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**N°
06**

**SAINT NICHOLAS
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**UNDER THE PROTECTION
OF MOTHER OF GOD**



**ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ**

CHURCH BULLETIN – N°06

February 5 – 2012 – 5 Лютого
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК – Ч. 06



Н. Митаря і Фарисея

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Feb. 5: S. of Prod. Son—Н. Блуд. Сина **T1**

12:00 AM +Irene Voychak (Roman)

Mon., February 6 – Понеділок, 6 Лютого
5:30 PM +Катерина Сташків -2 р. (родина)

Tue., February 7 – Вівторок, 7 Лютого
12:00 PM +Пилип Плотиця (Анна Телюк)

Wed., February 8 – Середа, 8 Лютого
8:15 AM +Параска Михайлів
(Леся Петрівська)

Thu., February 9 – Чет., 9 Лютого
8:15 AM +Славко Михайлів (А Мельник)

Fri., February 10 – П'ятниця., 10 Лютого
8:15 AM +Володимир Ганицький
(р. Бараницьких)

Sat., February 11 – Субота, 11 Лютого
8:15 AM +Taras Sarachman (K. & J. Bader)
4:30 PM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

Feb. 12: Meat-Fare S. – М'ясопуста Н. **T2**

12:00 AM +Petro Hrynczak
(Mary Hanuszcak)

Коли плянуєте дату вашого вінчання
чи хрещення то просимо поговорити з
парохом, щоб потім не було непорозу-
міння. Може статися, що в цей день
буде неможливо відбутися заплановане.

If you are planning a Baptism or Wed-
ding, please contact Pastor about the date
before making other arrangements.

V. Rev. Marijan Proyk

Eternal Light burns for
+Mary Petryshyn
Requ. By Tekla Moczerniak

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

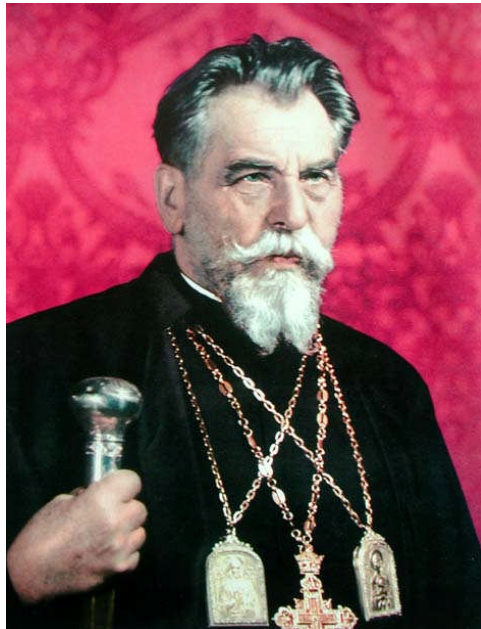
5 Лютого: Н. Митаря і Фарісея **T1**

10:00 р. +Володимир Заньків (Анна)

12 Лютого: Н. Митаря і Фарісея **T2**

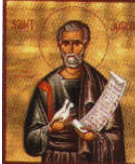
10:00 р. +Ольга Басараб (СУА)

25 і 26 Лютого, 2012 р. У Філядельфії
відбудуться Дні Патріярха Йосифа.
Свята Літургія за Прославу Слуги
Божого Патріярха Йосифа Сліпого
буде у п'ятницю, 17 Лютого, у 120-
річницю народження Патріярха.



Пожертви на Патріярший Фонд
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Білоголовському

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UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Просимо звернути
увагу на дати:



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

- **KITCHEN** – is open Fridays 11 AM - 3 PM. Thank you for your help and patronage.
- **Coffee Hour** - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

TOP'S GIFT CARDS:

Please help us raise money for our Church by purchasing



Top's Gift Cards from us. If you buy in Tops anyway, why not help. You do not lose or gain anything by doing this, but our Church will benefit greatly. We receive back 5% of your spending. To take advantage of this program, see Mary Bodnar or call 655-3810, or call the rectory. Thank you and God Bless!

Please note: You can purchase gasoline with this card at Tops Gasoline Station.

У нас успішно продаються Карточки з крамниці "Топс". Купуючи їх ви допомагаєте церкві. Для Вас не робить різниці чи ви платили грішми чи карточкою, але церква дістане від „Топс” 5%. На \$1,000 церква одержить \$50. 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
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Fax: 855-1319 ~ **Kitchen:** 852-1908

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Сповідь: Перед Св. Літургіями

Baptism: By appointment

Хрещення: За домовленням

Marriage: Contact 6 months in advance

Вінчання: Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

Religion classes – Релігійна Програма

Saturday 11:45 AM – Субота 11:45 р.

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

Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor & dean

**Please call if you are hospitalized,
homebound and need a priest.**

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

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Olia Czmola

Olena Czmola May

Dr. Ulana Loza

Anna Teluk

Thank You! Дякуємо!



The League of Ukrainian Catholics, Niagara Frontier Council will hold a meeting on Monday, February 13, 2012 at 7:00PM in the Church Hall. The report of the Convention is on the agenda. All members and any prospective members are invited to attend.

Засідання Ліги Укр. Католиків буде у понеділок, 13 лютого.

49 Відділ Союзу Українок



повідомляє, що з першого Лютого 2012 року розпочинаємо щорічну збірку на стипендії для незаможної молоді в Україні. Чеки можна виписувати на Ukrainian National Women's League.

Минулорічні звіти є у реф. Стипендій.

За інформаціями просимо звертатися до референток 49-го Відділу:

Зоряни Яцишин-Банчі – 668-9504

Оксани Салдит – 832-9331

Стипендійна Акція 49 Відділу СУА

The Blessings of Homes
Father will attempt to bless as many homes as possible this year. If for some reason he does not make it to your home and you want your house blessed, or if you would like a certain time of day, please let Father know.

Постараюся відвідати з благословенням домів. Якщо не буду у вас а хотіли би, що б я прийшов, або є проблема часу через працю – просимо дати знати і постараємося прийти у відповідний час.

**ПРОЩА ДО ЛЮРДУ І СВ. ЗЕМЛІ
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**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**

ЗАБАВА - Pre Lenten and St. Valentine's Day DINNER-DANCE



Saturday
February 11, 2012
7:00pm

St. John the Baptist Ukr. Cath. Church
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stjohnmyparish@gmail.com

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EVERYONE WELCOME

Adopt a FRIEND for a Year!

The best way to enjoy the spirit of Christmas and St. Nicholas is to GIVE. There is a group in our Parish, who have given all their lives and now due to sickness or older age, they are no longer able to give. In some ways they are forgotten. Let us put a little sunshine in their lives and here is how!

- Select a name (by contacting the rectory).
- Visit if possible at least once a month.
- Tell them what is going on in the parish.
- If possible, bring them a little gift at Christmas, their birthday, and Pascha...
- Before leaving, say a prayer with them.

The young can also take part. The elderly love the young. Rhidna Skola could make them cards or a little craft. Plast & SUM can do their share and maybe even get a badge for their good deeds. Make it a family affair. When we are young and healthy, we have a hard time squeezing in God and Church, yet when we grow older we have all the time in the world to give to God and the Church but are unable... Why not bring some sunshine into someone else's day? If this sounds like something you would be able to set aside time for, then please notify the rectory, because there are many elderly people in our Parish who could use your kindness and would greatly appreciate your company!

* * *

Я свідомий того, що ми всі стараємося робити добро для інших. Все ж таки закликаю охочих зробити ще одне добре діло, в іменні Парохії, принаймні раз на місяць. У нас певна кількість немічних осіб, яких ми могли б відвідати і в такий спосіб принести кілька радісних хвилин у їхнє життя. Молодечі організації можуть також це зробити, нпр. заколядувати у цей час. Просимо перечетати інформації по англійськи. Дуже дякуємо.

З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

І так чуємо у євангелію, приходять до храму щоб помолитися – перший з них фарисей а другий митар.

Фарисей особа побажна. Він - вчений, він - чесний. Він ніколи нікого не скривдив. Він не служить брехнею. Йому здається, що Бог навіть мусь бути вдоволений з нього. А може ще Господь повинен йому подякувати, бо він – фарисей, значить – іде правильним шляхом. Він показує іншим дорогу, якою їм треба ходити. Коли б всі були так як він, то запанував би рай на землі. Він все знає, що слід зробити, ніякої зміни життя йому не потрібно. Він самовистарчальний у своїй духовості. Досконалий. Нічого від інших навчитися не може, і жодної помочі від Бога в дійсності не потребує. Фарисей вмє молитися. Псалми знає напам'ять. Ціле святе письмо у нього може посипатися, як з рукава, кожної хвилини, в день чи вночі. По потребі зачитує якого небудь пророка.

Насамперед пригадує він Богові, хто то до нього молиться. «Ось я», каже, «фарисей; прийшов до тебе. Я той що постить завжди коли треба постити; я той, що дає милостиню і то так, щоб інші бачили і з мене брали приклад; я той, що завжди направляє інших на правильну дорогу, пригадуючи їм їхні провини, щоб вони змінилися зі своїх злих доріг. Я жодної Твоїєї заповіді не переступив. Я даю на храм десятину, і свідомий, що Ти, Боже, віддаєш мені багато, за що я Тобі невимовно вдячний, бо інакше і не може бути, тому, що Ти завжди робиш по справедливості. Дякую тобі, також, що я неє подібний до інших людей, що не ходять Твою дорогою, так як наприклад оцей нещасний митар, що ось там у кутику сховався. Він же насправді не повинен був навіть прийти тут до Твого хору, бо його присутність осквернює це святе місце, але в такого роду людей нема

ні стиду ні сорому. Для нього нема жодної надії на спасіння. Він напевно по правді одержить від Тебе заслужену кару. Дякую тобі за твою справедливість.»

А митар. Він знає, що нагрівив багато. Він свідомий того, що його життя не може нікому служити за приклад. Він хворий духовно, і не знає, чи може вийти з того, чи зможе змінитися. Він бє себе у груди кажучи: «Боже милостивий, будь мені грішному.» Він добре знає, що не має чим хвалитися, що нічого доброго не зробив, а брехати Богові, на тому святому місці, очевидно він не буде, бо ж, зрештою, Бог все знає. Хай його ім'я буде благословенне. «Нагрівив я багато, Господи, прости мені. Очисти мої гріхи.»

Ось митар сам визнає, що нагрівив багато. На кожному людському суді, він був би засуджений. Не треба шукати за доказами, що він грішник. Людей кривдив і Бога не шанував. І що ж. Чи Христос змістять його засудить а фарисея похвалить і винагородить?

Та не так воно стається, як нам часами здається. Самохвальба фарисеєва, не могла припасти до впадоби Богові. Фарисей насправді не молився до Бога, він молився до себе самого, Він не оскаржував себе, але радше інших. Він звелечав себе, поставив себе мірилом повідінки. Для нього вже і Бога не потрібно. І сказав Христос. - Митар пішов оправданий до дому, бо він себе впокорив, визнав свої прогрішення, а не фарисей, що тільки вмів себе вевищати, хвалитися а інших при тому засуджував...

...Чи ми вважаємо себе кращими від тих що Христа не знають, або і знають, та не йдуть нашою дорогою. Набрали ми більше чеснот, і хвалимося немов це наша заслуга. Та ж наша повинність є йти за Христом, і немає тут жодної причини нам хвалитися, переборщувати свої чесноти, велечатися своїм духовним поступом...

From the desk of Fr. Ray Palko

**CHRIST IS BORN!
GLORIFY HIM!**

February 5, 2012

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

I'm writing to you on Thursday, Feb. 2, which is our holy day, *The Encounter of our Lord*. Coming 40 days after the Nativity, it marks the end of our Christmas cycle. OK, now you can take your Christmas tree down. ☺ That is, if you are on the Gregorian (new) calendar. Julian (old) calendar still has a little more than a week before Christmas ends. All this is reflected in the two different Christian greetings at the head of this letter.

A little bit ago I returned home from Niagara Falls, where I celebrated the Liturgy of the *Feast of the Encounter* and blessed the candles. This radiant feast of Light and Hope and Fulfillment is one of my very favorite ones. There were six people in attendance, which is about one-fifth of the Sunday attendance. Do you know how many priests would kill to have one-fifth of their Sunday congregation at a holy day Liturgy? Thanks and glory to God! Attendance at holy day and weekday Liturgies is another of the many blessings we enjoy at Holy Protection. It is great to have a "crowd." as it makes for a reverent and beautiful Liturgy, usually led by our Cantor Leo.

When we talk about making "Jesus the Reason for the Season" we, as Church and as His followers, still have a long way to go. But

I think we are making a lot of progress. The teaching about *Philip's Fast* or *Advent* as preparation, and then the days after Christmas as a time of celebration, has always been there. However, for many years we let the world dictate to us about when we were going "to have our Christmas parties." We kept joining in, and even promoting, Christmas time as the time before the holy day. In recent years, however, I see that we have been consistently improving. More and more we are getting better at it, but there is still a long way to go. Next year we'll really keep the Advent fast and we'll really begin to celebrate only after Christmas Day, won't we?!

Those "Christian greetings" that we use in our Church and among our people, should never be taken lightly, or for granted.

When we use them, they are really beautiful signposts as to where we are on our yearly spiritual journey. For example, to some the hearing of "Christ is Born!" on February 1 or even February 14 (o.s.) might seem kind of odd. But for us it clearly says that we are still in Christmas time! Pretty neat, huh?

This week seems as if it is short two days. That's because Presbyteria and I took a quick trip down to visit our family in western Pa. We left Tuesday morning and returned Wednesday afternoon. It's a quick trip and we spend almost as much time on the highway as we do with the family, but it's the best way to get to see them more of-



ten, and not be away from the parish for any length of time. Little Nathanael is going to be four years old on Saturday February 4, and his birthday was the prime reason for the journey this time.

It was a great get-together with him, brother Jonah, Father Eli and our first-born, Presbyteria Laryssa. Besides the birthday celebration, we also had much Christmas joy still to spread around. St. Nicholas left a LOT of stuff for them in West Seneca, and it made for a great, noisy time in that house. Nobody there had a problem celebrating Christmas on January 31 and February 1st!

Nathanael's birthday has always been the topic of our conversations when we talk of the "Big Game" that will be played on Sunday. The same two teams who played against each other four years ago, the Giants and Patriots, will oppose each other this Sunday in Super Bowl XLVI. Four years ago, on February 3, 2008, just minutes after the kick-off, our phone rang. It was our daughter Presbyteria Laryssa telling us that she thought she'd have to go to the hospital soon. We were the planned babysitters to be with Jonah when Mom and Dad would be at the hospital, so we knew we would be going down. But now, during the Super Bowl??? There were several other calls during the game and just as the game ended, they were told to go to the hospital. The doctor must have been at a Super Bowl party because minutes after the after the final period ended, he called and had Laryssa admitted. Nathanael came the next morning, February 4, 2008. He will always be our SUPER KID still!! Mnohaja Lita, little guy!

As we returned home from Pennsylvania this week we took the route through Punxsutawney, Pa. Does that name ring a bell for you? It is the home of "the seer of all seers, the prognosticator of all prognosticators, Punxsutawney Phil." What a place that town

is on day before Groundhog Day! It was electric with anticipation and activity as thousands, already on February first, began arriving in the town so they could be on hand for that moment when the little rodent would be summoned from his burrow to make his much awaited prediction regarding the length of winter. It was one big party complete with music, balloons, craft fairs, etc., etc. The lowly groundhog for this time is KING GROUNDHOG! His likeness is everywhere from the paper mache statues, to the ice sculptures, to the many, many photos of "Phil," right to the humans, many of whom sported "groundhog ears." The groundhog ears are on a headband that one of the merchants distributes. Of course they are free and people will really go out of their way to get one! I found out yesterday that life can't be complete until you have experienced Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney! Maybe next year Nathanael's birthday will get us there on the actual date when we will join the thousands on Gobbler's Knob! BTW, he saw his shadow, so get ready for six more weeks of winter! ☺ ☺

Before I leave you this week I need to remind you to pray for our Bishops that God will give them strength, courage, fortitude and right belief as they unite to oppose the war on religious freedom that has been declared by the Obama administration. We are in some very serious times, but we know our God is with us!

I must close now but I leave you with prayers for your health and everything you need unto salvation! May God bless you and our Holy Lady keep you beneath the veil of her heavenly protection!

In His Love,

Fr. Ray

p.s. GO GIANTS!

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

The Church gives us another example today, about repentance in order to help prepare us for Great Lent. The Parable of the Prodigal Son in today's Gospel reading according to St. Luke is most beautiful. Whenever we hear a parable, to benefit from it, we compare ourselves to each of the characters in the parable to see what similarities we have with them. To help us do this, let us begin by looking firstly at the figure of the younger son in the parable and then at the elder son. Brothers - who had completely different outlooks on life, but were both "prodigals" in their own way, just as we are prodigal children before a loving and merciful God. The younger son was dissatisfied, he had a longing for something and so he tried to satisfy it by going away and living a loose life. If there is dissatisfaction in us, a longing for something that we do not have, could we be longing for God? St. Augustine wrote, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee." The unfortunate thing is that the further we are from our Father, the more difficult it is for us to hear his voice. The father in today's Gospel did not go in search of the younger son. The son had to make the decision himself to come back, "*I will arise and go to my father*" (Luke 15:18). That is a decision we all have to make, to leave the illusions of happiness that the world offers us and go back to our Father. This image of the younger son also symbolizes the mess we could find ourselves in when we blindly move away from God.

One of the best ways to never outgrow God is to never grow up wanting the foolish desire of this world more than a genuine relationship with Christ. However, it is hard not to grow up when we are convinced that the really important things in life are based upon what we do, upon our abilities. If we buy into that illusion, we begin to take charge. We demand what we think is rightfully ours and, like the prodigal son, we go off into the world leaving the Father behind. This independent, self-sufficient approach to life is similar to that of Adam and Eve

reaching for the apple all over again. But, luckily, self-sufficiency can take us only so far. Sooner or later we run up against a brick wall. We finish eating the apple and discover, a few hours later, that we are hungry again. We gradually realize where we actually are and where we truly belong. But for many of us, this still boils down to our sinful desires. The point is that if we are to make progress in our relationship with God, then we need to rely not on ourselves but on God. It was Thomas Merton who once wrote: "The whole Christian life is a life in which the further a person progresses, the more he has to depend directly on God. The more we progress, the less we are self-sufficient. The more we progress, the poorer we get so that the man who has progressed most, is totally poor - he has to depend directly on God. He has nothing left in himself." Are we keeping ourselves from God in any way because like the prodigal son, we do not know that the heart of God is merciful and desires to have us in His house?

I remember a time when I broke my grandmother's vase, because I was playing with my favorite red bouncing ball inside the house, something that I was told not to do, and accidentally it hit the table and knocked over the vase. Before I could catch it, the vase shattered on the floor. I felt sick to my stomach; I wondered how I would tell my grandmother what I had done. And when she walked in the door from the garden, I even hid under the bed, trying to think of what to say. When I finally came out of hiding with tears in my eyes, grandma saw what I had done, and then she did the most unexpected thing - she opened her arms and hugged me tight as she wiped the tears from my eyes. Between sobs I told her how sorry I was and I even offered to give her my favorite red bouncing ball in exchange, but then she smiled and held me even tighter, and told me it would be our little secret when grandpa came home. In spite of my poor choices, I knew my grandmother always loved me, and

she taught me a great deal about love and forgiveness in her sweet embrace. The parable of the Prodigal Son is a beautiful story of what Jesus depicts the love of our Heavenly Father to be - such unconditional love and understanding, such generosity and concern, such complete and unceasing forgiveness, and so much more. The greeting this young man was expecting was nothing like the one he received. "*While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him*" (Luke 15:20). This parable strikes deep within our hearts, because we all have this same need as the Prodigal Son, we all have this overwhelming desire, this heartfelt longing to be loved and ultimately to receive our Heavenly Father's Love. There is no doubt in my mind that this prodigal son felt loved and treasured once again by his father's embrace. Just as my grandmother made me feel loved, and I am sure we can all think of many such persons in life who have given us this unconditional love which comes from God the Father: our parents, grandparents, children, spouses, and friends.

I am sure each of us can see some similarities between the younger son in the parable and ourselves. Now, let us look at the character of the elder son in the parable to see if we are in any way similar to him. The elder son, despite the fact that he was with his father all those years, was shocked that his father killed the fattened calf and threw a party in celebration of his younger son's return. He still did not know or understand his father's heart; maybe the servants understood his father better. The elder son never felt accepted, appreciated or loved by his father. That was his problem. So his resentment towards his younger brother was really pointing to a deeper wound; he did not feel loved. The elder son had no real relationship with his father. He was distant and aloof. He was like the Pharisees and scribes who complained about Jesus' ministry to sinners. For years he had done the right thing but with the wrong attitude. The elder son has been called

the 'prodigal who stayed at home'. He is also lost, but his is more difficult to see. So the parable is about a loving father and two prodigal sons or two lost brothers on life's journey. We are all like the elder son in the sense that none of us yet knows our Father's heart. So during our preparation for Lent, let us try to get to know our Father's heart better. If we come to liturgy and try to live a good life; let us also try to get to know the heart of our Father...

Jesus' picture of the Father in the story of the Prodigal Son, the picture of our Father in heaven, is a loving merciful Father with arms thrown wide, ready to forgive and forget. Only Jesus, the sinless one, could have drawn such a picture of God. Notice what the father says to the elder son, "*All that is mine is yours*" (v 31). I think that is perhaps the most beautiful statement in the parable, because it reminds us that our heavenly Father also keeps opening his arms to us, saying "*All that is mine is yours.*" He is outside of the house waiting for the younger son to return (Luke 15:20). When the son returns his father runs to him, embraces and kisses him, brings him in the house and celebrates his return. As we come closer and closer to the start of our Great Fast, we are able to stand in examination of our lives, see how far we have brought ourselves from the life God intends for us, and then long, truly long to return to our Father's House. This is what Lent is all about; becoming a new creation in Christ because the Father does not count our trespasses against us! "*Whosoever is in Christ is a new creation... God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation...*" (2 Corinthians 5:17-19). During the time of Lent we might try to make an effort to answer that invitation from our heavenly Father. During every liturgy we receive the same invitation from Jesus, "This is my Body which is broken for you... this is the cup of my blood, which is shed for you." Let us go into the house and rejoice in God saying - "*All that is mine is yours.*"