



Birthdays



Iryna Melenchuk with the Family



Andriy Shutka



Dianna Serediuk



Serediuk's

SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



№ 37

ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЄЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІПТРИЇ UNDER THE PROTECTION OF MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN

September 13 – 2015 – 13 Вересня ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



COME, all ye nations, let us worship the blessed Tree, through which was wrought the everlasting righteousness. For he that by a tree beguiled our forefather Adam, is himself ensnared by the Cross; and he that by tyranny gained dominion over the creation of the King, is by faith overthrown in utter ruin. By the Blood of God, the serpent's poison is washed away; and the curse of a just condemnation is loosed by the unjust judgment passed against the Just One. For it was fitting that the wood should be healed by wood; and that the sufferings of him who was condemned because of the tree should be done away through the Passion of Him Who is passionless. But, O Christ our King, glory to Thy dread dispensation toward us, whereby Thou hast saved us all, since Thou art good and the Friend of man.

(From Great Vespers of the feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross (Sep 14/27))

Начало Индикта (Церковний Рік) 1/14 Вересня



Our church hall and rectory basement after fire in neighborhood



№ 37 SEPTEMBER 13 2015

CHURCH BULLETIN

Sep. 13 – 2015 – 13 Вересня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



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

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM For Beatification of Patriarch Josyf
За Прославу Сл. Божого Патр. Йосифа

Septem. 13, 16 S. aft. Pent. – 16 Н. по ЗСД

12:00 Aunt +Christine Militello (Anne Ettipio)

Elevation of the Holy Cross - Воздвиження
Monday, September 14 Вересня, Понеділок

11:00 AM +Helen & Paul Nowadly (Elaine)

Tuesday, September 15 Вересня, Вівторок

5:00 PM +Marija Procyk (Son & Family)

Wednesday, September 16 Вересня, Середа

8:15 AM +Michel & Julia Michalow
(Michelle & Michael)

Thursday, September 17 Вересня, Четвер

9:00 AM For Living & Deceased Members of
League of Ukrainian Catholics

Friday, September 18 Вересня, П'ятниця

9:00 AM За Боже благословення в наміренні
сина Володимира (Мама)

Saturday September 19 Вересня, Субота

8:00 AM For Parishioners - За Парохіян

4:30 PM +Eugenia Pozar (40 d.)

(Sister Georgina Oros)

Septem. 20, 17 S. aft. Pent. – 17 Н. по ЗСД

12:00 For Parishioners - За Парохіян

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М. горить за
+Марію Процик
(Син з Родиною)

Eternal Lights burns for
+Joan Biernat
Requ. by Jagodzinski Family

13 Вересня: 15 Неділя по 3. Св. Духа

10:00 р. +Марта, +Григорій, +Василь Боднар
(Марія)

20 Вересня: 16 Неділя по 3. Св. Духа

10:00 р. +Любомир (М. Л. Стасюк)

П Л А С Т

Українська Скавтська Організація
Окружна Таборова Комісія
I Станиця Баффало, Н.Й.

Запрошує Вас на

ПЕЧЕННЯ БАРАБОЛІ

На Новому Соколі

2301 School St., North Collins
New York 14111

1:00 год. по полудні

20-го вересня 2015

Добровільні Датки

Прихід призначений на розбудову оселі

Ласкаво Вас просимо відвідати нашу

сторінку www.novyisokil.org

УВАГА – PLEASE NOTE

The Parish Kitchen will be closed until
further notice due to flood in Church
hall after the fire in neighborhood

Через це, що заляло певницю, після
того коли хата у сусідстві загорілася,
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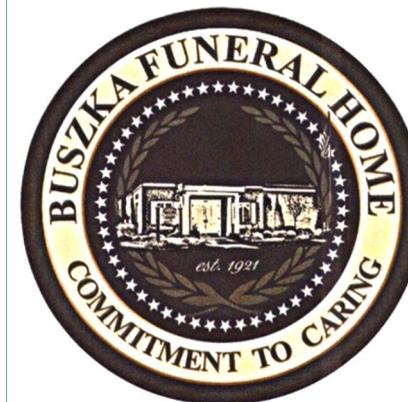
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AMHERST BRANCH BUSINESS HOURS:

(Closed Mondays | Зачинені по понеділках)

Tuesday – Thursday | 3 вівторка по четвер

| 9:30 am – 5 pm |

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

Щоб довідатися більше інформацій про це що діється в громаді,

Просимо відвідати веб-сторінку.

<http://www.ukrainiansofbuffalo.com>

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

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We welcome your comments.

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**Please include Our Church
 In Your charitable donations!**

Просимо підтримувати Рідну Церкву
 талантами, часом і пожертвами.

Cell Phones - Мобільні Телєфони:

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

Просимо вилучувати ваші мобільні
 телефони підчас Святої Літургії.

DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS

Annual Family Remembrance

Timothy Hogue & Marianne Chort - \$3000.00

In Thanksgving

Natalia (Serediuk) Soloczynskij - 500.00

(Natalia wrote: A gift to St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in gratitude for God's Blessings during my summer holidays in Buffalo. I was blessed to be here for my niece and God-daughter's (Dianna Serediuk) High School graduation, and her 18th Birthday; my mother's Rose Serediuk's 78th Birthday; my 50th Birthday celebration, all of which occured in July 2015. (see photo on back cover)

"Special Appeal"

IMO Dozio Pryshlak (1 year of passing)

Halyna Pryshlak & family- \$300.00

DONATIONS TO

2015 Stamford Bishop's Appeal

The following donations were sent in directly to the Chancery Office in Stamford.

- Michael Belmega - \$50.00
- Oleh & Luba Jacyszyn - \$40.00
- Bohdanna Poharatnyyj - \$10.00

Total collected

as of September 10, 2015 - **\$8,165.00**

2015 Goal

for St. Nicholas Parish - **\$7,500.00**

We have reached our goal!

Thank You for your GENEROSITY!

Дякуємо за Пожертви!

Relig. Education 2015 – Релігія

As the 2015-16 school year begins, we would like to inform parents of the dates of Religious Education classes for the upcoming school year. We hope that children enrolled in our program will make the commitment **T.A.A.C.:**

To Attend All classes

St. Nicholas Religious Education Classes will run from 9:00AM until 12:30PM on the following Saturdays:

1. Saturday, October 24, 2015
2. Saturday, November 21, 2015
3. Saturday, January 23, 2016
4. Saturday, February 20, 2016
5. Saturday, March 19, 2016
6. Saturday, April 23, 2016
7. Saturday, May 14, 2016

Children enrolled in the Solemn Communion class will also be required to attend weekly Monday evening classes beginning in March 2016.

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УСУУКС **ЮН-АКТ**

The Most Reverend Metropolitan Kallistos Ware of Diokleia

will speak at St. Joseph University Parish
at 3:00 p.m. Friday September 18, 2015 on

- "The Current State of Roman Catholic-Orthodox Dialogue"



Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory for ever!

Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава на віки!

- KITCHEN is closed until further notice.
- Thank you for your patronage.
Thanks are extended to all who helped!
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall will not take place because of flood we had in the Church Hall!

Until we meet next Sunday...

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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308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

Rectory: (716) 852-7566

Fax: 855-1319 ~ Kitchen: 852-1908

Confession: Before Liturgies

Сповідь: Перед Св. Літургіями

Baptism: By appointment

Хрещення: За домовленням

Marriage: Contact 6 months in advance

Вінчання: Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

Religion classes – Релігійна Програма
Субота - Saturday

Ministry to the sick - Опіка над xvorymy

Family members should call the Rectory
Родина повинна повідомити священика

IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME

В разі потреби завжди можна закликати

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor & dean

Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

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

Просимо закликати якщо ви у ліжці
або приковані до ліжка!

SITCH DINNER MEETING
Sunday September 27, 2015

At Joseph Hriczko Post
 29 Clemo St., Buffalo, NY
 After 12:00pm Liturgy
 For the reposed and living members of our organization at
 St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church
 Fillmore & Oneida Sts., Buffalo, NY
COCKTAILS at 1:00PM
DINNER at 1:30PM includes 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 2015 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 September 20, 2015
Reservations are a must and liable.

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Sunday, SEPTEMBER 13, 2015
 Noon to 7 p.m.

Ukrainian FESTIVAL
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HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY 2015
 Washington, D.C.

Friday, November 6 7 P.M. Exhibit Opening/Reception	Saturday, November 7 2 P.M. Dedication Ceremony 10 A.M. – 7 P.M. Exhibit	Sunday, November 8 2 P.M. Concert
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HOLODOMOR UKRAINE GENOCIDE 1932-33
 © U.S. COMMITTEE FOR UKRAINIAN HOLODOMOR-GENOCIDE AWARENESS 1932-33

Letter from Fr. Ray Sept. 13, 2015

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

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

This week's letter is going to be a bit of a continuation of the things of which I wrote last week, namely, my priestly ordination in Ukraine on August 30, 1990. I told everyone two weeks ago when I was relating the events of that day, and the days following, about my first sermon as priest. The sermon is not about me, or about my ordination, but I think it is God speaking, not only in 1990, but right here, right now.

First, a little background about the sermon for those who haven't yet heard it, or about it. I was ordained secretly on Thursday, August 30, 1990 in Metropolitan Sterniuk's third-fourth floor apartment in Lviv. This was because, even though we had begun to receive many of our confiscated churches back as Greek-Catholic churches, and there was an incredible feeling of the coming independence of Ukraine, we were still very much an underground church, illegal in the eyes of the government.

Having been ordained, the word got around that there was a new priest in town, and with the Metropolitan's blessing I was invited to have a prayer service and blessing at a school for the start of the new school year. I immediately agreed to go, not realizing what I was getting myself into. As I recall the events of that memorable day, there was not a time when I was nervous or fearful or worried about doing or saying the wrong thing. No, not even when they told me they would also expect a sermon during the Moleben. I knew I was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and I knew "He would give me what I would say." And He is always a Faithful God and would never renege on His promise!

So it would be Saturday, September 1, 1990, the first day of school. Yep, the kids go to school on Saturday, and it was School 87 in Lviv. As I write these words today, I can't help but wonder if there are any "Newcomers" who were there that day and

perhaps even remember seeing the "new priest." Wouldn't that be amazing???!?!!

It was an extraordinary event in many ways, but particularly in the fact that the school had not been blessed, nor had there been an open religious service there for over 45 years! The following is the text of my first sermon as priest and this is what God gave me to say: *"Whatever you do-whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it for the glory of God. (St. Paul I Cor. 11:31) What an exciting time in which we live! How many opportunities lie before us to make a better world! Never in my wildest dreams or imaginings could I have ever pondered the fact that I would one day be standing in Lviv and speak freely to Ukrainians about God and Ukraine. But today I stand here! I must tell you of the indescribable and boundless joy in my heart today as I stand in this place, the land of my forefathers. I do not know why God has blessed me to do this, but in my unworthiness I give Him thanks for this beautiful, beautiful blessing! The joy and wonder of this day is absolutely indescribable!*

And this joy is not only because of my own personal feelings, but also because I can share in your new and free life that has returned here after the long years of suffering and persecution. We always rejoice in Canada and in the United States in the freedoms we have, but so very often take for granted, and especially in our freedom of the pursuit of Life, Liberty and Happiness. This world, these freedoms, these blessings are ours today because of the faith of those who have gone before us. People who sat in the classrooms where you will sit, and prayed, and studied, and saw the good in the world. They knew this freedom and good must BE! Yes, it must be, for themselves and for their children and the future generations! This day we are receiving some of the benefits of their vision, hope and prayer!

Almost 2000 years ago the Little Baby was born in a stable in Bethlehem. He was the Christ God Who came to save the world. Today, although He is present among us as an Invisible King, we believe He is in the world and is giving us that same promise

of a glorious, never-ending Kingdom of that first silent night in Bethlehem. God has come! Christ is Born! Christ is Risen! Christ is Amongst Us! God is with us!

We all know of the struggles of life, but when we have this Christ, when we have our God, we have hope, we have life. We have everything! I am unworthy to speak to you of the faith and love shown by our clergy and loving, devout families during those horrible years of persecution. We know of that faith which gave them incredible courage even as they faced death. Their lives were built on the Rock of their faith in God. You, who are here today, know of these people far better than I. We all know, however, because of them we are here today; because of them we are what we are this day!

And my dear students, I only want to remind you that this world is yours, or very soon will be yours. That is why you must study hard and learn well. All of us are called to use our God-given talents to make this a free and better world. But the world will only be better and free, if we have our Heavenly Father as our guide, if we keep His Commandments. Again, you know better than I, of a life and work where God is absent or has "officially" been put aside. So in all your studies, in all your life, "whatever you do, do it for the glory of God." Let Him come to You! Believe in Him! Worship Him! Give Him Thanks and Praise!

Perhaps some of you students, teachers or parents have not been close to God, or do not even know Him. Then let today be a new beginning! Go to Him! Our Holy Water which we will soon use to bless your school is a symbol of Life, because without water we die. It also teaches us that in this life-giving water we are made clean and begin again, anew. Let our prayers on this glorious and memorable day, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit, make us a new, clean, joyful, holy and free people. We are a people who are



walking hand in hand on this road of life to the Life that will never end. Let us, as we go to our God, not forget our Holy Mother. Today we must renew our love, dedication and devotion to her, "She who shows the way," and under whose protection we always are. She, who has always protected Ukraine will spread her omophor over you even now. She is the Virgin of the "Indestructible Wall" of the Holy Sofia Cathedral in Kiev. She is the Virgin of the Indestructible Wall of our Faith. She will never fail!

I don't know if we will see each other again on this earth, but if we don't, please God, we'll meet in heaven. That's why there is no good-bye in the Ukrainian language, only "Do Pobachennya! - Till we see each other again." As one of our saints always loved to say, "From this day, from this hour, from this very minute let us begin to love God with all our heart, all our mind and all our soul." My Dear Children, Parents, Teachers and Friends: God bless you always! "Do Pobachennya!"

My dear Reader, the world has changed much in these last twenty-five years. As the flame of freedom burns brightly in Ukraine, though now under attack, it has been dimmed here in the United States. The answer, of course, is to turn to our Lord and His Holy Mother and begin to live in Him, with Him and through Him. The light will grow again, but we will truly live only when we acknowledge Jesus as God and praise His holy Name, "the name of Jesus at which every knee should bend of beings in heaven, on the earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to Him forever! God bless you! Our Holy Lady protect you!

In His Love,
Fr. Ray

The Saints on Sundays, 2015/16 September 13/26

Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross



Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to St Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful.

Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription

ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found.

Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching St Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy," reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-Creating Cross another miracle took place: a grievously sick woman, beneath the shadow of the Holy Cross, was healed instantly. The elder Jude and other Jews there believed in Christ and accepted Holy Baptism. Jude received the name Cyriacus and afterwards was consecrated Bishop of Jerusalem. (<http://oca.org>)

→ On this page we will have the lives of the saints that fall on Sundays according to the Gregorian Calendar.

The Franciscan Center

Reminder:

Please continue to bring in non-perishable food as well as hygiene products for the boys at the Franciscan Center. They also will gladly accept lightly used clothes for the boys of teen age as well as gift cards to food or clothing stores.

You should give the cards or money gifts directly to Father. Other items can be placed in the box at bottom of stairs in vestibule. Fr. Joe and everyone at the Center are always greatly appreciative of all the donations.

God bless your charity!

На Початку Церковного Року

Завтра, 14 вересня, а за церковним календарем це 1 вересня, це день в якому Східні Церкви в дусі традицій I Вселенського Собору в Нікеї, 325 року, святкують початок нового Церковного- Літургійного року або Індікту. Церква в цей день пригадує нам слова Христові: “Господній Дух на Мені, бо Він Мене помазав. Послав Мене нести Добру Новину бідним, звіщати полоненим визволення, сліпим прозріння, випустити пригноблених на волю, оповістити рік Господній сприятливий”(Лк. 4, 18-19). Так промовив Ісус у синагозі Назарета, ступаючи на шлях земного служіння. Ці слова Христові – дороговказ на шляху земного життя, обмеженого часом і простором. “Церква зі свого боку одне лиш має на меті: під проводом Святого Духа Утішителя далі вести діло самого Христа, Який прийшов у світ, щоби дати свідчення правді, щоби спасти, а не осуджувати, щоби послужити, а не для того, щоб Йому прислужувано” (Душпастирська Конституція про Церкву в сучасному світі).

Заглибімося у характер і зміст літургійного року, портрет якого вимальовують слова Христові: “Я – виноградина правдива, а Мій Отець – виноградар. Кожну в Мені гілку, яка не приносить плоду, відрізує Він. А кожну, яка родить плід, Він очищує, аби ще більше плоду давала” (Ів. 15, 1-2). Річний цикл – це, образно кажучи, виноградник. Кожен день року присвячений якщо не Виноградареві – Господеві, то обов’язково плодоносній гілці – святому, мученикові чи блаженному. Таким чином Церква дає змогу бути учасником спасенних подій тим, які ще є на дорозі життя.

Рік Господній – це не лише міра часу, але й міра вартості конкретної людини, яка визначається вмінням не тільки зовнішньо шанувати, але й наслідувати Господа, Пресвяту Богородицю і святих угодників, які свангелізують сучасність прикладом свого життя. Христос каже, що всяка віра без діл є мертвою. Найліпшим її виявом може бути лише любов.

Початок кожного року позначений періодичним повторенням сподівань на нове життя, на якусь онову. Людині часом важко усвідомити, що кожна хвилина – це початок життя. ”Ісус Христос учора й сьогодні – той самий навіки”(Євр. 13, 8). Тому з кожним новим народженням людина поступово відкри-

ває для себе Христа, Який діє поза часом і простором, але все ж постійно присутній в кожній миттєвості життя. “Кожна година поділена на певну кількість секунд, а кожна секунда – на певну кількість частин секунди. Той, хто здатен бути присутнім у кожній частині секунди, є святим” (А. де Мелло).

Літургійний рік складено так, що центральне місце в ньому посідає наш Божественний Спаситель в оточенні ангелів і всіх святих. У документі Другого Ватиканського Собору — Конституції про Святу Літургію — читаємо: “Свята Мати Церква вважає, що завданням її є в означені дні протягом року відсвяткувати святим способом спасенне діло божественного Обручника. Щотижня, у день, що його назвала неділею, вона згадує Господнє Воскресіння, яке також раз у році звеличує найбільшими врочистостями Пасхи, разом із Його святими стражданнями. А ціле Христове таїнство вона розгортає протягом річного круга: від Воплочення і Різдва, аж до Вознесіння, до дня П’ятидесятниці та й до очікування блаженної надії й Господнього пришествя”.

Пречиста Діва Марія, яка в справі відкуплення посідає перше місце після Христа, стоїть найближче до Христа і в літургійному році. Про це свідчать різні Богородичні празники. У Конституції про Святу Літургію сказано: “У святкуванні цього річного круга Христових таїнств свята Церква з особливою любов’ю вшановує Преблагословенну Богородицю Марію, яка нерозривним зв’язком поєднується зі спасенним ділом свого Сина. У ній Церква оглядає та прославляє найбільш знаменитий овоч Відкуплення і, немов у найчистішому образі, з радістю оглядає те, чим і вся вона прагне й надіється бути”.

А довкола особи Христа Господа і його Пресвятої Матері ми бачимо величний хор прославленої Церкви в небі, тобто всіх святих Старого й Нового Завіту. “Крім цього, в річний круг Церкви, — сказано в тому самому документі, — вставила вона пам’ять мучеників й інших святих, що через різновидну Божу благодать дійшли до совершеності і, осягнувши вічне спасіння, співають Богові в небі досконалу славу та за нас заступаються”

Свята Церква, як добра мати, пам’ятає в часі літургійного року і про своїх дітей, що відійшли до вічності... Тому призначила окремі дні, що їх зведем задушними, на моління і відправи за померлих...

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

There was a young man who played piano in a bar. He was a good piano player. People came out just to hear him play. But one night, a patron told him he didn't want to hear him just play anymore. He wanted him to sing a song. The man said, "I don't sing." But the customer was persistent. He told the bartender, "I'm tired of listening to the piano. I want that fellow to sing!" The bartender shouted across the room, "Hey buddy! If you want to get paid, sing a song. The patrons are asking you to sing!" So the man did. He sang a song. A piano player who had never sung in public did so for the very first time. And nobody had ever heard the song Mona Lisa sung the way it was sung that night by Nat King Cole! He had talent he was sitting on! He may have lived the rest of his life as a no-name piano player in a no-name bar, but because he had to sing, he went on to become one of the best-known entertainers in America. We all have skills and abilities. We may not feel as if our "talent" is particularly great, but it may actually be better than we think. And with persistence, most skills can be improved. We may as well have no ability at all if we sit on whatever talent we possess! The better question is not "What ability do I have that is useful?" But rather, "How will I use whatever talent I have?"

We have each been blessed with God-given talents, ways in which the Lord utilizes the gifts He has given us in order to spread His Kingdom throughout this world. Consider the words from today's Gospel reading for the 16th Sunday after Pentecost: "For to everyone who has shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him who does not have, even that which he seems to have shall be taken away" (Matthew 25:29). Consistent with our Lord's way of addressing life's struggles, Jesus tells a parable to remind us how God has invested talent in each and everyone one of us. God looks at our abilities and sees not just who we are, but who we can become and what we can accomplish for His Kingdom. The servants in today's parable were each given talents according to their abilities. Each servant had potential. In this parable, they were each responsible for the talents that they had been given. God has also entrusted each of us with various talents, investments that He has made in us before we were even born. He knows our potential and

our possibilities. We have an obligation to be all we can be and do all that we can do in developing these talents. Even the simplest things make a difference.

There once was a banker who always tossed a coin in the cup of a legless beggar who sat on the street outside the bank. But, unlike most people, the banker would always insist on getting one of the pencils the man had in a cup beside him. "You are a merchant," the banker would say, "and I always expect to receive good value from merchants I do business with." One day the legless man was not on the sidewalk. Time passed and the banker wondered what happened to him, until one day he walked into a public building and there in the concession stand sat the former beggar. He was the owner of his own small business now. He was excited when he saw the banker again. "I have always hoped you might come by someday," the man said. "You are largely responsible for me being here. You kept telling me that I was a 'merchant'. I started thinking of myself that way, instead of a beggar receiving gifts. I started selling pencils and lots of them. You gave me self-respect, and caused me to look at myself differently." Sometimes, even the simplest things like showing compassion and encouragement can help us to bring out talent in others, and become our greatest achievements for the Kingdom of God.

The talents that are spoken of in today's parable are symbolic of more than just money. The talents are also a metaphor for gifts and abilities. The Master who was issuing the talents to his servants was giving to each one according to his ability. He expected his servants to invest, increase, and multiply what they had been entrusted with. We each want to strive to be the servant to whom the Master says: "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; now I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness" (Matthew 25:23). The only way that we can succeed is to apply what we have been given, just as a seed cannot grow unless it is planted, so a talent cannot increase unless it has been invested. Investing our talent means that work is required. The point of today's Gospel is a reminder that we are not measured by what we have to begin with, but by what we choose to DO with what we have. The story tells us that God has given each of us at least one talent, one gift that is to be used in the work

required to build His Kingdom. We must also remember that God does not give all of us the same talents, so that each of us has a unique gift to offer to others. And when we are willing to use the talents God has given us, we find that the return on our investment is not money, but rather people. Investing ourselves in the lives of others, gaining interest in human terms is what the Church is all about - that is God's most redeeming business. When we invest the gifts we have been given, wisely, then we realize just why we were given such a gift in the first place. No talent is too small, and every person is needed to fulfill God's divine plan here on earth.

Three pelicans were flying to a beautiful lake. As they traveled, they were each lost in thought. The first pelican thought to himself, "I love my beak. It's magnificent. No other bird has a beak quite like mine. When I get to the lake, I'm going to parade along the bank, showing off my beautiful beak and all of the other birds will be envious." The second pelican thought to himself, "I love my beak and I need to protect it. I cannot afford for it to get damaged, so I'm going to only catch small fish in shallow waters. I know that I can do more, but it is too risky." The third pelican thought to himself, "I love my beak. It's a beauty and I'm going to push the limits and get the most out of it. I'm going to become the best catcher of fish in the lake. I've been given this beak for a reason, so I'm going to work hard and catch the biggest fish out there." While all three birds had been given impressive beaks, only the last bird made the most of his talent. Which of these three birds do we want to be? We have all been given unique talents, experiences and attributes for a reason. Not to show off that we have them. Not to do the bare minimum with them. But to fully develop them and use them to their maximum potential. We are each here to make a positive difference in the world around us and we have all been uniquely equipped for the task.

I ask you today - What can you give from yourself? What talent has God given you to share with the world? Is it your laugh or friendly manner? Perhaps your sense of determination or your ability to lead others? Is it the way in which you encourage and inspire others? Is it your ability to work with your hands? Perhaps your voice or some form of athletic strength? Because I promise you that there is something that each and every one of us can do, that we can share and offer to others that will make a difference. We simply need to trust in God and believe in His love in order to see how it can be invested in His Kingdom to come. The challenge before

us today is to ask ourselves how we can best use our resources of time, talent, and treasure - for God! Regardless of the amount or the type of talent that we possess, God wants us to be faithful in our service. We can either use what God has given us, or we can lose the opportunity to do so. As Christians, we have been entrusted with both our talents and the teachings of the Gospel, so that we might be faithful and fruitful in investing what God has entrusted to us. If we want to succeed, then we must invest our talent wisely. Our potential is God's gift to us, and what we do with it... is our gift to Him. Never become discouraged with the seemingly smallness of your task, job, or life. Cling fast to these words: "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something I can do" (Edward Everett Hale). The key to accomplishment is utilizing our talents, making the most out of what you can do, and believing it will make a difference. God is concerned about each and every one of us - about what kind of child we are becoming, and what we are making from this life we have been so graciously given. When we stand before the judgment seat of Christ on the day of last judgment, like the Master in today's Gospel parable, the Lord will not ask us, "How many talents did you have", but rather, "What did you DO with what I gave you?"

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St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Syracuse, NY sent our parish 20 sweepstakes tickets for their 2nd Annual Sweepstakes. The tickets are \$25.00 each.

- 1st Prize - \$12,500**
- 2nd Prize \$2,500 (2 winners)**
- 3rd Prize \$1,250 (3 winners)**
- 4th Prize \$250 (8 winners)**
- 5th Prize \$100 (10 winners)**

The drawing is October 24th, but tickets must be purchased and/or postmarked by October 19th to be eligible for the drawing.

If you are interested in purchasing one of these Sweepstakes tickets, See Father Marijan or Elaine

The members of the Synod of the U.G.C.C. assured President of Ukraine of their intentions to cooperate with other Churches



In a traditional greeting letter to the President of Ukraine on occasion of finishing the Synod of Bishops of UGCC, members of the Synod showed their willingness "to cooperate with other confessions and religions in peace and agreement and become a good example for all society, as soon as possible."

Bishops also assured Petro Poroshenko of their respect to him as to the head of a sovereign Ukrainian State. "We thank you heartily for great efforts focused on a defense of Ukraine from a Russian aggression and a consolidation of Ukrainian people around those primary targets, set before our country. You were turned out to govern it not in easy time and we are asking God to bless all your good intentions and accomplishments", - is said in a text.

Besides this, members of the Synod paid president's attention to the rehabilitation of Ukrainian soldiers, those who defend Ukraine from a Russian aggressor. "...Sooner or later the war will end (we believe in it), but problems connected with it will not cease away, they will just get another turn. Physical and soul wounds will bleed a longer time, and Church is obliged before soldiers and those families who lost their natives to heal these wounds, when our state is obliged to provide with a full social care all suffered with their families. Healing the wounds it is also a reconciliation within a country", - stressed on it archbishops in their letter to the head of the state. (The UGCC Department of Information)

In Ivano-Frankivsk His Beatitude Sviatoslav consecrated a monument to the pious Metropolitan Andrey



The author of the monument is a sculptor Stephan Fedoryn.

A monument is constructed to the 150th anniversary of metropolitan Andrey's birthday and 130th anniversary day of eparchy of Stanislav (Ivano-Frankivsk), found in 1885. Exactly Andrey Sheptytsky in age of 34 became the third bishop of this eparchy. His enthronement was held on 24th of September in 1899, in the Cathedral of a Holy Resurrection in Ivano-Frankivsk.

A consecration of a monument occurred in a frame of the Patriarchal Council. "Our Council activity -, told the faithful His Beatitude Sviatoslav during the monument's unveiling, - was inspired, and I will not be scared to say, with the presence of metropolitan Andrey. It was he who offered an idea for Ukrainian Catholics to unite all over the world, being one Church with single heart and soul, to impress the world with their faith in God. That is what happening now."

We arrived here, says the Head of the UGCC, in particular to consecrate the monument to metropolitan Andrey and to look closely at face of this Moses of Ukrainian people. "We see a figure of a pious Metropolitan among children as a father, a teacher of belief, who gives them the most precious what Ukrainian people have – their belief in God", - added His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

(The UGCC Department of Information)