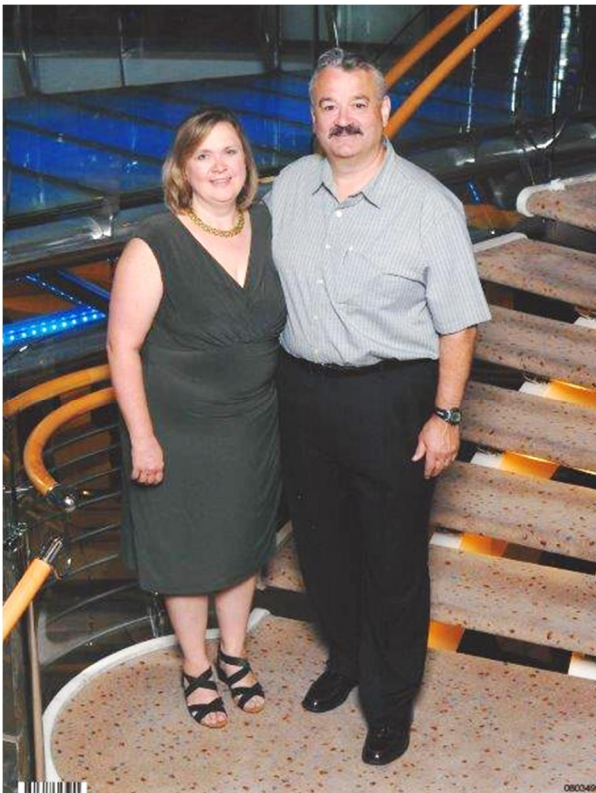




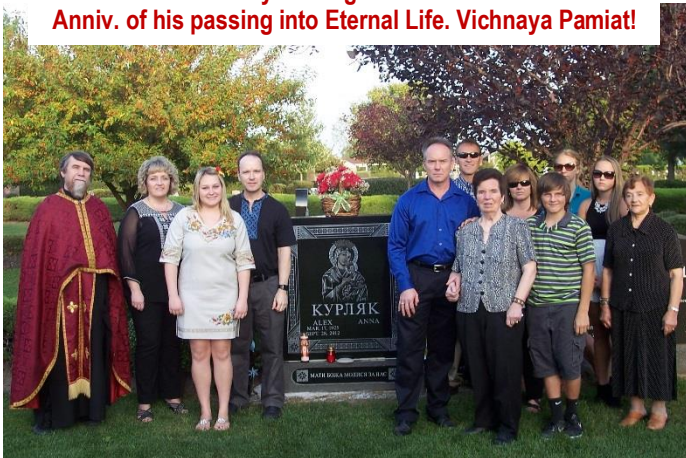
Happy Many Years to to Mr. & Mrs. Wasyl & Anne Marie Serediuk on the occasion of 25th Wedding Anniversary



Mr. & Mrs. Andrij and Maria Petryshyn after the Divine Liturgy on the occasion of 70th Wedding Anniversary



The Kurlak's Family at the grave of +Oleksa on the 3rd Anniv. of his passing into Eternal Life. Vichnaya Pamiat!



SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



№ 40

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



CHURCH BULLETIN

October 4 – 2015 – 4 ЖОВТНЯ

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

№ 40 О С Т О В Е Р 0 4 2 0 1 5

Боже, Боже наш, Ти прийшов до Кани Галілейської і там шлюб благословив, Благослови ж і слуг Твоїх Ганю і Василя, що з волі Твоєї шлюбом зєдналися 25 років тому, а нині подяку приносять за всі добродійства, які вони мали від Тебе в своїм подружнім житті. На Многая і Благая Літа!

Lord our God, in Cana of Galilee You saw fit in Your serving providence to dignify marriage by Your presence. Keep in peace and harmony your servants Wasyl and Ann Marie, whom you willed to be wedded to one another 25 years ago, and today they give you thanks for everything they received in their married life.

Happy Many Years!



Про зачаття Івана Хрестителя, яке супроводжувалося чудами, дуже гарно написано у Євангелії св. Луки. Коли одного дня Захарія приносив кадильну жертву в храмі, явився йому ангел Господній і сповістив, що Єлисавета породить сина. Захарія не повірив цій радісній новині й одразу ж онімів, а зміг говорити щойно у хвилині найменування свого сина Івана, пророкувавши йому, що він буде Предтечею Месії. (6 ЖОВТНЯ)



CHURCH BULLETIN

Oct. 04 – 2015 – 4 ЖОВТНЯ
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



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

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM Wasyl & Anne Marie Serediuk – 25th
Wedding Anniversary. Многая Літа!

October 4, 19 S. aft. Pent. – 19 Н. по ЗСД

12:00 +Joseph & Maryann Militello
(Anne Ettipio)

Monday, October 5 Жовтня, Понеділок

8:15 AM +Михайло (Тато) – 40 д. і панахида
(Леся Савка)

Tuesday, October 6 Жовтня, Вівторок

9:00 AM +Ольга Бельмеґа
(Леся і Юрій Дармограй)

Wednesday, October 7 Жовтня, Середа

9:00 AM +Марія Петришин (Павліна Реґула)

Thursday, October 8 Жовтня, Четвер

9:00 AM Living and deceased members of LUC

Friday, October 9 Жовтня, П'ятниця

8:15 AM Intention of Maria Luisa –
В наміренні Марії Луїси

Saturday October 10 Жовтня, Субота

4:30 PM +Anna Jacyszyn (Family)

October 11, 20 S. aft. Pent. – 20 Н. по ЗСД

12:00 For Parishioners – За Парохіян

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М.
горить за мир в Україні

Eternal Lights burns for
+Anna Hudymiak
Requ. by Family

→ October 17: Eparchial Meeting of
Families in Stamford, Connecticut.
Anybody wishing to go?

4 ЖОВТНЯ: 18 Неділя по З. Св. Духа

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

11 ЖОВТНЯ: 19 Неділя по З. Св. Духа

10:00 р. За покійних членів Патріархального
Товариства і Прославу Слуги Божого
Патріарха Йосифа Сліпого
--- По Літургії посвячення прапорів---

October 16-18: LUC Convention in
Lansdale, Pa. If Somebody would like
to go speak to Elaine.

October 20-23: Clergy Conference of
all US Eparchies. Chicago, IL.
PRAY FOR US!

Please send information about
upcoming events to be listed in a
NEW UPDATED Community calendar
for all events in Nov. 2015 thru
February 2016.

Luba Terech and Oxana Bandriwski
email luba.terech@live.com or
tridentmc@roadrunner.com

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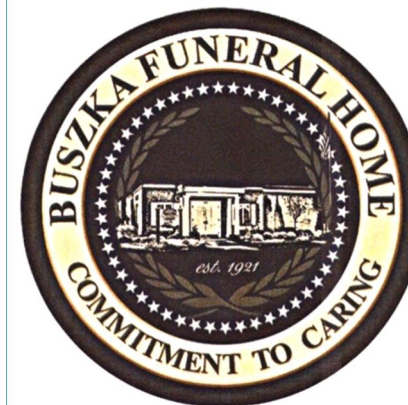
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суботу** для всіх ваших фінансових потреб.

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 інформації 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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Неділя, 2 год. на WJLL 1440 AM?
Сердечно дякуємо за пожертви!

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
телєфони підчас Святої Літургії.

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.

We ask for your **HELP** Thursday and
Friday (from 10 AM) for a few hours to
pack the books in the rectory basement,
because everything has to be taken out
from there. Thank you!

Просимо прийти допомогти пакувати
книжки у пивниці, у четвер і п'ятницю
від 10 год рано, бо все потрібно
забрати з долини. Дякую.

Спілка Української Молоді запрошує
всіх на показ фільму «Зима на
Вогонь» п'ятницю вечір о 8:15
вечором при Українському Домі
«Дніпро», 562 Дженесі вул.
Нема Вступу, але
Пожертви на Україну побажані.



The Ukrainian American Youth Ass'n
invites all to a screening of the film
"Winter on Fire" at Dnipro
Friday, October 9, 2015
starting at 8:15pm.
There is no charge however
Donations for Ukraine will be accepted.

TO Rev. Procyk

We just wanted to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for touching our lives with your generous support during this difficult time. It clearly showed us how some type of joy can be found, knowing that there are people that truly care in the darkest of situations; and whom are willing to reach out in a time of desperate need. We deeply appreciate your contribution!

- With heartfelt thanks,
The Sugarovskiy Family



In this way we would like to thank all of you who extended greetings on the occasion of 1st birthday of our daughter, granddaughter, godparents, aunts, uncles... Thank you for your gifts. May the good Lord Bless You All!

Сердечна подяка усім за побажання, подарунки, грошові пожертви з нагоди 1. Уродин Марії Гелени Процик. Просимо о Ваші молитви. Нехай Господь благословить усіх!

VIBRANT PARISH - A PLACE TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST

Under the leadership of the local bishop and close communion with him, the parish plays a fundamental role in the Church. For it is in the parish that the faithful most frequently encounter Christ through Christian instruction, community prayer and service to one's neighbor. In promoting and enlivening our parish life, we also enliven the entire Church. Elements of a Vibrant Parish:

1. THE WORD OF GOD AND CATECHESIS (Kerygma) – teaching the truths of the faith and their role in everyday life.
2. LITURGY AND PRAYER – participation in liturgical, sacramental and prayer life for the sanctification of the People of God.
3. SERVICE TO OUR NEIGHBOR (DIAKONIA) – giving attention to those in need, both within the parish and “in the world”.
4. LEADERSHIP – STEWARDSHIP – the ministry of the Bishop and the clergy with the cooperation of the laity in the stewardship of gifts (time, talent, treasure) for the common good.
5. COMMUNION – UNITY (KOINONIA) – fostering spiritual unity in the Church of Christ and promoting the unity of all Christians (ecumenism).
6. MISSIONARY SPIRIT – witnessing to a life in Christ, while inviting others to participate.

ЖИВА ПАРАФІЯ – МІСЦЕ ЗУСТРІЧІ ЗІ СВЯТИМ ДУХОМ



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 допомагаєте церкві. Для Вас не робить різниці чи ви платили грішми чи карточкою, але церква дістане від „Топс” 5%. На \$1,000 церква одержить \$50. Щоб закупити слід звертатися до п. Марії Боднар, або до канцелярії. Дякуємо!

CHURCH BULLETIN is published weekly.
Deadline for information is Friday Evening.
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК видається тижнево.
Інформації подавати до П'ятниці вечора.

**SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**УКРАЇНЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ**

(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
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Dioc. Web: <http://www.stamforddio.org>

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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 хворими

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!**

LUC SUNDAY



The League of Ukrainian Catholics will celebrate LUC Sunday on October 25, 2015. Liturgy will be at Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Niagara Falls, NY at 9:30AM. Dinner will follow the Liturgy at the Four Points by Sheraton, Niagara Falls. Cost \$20.00 For reservations call Elaine Nowadly (825-8169), Joanne Palko (675-0629) by October 18, 2015

Salvation Army Box



By our Parking Lot from Fillmore.
Used clothing. Help those in need.
Thank You!

Ukrainian Badurist Chorus
with special guest **Ruslana**
Massey Hall, Toronto
October 24 2015

For more info: www.bandura.org

UNWLA Br. 97

will sponsor
a benefit

Wine Tasting

Event on Saturday,
October 10 from 7 -9 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Church Hall
3275 Elmwood Ave., Kenmore, NY
\$20 per person. Must be 21 or older
Admission includes wine,
appetizers and desserts.
Raffle available.
Proceeds benefit
UNWLA
War Victims Fund
and other UNWLA charities

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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Letter from Fr. Ray Oct. 4, 2015

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

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

Lucky you, you've got mail, and so did I!! I just love it when I go to the mailbox and find a letter there for me. You are so kind to drop me a line as you do. Much appreciated!! I've always said that one of the simple joys of life is to get a nice letter from a friend. I certainly hope you feel the same way each week when you sit down to read our thoughts and reflections in "your letter" about the life of the parishes, our eparchy, the world, and especially our life and our faith. Since those days long ago when I first left home and went to the seminary, mail call has been very important to me. I'm sure our Servicemen and women know exactly what I'm saying. The seminary was but a tiny reflection of those in the service of our country in that we were away from home, but whether in seminary or in the service, mail call was a highlight of the day! We waited for that special letter with our name on it, and one could only surmise how much more those across the seas, and in the jungles, hoped and waited for their letter. For sure, everyone felt bad for the guy who didn't get mail on any given day. Oh how good it felt to hear your name called! God bless my family, especially my sister Mary, now in heaven with the Blessed Mother and St. Therese, who would faithfully write to me every week. I was never disappointed by her at mail call. Without fail the letter was there each week. Sometimes there was also the very much coveted "Care Package" from home which contained all kind of earthly and heavenly delights! Icing on the cake was always the unexpected letter from another family member, relative or even from a friend out there somewhere. From then on, I've not cared much for the empty mailbox.

I always think of "good ol' Charlie Brown" on Valentine's Day. Poor guy always has those high expectations of a mailbox full of Valentine's just for him, but at the end of the day, the box remains

empty. How sad! At least our mailboxes aren't empty! You are good and faithful. Thanks for writing! It must be a very rewarding job to be a mail carrier and to be able to deliver these special greetings. I hope they know how happy they make a family with their deliveries.

Thanking you for your thoughtfulness in writing makes me think of something else I've been forgetting lately. I've been meaning to thank you for all your "receipts" which you've brought back to me from your travels! For somebody reading this letter for the first time, perhaps you don't know what the "receipt" is, so please let me explain.

It began a while ago as a bit of a joke, but as you know in all good humor there is a lot of truth. When 'my people' leave for a trip or vacation, and I know they will be away for a Sunday or Holy Day, I remind them to bring back a bulletin for me from the church where they attended services. I call that their "receipt" so their pastor knows they went to services while they were away. (It is still a sin to miss Liturgy on Sunday)

First of all, it makes me very happy that the travelers took the time to find the church and then to get Father Ray a bulletin. No one is supposed to go to any extraordinary lengths to get a bulletin, but one gentleman did go above and beyond the call of duty for this. He was away visiting family in a distant state. They went to Sunday Liturgy and then began the return trip home. Several miles down the road the man remembered he didn't get his "receipt." Oh no! That beautiful family stopped the car at the first opportunity, turned around and got back to the church before the doors were locked and grabbed the bulletin/receipt for Father! Now that's dedication....they don't make too many like that anymore!!

So I want to thank you all for doing this and I know that every single bulletin brought back was from a service you attended and I know you didn't just run in and grab one. Yep, we are completely on the honor system, but I know you are all honorable men and women. Thank You! Thank You! ☺ ☺

By the way, the bulletins have come from Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Ukrainian Catholic, Ruthenian Catholic churches; from travels to New England to Ohio to Florida and the most distant, the southern Caribbean and the island of St. Lucia. Thank you travelers for the interesting bulletins, but most of all for fulfilling your most sacred obligation of attending the Holy Liturgy on the Lord's Day! I am proud of you! May God bless you for your faithfulness to His call!

I'm sure, like most of us, you watched some of the coverage of the visit of Pope Francis to the USA. What an amazing and incredible production it was to make all that happen safely and on time! There has been much discussion about the Pope and about his views regarding some Church teaching and about some of his political statements. Putting all that aside for right now, all I can say is that he is one incredible man! Didn't you get tired just watching him as you sat in the recliner or on the couch? There he

was going from morning till night, event after event, up stairs, down stairs, a speech here, a sermon there, a Mass here, a Mass there, with all the eyes of the world on him and listening to every single word that came from his mouth. That was some incredible stamina. On December 17 of this year he will be 79 years old. God bless him and grant him many happy years! When I grow up, I wanna be like him!

For me the highlight of the trip was the Family Night in Philadelphia on Saturday night. This event of World Families was actually the reason for Pope Francis' trip to the USA. I was especially moved by the powerful moments of testimony from the engaged couple and from the other five married couples from the different countries as they talked about marriage and married life. It was extremely uplifting to see true marriage, a marriage between a



man and a woman, being lauded and lifted up. With all the struggles and hardships they described it was so edifying and encouraging for all of us, married and unmarried, to hear their words of faith and love. Their faith in God, His Church, and their love for God and each other was especially moving. I loved the letter of St. Gianna written to her future husband shortly before they were married. It was so good to hear and be encouraged by those special couples and their families. God bless and strengthen those about to be married and all married!

By the way, you do know who St. Gianna is right? She was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2004. She passed away in 1962 as a result of the serious complications of pregnancy when she had to make a decision about her own life or the life of the baby she was carrying. She chose to protect the life of her unborn child who she would not allow to be aborted. The woman who read the love letter of St. Gianna was that child, her daughter, now Dr. Gianna Molla.

In our Byzantine Church, today is the beautiful feast of the Holy Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos. We remember how she protects all of us when we go to her in prayer. She always calls us to repentance and prayer as she holds back the hand of her Son. "If My people, who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Time to leave you for another week. God willing and the creek don't rise, I'll write again next week. May God bless you and cause His face to shine on you and grant you His Peace! Holy Mother, Protect us!

In His Love,
Fr. Ray

The Saints on Sundays, 2015/16

October 4 / 17

St. Francis of Assisi Patron Saint of Animals



Brother Leo, a companion of Patron Saint Francis of Assisi, left writing (preserved at Assisi) that is a clear and simple account of the miracle of St. Francis receiving the stigmata. Two years before his death, in August 1224, on the top of Mt. Alverna where he had gone to fast of forty days in honor of the archangel Michael (commonly called Michaelmas) the sufferings of Christ became the focus of St. Francis Patron's meditations more so than in previous times. He saw what appeared as a seraph with six bright wings gleaming like a fire descending from heaven. As this figure approached in swift flight it appeared not only winged but also crucified. The sight of it amazed St. Francis and he was joyous with the sight of Christ appearing to him so graciously and intimately. When the vision vanished after a mysterious and intimate conversation between

Francis and our Lord Jesus left Francis in ecstasy in his soul. Externally, however, he retained marks on his body like those of the Crucified Christ. The figures of the nails appeared immediately on his hands and feet. The heads of the nails were inside his hands but on top of his feet with their points extending through to the opposite side. His right side too showed a blood-red wound as if it had been pierced by a lance where blood flowed frequently.

Because of this new unheard of and astounding miracle, St. Francis Patron came down from the mountain a new man adorned with the Sacred Stigmata, bearing the image of the Crucified in his body, not made by a craftsman in wood or stone but fashioned by the hand of the living God.

There were earlier times when St. Francis statehood was prevalent in his treatment and kinship with animals; his unerring distribution of passion to the poor and the teaching of his brethren. He wanted to persuade the emperor to make a special law that men should provide well for the birds and the beasts, as well as for the poor, so that all might have occasion to rejoice in the Lord.

There are countless stories of how St. Francis Protector of Animals tamed the wild beasts, grew kinship with birds or paid homage to flowers and referred to Brother Sun (or life itself) and Sister Moon (the night or a direct referral to his friend and fellow patron Saint Clare of Assisi.) Many stories of Saint Francis of Assisi were gathered in the Little Flowers of Saint Francis written by Brother Ugolino.

During the Christmastide of 1223 St. Francis Patron conceived the idea of celebrating the Nativity by reproducing the stable of Bethlehem in a church at Greccio. Because of the popularity of that event St. Francis has become regarded as having inaugurated the devotion to the Crib. Christmas appears to be an additional feast of Francis. It is said when the hay from the manger built inside the church was saved and later fed to ailing animals those animals recovered from their illness.

<http://www.st-francis-medal.com/st-francis-patron-saint-of-animals.htm>

18 Неділя по Зісланні Святого Духа

Підім у дусі на берег генезаретського озера і послухаймо нашого Господа Ісуса Христа, який проповідує Слово Боже. Приємно нам Його слухати, бо у Його словах повно надії сповниною любовю Божою до нас, і відвагою яку ми повинні набрати, щоб не боячися нічого сміливо пр'ямувати дорогою справедливості.

Ажі тут два човни припливають, а в них змучині рибалки. Цілу ніч ловили рибу, і нічого не зловили. Змістя почали швидко полукати мережі бо, після короткого відпочинку, мусять взятися до іншої праці, щоб на вечір знова вернутися на озеро. На Христа вони зовсім не звертають уваги, бо на це у них тепер немає часу.

Але Христос звертається з поросьбою до одного з них, на ім'я Симон, який пізніше став Петром, щоб цей дозволив йому сісти у його човен і відплисти троха дальше від берега, щоб в такий спосіб усі могли краще почути Слово Боже. Симон не радо згоджується, але не було іншого виходу. Відчалили вони від берега...

Симон сидючи у човні слухав і не слухав. Він був зазмучений, і ледви чекав, щоб могли піти до свого дому

"Симоне, відчали на глибину, і закинь сіті на ловитву" - почувся голос учителя.

"На глибину..? Тепер серед білого дня..?", подумав Симон. "Очевидно Христос не рибалка. Він же не знає, що це марна справа." "Риби там тепер неможна зловити", хотів Йому відповісти, але зустрівшись з рішучим поглядом Господнім, він спустив очі і отак промовив: "Учителю, цілу ніч ми трудилися і

нічого не зловили, але - на твоє слово - закину мережі."

Зробивши так, не сподіваючися жодного успіху, зловили таку велику кількість риби, що не було її де помістити у човнах.

"Це чудо!!!", майнула думка у присутних.

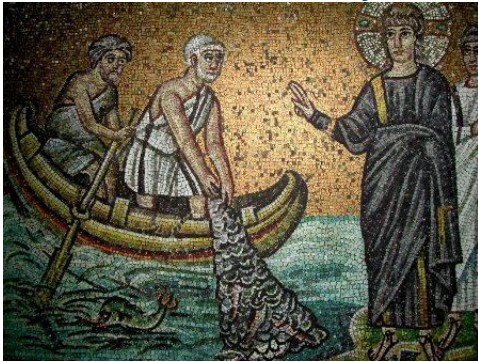
"Це чудо???", могли б ми здивовано запитатися. "Та ж ми при озері, а в ньому багато риб, при чому ж тут чудо?"

Симон, дійсний рибалка падає до ніг Христових і перестрашено говорить: "Господи, відійди від мене, бо я грішна людина." Очевидно для нього ловитва риб у невідповідний час на невідповідному місці була найкращим доказом Христової надприродної сили. Він бачив чудо там де ми не звертали би навіть уваги, і це показує, що чудо може діятися перед нашими очима, а ми його не зауважемо.

Нераз можемо перейти попри красу заходячого сонця, розквітлої рожи, чи невиності дитини і нічого не бачити, а інші в тому зрозуміють присутність Божу, і поклоняться Всмогучому дякуючи йому за превеликі ласки Ним уділені.

Навчимося девитися відкритими очима, і побачимо Бога, де перед тим ми навіть не уявляли собі, що там що небудь доброго можна б побачити.

Багато залежить від нашого наставлення до того, що нас окружає. Господь є на кожному кроці. Він показується у своїй величі. Постараймося почути Його голос, який не конче мусить бути як удар грому. Не чекаймо та тяжкі часи, щоб до Нього звернутися. Від Нього бо отримуємо все добро, і слід нам ніколи того не забувати...



From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

Over the years, I have met many people of all ages and walks of life. When I worked in the hospital, I often meant those who were sick or dying, and the families who were either absent or remained ever vigilant at their bedsides. In the field of education, I have interacted with thousands of students and their parents, and in that time I have witnessed families face divorce, cancer, death, and even abuse. I met a woman the other day, a mother of four children, who just found out that she has terminal cancer and not much longer to live. A friend of mine over the spring lost her only child to a debilitating disease. A young couple was struck and killed by a drunk driver on their wedding day this summer. Last year, passenger airliners overseas have crashed into mountains, been shot down, and even disappeared, leaving loved ones to deal with tremendous loss while they wonder how such things could possibly happen. A few years ago, twenty innocent children were killed by a lone gunman at Sandy Hook Elementary just ten days before Christmas. It seems that no realm of today's society is free from tragedy, but what concerns me more is how many people either blame God or no longer turn to Him in the midst of their tragedy. If we do not have our faith to cling to in times such as these, what do we have? This often leads many people to ask, in fact, I am sure that we have all asked this question at one time or another: *Why do bad things happen to good people? Why does God allow these things to happen? There's illness and abuse, broken relationships and betrayal, sorrow and injury, disappointment and heartache, crime and death. And perhaps it begs us to ask the question, 'Why? Why me? Why now?'*

That "why" question goes back thousands of years. It was asked in the Old Testament by Job and the writers of the Psalms, and it was especially relevant during the 20th century, where we witnessed two World Wars, the Holocaust, genocides in the Soviet Union and China, devastating famines in Ukraine and Africa, the killing fields of Cambodia, the emergence of AIDS, the genocide in Rwanda and the ethnic cleansing of Kosovo. And the 21st Century did not start off any better. There was 9/11, horrific shootings in schools and universities throughout our nation, most recently on a college campus in Oregon just three days ago where 10 people were killed and at least 21 injured. The bombing at the Boston Marathon, the Syrian slaughters, ISIS, and on and on. Many people ask: Why all of this if there is a loving and powerful God? Why do bad things happen to good people? St. Paul addresses

this issue in his first letter to the Corinthians: *"Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely."* So when we ask about specific individual events and want to know why this particular tragedy happened, we will never be given the full answer in this world. Someday we will see these hardships with clarity, but for now things are foggy. We cannot possibly understand everything from our finite perspective. And frankly, the people who are suffering right now do not need a theological perspective, because any intellectual response is going to seem trite and inadequate. What we all desperately need when bad things happen is the very real and comforting presence of the Lord in their lives.

The Old Testament gives us a great example in the story of Joseph, who went through terrible suffering, being sold into slavery by his own brothers, unfairly accused of a crime and falsely imprisoned. Finally, after a dozen years, he was put in a role of great authority where he could save the lives of his family and many others. This is what he spoke to his brothers: *"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives"* (Genesis 50:20). If we are committed to God, He promises that He can and will take whatever pain we are experiencing and draw something good from it. You might say, 'No, he can't in my circumstance. The harm is too great, the damage too extreme, and the depth of my suffering has been too much. No, in my case there is no way God can cause any good to emerge.' Suffering is a personal problem; it demands a personal response. And God isn't some distant, detached, and disinterested deity; He entered into our world and personally experienced our pain. Jesus is there in the lowest places of our lives. From the depths of the genocide that took place some twenty years ago in Rwanda a woman wrote these words: *"No matter how deep our darkness, Jesus is deeper still."* Every tear we shed becomes His tear. It is not just that God knows and sympathizes with us in our troubles. After all, any close friend can do that. Any close friend can sit beside you and comfort you and empathize with you. No, Jesus is much closer than our dearest friend, because if we have put our trust in Him, then Jesus is living *in* us. And, therefore, our sufferings are His sufferings; our sorrow is His sorrow.

God can use our suffering to draw us to Him, to mold and sharpen our character, to influence others through us

and for Him – the Lord can draw something good from our pain in a myriad of ways, but only if we are willing to trust and follow Him, especially in the darkest of times. God's ultimate answer to suffering is not an explanation but rather the incarnation. So when tragedy strikes, as it will; when suffering comes, as it will; when we are wrestling with pain, as we will – we can then make the choice to run toward the Lord with all of our heart and soul, and here is what we will discover: we will find peace to deal with the present, we will find courage to deal with our future, and we will find the incredible promise of eternal life in heaven. *"These things I've written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God in order that you may know that you have eternal life"* (1 John 5:13). Yes, sometimes bad things happen to people who seem undeserving of them. But God allows things to happen for His reasons, whether or not we understand them. Above all, however, we must remember that God is good, just, loving, and merciful. Often things happen to us that we simply cannot understand. However, instead of doubting God's goodness, our reaction should be one of trust. *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight"* (Proverbs 3:5-6).

As to the specific issue of pain and suffering, C. S. Lewis, who watched his beloved wife die of cancer, put it this way: "Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world." God's plan is for us to return to him, and to lead the best possible life on earth; sometimes we need to be reminded of our purpose. We have freedom, and we have free will. We have that free will because God loves us and desires our love in return, just as a parent loves their child unconditionally. I always remember when my son was 5 years old and entered into public school a few miles from where we lived. I had driven him to pre-school each day, but it was now time for him to take the big yellow bus. I worried about how he was going to adjust to the school bus and whether kids would be kind to him or not. But I also knew it was time, it was the right time. So off he went, and there I was, waiting at the end of the day, sitting by the door, anxious to see him come home on the bus. When he did, and he came off that bus smiling and jumping down each step into my much awaited arms, I was so incredibly happy and relieved. You have no choice but to let your children go in many different ways and during different stages of their lives,

but as a parent we are so relieved when they return to us. Imagine, then, how God feels when we return home to him. He lets us go, He sets us free, and He acts as a loving father does, but He so much wants us to return home again. I am happy every single day when my son comes home to me. There is no greater happiness in my life. So now imagine how much God loves us, and even when bad things happen to us, when tragedy strikes and heartache is more than we can bear, trust that God is there waiting for us to return to Him.

Truthfully, there is no adequate answer for *why bad things happen to good people*, but through the incarnation of Christ we are able to be called sons and daughters of God, that is the ultimate answer to our suffering and there lies our everlasting joy, with a Father who loves us and whose infinite wisdom is far greater than our own. There is no conceivable way for us to possibly understand why children die, why people develop cancer, why there is divorce, famine, disease, and war. But one thing is clear, there is one certainty above all things: Jesus chose to come and live among us, He suffered what we suffer, Jesus was betrayed by his closest friends, He was hurt and broken, and Jesus grieved deeply. In spite of all of these hardships, Jesus suffered for our sins in order for us to have Eternal life, in order to bridge the gap between heaven and earth, between us and God. There is a clarity found through our faith, but we have to turn to the Lord in times of tragedy, we have to believe that our suffering is not in vain, and we have to trust that while bad things do happen to good people – God is in charge – and His wisdom is infinite. I can honestly say that the personal struggles and sufferings that I have endured in my own life have made me who I am today. We all face hardships, there are times when life seems unfair, we must endure loss that seems unbearable, but those sufferings do bring us closer to God and they make us who we are today – more compassionate, more giving, more empathetic, and more able to see the presence of God in all things. One day, when we leave the surly bonds of this world to touch the face of God, we will no longer ask: 'Why? Why me? Why now?' instead we will see things more clearly, as God intends it to be. As the psalmist once wrote: *"You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again. You will increase my greatness and comfort me always"* (Psalms 71:20-21).



ЗАПРОШЕННЯ

**65-Річчя з дня загибелі головного
командира УПА
Романа Шухевича – Тараса
Чупринки
Свято ПОКРОВИ - Свято УПА
яке відбудеться в неділю, 18-го
жовтня, 2015р.**

В Програмі:

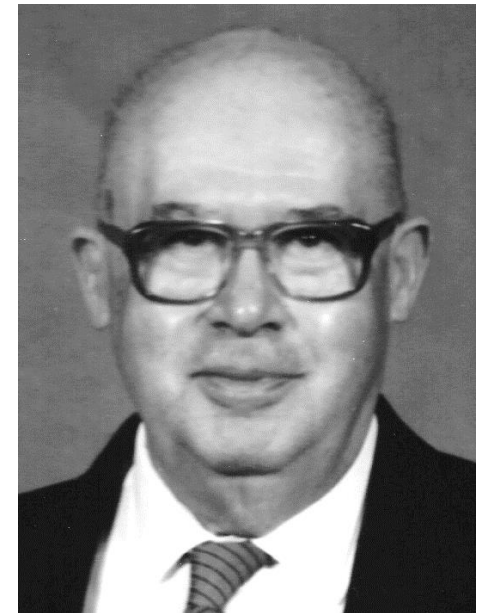
**Ранком, в годині 10:00 Богослуження
в церкві св. О. Миколая в наміренні
Українського Народу
А опісля Панахида за усіх полеглих
українських борців Героїв-Лицарів.**

**По полудні, в годині 1:00 в
Українському Домі "Дніпро"
562**

**Виступають - хор ОЖ-ОЧСУ „Мрія”,
і члени СУМ.**

**Перекуска для присутніх перед
програмою (від 12:00 до 1:00).**

Fell asleep in the Lord
+Peter Maxim



(June 27, 1918 – September 28, 2015)

Son of the late Wasyl and Mary (nee Klym) Maxim; brother of the late Helen; Born in Corning, known as city of glass.

His Father worked at railroad, He tried to provide for children, and came to Buffalo where there was more work, but soon was killed by street car. His Mother went through challenging times and was unable to provide for children, so Peter and his sister Helen became orphans. Thanks be to the Lord that the family stepped in.

Peter was kind, humble, compassionate... He was praying always.. He was helping those in need... He was indeed a saintly person.

Belonged to Holy Name Society, LUC, Sitch. Member of St. Nicholas Church, and it's choir... Bingo, bazaar, picnic, any church activit - he was there. Often donating generously to the church... Time and money.

Eternal Memory! Vichnaya Pamiat'!