

SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



N^o ПІД ОПІКОЮ
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ
МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ
20 UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF
MOTHER OF GOD

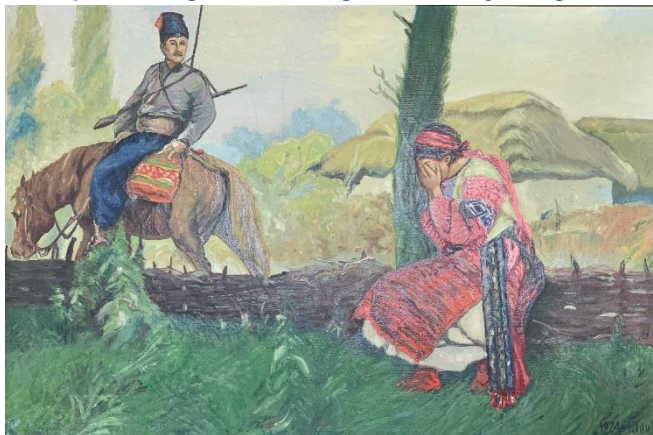


CHURCH BULLETIN
May 15 – 2022 – 15 травня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



After graduation with second Master Degree (Suma Cum Laude) of Stephanie Berghold from Niagara University. Congratulations!

Members of Artymowycz Family, Mnych Family and Terech Family celebrating at "Dnipro"



Lord, Bless Ukraine, bless all those who fight for freedom, Bless all those who suffer, who are wounded, who had to emigrate. Eternal memory to all those who were killed.

№
2
0
M
A
Y
1
5
2
0
2
2



2022 Solemn Holy Communion Class

Kailee E. Popadyn
January 30, 2010

Bogdan P. Nazaruk
January 24, 2012

Ilya S. Darmograi
July 3, 2013

Andrew V. Dityatkowski
January 9, 2014

Marharyta Synyshyn
March 15, 2014

Milanya I. Berghold
April 25, 2014

Congratulations to Solemn Holy Communion Receivers!

Congratulations to parents!

Thank you, our Catechists, for your dedication!

Гратулюємо Першопричасникам!

Гратулюємо батькам!

Сердечна подяка нашим катехиткам!

CHURCH BULLETIN

May 15 – 2022 – 15 травня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



St. Nicholas Ukr. Cath. Church
Церква Святого Миколая
(Під Опікою П.Д.М.)
ПОРЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM +Kipp Bader
(Mary Obermiller)

STREAMING

May 15: S. of Samaritan W. – Н. Ж. Самар'янки

10:00 AM S. Holy Comm.

STREAMING

Monday, May 16 травня, понеділок

7:00 AM +Olga Kremel (Irene & David Slocum) ®

10:00 AM +Igor Moroz (родина) – 40 днів

Tuesday, May 17 травня, вівторок

7:00 AM +Rose Hannis (May 13 was her birthday,
100 yeas) by her children Helen, Irene, Michael ®

9:00 AM +Андрій, Олег, Віра (Ліда)

Wednesday, May 18 травня, середа

7:00 AM Speedy recovery of Mr. Danny Marinaro by
Mogeno's ®

7:00 AM Андрій і поранені у війні в Україні

6:00 PM Moleben to Theotokos

Thursday, May 19 травня, четвер

8:00 AM +Василь Мельник (ОМБС)

Friday, May 20 травня, п'ятниця

7:00 AM Paula's birthday & John's Repose
(Mother Theresa) ®

7:00 AM +Михайло Гнатів (ВІБ)

6:00 PM Молебень до Богородиці - Moleben

Saturday, May 21 травня, субота

9:00 AM За Парохіян – For Parishioners ®

4:30 PM Intention of Chris and Julie Glascott
(Parents) ®

STREAMING

May 22: S. of Man Born Blind. – Н. Сліпородж.

12:00 PM +George Popadyn (family) – 40 d. ®

15. травня: Н. Розслабленого **STREAMING**

10:00 р. За Парохія – For Parishioners

→ ТОРЖЕСТВЕННЕ СВЯТЕ ПРИЧАСТЯ ←

22. травня: Н. Ж. Самарянки **STREAMING**

10:00 р. ++Ярослав, Любка і Галина, Мако (родина)



Our Altar Boy, John Paul was inducted into National Honor Society on May 12th at the GHHS. Character, Service, Scholarship, and Leadership are the four pillars of NHS, and we could not be more proud of John Paul for being recognized and honored with such distinction.

God Bless you! Congratulations!

Вічне Світло в честь Преч. Діви Марії
Горить за закінчення війни в Україні.

Eternal Light burns for Solemn
Holy Communion Receivers
Вічне Світло горить за всіх
Первопричасників

Christina H. Arthurs, Attorney
716.853.5100 or carthurs@lippes.com
Estate Planning & Probate | Real Estate
Immigration | Corporate

Lippes Mathias
Wexler Friedman LLP
Albany | Buffalo | Florida | New York | Toronto Area | Washington, D.C.
lippes.com
Attorney Advertising.
Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

KARYCZAK'S
AUTOMOTIVE
995 ABBOTT ROAD • BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14220

Dayton TIRES

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS / N.Y.S. INSPECTION •
FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS •
TRANSMISSION ADJUSTMENTS & REPAIRS •
WHEEL ALIGNMENTS & TIRES •
BATTERIES / AIR CONDITIONING & ACCESSORIES •
MUFFLER & EXHAUST SYSTEMS •

TOWING SERVICE - ALL WORK GUARANTEED

822-1574 FAX 825-7428 827-8895

Proud to Support
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church

BUSZKA FUNERAL HOME
COMMITMENT TO CARING

Buszka Funeral Home
Director Peter D. Stachowski
2005 Clinton Street at S. Ogden, Buffalo New York 14206
(716) 825-7777 www.buskafuneralhome.com
Another location at:
2085 Union Rd., West Seneca one block North of Clinton.
New spacious location fresh and modern facility.
Onsite Chapel separate from large viewing rooms.
Lower level has a new café plus reception hall for family use.

Сердечна подяка усім спонзорам!

Howard Hanna
Real Estate Services

Ask me about the 100% Money Back Guarantee!

JENNY PFEIFFER-NOWADLY
Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker

4909 Transit Road • Depew, NY 14043
Cell: 716.523.6693
Office: 716.656.8999 • Fax: 716.825.4911
jennypfeiffer@howardhanna.com
HowardHanna.com

PHONE 893-1025

Fusani & Kuhn's Monuments, Inc.

ASK FOR TOM

2398 GENESEE ST.
BUFFALO, N.Y. 14225

Wilhelmina E. Klimeczko
Janine R. Klimeczko
Michael A. Klimeczko
Licensed Directors

Pietszak
FUNERAL HOME
Orlowski-Pietszak Funeral Home

www.Pietszak.com 897-2400

Continuing a Tradition of
thoughtful Personalized Service

806 Clinton St. 2400 William St.
Buffalo, 14210 Cheektowaga, 14206

Thanks are extended to all Sponsors!

MARY KAY

The Best Times to Reach Me

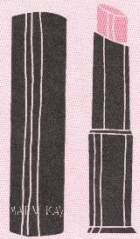
Call me any time!
I look forward to
hearing from you.

Ulana Scheidle
Independent Beauty Consultant

3498 Stevenson Court
Wheatfield NY 14120
(716) 628-7882

uscheidle@verizon.net
www.marykay.com/uscheidle

MARY KAY



EURO DELI AND GIFTS

www.eurodelisausage.com



LUNCHES &
SANDWICHES
SERVED DAILY

For All of Your Old World Favorite Products, Just
Around The Corner. Stop In & Take a Look.

Many Varieties of:

Bologna • Salami • Fresh Polish Sausage • Head Cheese • Garlic Sausage • Smoked Fish
European Beer • Kefir/Butter • Condiments • Pierogi (Homemade) - Many Varieties
Smoked Sausages • Bacon (Bozek) • Canadian Bacon • Blood Kishka (Homemade)
Polish Hams • Caviar • Kvas Drink • Cheese • European Chocolates • Pickles/Tomatoes

4166 Union Rd.,
Cheektowaga, NY (In Airport Plaza) 630-0130



2321 Millersport Hwy.
Amherst (Getzville Plaza) 688-1495

PROFESSIONAL COLLISION SERVICES & MORE

RED STAR

Nick Hurmak
OWNER
(716) 316-2540

Alexander Arutunian
MANAGER
(716) 578-8185

112 DELAWARE STREET
TONAWANDA, NY 14150
FAX: (716) 2601254

www.redstarautomotive.com

UKRAINIAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Become a member of Ukrainian FCU and save money with lower rates on loans, make money with higher interest on your savings, and save time with our convenient online services!

PERSONAL & BUSINESS FINANCIAL SERVICES
SAVINGS & CHECKING ACCOUNTS | SHARE
CERTIFICATES | MONEY MARKET | IRA | LOANS |
MORTGAGES | VISA CREDIT & DEBIT CARDS |
MONEYGRAM | INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC WIRE
TRANSFERS | ONLINE SERVICES |
|NOTARY PUBLIC | TRANSLATIONS |SCHOLARSHIPS|
ПЕРСОНАЛЬНІ ТА БІЗНЕСОВІ ФІНАНСОВІ ПОСЛУГИ
ОЩАДНІ ТА ЧЕКОВІ РАХУНКИ | СЕРТИФІКАТИ | М.М |
ПЕНСІЙНІ РАХУНКИ | ПОЗИКИ | КРЕДИТИ НА
НЕРУХОМІСТЬ | ПЛАТІЖНІ КАРТКИ VISA | MONEYGRAM |
ГРОШОВІ ПЕРЕКАЗИ | ЕЛЕКТРОННІ ПОСЛУГИ
|ПОСЛУГИ НОТАРІУСА| ПЕРЕКЛАДИ|СТИПЕНДІЇ|

Buffalo Branch <i>Ukrainian Home Dnipro</i> 562 Genesee Street Buffalo NY 14204 (716) 847-6655 www.ukrainianfcu.org	Amherst Branch <i>Ellicott Creek Plaza</i> 2882 Niagara Falls Blvd Amherst NY 14228 (716) 799-8385 www.ukrainianfcu.org
Business Hours Closed Wednesdays , <i>Зачинені по середах</i> Mon., Tuesday, Thursday 9:30 am - 5 pm Пон., вівторок, четвер Friday / П'ятниця 9:30 am - 6 pm Saturday / Субота 9 am - 1 pm	Business Hours Closed Mondays , <i>Зачинені по понеділках</i> 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

Membership subject to eligibility.
Federally insured by NCUA.

DNIPRO ДНІПРО

Ukrainian Cultural Center
562 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14204 856-4476
www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com
facebook.com/DniproUkrainianCulturalCenter

Lounge is OPEN every Friday 5-9 pm.
Підтримайте Ваш Народний Дім

UGCC bishops discuss issues of pastoral care of Ukrainian servicemen

"Pastoral care of Ukrainian servicemen" was the theme of the ninety-first session of the Synod of bishops of the Supreme Archdiocese of the UGCC. The synod was held on May 10-11 at the Pastoral Rehabilitation Center "Oranta" of the Diocese of Sambir-Drohobych of the UGCC in Truskavets. It was headed by Patriarch Svyatoslav.

According to the UGCC Information Dep., Bishop Nil Lushchak, administrator of the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo, also took part in the Synod's work.

The Synod expressed its gratitude to the Department of Military Chaplaincy of the Patriarchal Curia of the UGCC, chaplains, volunteers and all those who serve and support our army in the context of the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

The Synod considered in the second reading and approved in one piece the "program of social and public activities of the UGCC in Ukraine", as well as in the first reading the strategy of the UGCC's activities for affirming family values, supporting families and preventing and countering domestic violence. Both documents were submitted by Yuriy Pidlisny, chairman of the UGCC Commission on Family and Lay Affairs.

Members of the Synod discussed the current socio-political situation in Ukraine and the world and the activities of the church under martial law. The discussion was attended by the Apostolic Nuncio to Ukraine, Archbishop Visvaldas Kulbokas.

The mission and activities of the Ukrainian Catholic University in modern war conditions were highlighted in the report by Fr. Bogdan Prakh, rector of UCU. Oleg Turiy, director of the Institute of Church

History of the Ukrainian Catholic University, reported on the state of processing the anthology of the historical experience of the public ministry of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

Patriarchal economist of the UGCC Fr Lubomyr Yavorsky reported to the Synod on the state of affairs of the UGCC in Ukraine in the financial and economic sphere and presented the bishops with a



report on the activities of the church-funded Open Non-State Pension Fund "Pokrova", which is functioning successfully despite the challenges of wartime.

The bishops met with refugees from different parts of Ukraine and their children temporarily residing in the same Pastoral Rehabilitation Center.

It was decided to hold the ninety-second session of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine in the fourth quarter of 2022.

«Душпастирська опіка українських військово-службовців» - такою була тема дев'яносто першої сесії Синоду єпископів Верховного Архієпископства УГКЦ. Синод відбувався 10-11 травня в Пасторально-реабілітаційному центрі «Оранта» Самбірсько-Дрогобицької єпархії УГКЦ у м. Трускавець. Його очолив Патріарх Святослав.

Синод висловив вдячність Департаментові військового капеланства Патріаршої курії УГКЦ, капеланам, волонтерам і всім тим, що служать і підтримують наше військо в умовах військової агресії російської федерації проти України.

Синод затвердив у цілості «Програму суспільно-громадської діяльності УГКЦ в Україні», а також у першому читанні Стратегію діяльності УГКЦ для утвердження сімейних цінностей, підтримки сімей та запобігання і протидії домашньому насильству. Обидва документи представляв п. Юрій Підлісний, голова Комісії УГКЦ у справах родини та мирян.

A military chaplain of the UGCC names the condition for ending the war

Fr Andriy Zelinsky has been serving in the military chaplaincy for more than 15 years, and in 2014 he officially became the first chaplain in the ATO zone. Together with the military, the priest lived through hard battles on the front lines – in the Donbas, near the Donetsk airport, served the Marines in Mariupol, who are now defending the city. He had experienced at least five times when he might no longer be alive. The chaplain made his prediction for this absurd war.

Source: UGCC Information Department

"Today's war is one of the most absurd wars of our time. It is provoked by Russia for no real reason. And most of all, it is not the position of the Russian authorities that worries, but ordinary people who support the war. Russian society needs to be treated because Russian propaganda acts to provoke hatred of Ukraine by lying. It is important to know that peace is not just a balance of interests and compromise, it is impossible to turn a blind eye to reality. Changes are simply necessary for the system of government and society in Russia. This will happen when the armed forces of Ukraine and the international community create conditions in which Russia will be forced to change its attitude. Russia should recognize the right to exist of Ukraine as a sovereign state with a free Ukrainian people. Wars end only with the achievement of Justice. Otherwise, they can continue in a hidden form. If the aggressor country is not ready for such conditions, then the war can continue for a very long time," father Zelinsky said in a recent interview.

When asked why it is important for the priest to be at the front line with the military, Fr. Andriy Zelinsky replied:

"A military chaplain must meet the spiritual and religious needs of the military servicemen, but at the

same time provide pastoral service in the conditions of war, which is on the other side of ordinary life. After all, in war, a person becomes disoriented. Therefore, there should be someone who can always remind us of our humanity, of our vocation, in particular, the military as a defender of our country. The chaplain becomes a support for the military and helps not to lose sight of our most important vocation – to be human."

О. Андрій Зелінський служить у військовому капеланстві вже понад 15 років, а 2014 року став офіційно першим капеланом у зоні АТО. Разом із військовими священик пройшов крізь гарячі бої на лініях фронту – на Донбасі, під Донецьким аеропортом, служив морпіхам в Маріуполі, які сьогодні боронять місто. Він пережив щонайменше п'ять випадків, коли його вже могло не бути живим. Капелан зробив свій прогноз на цю абсурдну війну.

"Сьогоднішня війна – одна з найбільш абсурдних воєн сучасності. Вона спровокована Росією без жодних реальних причин. І найбільше тривожить не позиція російської влади, а звичайних людей, які підтримують війну. Суспільство РФ необхідно лікувати, адже російська пропаганда діє задля провокування ненависті до України шляхом брехні. Важливо знати, мир – не просто баланс інтересів та компроміс, тут неможливо заплющити очі на реальність. У системі влади та суспільства Росії просто необхідні зміни. Це трапляється, коли ЗСУ і світове товариство створюють такі умови, у яких Росія буде змушена змінити своє ставлення. Росія має визнати право на існування України як суверенної держави з вільним українським народом. Війни завершуються лише досягненням справедливості. Інакше можуть тривати у прихованій формі. Якщо країна-агресор не готова до таких умов, то війна може ще дуже довго тривати", - про це отець Зелінський сказав у нещодавньому інтерв'ю.

капеланстві вже понад 15 років, а 2014 року став офіційно першим капеланом у зоні АТО. Разом із військовими священик пройшов крізь гарячі бої на лініях фронту – на Донбасі, під Донецьким аеропортом, служив морпіхам в Маріуполі, які сьогодні боронять місто. Він пережив щонайменше п'ять випадків, коли його вже могло не бути живим. Капелан зробив свій прогноз на цю абсурдну війну.



- **CHURCH KITCHEN is now CLOSED** Check with us later.
- Thank you for your help and patronage!
- Thanks are extended to all volunteers!
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall.

See you there!

HAVE A BLESSED DAY!!!

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, call the rectory. Thank you and God Bless!

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

Ukrainian American Freedom Foundation

501C3 Tax Deductible Charity accepting donations.

Renovate
Dnipro



Humanitarian
Aid to Ukraine

UAFF-Dnipro 562 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14204

www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com

facebook.com/UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com

(716) 847-1281

Організація Оборони Чотирьох Свобід України

ODFFU – Buffalo, NY – Branch # 22

Emil Bandriwsky, President

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
УКРАЇНЬСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА
СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ
(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ)

Par. E-Mail: - stnbuffalo@gmail.com

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

Dioc. Web: - <http://www.stamforddio.org>

308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

Rectory: (716) 852-7566

→ In Emergency call: 716 (830-3920)

Fax: 855-1319

Kitchen: 852-1908

Confession: Before Liturgies
Сповідь: Перед Св. Літургіями
Baptism: By appointment
Хрещення: За домовленням *
Marriage: Contact 6 months in advance
Вінчання: Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

Religion classes – Релігійна Програма
See bulletin for scheduled dates.

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

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor

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

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

SALE – ВИПРОДАЖ

Estate of Markian & Lidia Stasiuk



Many beautiful things including

Ukrainian artwork, many originals, hand

embroidered & carved items, pottery, pysanky, books, LP's, CD's, furniture, baby grand piano, book cases, desks, oriental rugs, end tables, lamps, small appliances, tools, clay & ceramic pots, patio furniture, custom drapes, jewelry, + much more!

All previously cherished and loved, looking for a new home.



Portion of proceeds will go to support Ukrainians wounded by Russia's aggression.

Saturday & Sunday, May 21 & 22
8 am – 4 pm
65 Carmelite off East & West Road
West Seneca

We started DIOCESAN CHARITIES APPEAL COLLECTION. Letters will be sent soon.
Ми започаткували Збірки на Епархіяльний Фонд. Листи будуть незабаром вислані.

\$500 - LUC Scholarship Opportunities



The Niagara Frontier Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics is proud to sponsor its annual



Monsignor Paul Iwachiw Scholarship.

These \$500 scholarships are available to any current and active member of our Ukrainian Catholic community, who is also attending a private high school, presently enrolled in a college or university, or a prospective college student in the fall of 2022. Applications are available from any of our local Ukrainian Catholic parishes (Buffalo, Kenmore, Lackawanna, Lancaster), and the deadline to apply is June 21, 2022. All parts of the applications must be complete in order to be considered. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Szczublewski at (716) 435-9384.

Meat Raffle



Presented by

The Apollo Concrete Coatings
11 Day Power Play Team

Sunday, June 5th, 2022

Doors open at Noon, First spin at 1pm.

Hamburg Moose Lodge

45 Church St, Hamburg NY 14075

\$10 Admission Includes

Beer, Wine and Soda. Bring all of your favorite snacks
No outside alcohol allowed

All proceeds support the
11 Day Power Play

For more information on supporting the cause or to donate please visit
<https://communityshift.11daypowerplay.com/ApolloConcreteCoatings>

For more information on purchasing tickets or to reserve your table of 8 or more please contact Carl Szydowski: Email SzydowskiCarl@gmail.com Call or Text 716-310-9737

The View From Up Here (May 15, 2022) "The Month of May and the Mother of God"

Christ is Risen! He is Truly Risen!

Dear Friends, My Fellow-Climbers on the Holy Mountain,

We repeat those words uttered by Saint Peter on the Holy Mountain of Tabor, after he had witnessed the Transfiguration of Jesus: "Lord, it is good for us to be here!" Indeed, it is good for us to be here too! Happy Blessed Sunday to you today, or Happy Blessed Day whenever you will read this. Yes, first of all, we come to give thanks to our Almighty God for this day. "Teach me to behave sincerely and reasonably toward everyone, that I may

bring confusion and sorrow to none..... Guide Thou my will and teach me to pray, to believe, to hope, to suffer, to forgive and to love." (Optina prayer-and Eternal Memory for Louise, who loved that prayer and taught many to say it) We come together and help each other as we climb our mountain. We thank Him for this great gift of gathering in this space as we go from day to day on our amazing journey of life. Thanks God for one more day to work out our salvation! We pray we all will safely reach the summit of His glory! We come here to help, to encourage, to teach, to comfort each other and continue our ascent to our God. We come together and remember Him in His blazing divinity on that holy mountain and also in His Holy Resurrection, where He gives us that great promise of Eternal Life! I often say here in this space our life, and day to day interactions, are in support of one another! When we gather here it's like reaching out and holding hands to help each other. We climb! We pray!

Are you familiar with the icon of the Resurrection, also known as "The Descent into Hades"? We see written on this icon, our Blessed Lord standing victoriously on the crushed and broken gates of Hell and the now bound and defeated Evil One. Jesus



has a man and a woman on either side and He has a firm grasp on their arms as if He is lifting them from that fearful grave. That is exactly what is occurring! Those two people, the man is Adam, the woman is Eve, are being taken to heaven, to Life Eternal. Represented in Adam and Eve, our first parents, we too are lifted up by our victorious and glorious Savior! We believe in the promise of our Lord that He will also one day take us by the hand and please God, hear those glorious words:

"Enter into the Kingdom prepared for you, good and faithful servant!"

Yes, it is good for us to be here! We hear Him! We see Him! We want to stay with Him, just like Peter on Mount Tabor! We rejoice in the promise of Eternal Life! Jesus has ascended into heaven, has given us His holy Church, calls us to Baptism in that Church, sends down upon us the Holy Spirit (our very own and personal Pentecost!), and gives us those Two Great Commandments: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart and thy whole soul and thy whole mind.' And the second is like unto it, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' On these two commandments all the Law and the prophets depend." Mt. 2: 36-40 Thank you for being here, dear Friend! It is good for us to be here!

This writing for this day/week has the title, "The Month of May and the Mother of God." I had decided last week that this bulletin article would be in a way

a continuation of last week's, which was, if you recall, "Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother." I was inspired to write about "May and the Mother of God" by someone who very innocently asked, "May is Mary's month, right?" **Absolutely it is!** That question made me think about Mary, how we honor her and pray to her during this beautiful month. It made me ponder more deeply how, like you, my fellow climbers, she is always with us! She never leaves us, nor forsakes us! She is the perfect Mother ALWAYS and without fail, holding our hand as we climb the Holy Mountain to one day, please God, meet her Son, our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ!

Recall how last week we remembered Jesus from the Cross and His telling us we are children of Mary and she is our heavenly Mother! We have no other like her; we have no other to bring us to the Lord as only she can! A prayer from our Moleben service says in part: "We have no other helper but Thee. We have no other gracious consoler but Thee. O Mother of God, guard and protect me forever." Our Greek-Catholic Church is known for having a deep devotion to our Holy Lady. We have beautiful feast days and services in her honor throughout the year. In these services, both public and private, we come to know her and understand the words of Jesus: "Behold thy Mother." She is with us always.

As the early Church began to develop and grow, so did devotion and prayer to Mary, the God-bearer. From the earliest days of the new and rapidly growing Church, no one ever forgot those words of our Lord from the Cross telling us we are her children and she is our Mother. Liturgically, those Holy and Blessed words of Jesus took form in the prayer life of the church in the Divine Liturgy, in our Akathists, Molebens and other devotions. Then, too, many private prayers came into use as the faithful heard and understood how she is with us, and we are with her. Mary, the Theotokos, becomes our Holy and Faithful mountain climber partner, ever

keeping us safe, ever keeping us focused on our goal, ever leading us to heaven. A priest of our church always would tell us that the key to one's spiritual life is to read St. Paul AND have a devotion to the Mother of God! These words of that good priest are my gift to you this day! Pray to our Blessed Lady! Indeed this is a key to our growth in our spiritual life!

As I said, there have developed various devotions and feast days during the course of the year. Gradually the entire month of May became known as "Mary's Month". May is always the time of Pascha and Pentecost and Mother's Day, so it was natural that during this springtime month, as nature awakened and flowers began to bloom, that our focus and special prayers would turn to the New Life of the Resurrection and our Holy Mother. This new and glorious life seen in nature, flowers in particular, is now given to Mary, who herself is "a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys." (Song of Songs (2:1) Moms and flowers certainly go together!

Did you ever hear of the "May Altar"? From the middle to the late 19th century in the Roman Catholic churches of southern Europe there arose the practice of decorating altars in churches during May with a special statue of Mary and many flowers. This altar became the focus for the entire month of the prayers and songs of those seeking the Mother. Later, the "May Altar" became part of the home when it became common for



families to have a domestic "May Altar" where they gathered to pray each day during the month of May. St. Therese of Lisieux, in her book "Story of a Soul" described the "May Altar" in her own home and of the prayers prayed there. It's not too late for you to prepare that special place of devout prayer in your

own home. Place a small table in your icon corner, or a quiet part of the house where you pray. Preferably not a bedroom because the flowers, especially lilacs, may be a bit too strong for that place. It can be as elaborate or as simple as you want to make it. Remember it is a place to pray and a continuation of our devotion to the Theotokos, or a beginning of that special prayer life with her. The main idea is to discover, rediscover or continue our life with our Holy Mother. Once May is over and perhaps you remove certain flowers or items you had there, the dedicated table or area of the house should always remain there as the reminder and aid in praying to her. Go for it! Our earthly mothers want the best for us; so does our heavenly Mother, who wants the salvation of all her children!

Mary will tell us what Jesus wants from us, will show us where He is so we can go to Him, find Him and be with Him forever. I write this on May 13, the 105th anniversary of the first appearance of Our Holy Mother at Fatima. Have a devotion to the Most Holy Mother of God! May she pray for all the people of Ukraine and bring about an end to the war! God be with us! Our Holy Lady, protect us! fr. Ray

У 79-й день війни:

Сьогодні земля України, каже Патріарх Святослав, рясно засіяна тілами загиблих. Ми не знаємо точно, скільки загиблих, зокрема серед цивільного населення, уже приніс цей смерч війни. Щоразу, коли наші цивільні інфраструктури намагаються відновлюватися, коли ми розбираємо завали бомбардованих будинків, – всюди знаходять тіла померлих невинних людей. Ми намагаємося з великою пошаною передавати їх землі і молимося за їх вічний спочинок.

«З великою пошаною наш народ приймає і передає землі тіла наших загиблих воїнів. Є такий звичай: коли до якогось містечка чи села повертається домовина з бездиханним тілом нашого героя – усі мешканці цього населеного пункту виходять і супроводжують її, стоячи обабіч дороги на колінах», – підкреслив він.

Також Блаженніший Святослав звернув увагу на те, що російський нападник не шануватиме тіл ані українських воїнів і цивільних людей, ані своїх. Він пригадав, як на початку нашого оборонної війни, ми намагалися шанувати тіла російських військовослужбовців і хотіли з почестями віддавати їх їхнім рідинам. Але бачимо, зауважує він, що росіяни відмовляються шанувати тіла своїх загиблих солдат. І це деморалізує російське військо.

«Боже, воскреси Україну! Боже, дай Твого Духа Святого бездиханним тілам, які у воскресінні будуть свідчити правду про тих, хто їх убивав, і правду про Україну, що захищала життя, мир і свободу! Боже, благослови нашу землю! Боже, благослови наш народ, який оплакує своїх убитих синів і дочок! Боже, вдихни в нас силу віри, надії та любові, дай нам вшанувати Тебе навіть у тілі померлого чи загиблого Твого сина чи Твоєї доньки! Боже, благослови Україну, зупини цю війну і дай нашому народові мир!», – просить духовний лідер українців. Деп. інф. УГКЦ