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Our Church Web-Page Is:
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Buffalo Community Web-Page Is:
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N^o
38

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^o38

September 18 – 2011 – 18 Вересня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК – Ч. 38



Народж. Богородиці Київ-Печ. Лавра

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

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

Mon., Sep. 19 – Понеділок, 19 Вересня

9:15 AM +Helene & Anna Mysliwiec (Jim)

Tue., Aug. 20 – Вівторок, 20 Вересня

8:15 AM +Zenon Bodnarsky
(Dudkiewicz Family)

Birth of Theotokos–Нар. Богородиці (Jul.)

Wenesday, Sep. 21 – Серeda, 21 Вересня

10:00 AM За Парохіян – For Parishioners

Thu., Sep. 22 – Чет., 22 Вересня

9:15 AM +Harry Swiatkiwsky – 40th Day
and Panachyda (wife Emily)

Friday, Sep. 23 – П'ят., 23 Вересня

9:15 AM +Дмитро Ільківський
(Катерина Петрович)

Saturday, Sep. 24 – Субота, 24 Вересня

4:30 PM +Harry Swiatkiwsky – Panach.
(Leon & Roman Kuzminsky)

Sep. 25: 15 S. Aft. Pent.-15 Н. По ЗСД 15

10:00 AM +Магдалина Притула і Пан.
(ОЧСУ)

12:00 PM Living & dec. members of Sitch

Eternal Light burns for
+Harry Swiatkiwsky
Requ. By: Swiatkiwsky Family

Вічне світло в честь ПДМ горить
За здоров'я Валерія Яворського
По жертва: родина

In the Beginning . . . (cont.)

(w. 26) Thousands and thousands of brain cells are growing in Chris's head every day! Soon Chris will have billions of brain cells. I can make a fist and grasp things. My spine is beginning to form to protect my spinal cord. I'm covered by a white cheesy substance that protects my skin. Don't worry, it will come off right after birth.

Mom can tell if her baby gets the hiccups.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

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

ЗАПРОШЕННЯ

Вельмишановні та Дорогі Українки й Українці Бoффало й околиці

Ласкаво просимо Вас усіх до участі в Святкуванні:

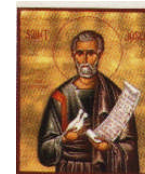
70-Ліття відновлення

Української державності

30-го червня 1941

25-Річчя смерті Ярослава Стецька, голову проводу ОУН, прем'єр вільної України з 1941 року, президент АБН

Свято ПОКРОВИ - Свято УПА
яке відбудеться в неділю,
16-го жовтня, 2011р.



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\$100,000 Building Fund.

Donations are tax deductible.

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**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 Brozgh

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

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

**DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS
"Special Appeal"**

IMO Harry Swiatkiwsky

Markian & Lidia Stasiuk - \$20.00

**On the Happy Occasion the 95th
Birthday of Antonina Paraszczij**
Ulana Loza - \$30.00

To the Church

IMO Katherine & Michael Chort
Timothy Hogue & Marianne Chort -
\$1,000.00

Donations Towards Coffee Hour
(Coffee Hour Benefits -
Yearly Communication Assessment Fee)
Maria Plotycia

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

Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist
Was bestowed September 11, 2011, upon:
Alana Pawlyna Chwesik

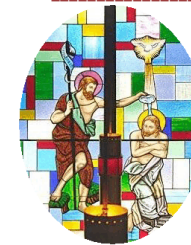
Daughter of Andrew Joseph and Melania Luba (nee Prystajko). May our loving Lord grant His blessings of peace, health, and happiness upon Alana Pawlyna!

Congratulations! Mnohaya Lita!

Алана Павліна Хвесик

Донька Меланії Люби (був. Пристайко) і Андрія Йосифа прийняла тайни хрещення, миропомазання і Пресвятої Євхаристії 11 Вересня, 2011. Хай Господь благословить щастям і здоров'ям! Гратуємо батькам!

На Многая і Благая Літа!



Saint John's Festival

This Sunday, Sep. 18. Fr. Drofych and Parish Family of St. John is inviting us all to take part. Please attend!

Парохія Св. Івана в Кенмор запрошує усіх на Фестиваль у цю неділю, 18 Вересня, 2011. Підтримаймо своєю участю наших сусідів. Дякуємо!



The Liturgical Choir of the Buffalo Dea- nery will hold rehearsals on the following Mondays:

**September 19, 26 and October 3,
at 7:00 PM in the Church Hall.**
Please attend. New voices welcome!
Thank you, Leo, and all members!

*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

If anyone is in need of a ride for any of the LUC Convention events, please contact Elaine Nowadly 867-0981 and it we will arrange that you will be picked up for that event. Reminder the deadline for tickets is September 28th. No tickets will be sold at the door. Contact Elaine for registration details.

LUC 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 Василяників

На Факс Чейс з нагоди 100-ліття Чину Сестер Василянок у Америці буде 2 Жовтня. Просимо о молитви і запрошуємо до участі!



***Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Ukrainian Catholic Church
Feast Day***

**Protection of the Mother of God
Saturday, October 1, 2011**

Liturgy: 5:00 PM

**Dinner at the Church Hall
following Liturgy**

Everyone is cordially invited

\$15.00 (adults)

\$5.00 (Children under 12)

Празник Церкви Неуст. Помочі

**У суботу, 1 Жовтня - ПОКРОВ.
Свята Літургія у 5 год по обіді.
Обід по Святій Літургії.
УСІ ЗАПРОШЕНІ!**

З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

Минулої середи, 14 Вересня, згідно 1 Вересня за церковним календарем був початок нового церковного року.

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, що Свята Мати Церква вважає, що завданням її є в означені дні протягом року відсвятковувати святим способом спасенне діло божественного Обручника. Щотижня, у неділю, згадуємо Господнє Воскресення, яке також раз у році звеличуємо найбільшими врочистостями Великодня, разом із Його святими стражданнями. А ціле Христове таїнство розгортається протягом річного круга: від Благовіщення і Різдва, аж до Вознесення, до дня П'ятдесятниці та й до очікування блаженної надії й другого Господнього пришествя. (пор. § 102).

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. (Між іншим в цю середу буде народження Пречистої Діви Марії, що є першим більшим празником у церковному році).

У Конституції про Святу Літургію сказано: "У святкуванні цього річного круга Христових таїнств свята Церква з особливою любов'ю вшановує Препоблагословенну Богородицю Марію, яка нерозривним зв'язком поєднується зі спасенним ділом свого Сина. У ній Церква оглядає та прославляє най-

більш знаменитий овоч Відкуплення і, немов у найчистішому образі, з радістю оглядає те, чим і вся вона прагне й надіється бути" (§ 103).

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 досконалости і, осягнувши вічне спасення, співають Богам в небі досконалу славу та за нас заступаються" (§ 104).

Отже, наш церковно-літургійний рік — це могутній гимн чести і слави Богам, у якому бере участь ціла Церква: Тут на землі, що бориться за одержання нев'янучого вінця і прославлена в небі.

Літургійний рік — це наче різнобарвна веселка, що єднає землю з небом, а нас самих просвічує, очищує, освячує і підносить до Бога. Це наче велика духовна книга, яка практично вчить нас, як Бога любити, Йому служити, Його славити та як дійти до спасіння. У ній сказано про велику Божу любов і милосердя до нас і про Його справедливість. Ця духовна книга кожного дня спонукає нас до молитви, жертви й покути.

Літургійний Рік учителем Божої любови, він для нас школою духовного життя, чеснот і святости; він нашим вірним і певним провідником до неба. (За книжкою о. Ю. Катрія)

From the desk of Fr. Ray Palko

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

GLORY FOREVER! September 18, 2011

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

Hello to you! I'm writing on Wednesday night, September 14 and I suppose you will be reading your letter as usual on Saturday night or Sunday morning. Whenever you get it, I hope this little note finds you happy and well in the Lord. I've been thinking about you and praying for you.

I usually begin with the bad or sad news first, and this week will be no exception. "Jimmy" Gall passed away yesterday. You may not know this guy and that's too bad. It's 'too bad' because he was a remarkable human being about whom they say, "His smile lights up the room." If you didn't know him, you truly missed something wonderful in your life. He lived his whole life in my hometown of Middleport, Pa. I am pleased and honored to say he was my friend along with his wife Karen. His passing is the end of years of illness, many, many operations, procedures and countless doctor appointments. For sure after that journey, he's going straight to heaven.

For quite a while he had been confined to his home in his long and difficult illness, but his "Angel of Mercy," soul-mate, and true love, Karen, never left his side. She was his devoted wife and caretaker and is just an amazing person! They both have been shining examples for us! They have been icons of a true marriage.

I hope this Jimmy, who was always so full of life and faith, will continue to shine his light on his wife, family and all of us as he always did. We celebrated our great Feast Day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross to-

day, which has as its main theme:

"Through the Cross, Joy has come into the world." I believe our good God will receive Jim into His holy arms where he will dwell forever in the Kingdom. He was a special, beautiful, faithful servant and we will miss him. We send our sympathy to Karen and to all the family and pray that God has received His servant James into that place where there is no more sickness or sorrow or sighing, but only Life Everlasting. Eternal Memory, Jim! Keep smiling on us!

The old Cheyenne proverb tells us, "Do not judge your neighbor until you walk two moons in his moccasins." As priest I am always amazed at how strong and faithful we can be with God's help. As priest, I am privileged to see, and be a part of, so many lives and I am always impressed and humbled at how you "wear your moccasins." Baba always said we all have our crosses, and that is for sure. We never really know what another is going through do we? Sometimes I am amazed at how you carry the crosses of your life. I am always impressed and inspired to see your faithfulness and courage. Keep up the good fight. The Lord is near! And life goes on, as we seek to know Him, to love Him, to serve Him and to be happy with Him in heaven. Our life is always this journey to the Kingdom, and we only need to remember that He is always with us in all we do.

Writing to you on this Wednesday night we have just received our first touch of fall with a weak cold front that passed through. Showers are starting right now as even cooler air comes to our area. This is the first time in a long time that I'm wearing a sweatshirt as I sit with you and *Ol' Mr. Mac*. It's that time of year though, and I guess we'd better start getting ready. Snow

blower tune ups anyone? ☺ Actually, September and October are glorious times of the year around here. We welcome the refreshing cool air (Thank You, Canada!) and simply enjoy the bounty of the season. I told you last week the Cider Mill is open, the first apples of the season are appearing (Thank You Smerkek's!) and the farmers' markets are overflowing with the abundance of so many good things of this earth. Glory to God who has made them all!

I'm sure that wherever you are there are the same kinds of autumn/back to school activities going on. *Ridna Shkola* (Ukrainian heritage classes) is back in session. This Friday, Saturday and Sunday many will be attracted to THE Ukrainian Festival, which is held in Toronto every year at this time. St. John's parish in Kenmore will be holding one of their major fund-raisers as they put on their yearly festival. Sorry to say, but I won't be attending that one this year as I will be representing our deanery at Nativity of the Mother of God parish in Niagara Falls, Canada where they will be celebrating their *Praznyk* (Parish feast day). Then, next Sunday will be the 'Sitch' dinner here in Buffalo.

The calendar is certainly filled with activities, such as these and others already scheduled, as September rapidly changes to October. In Niagara Falls we will be celebrating our *Praznyk* on October 2 as we begin our 91st year as a parish. We are planning to have a meal immediately following our usual 9:30 am Sunday Liturgy. Please come and join us, if you can. We'd love it if you could come and be a part of our celebration, as we give thanks to Almighty God for His blessings and as we pray to our Holy Lady for her continued intercession and protection for us.

The long weekend in October, the 7th, 8th, and 9th will be the occasion for the annual LUC convention here in Buffalo. We will have the opportunity to welcome the LUC'ers, our Bishop Paul and other visitors to our area parishes. So far it looks as if it is going to be a great convention. If you haven't yet thought about attending, please do. I hope you will come to at least one of the events. There are schedules in the vestibules of all our local parishes and tickets for the events are on sale.

You have told me how much you appreciate "your very own personal letter." Did I ever tell you how much I appreciate you, and the fact that I can write to you? Well I do!

Your letter is all about our life together and our journey to the Promised Land. In this writing I have a terrific opportunity to pray and reflect on how truly precious life is and how precious are the gifts that enrich our lives. Our God blesses us abundantly and we give Him the glory! Thank you for you are a precious gift to me and to all around you.

Thank you because your faith, love, devotion and generosity certainly are an inspiration for me. And with God's help, I'll write to you again next week.

Be Blessed! Our holy Lady the Theotokos protect you!

In His Love,
Fr. Ray

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Religion Classes for the upcoming school year will begin Saturday, October 15, 2011 at 11:45 AM 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.

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

...A grandson went to check on his elderly grandfather who had been sitting out in the garden for a long while. When he sat next to him on the bench, he noticed that his grandfather was deep in thought just staring at his hands. Not wanting to startle him, the grandson touched him lightly on the shoulder and asked his grandfather why his eyes were so fixed on his hands. The grandfather turned to him, smiled, and related this story: Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out, to grab and embrace life. They have known hardship, turmoil, and loss, but they have also known love and joyfulness. They braced and caught my fall, when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They held my rifle and wiped my tears when I went off to war. They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son. They wrote the letters home, and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse and walked my daughter down the aisle. Yet, they were strong and sure when I dug my buddy out of a foxhole and lifted a plow off of my best friend's foot. They have held children, consoled neighbors, and shook in fists of anger when I did not understand. They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day when not much of anything else of me works real well, these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer. These hands are the mark of where I have been and the ruggedness of my life; they have carried all of my burdens and praised God for all of my joys. With these hands, I have carried my cross throughout my life. And it will be

these hands that God will reach out and take when He leads me home. And with my hands, I pray God will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ. The grandson, now deep in thought over his grandfather's words, remarkably understood and looked down at his hands in a way he had never known before. How much have our own hands done the work of Christ? Can we say that we have faithfully carried the Cross?



When I think of the cross, I think of what Christ did for each of us. I imagine what it must have been like to make that walk through Jerusalem and on to Calvary, knowing that He was going to be crucified. I am sure He could hear the crowds screaming 'crucify him'. He could hear the hatred in their voices, and these were His chosen people. He loved them, and they were going to crucify Him. He was beaten, bleeding and weak, but still He walked for you and for me. I am sure He could see the crowd as He came from the palace. He knew each of their faces so well. After all, He had created them. He knew every smile, laugh, and tear, but now these faces were contorted with rage and anger against Him. His heart must have broken, but still He walked for you and for me. I often ask myself, was He scared? You and I would have been, and after all He was human and felt what we feel, endured what we endure, even the pains of suffering and loneliness. His disciples, in whom He entrusted His teachings, had left Him, denied Him, and even betrayed Him. He must have searched the crowd for a loving face and instead saw the people who were spitting at Him, throwing rocks at Him and chanting, 'Hail, King of the Jews', but still He walked for you and for me. I think about how the sounds of the hammer striking the spikes must have echoed through the crowd as Jesus was nailed to the cross. And I wonder what it must have felt like to hear the cheers of the crowd, as His hands and feet were nailed to the cross, intensify with each blow. And still, He walked for you and for me...