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

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Thanks are extended to all Sponsors

N^o
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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

Saturday 11:45 AM – Субота 11:45 р.

Ministry to the sick - Опіка над хворими

Family members should call the Rectory

Родина повинна повідомити священника

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^o50

December 18 – 2011 – 18 Грудня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК – Ч.50



Св. Миколай – St. Nicholas

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

**Dec. 18: S. Bef. Christmas – Перед Різдв.
27 Н. По Зісл. Св'ятого Духа (Юл.) 12**

П Р А З Н И К - FEASTDAY

12:00 PM За Парохіян – For Parishioners

Mon., Dec. 19 – Пон., 19 Грудня

10:00 AM +Софія Грега (Марія Маланяк)

Tue., Dec. 20 – Вівторок, 20 Грудня

**9:30 AM +Роман, Михайло і Катерина
Цьолко (Люба)**

Wed., Dec. 21 – Середа, 21 Грудня

8:15 AM +Катерина Сташків (Lisiecki Fam)

Зачаття Анни (Неп. Зач.) (Юл.)

Thu., Dec. 22 – Чет., 22 Грудня

10:00 AM За Парохіян – For Parishioners

Fri., Dec. 23 – П'ят., 23 Грудня

8:15 AM За зд. Орісі Перейма (родина)

CHRISTMAS EVE -- СВ'ЯТИЙ ВЕЧІР

Sat., Dec. 24 – Субота, 24 Грудня

**9:30 AM За усіх хворих і немічних
For all sick and disabled**

4:15 PM Great Vespers – Вел. Вечірня

**10:00 PM Great Compl. & Christmas Lit.
Вел. Повечеря і Різдв. Літургія**

Dec. 25: CHRISTMAS - РІЗДВО

Неділя Праотців (Юл.) 13

**10:00 AM +Петро, Іванна і Богдан Хоми
(р. Дусанівських)**

12:00 PM +Metr. Joseph Shmondiuk

**Eternal Light burns for
All sick and suffering**

**Вічне світло в честь ПДМ
Горить за всіх Парохіян**

In the Beginning . . . (cont.)

(w. 39) Chris now weighs between 5 and 9 pounds. The average size baby is 7 pounds. It's really crowded in here and it's very hard to move. The umbilical cord doesn't have any nerve endings (this means that neither mom nor Chris will feel any pain when it is cut!) and is about 20 inches long and about 1/2 inch thick. The good news for mom is it's easier to breathe because the baby is moving down. The bad news is mom may be running to the bathroom every two minutes.

"Then God, who had specially chosen me while I was still in my mother's womb..." Gal. 1:15

**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. Eutimiy Wolinski
Box 20118**

Woodstock, ON Canada N4S 8X8

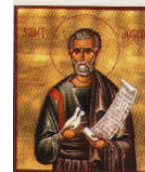
We prepared the envelopes for the 2012 calendar year. If any changes need to be made, please let us know.

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

Those who celebrate Christmas next Sunday please take proshpora bread courtesy of fr. Ray Palko. (Thank you, Fr. Ray!)

Ті, що святкують Різдво за новим, просимо взяти просфору. Дякуємо, отче Романе, за виготовлення хлібців!



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www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com

Hall and bar rentals are available.

See your old friends on Friday night.

Help rebuild our Ukrainian Home.

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

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Cheektowaga, NY 14225

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(Getzville Plaza)

Amherst, NY 14068

Fax 716-630-0133 tel. 716-688-1495

Сердечна подяка усім спонзорам!

Просимо їх підтримати!

**Ukrainian Home Dnipro
Federal Credit Union**

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with a heart"**

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The Colonial Memorial Chapels, Inc.
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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 Brygh

**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!**

We welcome all parishioners and guests for the occasion of our feast day of St. Nicholas!
HAPPY MANY YEARS!



Вітаємо усіх парохіян і прихожан з празником Св. Миколая Мирлікійського Чудотворця!
НА МНОГАЯ ЛІТА!

**OUR HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS
THE WONDER-WORKER, ARCH-
BISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA**

A native of Lycia, he became a monk at the New Sion monastery. When his parents died, he gave his entire inheritance to the poor. Ordained a priest in Patara, he was famous for his almsgiving. He was chosen as archbishop of Myra, and was a model shepherd in his care for the people of his flock. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council (Nicea, 325). Full of years, he entered into rest. (343)

We welcome all deanery priests who came to concelebrate the Divine Liturgy at our Feast Day ("Praznyk") . May the Lord bless you and your Families!

Thank you, fr. Andriy, for your homily today. Our sympathy to you in the occasion of the passing into Eternal Life of your beloved Mother Yaroslava.

Saint Nicholas

All that love Saint Nicholas
All that serve Saint Nicholas
For these Saint Nicholas
Comes to their aid in all their needs
Saint Nicholas! Saint Nicholas!

All that come to him
All those on land and sea
He protects from disasters
He keeps them from falling into sin
Saint Nicholas! Saint Nicholas!

All that come to him
Asking for aid in their needs
He will protect from evil
He will save their soul and body
Saint Nicholas! Saint Nicholas!

His image is our salvation
And the one protection from evil
Don't allow us to needlessly perish or
Fall into the hands of our enemies
Saint Nicholas! Saint Nicholas!

(Literal translation of the Ukrainian words.)



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 ЗАГАЛЬНИ 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

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. Їхня ціна – \$1.

PLEASE PICK UP
YOUR ENVELOPES!

ПРОСИМО ЗАБРАТИ
КОВЕРТКИ!

Cell Phones - Мобільні Телефони:

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

Просимо вилучувати ваші мобільні теле-
фони, підчас Св. Літургії. Дякуємо!



Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orth. Ch.
200 Como Park Blvd
Cheektowaga, NY 14227
Phone 684-0738

**CHRISTMAS
BAZAAR**

Sunday, December 18, 2011
12 pm to 7 pm

Theme Baskets
Raffles
Varenyky/Perogi
Eat-in and Take-outs
Ethnic Christmas Cards
Religious Items

Free Parking and Admission

Varenyky/Perogi Sales:
Wednesday, December 21, 2011
2 pm to 7 pm

DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS

“Special Appeal”

IMO Thomas Hluchyj
Anna & Michael Holowaty - \$100.00

IMO Daria Wojtowych
Onufrij & Halyna Biloholowskyj - \$25.00

Donations Towards Coffee Hour (to Bene-
fits Yearly Communication Assessment Fee)

Eva Kowtalo

Thank You

**ABOUT CHURCH ENVELOPES
AND CHRISTMAS:**

2012 Church Envelopes are in the back of
the church. Please remember: the cost per
box this year is \$6.13. If you did not receive
a box of envelopes and would like to use the
envelopes during the upcoming year, please
notify the Parish Office, (Fr Marijan, Elaine).
Also: if you are celebrating Christmas on the
Gregorian (New) Calendar, the **CHRIST-
MAS ENVELOPE IS FOUND AT THE
FRONT OF THE BOX.** Please use 2011's
envelope for CHRISTMAS 2011. If you are
celebrating Christmas on the Julian (Old)
Calendar, please use the CHRISTMAS 2012
found at the beginning of your new 2012
box of envelopes. We ask this because in
most cases the number you had in 2011 is
not the same as the number you have in
2012, and this may cause your donation to
be entered incorrectly into the computer
since most parishioners do not put names on
their envelopes. **PLEASE! DO NOT USE
THE 2012 BOX OF ENVELOPES, OR
PUT THEM IN THE COLLECTION
BASKET UNTIL JAN., 2012.**

Thank You,

Elaine

**To All Visitors, Friends
And Parishioners:**

Welcome to our Ukrainian Catho. parish
of Saint Nicholas. Make yourself at home.

Every married couple or single person
over 18 years old should be registered with
the parish. Your donations to support our
parish indicate your willingness to be a
member of St. Nicholas Parish. In other
words, to be considered a member of this
parish attendance and support is strongly
recommended. We use the system of envel-
opes. In the case you decide not to use envel-
opes, you can choose other method of sup-
porting the parish, but your support is ap-
preciated and much needed. May good
Lord bless you all!

Вітаємо до нашої і Вашої Церкви Св.
Отця Нашого Миколая. Двері завжди
відкриті. Господній дім є нашим домом.
Хай Господь благословить усіх! Подруж-
жя і самотні особи понад 18 років можуть
зарегіструватися. Якщо ви не бажаєте
вживати систему коверт, будь ласка
дайте нам ваші адреси і телефони, щоб
могти з вами сконтактуватися по потре-
бі. Ваші датки просимо вложити у ко-
верту і написати Ваше ім'я, бо в против-
ному Ваші пожертви будуть анонімними

Please say a prayer for the vocation!

Просимо помолитися
за священичі покликання!

Please Remember
Our Church in Your Will!

Пам'ятаймо про Рідну Церкву
та про її майбутність!

З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

Не чекаючи прохань, святий Миколай сам розшукував нужденних людей і якщо знаходив їх, то завжди являвся там з поміччю. Він скривався в нічній тиші, уникаючи свідків і похвал, та щедрою таємною милостинею рятував людей. Одного разу, коли святий Миколай плив морем із Александрії до Єрусалиму, щоб поклонитися там Гробу Господньому, по дорозі спіткала їх велика буря, яка загрожувала смертю усім, хто був на кораблі. Подорожні стали шукати помочі і, побачивши між собою святого Миколая, почали просити його, щоб він помолився за їх урятування від загибелі. І справді — через його молитви буря стихла і страх людей, що були на кораблі, перемінився у радість. Отак сила молитви врятувала життя мореплавців.

Святий Миколай іменується «правилом віри», бо свою віру він мужньо засвідчив на I Вселенському Соборі, що відбувся в 325 році в Нікеї, де рішуче виступив проти лжевчення Арія. Там же разом із великими учителями й богомудрими Отцями Собору святий Миколай уложив «Символ віри» — оте правило віри, яке ми співаємо на кожнім Богослужінні.

Святий Миколай був людиною високої духовної довершеності, що розливала довкола себе особливий запах, який поширювався на сучасників і на деяких нащадків; це — великий угодник Божий, що просіяв красою святості і, подібно до старозавітного праведника, був — як «ранішня зірка серед хмар, як місяць у дні повні, як сонце, що сяє над храмом Всевишнього, як райдуга у величних хмарах, і неначе миро коштовне, що всіх обдаровує пахощами» (Сирах 50, 6-8).

Понад 17 століть минуло з того часу, коли жив святий Миколай, але він і нині залишається в серці кожного християнина.

У перекладі з грецької мови на нашу ім'я «Миколай» означає «переможець народів». І справді — святий Миколай дійсно перемагає, приваблює людей своїм святим життям, повним милосердя і добра. Бо хто б не звертався у своєму житті з молитвою до нього, то завжди одержував благодатну допомогу і спокій.

Так як св. Миколай помагав потребуючим, і ми повині таксамо робити.

Коли приходить нагода дати, якщо у нас просять милостині, то ніколи не слід давати в поспіху. Часами людина більше втішиться добрим словом, увагою, аніж кілька доларів. Якщо хто просить хліб — постараймося нагодувати, якщо одяг, убрати. І тоді сповнімо Христове слово, що і нам буде сказане на Страшному Суду: "Я був голодний і ви мені дали їсти, я був спрагнений і напоїли мене, був нагий і одягли". Хто сумний чи зажурений, потішмо, розвеселім.

Коли хочемо допомогти, зробім навіть більше, аніж того просять, а при тому пам'ятаймо слова Господні: "Ти ж, коли даєш милостиню, нехай твоя ліва рука не знає, що робить твоя права..."

Ніколи не слід давати задля себе самого, або задля милостині, бо в такий спосіб ми усунемо Христа, від того, чого Він є основою. Милосердя — плід чистого серця, завдяки якому ми вже побачили Бога в близькому. Доки не побачимо — то ми тільки ті, що шукають похвали, але осягнувши і пізнавши, тільки тоді станемо правдивими добродіями, на зразок св. Миколая.

Життя нашого патрона св. Миколая Мирлікійського Чудотворця якраз і є прикладом щирого і правдивого милосердя, якого нам слід наслідувати...

Святий Отче Миколаю, моли Бога за нас!

From the desk of Fr. Ray Palko

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!
GLORY FOREVER!

December 18, 2011

Dear _____,

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

OK folks, like they say, "it's all over but the shouting." This is your letter for the 18th of December, the Sunday before Christmas. That means there's one more week of hustle and bustle, and scurrying to and fro in order to get those last minute items for the great celebration. By the way, did you get to confession yet? Just askin'.....

I like how they say, "last minute shopping." That's true for most people unless you're a guy. For the men shoppers, this last week before Christmas is definitely only the signal to begin. What did that famous Navy admiral John Paul Jones say? "I have not yet begun to fight." So gentlemen, you've been warned...it's time to move it and to head out to your favorite store or mall and get that special someone that special gift. Be forewarned though, these are the days when there's no such thing as an easy errand or a quick trip to the store. There are certainly a lot of cars, people and much longer lines for just about anything.

For example, I ran out to mail a few letters around 4pm today (Wednesday the 14th). All I had to do was go to the mailbox outside our town hall, which is about a mile from home and drop them in. I arrived there just as the town employees were leaving, the police were changing shift and the library was jam-packed. Not a big deal, just a lot more cars and people than usual.

The other day I promised our little Emma that I was going to buy her a balloon next time she came to our house, so it was off to Southgate Plaza, a little further down the road. Whoa! I knew I was out at a busy time for traffic, but it didn't take me long to notice that I was driving into the Christmas spirit! The plaza and stores were very busy! So anyone shopping in the old traditional way, i.e. going to a

store instead of a computer, had better get ready for a lot of company out there.

Our church in Niagara Falls is on Ferry Ave., a street which is a direct conduit from the Rainbow Bridge, one of the spans connecting the US and Canada. You wouldn't believe how many Canadian cars come by every single day! Their dollar is worth a few cents more than ours, and they tell me they get far more for their money over here. I know the merchants are happy, as well as our county government, because the Canadian shoppers have greatly increased the sales tax revenue! So it's welcome Canadians!

Have you noticed how quickly it's been getting dark lately? It is especially noticeable on a dark and dreary day when it seems the sun has set about 4:15 or 4:30pm. Hang in there because next Thursday, December 22 is the first day of winter. Oh yeah, we have the next 3 or 4 months of winter ahead of us, but beginning next week the days will be getting longer and longer each day. Now isn't that a nice thought? Somehow the storm doesn't seem quite as bad when it's daytime. Yep, we Christians are definitely people of Hope! As they pray in the Roman Mass: "We wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior." Yep, we do!

I've begun to make extra *prospora* for you to have at your Holy Supper. One nice batch is already done and I'll probably do another tomorrow to be sure we have enough for everyone. It really gives me a great joy to know those special loaves will become part of your beautiful family gathering on Christmas Eve. By the way, if you took a *prospora* today, please know that you should put it in the freezer until you need to use it. The bread is made from flour, water, yeast and a pinch of salt, all natural ingredients and no preservatives, so it is not something you can keep out on the counter or in the bread box.

The *prospora* is the same bread we use for the Liturgy, but at the Holy Supper it is used as a symbol of Christ, the Lamb of God, the Baby of Bethle-

hem. After the opening prayer and the singing of “Boh Predvichny-God Eternal” for the first time in the new Christmas season, the elder of the household goes around the table, with the now cut up prosphora dipped in honey, and greets each person with that beautiful greeting, Chyrstos Razhdaetsia! Slavite Yeho! Christ is born! Glorify Him! There is always a piece left at the “empty place” for those family members who are no longer with us. Beautiful custom! And then comes the Kutia!

The preparing, cleaning and decorating have begun in earnest. Many churches have been decorated and all is ready. Our parish in “The Falls” will be doing that this coming week. Many of our parishes have been celebrating St. Nicholas day in some fashion or another since Dec. 6 and that is usually an impetus for decoration.

This coming Sunday St. Nicholas, our mother parish here in the city, will be celebrating their parish feast day or *praznyk*. God willing and the creek don't rise, I'll be there. I hope everyone got the message that there will be only one Liturgy that day. I always wonder how many people came to the closed doors, not knowing, or forgetting that the schedule had been changed. Oops! ☹

I've been really enjoying getting Christmas cards from one and all. Family and friends send them and they are always kind of expected, and certainly most welcome. Then we get the yearly ones which are always fun, and a good thing to receive, as they allow us to reconnect and renew friendships. I especially love to receive a card from someone whom I never thought would send one, or from a long lost friend of yesteryear. Those cards are really special and “make it Christmas.”

One day last week I told the mailman that I felt like Charlie Brown on Valentine's Day because he actually came without even one card! How awful! “It's Christmas, where are my cards!” Then I got to wondering...how many people there



must be who are alone and don't get many, or any, cards. So I started to check my memory and addresses to see if there was anyone I could get a card to like that. Maybe you have some of those forgotten friends, relatives or acquaintances. Everybody needs to get a Christmas card!

This Sunday our gospel reading is of the genealogy of Jesus right up to His birth. We often call this reading “the Sunday of the names” when the long expectation of the Messiah is fulfilled. The Roman Catholics will

read the gospel account of the Annunciation to bring to mind the fulfillment of that great announcement by the Archangel Gabriel nine months earlier. Commenting on that reading, Fr. Tom of Queen of Heaven parish writes in his bulletin: “Question-What do you call a family which began with an unmarried pregnant teen and had a 12 year old son run away from home and was executed as a criminal? Answer- **HOLY!** We have two lessons in that account- 1. No matter what is going on in your family or in your life “The Lord is with you.” 2. “Do not be afraid for nothing is impossible with God.”

My dear one, pray, fast and care for the poor for our Lord is coming soon. Make ready His way! God bless you and cause His face to shine upon you. May our Holy Lady the Theotokos protect you! **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!**

**In His Love,
Fr. Ray**

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

During this time of Advent, we celebrate the feasts of Saints whose services to the Church are outstanding. For example, the apostle St. Andrew, or St. John of Damascus, the great Syrian doctor, or St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan. But one could say that none of the saints of Advent hold as high a place in popular devotion as does St. Nicholas. Even today, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish here in Buffalo joyously celebrates its feast day. For among the various feasts of the Saints whose memory we commemorate during the Church Year, St. Nicholas merits special consideration. The Church itself surrounds his feast with a special solemnity. And meanwhile, we know almost nothing about him. The incidents of his life for which he is best known do not belong to history but rather to legend. The legends attached to the name of Nicholas always represent him as engaged in bringing help to some urgent case of human distress. This ‘saintly life’ which cannot pretend to be historical, expresses an ideal of charity. However, this legend, this veneration, this figure for children and adults alike, has great spiritual meaning as well. A large number of miracles are attributed to St. Nicholas as well as striking acts of charity.

St. Nicholas is a living symbol of our Saviors love and mercy toward mankind. From the earliest times our Holy Father, St. Nicholas, enjoyed great veneration and universal respect among our people. Not a single home in our native land of Ukraine was without an icon of St. Nicholas, and his icon is almost always seen among the icons on the iconostases of our Churches. Our people venerate him as though he were a native Saint. Although many centuries have passed since his death, because of his works of charity and merciful generosity, he continues to live on in the hearts of millions of people. Every year on his feast day, his love of neighbor continues to live symbolically throughout the world, as thousands upon thousands of children receive gifts in his name. In the

hymn of praise on his feast day we sing: “We praise you, O bishop of Christ, Nicholas, and we venerate your memory, for you pray for us to Christ our God”. The secret of his great and continuous following, among all the Christian nations, lies in the fact that he has become a symbol of sacrificial love, compassion, and mercy. This is attested by the history of his popular devotion, our Church services, and the fervent veneration of his icons.

There are a great number of legends telling us about the life of this pious man who noticed whenever a human being was in distress and tried to help wherever he could. He was a special friend of children and young people. In the Cathedral Church of St. Sophia in Kiev, there is an icon of St. Nicholas, so called, “the Wet”. This icon became famous in the eleventh century because of a special miracle. A man with his wife and small son were returning from a feast day celebration, on their way back to Kiev, traveling along the Dniro River by boat. Suddenly a storm broke out and the boy fell out of the boat into the great river. Several days later, they found him alive and healthy, merely wet from the water, and at his feet rested this icon of St. Nicholas. The icon henceforth received its name from this incident. There are several other legends about St. Nicholas. He once gave back to an elderly woman the full use of her crippled arm. St. Nicholas once saved three generals who had unjustly been thrown into prison and were awaiting execution. There is also a legend that the bishop of Myra helped a family with three daughters. They were so poor that their father was about to sell them to a landlord to save them from starving to death. Nicholas heard of their need and decided to help them. He took three bags filled with gold and threw them through a window into their living room. Our Holy Father Nicholas gives us beautiful examples of a living, active, and sacrificial love of God and neighbor. His love for neighbor is universal, all embracing, and ready to assist in every necessity...