



Some ladies in the kitchen (with Alex) – Thu. Dec. 17



Carolers at Christmas Dinner in the O.L.P.H. – Sat. Dec. 12



With Bishop Paul in Rochester, Dec. 15



After the concert in St. John Vianney, Dec. 16

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SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ✠ УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



**N<sup>o</sup> 51**  
ПІД ОПІКОЮ  
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ  
МАРІЇ ОДІПТРИЇ  
UNDER THE  
PROTECTION OF  
MOTHER OF GOD



**CHURCH BULLETIN**  
December 20 – 2015 – 20 Грудня  
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

Christ is Born! Христос Раждається!

Зачаття Анни – Conception of St. Anne





## CHURCH BULLETIN

December 20 – 2015 – 20 Грудня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



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

## ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM +Norma DuBois (Bea Donovan & Dan)

December 20, S. of Fathers – Неділя Отців

No Liturgy at noon

Feastday dinner at noon – Hriczko Post

Monday, December 21 Грудня, Понеділок

6:00 PM +Mary Beth Sukmann (Family)

1st Anniversary - Panachyda

Tuesday, December 22 Грудня, Вівторок

10:00 AM For all church volunteers

Wednesday, December 23 Грудня, Середа

9:00 AM +Irene Tschip (Mary Ann DuBois)

Thursday, December 24 Грудня, Четвер

9:30 AM St. Basil the Great – Св. Василя Вел.

For Peace in Ukraine – За мир в Україні

10:00 PM Great Compline – Вел. Повечер'я

10:45 PM Christmas Lit. – Різдвяна Л.

## CHRISTMAS – РІЗДВО Г.Н.І.Х.

Friday, December 25 Грудня, П'ятниця

12:00 PM +Metr. Joseph Shmondiuk

Synaxis of B.V.M. – Собор П.Д.М.

Saturday, December 26 Грудня, Субота

9:30 AM +John & Mary Colomon

(Allen & Nadine Burkholder)

4:30 PM For the Mercy of the Lord

За Боже Милосердя

Saint Stephen – Св. Степан Первомученик

Dec. 27, S. After Christmas – Н. По Різдві

12:00 PM For Parishioners - За Парохіян

Christ is Born – Glorify Him!

Христос Раждається – Славіте!

20 Груд.: 29 Н. по З.С.Д. – Св. Миколай

10:00 р. For Parishioners – За Парохіян

22 Грудня: Зачаття Анни

10:00 р. За всіх працівників при церкві

27 Груд.: Неділя Праотців

10:00 р. Катерина Лехновська (діти)

90-ліття – МНОГАЯ ЛІТА!

May the peace and love of the Christ  
Child, the gift of this Holy Season,  
Be with you always!

Christ is born – Let us Glorify Him!

**Веселих Свят Різдва Христового!**  
**Христос Раждається! Славіте Його!**

Сердечна подяка Вам усім, що  
працювали в Церковній Кухні!

Боже Благословення на Вас!

Thank you all for working  
in the Church Kitchen during  
very busy Christmas Season!

May the Lord Bless all of You!

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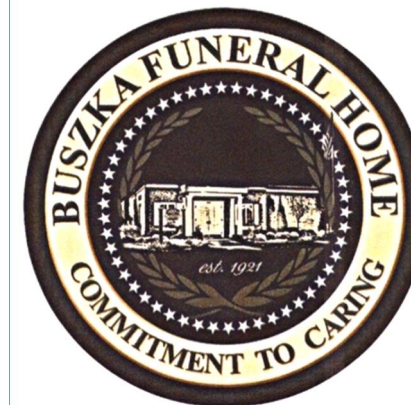
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<p><b>Business Hours</b> Closed <b>Wednesdays</b>, Зачинені по середах Mon., Tuesday, Thursday   9:30 am - 5 pm   Пон., вівторок, четвер Friday / П'ятниця   9:30 am - 7 pm   Saturday / Субота   9 am - 1 pm  </p>	<p><b>Business Hours</b> Closed <b>Mondays</b>, Зачинені по понеділках Tuesday - Thursday   9:30 am - 5 pm   3 вівторка по четвер Friday / П'ятниця   9:30 am - 6 pm   Saturday / Субота   9 am - 1 pm  </p>

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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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талантами, часом і жертвами.

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

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Просимо вилучувати ваші мобільні  
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Про логотип святкувань Ювілейного року Божого милосердя  
Богословський коментар логотипу святкувань Ювілейного року Божого милосердя.



**Святий рік Божого милосердя**

Милосердні, як Отець (уривок з Євангелія від Луки, 6, 36) – це запрошення виявляти милосердя за прикладом Отця, котрий просить не судити і не осуджувати, а ділитися любов'ю та безконечно прощати (пор. Лк. 6, 37-38). Логотип – твір о. Марка І. Рупніка, Т. І., – представляє короткий богословський підсумок теми милосердя. Автор покликається на дуже цінний для ранньої Церкви образ Сина, який бере на плечі загублену людину, що вказує на любов Христа, котрий веде до завершення таємниці свого Воплочення відкупленням.

Образ виконаний таким чином, щоб показати Доброго Пастиря, який з великою любов'ю торкається глибини серця людини, перемінюючи її життя. Ще одна деталь: Добрий Пастир у своєму великому милосерді бере на плечі людство, але Його погляд зустрічається з поглядом людини.

Христос дивиться очима Адама, Адам – очима Христа. Кожна людина, споглядаючи в

Його погляді любов Отця, відкриває в Христі Нового Адама, а також власну людяність і майбутнє, яке на неї чекає. Образ уміщений у формі, що називається «мандорла» (з італ. – мигдалина). Ця форма дуже важлива для давньої та середньовічної іконографії, бо вказує на поєднання в Христі двох природ – божественної та людської. Три концентричні овали трьох відтінків, що світлішають у зовнішньому напрямку, відображають рух Христа, який витягує людину з темряви гріха і смерті. Водночас заглиблення темнішої барви означає незбагненність любові Отця, який усе прощає.

missiopc.blogspot.com

The 2016 Jubilee was first announced by Pope Francis on March 13, 2015. It was declared by Pope Francis in his April 2015 papal bull of indiction, Misericordiae Vultus (Latin: "The Face of Mercy"). It is the 27th holy year in history, following the ordinary 2000 Jubilee during John Paul II papacy.

Pope Francis:

'I have decided to announce an Extraordinary Jubilee which has at its centre the mercy of God. It will be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live in the light of the word of the Lord: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (cf. Lk 6:36). And this especially applies to confessors! So much mercy!

This Holy Year will commence on the next Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will conclude on Sunday, 20 November 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe and living face of the Father's mercy.'



## The Head of the UGCC: “Our greatest tyrant and enslaver is selfishness – the source of our grief”

Only a nation who loves its neighbors can be a free nation, looking attentively and bravely into the eyes of history and with all abilities and strengths build up a future in God. It was said by His Beatitude Sviatoslav, the Father and Head of the UGCC in his homily to the faithful during the consecration of the Temple of Nativity of the Mother of God in Irpen (Kyiv region).



The preacher mentioned that in today's Gospel we hear a story of a salvation. We see Jesus Christ as an emancipator Who rescues a person from his/her slavery, erect his/her, give a dignity back, making valuable again...

“Very often a word “woman” in Scriptures means “God's nation”. And in the image of this healing Jesus Christ rescues and heals not only one person but the whole nation. What was a problem of people present at the synagogue that day? The disease of that woman was laid in a personification of a so-called spirituality that identifies a person before God. It is an excellent example of a spiritual selfishness... She seemed to be crippled, bent over and completely incapable of standing erect, describes Luke. Thus, a person who looks only after him-

herself, caring for a personal welfare even in a spiritual life, is similar to such a crippled person, enslaved with a personal selfishness”, - told His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

Up to his mind, a person who takes care only of him-/herself, in spiritual life praying about personal ego and personal problems, has to be hypocrite and Pharisee. Such person cannot stand erect before God, cannot obtain a liberty of full and live conversation with Lord and Creator. And God, in His turn, takes care of a person and teaches how to take care of a neighbor. That is a case of healing and emancipation that God gives a person.

The Head of the Church pointed out, even those who pray everyday can be spiritual egoists. “We want God accomplish our will. It is like we use Him as an instrument for fulfilling our personal, God's and people's needs. Then we become a center of the universe and want everybody go around us. However, such way of life is similar to that crippled woman, left of a freedom. For our greatest tyrant and enslaver is selfishness – the source of our grief: personal, family and even social. A society of egoists is sentenced for a collapse and destruction. But a community of people who can love God and neighbor, care for the neighbor more than for themselves, - and it is really a community of free people”, - thinks His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

The UGCC Department of Information



Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory for ever!

Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава на віки!

- KITCHEN is now open.
- Thank you for your patronage. Thanks are extended to all who helped!
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. We are able to continue, so please join us downstars. Thank you!

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.

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

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**Confession:** Before Liturgies

**Сповідь:** Перед Св. Літургіями

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**Хрещення:** За домовленням

**Marriage:** Contact 6 months in advance

**Вінчання:** Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

**Religion classes – Релігійна Програма**

**Saturday - Субота**

**Ministry to the sick – Опіка над хворима**

Family members should call the Rectory

Родина повинна повідомити священика

**IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME**

**В разі потреби завжди можна закликати**

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Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

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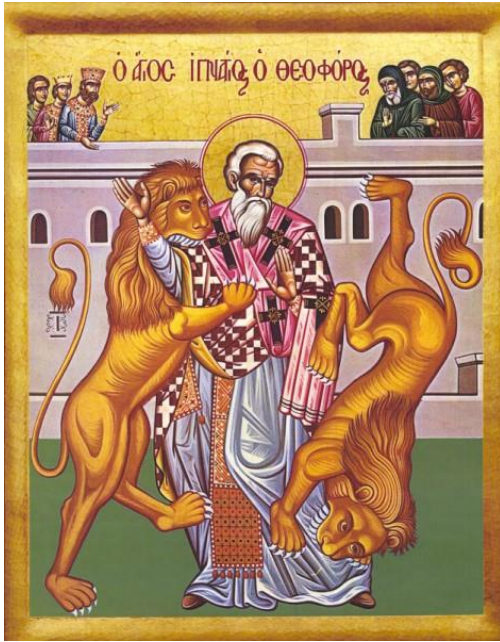
**Просимо закликати якщо ви у лічниці  
або приковані до ліжка!**



## The Saints on Sundays, 2015/16

December 20/January 2

### Saint Ignatius of Antioch



The Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer, was a disciple of the holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian, as was also St Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (February 23). St Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch, and successor to Bishop Euodius, Apostle of the Seventy (September 7).

Tradition suggests that when St Ignatius was a little boy, the Savior hugged him and said: "Unless you turn and become as little children, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven" (Mt. 18:3). The saint was called "God-Bearer" (Theophoros), because he bore God in his heart and prayed unceasingly to Him. He also had this name because he was held in the arms of Christ, the incarnate Son of God.

St Ignatius was a disciple of the Apostle John the Theologian, together with St Polycarp of Smyrna. As Bishop of Antioch, St Ignatius was zealous and spared no effort to build up the church of Christ. To him is attributed the practice of antiphonal singing (by two choirs) during church services. He had seen a vision of the angels in heaven alternately singing praises to God, and divided his church choir to follow this example. In the time of persecution he was a source of strength to the souls of his flock, and was eager to suffer for Christ.

In the year 106 the emperor Trajan (98-117), after his victory over the Scythians, ordered everyone to give thanks to the pagan gods, and to put to death any Christians who refused to worship the idols. In the year 107, Trajan happened to pass through Antioch. Here they told him that Bishop Ignatius openly confessed Christ, and taught people to scorn riches, to lead a virtuous life, and preserve their virginity. St Ignatius came voluntarily before the emperor, so as to avert persecution of the Christians in Antioch. St Ignatius rejected the persistent requests of the emperor Trajan to sacrifice to the idols. The emperor then decided to send him to Rome to be thrown to the wild beasts. St Ignatius joyfully accepted the sentence imposed upon him. His readiness for martyrdom was attested to by eyewitnesses, who accompanied St Ignatius from Antioch to Rome.

On the way to Rome, the ship sailed from Seleucia stopped at Smyrna, where St Ignatius met with his friend Bishop Polycarp. Clergy and believers from other cities and towns thronged to see St Ignatius. He exhorted everyone not to fear death and not to grieve for him. In his Epistle to the Roman Christians, he asked them to assist him with their prayers, and to pray that God would strengthen him in his impending martyrdom for Christ: "I seek Him Who died for us; I desire Him Who rose for our salvation... In me, desire has been nailed to the cross, and no flame of material longing is left. Only the living water speaks within me, saying, 'Hasten to the Father.'"

From Smyrna, St Ignatius went to Troas. Here he heard the happy news of the end of the persecution against Christians in Antioch. From Troas, St Ignatius sailed to Neapolis (in Macedonia) and then to Philippi.

On the way to Rome St Ignatius visited several churches, teaching and guiding the Christians there. He also wrote seven epistles: to the churches of Ephesus, Magnesia, Tralles, Rome, Philadelphia, and Smyrna. He also addressed a letter to St Polycarp, who mentions a collection of the letters of St Ignatius in his letter to the Philippians (Ch. 13). St Irenaeus of Lyons quotes from St Ignatius's letter to the Romans (AGAINST HERESIES 5:28:4). All these letters have survived to the present day.

The Roman Christians met St Ignatius with great joy and profound sorrow. Some of them hoped to prevent his execution, but St Ignatius implored them not to do this. Kneeling down, he prayed together with the believers for the Church, for love between the brethren, and for an end to the persecution against Christians.

On December 20, the day of a pagan festival, they led St Ignatius into the arena, and he turned to the people: "Men of Rome, you know that I am sentenced to death, not because of any crime, but because of my love for God, by Whose love I am embraced. I long to be with Him, and offer myself to him as a pure loaf, made of fine wheat ground fine by the teeth of wild beasts."

## Letter from Fr. Ray Dec. 20, 2015

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

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

As old Charlie Dickens would say, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times",.... it is the time of "snowlessness!" Don't know for sure if that's really a word, and neither does Ol Mr. Mac. He's got it underlined in red as I type. Some weather guy has coined that as a new word to describe this winter in the North East, and pretty much all around the country. As of today as I write, on December 14, Monday, I haven't seen one flake of snow so far this year. By the time you read your letter this weekend, it is forecast for this area that we will have had some measureable snow to talk about. We'll see....

It's all my fault, and I'm very sorry about it. I really have caused this snowlessness. You see, what I did was clean the garage, put away the leaf rakes and summer tools and then I took down the snow shovels, the roof rake and got the ol' snowblower up and running and purring like the proverbial kitten. Got the shovel, snow melter, scrapers and all the rest of the winter car kit. All ready for the snow to come. That was in October when I did that. So definitely I take the blame. No better way to chase rain away in summer than to water your garden. No better way to make for "snowlessness" than to prepare for winter! I'm sure it will come one of these days, and like the good old Boy Scout I can say, "I'm prepared!"

It has been an unusual and beautiful late fall this year, that's for sure. Today I snipped some special and gorgeous, white mums, still growing and blooming, on the western side of the house. These mums are special because they are from cuttings from my Mom's garden in Pennsylvania from a long time ago, and it a special event to see them bloom every year, and now to continue this late.

I think because of the lack of snow the shortness of daylight hours hasn't been as noticeable as in other years. However, the days continue to get

shorter and shorter until we get to December 21, this coming Monday, the first day of winter. It will be the 355<sup>th</sup> day of the year 2015 with only 10 days remaining till the New Year! It will be a short, dark day, but then...but then, the sun will begin its journey northward ever so slowly, and then....and then, the darkness will be pierced by the light. Yes, hardly noticeable at first, but then...but then, exploding into the glorious days of light of springtime! Glory to God who has made it all! "You made the moon to mark the seasons, the sun that know the time of its setting." Ps. 104 Just as we see in nature, so too in the spiritual, it is now to become the season of Light. The world sitting in darkness is about to be pierced by THE LIGHT. Ever so slowly at first, but then, more and more, until He explodes with the Glorious Light of His Resurrection, Ascension and the coming of His Holy Spirit! Yes, we are "children of light and of the day" as St. Paul has written to us! The Light is coming!

So I hope you are having a good "Philip's Fast" and Advent as we prepare to once again be blessed with the coming of the Savior! December is now nearly over as I write, and Christmas is near. Time to get some Christmas shopping done I suppose. A lot of people talk about "last minute shopping this time of the year, but I happen to think there is still lots of time yet. ☺ ☹ ☺

Before you receive your next letter, Christmas will have arrived. Therefore, I take this opportunity to wish you and yours many blessing of this glorious season of the Nativity and Holy Theophany of our Blessed Lord. And now we will be able to ring the bells, sing our carols and rejoice in our salvation as we greet one another with our Christian greeting: "Christ is Born! Glorify Him!"

Do you remember the old Christmas song, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," which Andy Williams had in his Christmas album of that name? That's what ideally, or spiritually, this time is, or can be, or should be. However, sad to say, the joy of that discovery of Christ among us is so often quickly blotted out for us. When Andy Williams sang that

song it was his first Christmas album, and the year was 1963. If you are an old guy like me, you'll remember that President Kennedy was shot and killed only one month before that Christmas. So it was hardly a wonderful time of the year as the country was still in deep mourning, even in that late December of 1963.

Even without any major tragedies, Christmas time in many ways, always brings some very tough days for a lot of us. Funerals and sickness certainly and quickly dim the festive holiday lights. For those carrying the cross of old age with its hardship and loneliness, it is the ghost of Christmas past which brings the sadness, melancholy and loneliness of the days that are no more. Those unemployed, and those struggling just to make ends meet, can hardly say, "It's the most wonderful time of the year!" In Ukraine, the Middle East and throughout the world, there are countless families in difficulty or hurting, for whatever reason, and they have become blind to the joy that can be, and indeed is theirs. We remember soldiers off to war, their families left at home and the loss of life of so many innocents of the various wars. At Christmastime we remember policemen and police-women, the nurses, doctors, firemen and all the others who protect us and who work amid the pain and hurt of the day as usual.



Thinking about all this, we will definitely shed a tear or two as the prosphora and honey is passed to all around the table of our "Holy Supper", as we remember Mom and Dad, Baba and Dido, and all our family who are absent, both of the living and of the dead. Because Christmas, the birth of Emmanuel, God with us, can be such a powerful message for goodness and hope throughout the entire world, and because so many can't quite grasp that message, I sometimes think there is just as much sadness at Christmas as there is "joy to the world, peace on earth."

But, but, but.....no matter what our situation in life might be, if we come to know that God is with us, we will have blessed joy and hope. He came and He fulfilled God's saving plan for each and every one of us. He was born in that cave in Bethlehem, laid in a manger, and then lived, suffered, died and then rose from the dead! And not only did He rise from the dead, but the gift and promise of that little baby boy in Bethlehem is that all of us will rise from the dead because of Him and His love for us! Yes, we go through the valley of sickness, sorrow, loneliness, despair, the valley of the shadow of death, but we are hopeful and rejoice because His victory is our victory! The little baby is our Savior!!

*'O little town of Bethlehem...the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight...'* The Reign of the Baby King has come, but not yet in its fullness. Amid the good, the bad and the ugly of this world, we must know and believe that His victory is our victory. *'I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven....Then I heard a loud voice from the throne, "You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make His home among them; they shall be His people, and He will be their God; His name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness."*

*' (Revelation 21: 1-4)*

I hope this letter finds all of you surrounded by your families, and in absolute Christmas love and joy, free of sorrow, danger and difficulty. May you be blessed with Joy and Peace and Love! May we all join the angels as we sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace to men of good will!" Because ya' know what? **IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!!!! Z Nami Boh!** **God is with us! MERRY CHRISTMAS!** May the newly born Savior bless us! Our Holy Lady Theotokos protect us! Holy Saint Joseph, pray unto God for us!

With blessings and abounding Christmas Love,  
Fr. Ray,

*The Ukrainian American Youth Association of Buffalo, New York Lesia Ukrainka Branch is pleased to announce their annual*

*Ukrainian New Year's Dance  
МАЛАНКА 2016*

*Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

*Ukrainian Cultural Center "DNIPRO"  
562 Genesee St, Buffalo, NY 14204*

*Come one come all to a night of great music, dancing, food & friends!!*

*MUSIC provided by  
"Pawuk Bros" of Rochester*

*Cocktail Hour, Dinner, Zabava, Midnight Buffet, & Champagne toast  
Or come just for the Zabava*

*Tickets sales  
from November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 thru January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Dinner & Zabava \$50 per person adults  
Dinner & Zabava for students (ages 13-18) \$30*

*\*\*\*Dinner tickets will be pre-sale only  
NO dinner tickets will be available at the door!\*\*\**

*Zabava only \$30 per person (no pre-sale necessary)*

*Cocktails: 6:30pm - Dinner 7:15pm - Zabava: 9:00pm  
There will be a Midnight Snack & Midnight Toast*

*For More Information, Questions, Tickets & Reservations*

*Nicole Grega (716) 903-4777 or [ukennikie29@gmail.com](mailto:ukennikie29@gmail.com)  
Ann Sereidiuk (716) 316-1051*

*The Ukrainian Cultural Center "Dnipro" interior is a Smoke-Free Environment  
The New York State Liquor Control Authority  
Strictly Prohibits the Bringing in of Any Outside Alcoholic Beverages*

ОСЕРЕДОК СУМ  
ім. ЛЕСІ УКРАЇНКИ в Бофало Н.Й.  
Влаштовує



ТРАДИЦІЙНУ  
МАЛАНКУ 2016

яка відбудеться  
в суботу 16-го січня  
2016 р.

В залях  
Українського Дому  
"Дніпро"  
при 562 Дженесі вул.  
Бофало Н.Й.

Щиро запрошуємо Українську громаду міста Бофало і околиць до участі.

До танців приграватиме оркестра:  
"Pawuk Bros"

Білетти на Вечерю і Забаву  
на продаж від 15 -го листопада 2015 р.  
до 10 -го січня 2016 р.

\$50.00 для дорослих  
\$30.00 для студентів (13-18)  
Білетти не продаємо при дверях.

Білетти тільки на Забаву \$30.00 при  
дверях

Коктейль 6:30 в. - Вечеря 7:15 в.  
Забаву 9:00 в.

Зустріч нового року – шампанський тост

До замовлення білеттів:

Никол Грегга (716) 903-4777 -  
[ukennikie29@gmail.com](mailto:ukennikie29@gmail.com)

Ганя Середюк (716) 316-1051

КУРИТИ ЗАБОРОНЕНО В ЗАЛІ "ДНІПРА"  
КОМІСІЯ КОНТРОЛЯ АЛЬКОГОЛІВ В Н.Й.  
ЗАБОРОНЯЄ ПРИНОСИТИ ВЛАСНІ  
АЛЬКОГОЛЬНІ НАПИТКИ



### З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

Кожного року літургійно ми пригадуємо його прихід у світ, сповнення бажань багатьох сердець на основі давніх пророцтв. Бог створив людину на свій образ і подобу, але людина затьмарена жадобою слави відійшла від свого Творця, думаючи що своїми власними силами зможе досягнути багато більше, щоб не тільки бути дитиною Божою, але самим Богом. Упавши зі своєї власної волі, під намовою Божого противника, того що сам давніше упав, не була в силі сама піднятися.



Тому Бог Отець у своїй незбагненій любові посилав свого єдинородного Сина до нас, який народжується від Пречистої Діви Марії, найдосконалішої між жінками, щоб усі народжені від жінки могли досягнути спасіння. Він став одним з нас, нашим братом, щоб ми стали його братами і сестрами, щоб ми знову були піднесені до гідності називатися синами і дочками Всевишнього.

Народжується Господь в малому містечку Вифлеємі, у печері між звірятами. Не було місця у заїзді, добре, що хоч печеру знайшли. Довго спасителя очікували, а коли Він прийшов ніхто того не зауважив. Знали про нього тільки пастирі, бо їм ангели об'явили, і знали мудреці, бо їм небо дало знати. Звізду бо нову побачили і зрозуміли, що вона допровадить їх до Месії. І приносять йому дари: кадило як Богові, бо новонароджене дитя є сином Божим, миро, як помазаникові, і золото як володареві, тому, що усе йому належить. Знав про нього також, Ірод який довідався від царів. Свята родина тому мусить утікати до Єгипту, бо грозило знищення.

Вернувшись назад виростає Христос у Назареті, а потім маючи 30 років він хреститься від Иоана у ріці Йордані.

Через три роки навчав, помагав, чуда творив. Хоча жодних шкіл Він не покінчив, але в Нього уся мудрість. Хоча нічого не мав, все посідає. Усі пішли проти нього, один з його учнів Юда з Іскаріоту його зрадив, а інші Петро і Андрій і Матеї і Тома і всі інші апостоли крім Иоана порозбігалися коли то Його зловили, і насміхалися з нього і на хрест приби-

ли між двома розбійниками, а за одержу його кинули жереба. І поховали його в чужій гробниці. І так скінчилося життя і здавалося, що вже по всьому, що Христос відійшов у небуття. Противники його раділи, аж до третього дня, коли він своєю власною силою воскрес із мертвих, і його царству не буде кінця.

Нехай новонароджене Дитя, народиться і в серцях кожного і кожної з нас, щоб і ми з ним прославилися. Приймім його як діти, з радістю, бо Він до нас приходить малою дитиною. Дитина немає ані власті ані сили, але власне брак отої власті показує нам його як володаря, а його безборонність є якраз джерелом безмірної сили. Дитя у вифлеємській яскині не робить нас боязливими. Воно входить в наші серця виключно через любов. Господь прийшов до нас малою дитиною, і ми можемо Його прийняти і віддатися Йому тільки способом дитини. Відтворім у собі оту невинність дитини, щоб знову стати невинними, щоб очиститися і прийняти Христа, і віддати йому себе, і своїх рідних під його охорону.

Немов мудреці принесім новонародженому свої дари. Золота ми не маємо, ані мира, ані запашного кадила, але маємо свою готовість піти до Нього на службу. Позволити Господеві, щоб він послужився нами. Наші руки нехай стануть його руками, якими він буде робити добрі діла, наші ноги нехай стануть його ногами, вживаючи яких він принесе допомогу тим що далеко від нас і від Нього. Хай Він вселиться в наше серце і постійно там перебуває, і любов його нехай повсякчасно з нас випромінює. Поставмо його на перше місце, а потім наших ближніх. Слід нам пам'ятати, що все що зробимо нашим ближнім, ми це Христові робимо. Господь не потребує наших подарунків для себе, але Він радо їх прийми, і віддасть нам, щоб ми, по прикладі Св. Миколая, могли роздати їх потребуючим.

Бажаємо усім, що святкують за Григоріанським кал., щасливих Різдв'яних Свят.

**Христос Раждається!**

**Славте Його!**

### From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio program

The message of Christmas is not simply addressed to humanity in general; it is addressed to each of us in a very personal way. It reaches our soul in a way that is unique and exceptional. This coming week, we need to recognize the Nativity of Christ as a very special gift and receive it with faith and thankfulness. "And lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, until it came and stood over where the young child was." The Magi followed the light which was given to them faithfully; and being obedient to this light they were led to the Christ child. If we try to be faithful to the full measure of light that God has given us and bear witness to this light, the Lord will not fail to lead us through all the concrete circumstances of life, and whenever it is needed – right up to the Christ Child in whom we have placed our hope. Like the Magi, we offer our treasures, we offer the little child the most precious things we have. In spirit, we offer gold, the sign of Jesus' sovereignty over all riches and all created things, a sign also of our own detachment from earthly goods. In spirit, we offer incense, the sign of adoration, for Jesus is not only the king of the universe - he is our Lord and God. We offer in spirit, myrrh, the spice with which we honor in advance the death and resurrection of our Lord, and through which our own incarnation through Jesus is represented. Christmas marks the miraculous awakening of humanity into the Divine light, and it all began with the precious child whose birth we will soon celebrate. There is no greater miracle or gift of love, but sometimes we are distracted by the hustle and bustle of the season that we lose sight of the real meaning behind the greatest story ever told.

We all have a special story to share, a favorite childhood memory of Christmas that warms our heart, but the one we come together to celebrate and remember every Christmas is found in the second chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke: "And it was that Joseph went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; with Mary his wife, being great with child. And while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And



there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men'. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger" (Luke 2:4-14).

The Lord Jesus humbled Himself, taking the form of a child, becoming a servant in peasant robes. Christ did not have to humble Himself, there was nothing for Him to gain - except our salvation - and sometimes we forget whose birthday it really is and what the celebration of Christmas is all about. This Christmas, I pray that each of us feels the joy of knowing that Jesus is in our home, in our hearts, in the family and friends that we love, and in the simple things of life that mean so much to us. We need to focus more on loving and serving one another, because so often we are forgetting how to see Christ in one another. As we rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior, let us always be mindful of what Christmas is all about. Yes, Christmas is a time for friends and families to reunite. Christmas is a time for miracles, and stories that capture our hearts. But Christmas is also a time to remember the gift of salvation, the good news which the infant Jesus has brought to our lives, and to celebrate this gift with one another.

It was just a Christmas Angel that James's Mom put on their tree. She bought it at a five and dime, when James was only three. Each year they would trim the Christmas tree together, with bright lights and special ornaments. Then his Mom would always tell James, just what the Angel represents. "The Angel came with the light of Heaven's glow to tell the



shepherds the good news of the birth of baby Jesus". IN those days, the little Angel on their Christmas tree, was made in such a way that if the light inside burned out, you simply threw it away. When James was twelve, the light burned out and the Angel wouldn't shine anymore. But his Mom would not throw it away, she loved her little Angel, and James would smile when every year, she continued to place it on top of the Christmas tree. She would say it looks just fine and that it didn't need a light for anyone to see what it represents. When James grew up and moved out to start his own family, they would all come home at Christmas time, to help his mother trim her Christmas tree. James's wife and children went with him, to his Mom's house every year. The house was filled with love and joy, as they shared their Christmas cheer. And James's children would always say to their grandmother, "But Grandma, the Angel is burned out." Then, she would smile and tell them, what the Angel and Christmas was all about. The little



Angel on top of the Christmas tree became the spirit and joy of every Christmas for the whole family. A few years later, when James's mother passed away, he had the painful task of going through her things. He wondered if God knew just how deeply he was missing his mother. The beautiful old house she owned was left to him and his family in her will. So early the following December, James climbed up into the attic and brought out his mother's Christmas tree decorations. He found a well-worn cardboard box, with markings, "Ornaments and stuff." Carefully wrapped within it was the little Angel that his mother loved so much. James brought the cardboard box downstairs, and showed his family. Then his own children persuaded him to put Grandma's special Angel on top of their Christmas tree. James trimmed the tree that weekend and talked with his family of the many Christmas's past, and how the Angel use to shine brightly when he was just a child. Then, when the tree was finally trimmed and done, James proudly placed the Angel on top. And every night until Christmas, all the lights were burning bright. Except for the little Angel, that had long since burned out. On Christmas morning, James arose before the rest of his family stirred. He went down the stairs to prepare his coffee, and started the fixings for the Christmas dinner. James walked into the living room, with his cup of coffee in hand, and what he saw puzzled him so much that he could not understand. As James stood in silence,

his eyes began to flood with tears. For there, with a glow brighter than one could even imagine - was the light of the little Angel on top of their Christmas tree.

One of my all-time favorite movie's to watch during the Christmas season is *The Bishop's Wife* (1947). It is a story about an Episcopal Bishop, Henry, who has been working for months on the building plans for an elaborate new cathedral which he hopes will be paid for by a wealthy benefactor. In the process, Henry begins to lose sight of his family, the meaning of Christmas, and even the reason why he became a clergyman in the first place. Slowly and surely, an angel sent from heaven, named Dudley, brings the Bishop back to his senses, and reminds him what Christmas truly means, as well as the importance of his faith and his family. One of my favorite scenes appears at the very end, when the Bishop is reading the Christmas Eve sermon to his congregation, the one that Dudley wrote for him: "Tonight I want to tell you the story of an empty stocking. Once upon a midnight clear, there was a child's cry. A blazing

star hung over a stable and wise men came with birthday gifts. We haven't forgotten that night down the centuries; we celebrate it with stars on Christmas trees, the sound of bells and with gifts. But especially with gifts. You give me a book; I give you a tie. Aunt Martha has always wanted an orange squeezer, and Uncle George could do with a new pipe. We forget nobody, adult or child. All the stockings are filled -- all that is, except one. And we have even forgotten to hang it up. The stocking for the child born in a manger. It's his birthday we are celebrating. Don't ever let us forget that. Let us ask ourselves what he would wish for most, and then let each put in his share. Loving kindness, warm hearts and the stretched out hand of tolerance. All the shining gifts that make peace on earth".

Jesus is the reason for this holy season, and let us never lose sight of the gift that God has given us through the birth of His Son, our Lord and Savior. 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. To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to visit the sick, to shelter the homeless, to rebuild the nations, to welcome Christ into the hearts of all our brothers and sisters. As we continue our journey on toward the light of Christmas morning, I pray that the peace and love of the Christ child, the real gift of this Holy Season, be with you always.

«Перспектива об'єднання незворотна і не дискутується», – Глава УГКЦ

17 грудня 2015 року з ініціативи Блаженнішого Святослава, Отця і Глави Української Греко-Католицької Церкви, в приміщенні Патріархії УГКЦ пройшла зустріч Глави УГКЦ із кліром Харківсько-Полтавської єпархії УАПЦ. З Блаженнішим Святославом у зустрічі брав участь голова Комісії УГКЦ для сприяння єдності між християнами о. Ігор Шабан.



Харківсько-Полтавську єпархію представляли архієпископ Ігор (Ісиченко), митр. прот. Юрій Бойко, митр. прот. Віталій Зубак (Харків), прот. Іван Лещик (Миколаїв), прот. Ігор Литвин (Полтава), прот. Дмитро Романків (Сватове), о. Леонід Сливканич (Олешки), о. Володимир Червонников (Канів), о. Олег Усов (с. Глушківка на Харківщині), о. Павло Куц (с. Мурафа на Харківщині), ієромонах Саватій Солом'янюк (м. Київ), о. Федір Сипейкін (Канів).

На початку зустрічі, яка відбувалася в теплій і дружній атмосфері, Блаженніший Святослав розповів про процес обговорення пропозицій, які надійшли від Харківсько-Полтавської єпархії УАПЦ щодо можливості євхаристійного сопричастя та адміністративної єдності з УГКЦ. При цьому він наголосив, що

сама перспектива об'єднання незворотна, не дискутується й дістала в УГКЦ одностайну підтримку.

Однак «наступним кроком має стати майбутній спільний пошук моделі єдності, яка при цьому не може бути статичною, але процесом, за якого під дією Святого Духа Церква, як живий організм, має розвиватися та стреміти до щоразу досконалішого рівня інтегрованого життя». При цьому не слід забувати, що весь цей процес пошуку об'єднаних процесів має бути «абсолютно відкритим та з широким залученням до них священства і мирян».

Кожен учасник зустрічі мав нагоду висловити свої думки та задати запитання Блаженнішому Святославу. Архієпископ Ігор відзначив, що об'єднаний процес, маючи на меті виростання в єдину Київську Церкву її досі поділених частин, покликаний захистити й зберегти духовну спадщину УАПЦ як складову частину спільної християнської спадщини України.

Предстоятель УГКЦ привітав гостей із майбутнім днем пам'яті святого Миколая, Мирлікійського, і вручив їм книги, що відображають еkleзіологічну концепцію сучасної УГКЦ. Архієпископ Ігор подякував від імені присутніх за подарунки й вручив Главі УГКЦ публікації, підготовані з ініціативи та за діяльної участі Харківсько-Полтавської єпархії. Учасники зустрічі узгодили головні етапи праці над поєднанням і домовилися про постійні контакти.

На завершення відбулася спільна молитва в каплиці Святого архистратига Михаїла та інших небесних сил безплотних за мир і злагоду в Українській Державі.

Департамент інформації УГКЦ, за матеріалами Комісії УГКЦ для сприяння єдності між християнами