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Our Church Web-Page Is:  
<http://www.stnbuffalo.com>

Buffalo Community Web-Page Is:  
<http://www.ukrainiansofbuffalo.com>

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\*\*\*\*\*  
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Thanks are extended to all Sponsors

N<sup>o</sup>  
50

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](mailto: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**

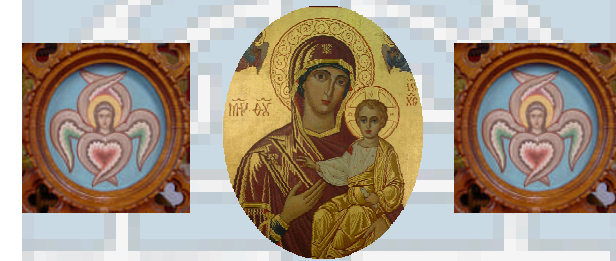
**Family members should call the Rectory**

**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<sup>o</sup>50

December 11 – 2011 – 11 Грудня  
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК – Ч. 50



Св. Великомучениця Варвара

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

**Dec. 11: S. of Forefathers – Н. Праотців**  
**26 Н. По З.С.Д. (Юл.)** **11**

**10:00 AM** За Парохіян – For Parishioners

**12:00 PM** +Zorianna Canazzi  
(Bohdar & Anna Malaniak)

**Mon., Dec. 12 – Пон., 12 Грудня**

9:15 AM +Olga Leschuk (Marie Leschuk  
Glenn & Nadia Boyle)

**12:00 PM** +John & Mary Colomon (Nadine)

**Tue., Dec. 13 – Вівторок, 13 Грудня**

8:15 AM В наміренні Романа і Danielle  
(Ігор Гіль)

**Wed., Dec. 14 – Середа, 14 Грудня**

9:00 AM +Andrew & Anna Slipko Family  
Walter, Helen & Joseph Slipko  
(Gail Spittler Rose)

**Thu., Dec. 15 – Чет., 15 Грудня**

9:15 AM +Теодор і Анна Заяць і пан.  
(Люба Цьолко)

**Fri., Dec. 16 – П'ят., 16 Грудня**

9:15 AM +Іван і Наталія - 5 річ. і пан.  
(Марія Синишин)

**Sat., Dec. 17 – Субота, 17 Грудня**

9:00 AM У приватному наміренні  
**4:30 PM** +Mychajlo Blendonohy (Family)

**Dec. 18: S. Bef. Christmas – Перед Різдв.**  
**27 Н. По З.С.Д. (Юл.)** **12**

**→ П Р А З Н И К - FEASTDAY**

**12:00 PM** За Парохіян – For Parishioners

**Eternal Light burns for**  
**+Irene Kordrupel**  
**Offered by: Anne & Dorothy**

**In the Beginning . . . (cont.)**

(w. 38) Chris is now considered full-term but continues to gain and grow everyday. Lungs are days from completion. I'm practicing breathing with my amniotic fluid. It is easy to grasp things with Chris' little fingers. Typically, boys will weigh more than girls at birth. Only 4% of babies are actually born on their due date.

Mom, pack your bags and don't forget the camera for those all important pictures of the baby.

*"They will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God." Isaiah 35:2*

**ПРОЩА ДО ЛЮРДУ І СВ. ЗЕМЛІ**  
**(6-19 ТРАВНЯ, 2012)**

\* \* \*

**PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDS &  
THE HOLY LAND (MAY 6-19, 2012)**

For more info call:

**(519) 536-6778**

Or write

Fr. Eutimy Wolinski

Box 20118

Woodstock, ON Canada N4S 8X8

We prepared the envelopes for the 2012 calendar year. If any changes need to be made, please let us know.

\* \* \*

Ковертки приготовані. Якщо не маєте коверти, а хотіли б мати, або потрібна яка небудь зміна просимо подзвонити або вислати Е-майл на:

[stnbuffalo@yahoo.com](mailto:stnbuffalo@yahoo.com)

**Вічне світло в честь ПДМ горить**  
**за +Зор'яну Canazzi**  
**По жертва: Емілія Святківська**



**St Joseph School For Boys**  
**Bookstore**

**Ronda Doucette**

574 333-3420

Specializing in Eastern Christian Gifts and Books  
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[saintjoseph@roadrunner.com](mailto:saintjoseph@roadrunner.com)

**There is still space for your ad.**

**Маємо місце для Вашого оголошення**

**DNIPRO**  **ДНІПРО**  
**Ukrainian Cultural Center**  
562 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14204 856-4476

[www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com](http://www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com)

Hall and bar rentals are available.  
See your old friends on Friday night.  
Help rebuild our Ukrainian Home.

**Please Contribute to the**  
**\$100,000 Building Fund.**  
Donations are tax deductible.

**EURO DELI AND GIFTS**



4166 Union Road  
(Airport Plaza)  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225  
Tel. 716-630-0131 Fax 716-630-0133 tel. 716-688-1495

2321 Millersport Hwy  
(Getzville Plaza)  
Amherst, NY 14068  
tel. 716-688-1495

**Сердечна подяка усім спонзорам!**  
**Просимо їх підтримати!**

**Ukrainian Home Dnipro**  
**Federal Credit Union**

562 Genesee St., Buffalo, NY 14204  
(716) 847-6655 (716) 847-6988

[www.uhdfcu.com](http://www.uhdfcu.com)

[info@uhdfcu.com](mailto:info@uhdfcu.com)



**"The credit union**  
**with a heart"**

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We financially support Ukrainian causes

**Свій До Свого По Своє**

Join now and become a member of our  
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**ДЯКУЄМО – THANK YOU!**

The Colonial Memorial Chapels, Inc.  
of Ukrainian Heritage, Serving Western N.Y.

**Simon Pasnik & Matthew Pasnik**

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Lackawanna, New York 14218  
(716) 824-3007

**Melvin J. SLIWINSKI**

**FUNERAL HOME**

85 George Urban Boulevard  
Cheektowaga, N. Y. 14225  
5090 Transit Rd, Depew, NY 14043

(716) 894-1772

**UPCOMING  
CHURCH  
EVENTS**

Просимо звернути  
увагу на дати:



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

• **KITCHEN** – is open Fridays 11 AM - 3 PM. Thank you for your help and patronage.

• **Coffee Hour** - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!

**FEASTDAY DINNER - Dec 18**

**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 Bryukh*

**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!**

→ Our Annual Parish Praznyk will be held on Sunday, Dec.18<sup>th</sup>. Liturgy will be at 12:00pm with dinner following the Liturgy. There will be no 10:00 AM Liturgy on that day. There will be no tickets but envelopes will be provided for your special donation to the church, as the end of the year is approaching. Please bring bake goods. Thank you!

\*\*\*

→ Свята Літургія на Празник Св. Миколая буде о 12 год. Празничний обід зара по Св. Літургії. Нема Відправи на 10 год. Не буде вступів але просимо в той час зложити спеціальні пожертви на церкву перед закінченням цього 2011 року. Коверти будуть приготовані.  
→ ПРОСИМО ПРИНЕСТИ ← ПЕЧИВО. Сердечно Дякуємо!

A new supply of Christmas cards is available for purchase in the church hall. The cost is \$1.00 per card.

\*\*\*

Маємо нові різдвяні картки у церковній залі.

**PLEASE PICK UP  
YOUR ENVELOPES!**

\*\*\*

**ПРОСИМО ЗАБРАТИ  
КОВЕРТКИ!**

**49. відділ СУА**  
широ запрошує на

**ПЕРЕРІЗДВЯНИЙ БАЗАР  
ПЕЧИВА І ОБІД (\$7.00)  
ПО СЛУЖБІ БОЖІ**

в неділю, 11. грудня 2011 р.

в 1:00- 3:00 год. поп запрошує на  
**АНДРІЇВСЬКИЙ ВЕЧІР**

для дорослих від 18. року життя  
в залі церкви св. о. Миколая

Андріївські звичаї,  
калета, гри і забави!!!!

Смачний легкий буфет  
Вступ: добровільні датки

**49<sup>th</sup> CHAPTER OF UNWLA**  
requests your attendance at the  
**PRECHRISTMAS BAKE  
SALE AND LUNCH (\$7.00)  
after LITURGY**

on Sunday, December 11, 2011

then at 1:00 pm (until 3:00 pm) to the  
**ANDREWS CELEBRATION**

for adults from 18 years  
in St. Nicholas' Hall

for Andrews Celebration traditions,  
kaleta and parlor games

Light refreshments will be served  
Admission by donation



Рідна Школа і  
Батьківський Комітет

щиро запрошує вас на

## Сніданок зі Святим Миколаєм

який відбудеться у  
суботу 17-го грудня 2011 року  
в церковній залі  
парохії Святого Миколая  
початок о 10-тій годині

У програмі:

- Сніданок з Миколаєм
- Виступ учнів Рідної Школи
- Подарунки чемним дітям

Ціна: 5 дол. для дорослих  
і Безкоштовно для дітей  
до 13-ти років

Якщо ви хочете,  
щоб ваша дитина отримала  
подарунок від Миколая –  
обов'язково зателефонуйте  
до Галі Назаревич 714-5315  
або Гані Середюк 821-0711

School of Ukrainian Studies  
“Ridna Shkola” and the  
Parents Committee

Invite you to

## Breakfast with Saint Nicholas

Saturday, December 17, 2011  
at 10 o'clock  
in St. Nicholas Church Hall

- Breakfast with St. Nicholas
- Come listen to our children perform.
- Gifts for good children

Cost: \$5.00 adults  
Children under 13 are free

Please attend and support  
Ridna Shkola

If your child wishes to receive a  
gift from St. Nicholas please call

Halya Nazarevych 714-5315 or  
Anna Serediuk 821-0711



СПІЛКА  
УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ  
МОЛОДІ В АМЕРИЦІ  
ОСЕРЕДОК  
ІМ. ЛЕСІ УКРАЇНКИ  
В БОФФАЛО

UKRAINIAN YOUTH  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
562 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY 14204

П О В І Д О М Л Е Н Н Я  
48-ІЙ ЗАГАЛЬНІ ЗБОРИ СУМ  
ІМ. ЛЕСІ УКРАЇНКИ В БОФФАЛО,  
ВІДБУДУТЬСЯ  
в НЕДІЛЮ, 18-ого ГРУДНЯ, 3:30 веч.  
в УКРАЇНСЬКОМУ ДОМІ «ДНПРО»,  
при 562 ДЖЕНЕСІ вул. БОФАЛО, Н. Й.  
ПРОСИМО О ВАШУ ПРИСУТНІСТЬ  
НА ЗБОРАХ. ДЯКУЄМО!

УПРАВА ОСЕРЕДКУ СУМ

Ukrainian Congress Committee meeting  
is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 16, 2011  
6:00pm at Ukrainian-American Civic  
Center, 205 Military Rd. Please attend.

→ The exhibit “Ukrainian Folk Flowers”  
Lila Mandzyk Krehbiel  
in Ukrainian American Civic Center,  
205 Military Rd.

→ St. John the Baptist Ukrainian ←  
Catholic Church in Kenmore  
December 17, 2011 – at 2:00 PM  
(English & Ukrainian on power Point)  
“Today the Virgin gives birth to the  
Transcendent One” – The Liturgy of  
the Christmas season – Presentation  
by Fr. Volodymyr Sybirnyy



Катерина Сташків і Володимир Горбач

26 вересня, 2011 р. Упокоївся в Господі  
Св. Пам. Володимир Горбач. Нар. 8  
червня, 1929 р. Мама Анна Панечко  
померла коли йому було 3 роки. Батько  
Яків згинув в УПА. Св. П. Володи-  
мира засуджено на кару смерти в 1947  
р. і перемінено на 15 років. Відсидів 13  
років. З Польщі до Бофало спровади-  
ла його з родиною сестра Катерина  
Сташків. Працював як “bricklayer”.  
Вічная Пам'ять пок. Володимирові, а  
родині складаємо щирі співчуття!

Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
200 Como Park Blvd, Cheektowaga, NY  
→ Phone: 684-0738 ←

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**  
Sunday, Dec. 18 – 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
Theme Baskets, Raffles, Varenyky/Perogi  
Ethnic Christmas Cards, Religious items  
Free Parking and Admission

\*\*\*

Also: Varenyky/Perogi Sales,  
Wed., Dec. 21, 2011 - 2 PM to 7 PM

### З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

Продовж нашого життя ми стараємося збагачувати себе різними способами, забезпечуватися на майбутнє і це все очевидно є добре і корисне і Богові вгодне. На те одержали ми таланти, щоб їх використовувати, на те Господь дав силу, щоб могли витримати і ласку щоб не заломатися на нашій життєвій дорозі.

І багатіти матеріальними добрими є добре і розвивати своє знання є потрібне, і рости в очах інших є у порядку, оскільки ми вміємо багатіти, і розвиватися, і рости. Все що посідаємо повинні ми використовувати на потреби інших. Помножувати Господні дари це є нашим обов'язком, дорученим нам самим Господом Ісусом Христом.

Найбільша наша трудність лежить у тому, що ми думаємо, що ці дари, які ми одержали, є виключно для нас, і що ми з ними можемо робити що хочемо, і що нашою заслугою є, якщо ми придбали щось використовуючи їх.

Задармо ми одержали і задармо треба нам їх роздавати. Каже бо Святий апостол Павло у першому посланні до Тимотея: "Ми бо не принесли на світ нічого, та й винести нічого не можемо." (I Тим. 6,7) а в нинішньому посланні до Ефесян (5,10) так висловлюється: "Шукайте пильно того, що Господеві подобається."

Коли сповнюємо волю Божу в нашому житті, ми є на добрій дорозі, таким способом ми шукаємо як нам подобатися Тому що нам все дав. Це що маємо служити щоб до інших не прийти порожніми руками, бо у противному і перед Богом на Його суді зявимося без нічого. Ми будемо посідати це що роздали, а це що затримали для себе, пропаде, і нікому ніякої користи не принесе.

Ми любимо журитися собою, що то з нами буде коли старість прийде і хвороба і хт знає що, немов би не було Господа над нами.

У євангелії 26-ої неділі чули ми про багача, якому добре зародила нива. Перед тим напевно він журився, а що буде коли не буде врожаю, як він проживе, а тепер врожай є, і здається, нема жодної причини журитися. Та воно не так. Журба ніколи нас не покидає. Щось осягнули – ще більше прагнемо. Щось нам дано – інше ще шукаємо. І так без кінця...

Йому потрібно збудувати більші стодоли, щоб забезпечити позбираний урожай, а тоді щойно зможе сказати: "Спочивай, душе моя, бо маєш багато на багато років. Їж, пий і веселися." При тому всьому, він зовсім не думає про Бога, про Того, що йому все дав. Насправді нема в нього вдячності за одержане, бо на його думку то він засіяв і обробляв – то це все його заслуга, що так гарно зародила нива. І в плянах своїх він не думає про Господа. І що ж стається. Ще тої самої ночі покликано його на суд, на який він пішов з порожніми руками, а з того, що він придбав, хтось другий тепер користує, хоча і не трудився.

А що іншого міг він зробити? Міг, очевидно подумати про це, щоб з іншими поділитися, щоб допомогти, щоб у такий спосіб мати щось на дорогу до вічності.

У своїй притчі сьогодні Христос нагадує нам, що справжні найкращі дари приходять з висоти від Отця світла, який постійно нам освітлює дорогу і дає нам можливість зробити щось з тими дарами. І коли ми їх використаємо тільки для себе, то почуємо ті самі слова: "безумний! Цієї ж ночі душу твою зажадає, а те, що ти зібрав, кому буде?"

Розуміючи це, не слід шукати нам раю, чи то земного, чи небесного, але шукати Бога відвічного, а коли житимемо в Бозі, то справжній рай буде довкола нас і в нашому серці і ми будемо його учасниками споглядаючи Бога лицем у лице.

### From the desk of Fr. Ray Palko

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

GLORY FOREVER!

December 11, 2011

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

Besides whatever it is I have on my mind when I begin to write to you, I always try to update you on any news from around here, or throughout the eparchy, or sometimes even around the world. Often the news, from around here especially, is to tell you of the passing of someone and our prayer of "Vichnaja Pamjat-Eternal Memory." Today is Wednesday, December 7, 2011 and we indeed pray those holy words once again, this time for the more than two thousand four hundred people who died 70 years ago this day when the Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor. From my teachers, my reading and especially from hearing family members recall that life-changing day of December 7<sup>th</sup> in 1941, I can only imagine some of the horror, fear and gut wrenching feelings that swept our beloved country that day.

For those of us who can remember, I know many of those same feelings were ours on the day President Kennedy died in Dallas, and again with the attacks on the World Trade Center on 'Nine-eleven'. But, unless you were there, I don't think any of us can really fully understand what it was truly like that day when World War II began here in the USA and as the world changed forever, right before the very eyes of all the citizens.

The calm, beautiful, typical pre-Christmas Sunday turned into a day of fear and trembling; a day of heroic response and a day of simply wondering, "What's next?" The bus and train stations became clogged with travelers. Soldiers were called back from leave. Officers were rushing back to man their posts. Flags were fly-

ing immediately and young men were off to the recruiting stations. War had come, and there would not be another peaceful day in the entire world for over 1345 days.

My Uncle Ted (Mom's brother), still a teenager of 18 looking forward to his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 24, was stationed at Fort Shafter there on Oahu. Actually of all the military bases on the island, it was the best place to be at the worst time as the Japanese were more concerned about other targets, leaving Shafter with little damage and no loss of life. Uncle Ted survived the war and came home to raise a family and become one of the world's greatest carpenters. He also was a pillar of the church in Middleport where he was "Palomar" for many years as well as trustee. I served all through high school and he would "be in the back" with us helping us with the charcoal, candles and timing of the rubrics as we assisted at the Liturgy. He never could pick a sports team though. He always thought the Phillies or Eagles could win a World Series or a Super Bowl. ☺ ☺

I remember my Baba and others in the family telling us how awful that Sunday was for them because they had no idea whether he was alive or dead. They knew he was there in Hawaii, and that was it. For sure, it was a joyful day two weeks later when they learned he was ok!

So today we indeed join our prayers with all those throughout the world who are praying for the souls lost that day, especially to those to whom Death came so unexpectedly that early morning. To Uncle Ted, to all the WW II vets, and all who served in that war we say, "Thank you for your service. In the time following that awful war, we have had the greatest country because of who you were, what you did, and who you are: THE GREATEST GENERATION!! We thank you, we pray for you, we salute you!

(And I hope that any young people who might not know what I'm talking about would go on their computers and learn about December 7, 1941)

One more prayer for a departed soul, and that is for Andy Rooney, known for his work on the *60 Minutes* television program. Andy died last month on November 4, and I've wanted to mention him since that time, but have not had the space. So we pray *Vichnaja Pamjat-Eternal Memory* for this man who touched so many lives by writing about life: the big things, the little things, the absurd things the coo-coo things.

I know I'm no where near the writer or thinker he was, but I've often thought of your letter as being kind of "Andy Rooney." He used to say that he probably never said anything that the viewers hadn't already said or thought. I think often your letters are like that. I tell you about the good, the bad and the ugly around us and I know you already know most of it, and I know you often nod your head in agreement. Andy said he simply commented on life. I like to think of your letter like that. We just talk about life...but for us it's not only about life, but about LIFE. We look at the things around us, knowing that our God is with us, and it is HE Who is the Way the Truth and the Life. Mr. Rooney's essays often ended without any answer to the problem or difficulty. I hope you can always see in your letter, no matter what it is I'm telling you about, that their truly is an answer to everything, and that is the fact that our God is in charge and He love us, is with us and wants us to be with Him. Knowing that, a lot of this world and its worries simply do not matter. Knowing that, a lot of this world is very important and demands that we stand up and have courage and live only for our God and King.

Have you noticed it's almost Christmas? Oh yeah, the cards are coming, the cookies are being baked and homes are being decorated.

There is one other thing that tells us that Christmas is right around the corner. Yep, I saw my first "Chia Pet" commercial the other day. We still have some time before *the Big Day* though. Yep, I still haven't seen the commercial for *The Clapper*. You know that silly commercial right? "Clap on! Clap off!" I told you we talk about 'Andy Rooney' stuff here! 😊😊

As I walked through the kitchen a minute ago, I heard the weather forecast on the radio. Happy Winter Appalachians, PA, NJ, eastern NY! Looks like your first one is on the way. We're not being smug here in western NY because we also are being told to "batten down the hatches" for Friday December 9 when we will receive our first dose of winter in the form of a *Lake Effect* event. Oh yeah, 'Happy Winter.'

I know this time of the Nativity of our Lord is a bittersweet time for so many among us. There is always the sadness of illness, loneliness, broken hearts and families. Let us remember each other and pray for each other as we walk down the memory lane of Christmas 2011. As I said above, it is only in the Lord Jesus that the meaning of our life and suffering has meaning. He calls us to come to Him. I pray that His light will shine in your hearts wherever you are and in whatever circumstance you find yourself during these beautiful days. And I hope and pray that they indeed can be beautiful days in His Love, no matter how heavy your cross is.

Gotta get going....Have a beautiful week and God willing and the creek don't rise, you'll get mail again next week. God bless you and keep you and cause His face to shine upon you! Most Holy Theotokos protect you!

In His Love,  
Fr. Ray

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

Turning our thoughts to Bethlehem, let us lift ourselves in spirit to contemplate the great Mystery which will soon take place. Quite often there is mention of the Genealogy of Christ, where reference is made of the various patriarchs, prophets, and holy women of the Old Covenant, who through their faith shall always remain shining stars that we reflect upon this time of year. The entire first chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew traces back the genealogy of Christ according to the flesh: "*The genealogy of Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham...*," it continues to mention all those who came before Christ"...

Every year, I like to take a pilgrimage to Fatima Shrine in Lewiston, especially this time of year when the Barnabite Fathers display their magnificent Festival of Lights at Fatima. The past six years I have had the great pleasure of sharing these precious moments with my son, John Paul, and let me tell you, children make the journey into Christmas that much more special and meaningful, because of their innocence and wide eyed anticipation. They remind us of our own inner child, and help to remove the distractions we have as adults - just long enough for us to focus even more on the child of Christ and the 'reason for the season'. If you have never made a journey to Fatima Shrine, I highly recommend this time of year, because the lights and the beautiful nativity scene add to the splendor of our Lord's birth, and rarely can I walk away from Fatima without a tear in my eye, moved so deeply by the images and revelations of our Lord coming into this world. We sometimes forget the manger, the humble birth, and the gift of salvation that came with the first cry of an infant child that echoed from a stable more than two thousand years ago. One of the many beautiful displays at Fatima that has always intrigued me over the years is called the *Tree of Jessie*. It is a display of lights that depicts key patriarchs in the lineage of Christ from the start of our creation to the moment of His birth. *The Jessie Tree* always reminds me of the first

Chapter of St. Matthew, because it paints with images, the words we read in the genealogy of Christ, and it is beautifully displayed right near the entrance into the Holy Shrine. My son spotted the Jessie Tree last year; I was pleased to see his own intrigue at the discovery of how we are all connected to Christ. He also touched every bead of the rosary that surrounds the central pond at Fatima, to the very end where he even held the hand of Christ on the cross. A very sobering thought to keep in mind, while we celebrate the birth of our Lord and consider why He came into this world. My son and I walked down the aisles of stone statues depicting the Saints, who remind us what it truly means to be holy and pleasing to the Lord...

As we approach Christmas day, hopefully with wide-eyed anticipation and wonder at the miracle of the Christ child being born into the world; our duty as children before a loving God is to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to shelter the homeless, to clothe the naked, to rebuild the nations, to welcome Christ into the hearts of all our brothers and sisters. And while we are out shopping for those perfect gifts, putting tinsel on our trees, baking cookies and sending out Christmas cards - let us never lose sight of the precious gift that God has given to each of us. Jesus is the reason for the glory of this season, and I hope that we will all remember to take a moment to put the real meaning of Christmas into perspective. Think of the babe born in a manger and picture the star that guided the wise men. Remember the gift of salvation Jesus brought into this world - because there lays the real joy of Christmas Day. When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the wise men have journeyed home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins. And all this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophets: "*The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel*" which means, "God is with us."