit the tower and a news report came on stating that all the flights in the country had been grounded. At the corner of Seneca and Cazenovia, and from that slight elevation, looking straight down Seneca, I could see row upon row of planes descending to the airport to comply with the FAA call for grounding. By this time I realized there was more to it than just “a plane hitting a building,” so I turned the car around and went back home. If I had crossed the bridge that morning, I would have had to stay in Canada for a few days because the authorities closed the international bridges.

The sun was still shining, the birds were singing, the flowers were glowing, but they became invisible and unheard as the great tragedy unfolded that day, a day of death and destruction; a day of fear and courage; a day of repentance. And I know everyone of us has our very own picture of “that day” burned



into our memory. It was one of those moments when we know exactly where we were and what it was we were doing, the moment we heard the news. We will never forget that 9-11. So on this day, September 11, 2011 we remember. We remember and pray for all who were involved in, and affected by, the terrible events of that TERROIST ATTACK. We pray for all who so suddenly lost their lives, especially those who were unprepared. We pray for the still grieving families and those who still carry the scars of that day. We remember those who responded, and who still respond, and continue to defend and protect us. We return to our God and His holy Mother and pray for continued protection and peace. It is good that the anniversary falls on a Sunday this year, as that will bring more people to the church. I'm sure it won't be in the record numbers of all those ‘who thought of God’ on September 11, 2001 when the churches were filled, and we saw photos of long lines outside churches in major cities as people waited for confession. God bless the USA!

I told you a week or so ago that we had taken a trip down to Pennsylvania. Somewhere on “the two-nineteen” up on a high elevation in the Allegany Mountains, one passes by a large cemetery where many of our military veteran's are buried. On the day we went, Presbyter and I commented on the huge amount of American flags decorating the graves. It was a gorgeous picture of patriotism, thanks and love as the great field was bathed in the waving red, white and blue of our flag. I hope that this Sunday our country will be bathed in those colors as it was in the days following 9-11 when everyone was flying the flag. God bless the USA!

While I'm writing of sad things I must tell you it has been a sorrowful week at our parish in Niagara Falls. The 19 year old son of Taras and Cindy Orynawka and grandson of

our parishioners, cantor Leo Orynawka and his wife, Stephania, unexpectedly reposed on Saturday Sept. 3. Please join me in prayer for the repose of his soul as well as the comfort of all his family. We send our deepest sympathy to the family and we pray that Daniel is that place where there is no more pain, nor sorrow, nor sighing, but only everlasting life. "Vichnaja Pamjat! Eternal Memory!"

September 2011 marks another anniversary, a personal one. It was 50 years ago this week that I left home and entered the seminary, on what truly became a "long road to the priesthood." That day in September 1961 is also one that is etched forever in my memory...I still can see me sitting in the bus station in Pottsville, Pennsylvania with my brother Pete and can clearly hear him saying, "You'll do good. Don't worry about us here. You'll often miss us, and think you should be here, but go and be a priest." Hours later, I was knocking on the door of "the Chateau" in Stamford, Connecticut where I was welcomed by the then Monsignor Stock, later Bishop John. With his trademark smile and pleasant greeting and welcome, I must say my first impression of the seminary was a good one. The next person I would meet was a guy they called "Dickie Fish." He was already a "veteran" at St. Basil's, was already a college senior, and had been working during the summer, preparing for the return of the students. "Monsignor" called him to help me find my place and get settled in. By the way, "Dickie Fish" is now Eparch of Chicago, His Grace Richard (Seminack). "Mnohaja Lita, Vladyko!" ☺

From that day on there have been countless others, who helped in countless ways, and who will always share in my priesthood. Among them are: my Mom and Dad, of course, my dear sister Mary, who was my financial and spiritual rock, all of my brothers, my little sister, and all the rest of our family,

as well as the parishioners who prayed for me, and encouraged me "to be a priest." I just celebrated my 21st anniversary as priest, thanks and glory to God! I was ordained on August 30, 1990 in Lviv beneath the Omophor of the Confessor of the faith, Metropolitan Volodymyr Sterniuk, so you can see how long it took for me to be ordained. Just 29 years, a fact that my 'smart-aleck' brothers love to bring up from time to time. "Took him 29 years to get out of the seminary!" Yuk, yuk...God indeed has His ways. It was a long time and a long story that would take up too much space to write about here. Thank you all who share in this priesthood and who continue to walk with me. You are always around the Holy Table with me. Thanks for all your kind letters, gifts and notes. I appreciate it more than I can say!!

Yesterday while I was out doing some errands it was obvious the kids were back in school. Excitement in the air.....school is back in session and we are turning our thoughts to the upcoming events in and around our churches. Next week in this area St. John the Baptist parish in Kenmore will be having their Festival, which has grown the past several years and I'm sure will be bigger and better than ever. There are several, or should I say a lot of, events scheduled in our deanery and eparchy, plus the many other activities we get into this time of the year. Do you know the Cider Mill is already open in West Seneca? The cider is, of course, wonderful, but ya gotta try their donuts too! I hope you will be taking part in some of these events and activities and the many, many blessings of our God in this beautiful world of His.

May God bless you and our Holy Lady keep you! GOD BLESS THE USA!!

In His Love,
Fr. Ray

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

While today marks the 10 year memorial of the tragedies that occurred on September 11th, striking at the very heart and fabric of this nation, it is sometimes still hard to see the radiant light which God holds out for this world when we recall our nation's darkest hour, but let us not forget that the Cross of Christ was also there 10 years ago on that fateful Tuesday morning. For out of the very worst man was capable of, the very best was brought forth through the heroic efforts of firefighters, police and rescue personnel; through the thousands of caring and compassionate volunteers who stepped forward in that time of crisis. These tragedies draw on our feelings, not only as Christians, but as people united under God. Yet the events of September 11th stand in a category all by themselves. Today, millions of Americans gather throughout our nation to remember those who lost their lives in New York City, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. Prayers will be offered; candles will be lit, memorial fountains displayed, and we will once again profess ourselves as one nation united under God. When we look back on the events of that tragic day there is one symbol which shines brightly; the same symbol that enabled those rescue workers and firefighters to go into that blazing inferno. In the center of all that destruction, one symbol stands alone; one symbol reminds us that there is no greater love - the Cross - made from two beams of metal that fused together after the fall of the twin towers, the Cross which stands boldly at Ground Zero to remind us that we are loved by God, that He does indeed watch over us and even on that fateful day. Our icon of hope will not be the rebuilding of the Pentagon, or even the replacement of the twin towers - our hope is what was rectified through the smoke and flames. Our symbol of hope is what every fire truck in New York City now bears as an emblem beneath their shield - the Cross at Ground Zero. For after those final heroic hours, and the days where darkness pitched the sky, there stood one Cross that symbolized our nation's freedom and our unity under God.



"Greater love hath no man than this - to lay down one's life for another." Yes, today we remember the morning when our world shattered, crumbled and fell. When brutal and senseless attacks were made on the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Arlington, VA, and a downed plane in Shanksville, PA - but it is also remembered as a day of heroes. It did not start off in that way. It started off like any other day, children went to school, babies were born, people got married, and birthdays were celebrated. Even my parents celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary, while today marks their 46th! The sight of a decade ago shocked us all. I was beginning the school day when a student came running into my classroom and asked me if I heard about the planes that crashed into the Twin Towers. All we had was a small colored television dragged out of storage and hastily propped up in the faculty room where CNN was reporting it live. Airplanes flew into the upper floors of the towers of the World Trade Center. Then clouds of gray ash and powdered cement filled the TV screen as the walls of the towers tumbled down. Thousands of people died in New York City within minutes. And the number of heroes born that day is unknown. A most unlikely hero was Rudy Giuliani, then the mayor of New York City. He stood composed and spoke to calm the people in that big city, a city that became the nation's city. The letters NYFD stand for New York Fire Department. We have all learned this after 9/11. Because men and women of the NYFD died as they climbed the stairs of the World Trade Center Towers, wearing, in the words of Bruce Springsteen "the cross of their calling," their gear and fire hoses. The firefighters of New York City did not know that 9/11 was the day that they would bear the "cross of their calling", nor did the brave men and women aboard United Airlines Flight 93 as it crashed into the Pennsylvania countryside. They did not flinch. They did not fail. And we will not forget them. God bless America, God bless every nation on this earth with peace, and God bless all mankind in our fervent pursuit of faith and freedom for all.