



Veterans/Ветерани – Зелені Свята/Pentecost



Ranachyda/Панахида за полеглих за Волю України



John Paul – the newest Altar Boy



Ukrainian Federal Credit Union (Rochester & Buffalo)



At "Miss Buffalo" Tour/На човні



ГОСПОДИ, СПАСИ УКРАЇНУ!
LORD, SAVE UKRAINE!



Posting in the church hall – Freedom for Ukraine

SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

УКРАЇНЬСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ

Nº
24



Nº
24

ПІД ОПІКОЮ
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ
МАРІЇ ОДІГТРИЇ

UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN

June 15 – 2014 – 15 Червня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

Неділя Всіх Святих

Святі — це найближчі Божі приятелі, тож почесть, яку вони віддають, Богові мила, бо вони любили Бога понад усе. Другий Ватиканський Собор, заохочуючи нас до почитання святих, каже: "Тому в найвищій мірі годиться, щоб ми любили тих приятелів та співнаслідників Ісуса Христа, а наших визначних братів і добродіїв та склали за них належну подяку Богові, і молитовно їх призивали та прибігали до їх молитов, заступництва й помочі..."

(Догматична Конституція про Церкву, § 50).

Усі святі нам дуже близькі, бо вони, як і ми, були колись громадянами нашої землі і вийшли з нашої крові й кости. Вони члени тієї самої Церкви, що й ми, але Церкви вже прославленої. Наше добро і спасення їм не байдуже. Тому нема сумніву, що вони радо вислуховують наші просьби і радо заносять наші молитви до Божого престолу.

Всі Святі – молись Бога за нас!



Всіх Святих – All Saints

CHURCH BULLETIN

June 15 – 2014 – 15 Червня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

4:30 PM +Harry Swiatkiwsky (Family)

June 15 All Saints – Fathers Day - Всіх Святих

12:00 PM. +Jerry Szczublewski (Family)

Monday, June 16 Червня, Понеділок

6:00 PM +Марія Меленчук 40. День і пан.
(Родина)

Tuesday, June 17 Червня, Вівторок

10:00 AM +Антін Вішка (5 років) (Родина)

12:00 PM Moleben - Молебень

Wednesday, June 18 Червня, Середа

10:00 AM Похорон +Ангелини Вуйцік
Funeral of +Agelina Wujcik

Thu., June 19 Червня, Чет. - EUCHARIST

10:00 AM Подячна Літургія Лідії і Маркіяна
(М. Л. Стасюк)

Friday, June 20 Червня, П'ятниця

11:15 AM +Feliksa & Walter (Joan Rybczynski)

12:00 PM Moleben - Молебень

Saturday, June 21 Червня, Субота,

4:30 PM Int. of Peter Maxim (Peter)

June 22 2 Sunday aft. Pentecost - 2 Н. по 3.С.Д

12:00 PM. For Parishioners – За Парохіян

Eternal Light burns for
+John Pawlowski
Requ. by Anna Pawlowski

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М.
горить за МИР в Україні.
For Peace in Ukraine.



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

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

15 Червня: Неділя Всіх Святих

10:00 р. За Всіх Батьків

22 Червня: 2 Неділя по 3.С.Д.

10:00 р. +Марія Грекуляк
(Lily & John Brunner)

As part of the new Church Directory, which will be published this year, we are adding "Memorial Pages" to the book. You still have time to submit a picture, (pictures) of your loved ones for a cost of \$20.00 a picture. You can put the picture and check payable to St. Nicholas in an envelope and put it in the collection basket or drop it off at the rectory. If you have any questions, contact Elaine at the parish office Monday or Thursday from 9:00-1:00.

We are not in the business of advertisement, but there is possibility.

Ad in the bulletin

If you want to advertise
your business in the bulletin
Business card - \$100 for a year.
Any other arrangement please call.
(As always – donations for the printing
of the bulletin gladly accepted)

Оголошення до бюлетену

\$100 дол на рік – бізнесова карточка

Ukrainian Treasures & More



Judie Hawryluk

79 Southridge Dr
West Seneca NY 14224

716-674-5185

Ukrainian Eggs, Jewelry & Embroidery

photos on facebook.com

jahawryluk@gmail.com

Please Remember Our Church in Your Will!

Пам'ятаймо про Рідну Церкву та про
її майбутність у нашому Завіщанні!

Proud to Support
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church



Buszka Funeral Home
Director Peter D. Stachowski

2005 Clinton Street at S. Ogden, Buffalo New York 14206
(716) 825-7777 www.buszkafuneralhome.com

Сердечна подяка усім спонзорам!

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) 260-1254
www.redstarautomotive.com



Kuhn's Monuments, Inc.
(ROLAND J. KUHN)

PHONE 893-1025

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 Cheektowaga

Thanks are extended to all Sponsors!



562 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY 14204
(716) 847-6655 - Toll free 877-968-7828

www.rufcu.org

Monday & Tuesday 9:30 am – 4 pm |
Wednesday 9:30 am – 2pm | Thursday 9:30 am
– 6 pm |
Friday 9:30 am – 7 pm | Saturday 9:00 – 1 pm |

**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!**

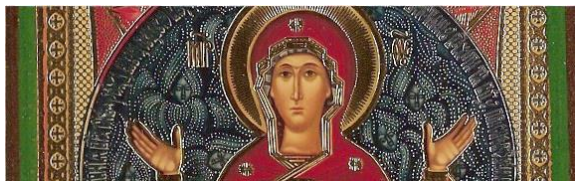
PERSONAL & BUSINESS FINANCIAL SERVICES

SAVINGS & CHECKING ACCOUNTS | SHARE
CERTIFICATES | MONEY MARKET | LOANS |
MORTGAGES | VISA CREDIT & DEBIT CARDS |
MONEYGRAM | INTERNATIONAL AND DO-
MESTIC WIRE TRANSFERS | ONLINE SER-
VICES | NOTARY PUBLIC |

ПЕРСОНАЛЬНІ ТА БІЗНЕСОВІ ФІНАНСОВІ ПОСЛУГИ

ОЩАДНІ ТА ЧЕКОВІ РАХУНКИ | СЕРТИ-
ФІКАТИ | ММ | ПОЗИКИ | КРЕДИТИ НА НЕ-
РУХОМІСТЬ | ПЛАТІЖНІ КАРТКИ VISA |
MONEYGRAM | ГРОШОВІ ПЕРЕКАЗИ |
ЕЛЕКТРОННІ ПОСЛУГИ |
ПОСЛУГИ НОТАРІУСА |

*Membership subject to eligibility.
Federally insured by NCUA.*



**The 60th Dormition (Assumption)
Pilgrimage will be held on August 9-10,
2014 at the motherhouse of the Sisters
Servants of Mary Immaculate in
Sloatsburg, NY. This year's theme is:
The Holy Family is the Guide for the
Evangelization of our Families – “A Joy
Ever New, a Joy Which is Shared”
(Pope Francis) A special display and
presentation of “The Church of the
Catacombs in the 20th Century”,
conferences, activities for children, our
annual teen camp-out, the beautiful
services and an opportunity to receive
the Sacraments of Reconciliation and
Eucharist, are part of the schedule for
these two days of spiritual renewal for
all who attend. The schedule and
activities will be listed in the diocesan
newspapers, as well being on website:**

www.ssmi-us.org

**The Sisters Servants of Mary
Immaculate cordially invite you to
come to the 60th Dormition Pilgrimage
as a family, as a parish family, to come
together to show that we want to live
our faith more fully in Christ.**

**If you have any questions, please
contact Sr. Kathleen at 845-642-6143.**

DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS

Peter Maxim - \$25,000.00

Bulletin Fund

N.N. – \$1,500.00
Procyk Family – \$500.00
N.N. – \$20.00

“Special Appeal”

IMO Stephen Szyszka

Ulana Loza - \$30.00
Maria Bodnarsky - \$20.00

IMO Joseph Procyk

Procyk Family - \$500.00
John & Mary Makar - \$100.00
Rev. Walter Werbicki - \$50.00
George & Natalie Krupa - \$25.00
George & Maria Paszkowsky - \$25.00
M/M Peter Mychalenko - \$20.00
Fred & Nadia Marc - \$50.00
Gloria Grega Long - \$15.00
Kateryna Petrowycz - \$25.00
Joanne Bader - \$10.00
Olga Lownie - \$20.00
Dolores Baranyckyj - \$50.00
Emily Swiatkiwsky - \$25.00
Olena Czmola-May - \$40.00
Onufryj & Halyna Biloholowskyj - \$25.00
Karen Kozlowski - \$20.00
Anna Sawulak - \$20.00
Catherine Kocaj - \$50.00
Slawko & Helen Moczerniak - \$50.00
Anna Hudemiak - \$20.00
Elaine Nowadly - \$50.00
Andrij Pryshlak - \$25.00
Roman & Irene Tschip - \$20.00
Luba & Roman Choma - \$50.00

Ihor & Elaine Zaknkiw - \$50.00
Wasylyna Ostaszuk - \$50.00
Serediuk Family - \$50.00
Jonathan Kotasko - \$25.00

Francis & Mildred Zimmerman - \$25.00
Sondra Long & Bob Bendas (nurses) - \$50.00

Chess Friends

Dr. Mark, Glynis, Kate & Alex Mieth - \$240.00
Amater Chess Association of WNY - \$100.00
Dr. Orest Popovych - \$100.00
Bob & Ellen Simpson - \$100.00
Gordon, Eileen & James Lyon - \$50.00
Jade, Andrew, Matthew & Alexis Shlak - \$25.00
Jenn, Joey, Sam & Oliver Santora - \$20.00
Adam & Paul - \$20.00

DONATIONS TO

2014 Stamford Bishop's Appeal

Gary & Kacy Plotycia - \$500.00
Wolodymyr Muzyczka - \$100.00
Maria Plotycia - \$100.00
Oleh Jacyszyn - \$50.00
William & Ann Serediuk - \$50.00
Peter & Olga Pucak - \$50.00
N.N - \$50.00
Olena Czmola-May - \$30.00
Maria Szkolnyj - \$25.00
Harry & Elaine Plotycia - \$20.00
Anna Burda - \$20.00

Total collected

as of June 12, 2014 - \$5,575.00

2014 Goal for St. Nicholas Parish –

\$7,500.00

Amount Needed to reach our goal –

\$2,125.00

Thank You for your GENEROSITY

1914 SAVE THE DATE 2014

The Ukrainian American SITCH is celebrating its 100th Anniversary on Sunday, September 28, 2014 at Salvatore's Italian Gardens Restaurant corner of Genesee St. & Transit Rd.

Cash Bar 4PM – 5PM,
Dinner/Program 5PM.

The Program will be bilingual.

Included in the entertainment are: Women's Choir MRIYA and award-winning bandurist from Toronto: BORYS OSTAPIENKO. EVERYONE IS INVITED! Let's show our support for Ukraine with our presence.

Cost per person: \$40.00. Also please consider and "ad" in our program booklet. Full page \$100.00; ½ page \$50.00; ¼ page \$25.00; patrons \$10.00 per line. PHOTOS WILL BE

RETURNED. Tickets are available from: Michael Liskiewicz, Maria Malaniak, Elaine Nowadly, Nadia Marc, Julia Blendonohy. For tickets and ads make checks payable to: Ukrainian American Sitch

76th Annual Convention
League of Ukrainian Catholics
October 10, 11, 12, 2014
Holiday Inn – Johnstown, PA
Sponsored by the
All Saints Chapter.
Hope to see you this October!

УВАГА! УВАГА!

Даємо до відома, що в неділю, 28-го Вересня, 2014. Товариство Українсько-Американська Січ відмічує 100-ту річницю свого існування! Ювілей відбувається в ресторані Salvatore's Italian Gardens при роздоріжжю вул. Transit і Genesee.

Бара від 4-5 год.

Програма/обід від год. 5:00.

В програмі беруть участь Хор Мрія і молодий банурист з Торонта Борис Остап'єнко. Просимо усіх.

Вступ: \$40.00 дол. Віс особи.

Також продаємо оголошення/реклами до нашої одноднівки.

Повна сторінка: \$100; ½ сторінки: \$50; ¼ сторінки: \$25; і за одну лінію друку \$10. Фота Вам повертаємо.

Квитки можна купити від:

Михайла Ліскевича,

Марії Маланяк,

Елейн Новадлей,

Надії Марк,

Наді Блендоногої.

Чеки вписувати на
Ukrainian American Sitch



76 Конвенція Ліги Католиків
буде від 11 до 13 Жовтня ц. р.
Просимо взяти участь!

<https://www.facebook.com/LUCofAmerica>



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

- KITCHEN – is open Fridays 11 AM - 3 PM. Thank you for your patronage.
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- We need help in the kitchen. Thank you!
- Bible Meeting – Every other Thursday 6:30

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 Карточка 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!

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

SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
УКРАЇНЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА
СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ
(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ)

Parish E-Mail: stnbuffalo@yahoo.com

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

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

308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

Rectory: (716) 852-7566

Fax: 855-1319 ~ Kitchen: 852-1908

Confession: Before Liturgies

Сповідь: Перед Св. Літургіями

Baptism: By appointment

Хрещення: За домовленням

Marriage: Contact 6 months in advance

Вінчання: Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

Religion classes – Релігійна Програма

Субота - Saturday

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 ліжничці або приковані до ліжка!

Ridna Shkola Graduation



Iryna Melenchuk
Anastasiya Muzychko
Dianna Serediuk
Victor Bandriwsky
Martin Savka
Andriy Shutka

SATURDAY
June 21, 2014

5:30 - Concert
7:00 - Dinner
8:00 - Zabava

Music by
Konrad
Kenn

At
Ukrainian
Cultural
Center
DNIPRO

Tickets:
\$25 adult
\$10 for children under 16

For tickets and
information contact:
Ukrainian Credit Union 847-6655
EuroDeli 630-0130
Parents of Graduates

Випускний у Рідній Школі

Ірина Меленчук
Анастасія Музичко
Діана Середюк
Віктор Бандрівський
Мартин Савка
Андрій Шутка

СУБОТА
21 Червня, 2014

5:30 - Концерт
7:00 - Вечеря
8:00 - Забава
Музика
Конрата Кенн

В Українському
Культурному
Центрі ДНІПРО

Вхід:
25 для дорослих
10 для дітей до 16 років

За білетами
та інформацією
звертайтеся до:
Української Кредитівки 847-6655
ЄвроДелі 630-0130
Або до батьків матурантів

42nd Annual



August 14-17, 2014

Ukrainian Food
Varenyky (Pierogies), Holubtsi (Cabbage
Rolls), Ukrainian Sausage, Borshch

Ukrainian Arts & Crafts
Embroidery, Ceramics, Amber, Easter
Eggs, Paintings, Icons, Jewelry

Ukrainian Folk Dancing & Entertainment
Zolotyj Promin Ukrainian Dance Ensem-
ble of Hartford, Connecticut
UAFGR Dancers from Rochester, N. Y.

Live Music for Dancing
Thursday, "Melody Lane"
Friday & Saturday, "My Razom"

Interactive Rides by
"Adventures in Climbing"
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

St. Josaphat Church Tours
Saturday & Sunday @ 3:00pm

Free Parking/Admission/Entertainment

www.RochesterUkrainianFestival.com

Під Твою Милість



ВІДПУСТ

Неділя, 22 Червня, 2014
Sunday, June 22, 2014
Eparchial Marian Pilgrimage
in Ancaster, Ontario, Canada

9:00 Blessing of the Water
10:00 Pontifical Divine Liturgy
(Bishop Stephen Chmilar)
(Хор: Крилос із Церкви
Святого Духа в Гамілтоні)

Confessions, Eucharistic Adoration, Heal-
ing Service, Moleben, Benediction, Youth
Program "Arise", Religious Items, Food ...

Сповідь, Адорація Євхаристійних Дарів,
Молитовна Служба Зцілення, Молебень,
Суплікація, «Вставай» - Програма для
Молоді, Релігійні Пам'ятки, Обід ...

Гора Непорочної Діви Марії
Mount Mary Immaculate

437 Wilson Street E.
Ancaster, Ontario, Canada
(905) 648-4485

www.mountmary.ca

Sunday, August 3, 2014

Annual Parish Picnic

On Sunday, August 3, 2014 our parish will be holding its Annual Picnic on the Church Grounds beginning at noon. As always we are asking for your help and support in make this year's picnic a success.

Your help and support is needed in many ways

- We need Theme Baskets – to donate - place donation (checks made payable to St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church) in envelope marked “Theme Basket” and put in collection basket, or you can leave your basket in the church hall, please put your name on the basket.
- Items for Kitchen Jar Table such as: paper towels, sugar, flour, kitchen gadgets etc.
(Make sure items are new and please watch the Expiration dates).
- Help is needed during the week preceding the picnic preparing the food. Please contact Anna Melnyk to volunteer your services.
- Baked Goods are also needed, to sell in the kitchen and the baked goods table.

Please remember

We DO NOT need items for Attic Treasures, since we do not have this booth at the Picnic. If you have any ideas or can help in any way, please contact Lesia Petriwsky at 826-7321.

IMPORTANT!

PICNIC MAILING MEETING,
MONDAY, July 7, 2014 AT 5:30 PM.
HELP IS NEEDED IN MAILING OUT
THE RAFFLE BOOKS.
VOLUNTEERs ARE NEEDED

PLEASE SUPPORT US REMEM-
BERING THAT THIS PICNIC IS
ONE OF OUR MAJOR FUNDRAIS-
ING EVENTS OF THE YEAR.



Come join us for
A Parish Pork
Chop Dinner
Sunday, June 22nd
after Liturgy
Donation \$10.00

У неділю, 22 Червня буде обід
по Святій Літургії.
Даток \$10.00. Просимо до участі!

Benefit Fundraiser for
Melanie Guthridge Colvin
31 yr old Mom & Wife with ovarian
cancer and Lymphoma
June 21, 2014
6PM-10PM at
The Moose Hall

5437 Broadway, Lancaster NY
\$25 Adults \$10 Kids 15 & under.
Presale and at the door.
50/50-Basket Raffles-Pizza-Beer-Pop
For tickets call Sue Wroblewski
997-5178

Father's Day Picnic

The religious education students and their catechists would like to invite all parishioners and their families to attend the A Father's Day Picnic immediately following the 10:00 Liturgy today, June 15th. Hotdogs with kapusta, hamburgers, tossed salad, potato salad; baked beans, watermelon, and desserts will be served for a suggested minimum donation of \$5 per person. Donations for desserts would be greatly appreciated. All parishioners and their families are invited to attend – hope to see you there!

==

Пійкнік з нагоди Дня Батька відбу-
вається сьогодні по Св. Літургії
спонзорований дітьми Релігійного
навчання з їхніми катехитками.
Просимо взяти участь!

Молебні до Христа чоловіколюбця
відбуватимуться у вівторки і п'ятниці
о 12 год. Просимо до участі.

Molebens to Christ the Lover of
Menkind will be celebrated Tuesdays
and Fridays at noon. Please attend.

Наш Церковний Пікнік буде
У неділю, 3 Серпня, 2014 р.

У понеділок, 7 Липня о 5:30 у ц. залі бу-
демо весилати листи і білети на виграшу.

In Memoriam – Вічная Пам'ять!

Fell asleep in the Lord
Angela Wujcik
(nee Rogahalski)
(+June 12, 2014)

Beloved wife of the late Stefan Wujcik and late George Kozak; devoted mother of Anna (Michael) Mychalczuk and Dorothy Falkowski; grandmother of Maria and Michael (Lori) Mychalczuk, Gregory (Amy) Falkowski and Lisa (Christopher) LePage; great-grandmother of Samuel, Drew, Peter, Isaac, Claire, Alex and Siena. Family will be present Tuesday 2-4 and 6-8 PM at the PIETSZAK FUNERAL HOME, 2400 William Street (near Harlem) where Panachyda Services will be held Tuesday at 3:30 PM and Wednesday at 9:30 AM followed by a Funeral Liturgy at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church at 10 AM. Angela was a member of the American - Ukrainian Senior Citizens of St. Nicholas and Lackawanna. Online condolences: www.Pietszak.com.

We extend our sympathy to the Family and friends. Rest in peace! Eternal Memory.

Родині Св. Пам. Ангелини складаємо
співчуття, а їй хай буде

ВІЧНА ПАМ'ЯТЬ

Зо святими упокой, Христе, душу слугині
Твоєї Ангелини, де немає болізни, ні печалі,
ні зітхання, а життя безконечне!

ДЕНЬ БАТЬКА

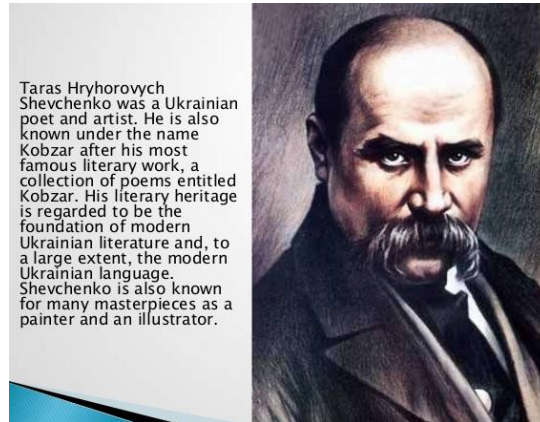
З нагоди Дня Батька бажаємо усім батькаюм обильних Божих ласк. Нехай Господь допомагає у вихованню дітей, а діти нехай завжди пам'ятають про своїх батьків і стараються наслідувати їхній добрий приклад.

НА МНОГАЯ І БЛАГАЯ ЛІТА!

Сьогодні нехай кожний і кожна з нас подумає про ту дорогу особу, якій ми завдячуємо своє життя, про свого власного батька.

Коли наш батько ще між живими, а ми вже дорослі, маємо свої родини і свої клопоти, труднощі і здається не маємо часу, все ж таки постараймося зробити щось доброго для нього, відвідати його, головно коли він вже у старшому віці і хворий. Потішити його, коли це потрібно, поговорити з ним, шукати від нього поради.

Оскільки наш батько вже упокоївся, згадаймо його сьогодні незлим тихим словом, пригадаймо його теплі слова, корисні слова поради у потребах, і розради у смутках, і вияснинь у сумнівах. Постараймося наслідувати його приклад. Згадуймо його часто у своїх щоденних молитвах, знаючи, що він постійно згадує нас у своїх молитвах перед лицем Всевишнього.



Мій Патріотичний Батько Тарас Г. Шевченко



Мій Духовний Батько Слуга Божий Патр. Йосиф



Мій Батько (З нашою родиною – я наймолодший)

Letter from Fr. Ray June 15, 2014 A.D

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

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

I have a feeling this is going to be one of those “Seinfeld letters.” You know, ‘a letter about nothing.’ Right now as I begin this written conversation with you it is 6:30am on a morning in very late spring. Do you realize the official calendar ‘change of season’ has not occurred yet? No matter, as I sit at the patio table and write, it is definitely very much summertime!

This Wednesday morning, June 11, has dawned to be a very gray and wet day. There was a brief, but heavy shower, earlier so everything is quite damp. Our forecast is for a lot of rain and strong storms over the next forty-eight hours. The great gray, white and black clouds are now rapidly moving to the northeast as they drag the invisible weather front to our area.

For the time being at least, it is most pleasant just to sit here and take in the “sounds of silence” of this early morn. Reminds me of that memorable question Coach Levy, the Hall of Fame coach, once posed to his Buffalo Bills football team prior to the start of one of the Super Bowls. He asked them, “Where would you rather be than right here, right now?!!!!

As for me, I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else, but right here, right now! The magnificent clouds above are merely the backdrop for the glory all around me, as I sit in this beautiful backyard and prepare for the day. “Grant me, O Lord, that with peace of mind I may face all that this new day is to bring...” (from the Optina Morning Prayer) The flowers are in bloom, the grass is lush and green, and the incredible and pleasant music of

the local bird populations echoes through the neighborhood.

That reminds me of a little, but very true story....There was once a man who often complained about the doves “cooing” outside his bedroom window as soon as it became daylight. His complaint was almost always accompanied by the wish that they would go away. Eventually he got his wish when he became very sick and became deaf. He never was to hear those bird sounds, or any other sound for that matter, for the rest of his days! “Careful what you wish for,” is indeed the moral of the story, huh?

I know God gives us the grace we need, when we need it, to bear any event in our lives, but I cannot even fathom not being able to hear the sounds of the world. This very moment, this “quiet summer morning” is not so quiet. That’s why I said this time of the day is filled with the “sounds of silence.” The melodies, calls, and morning prayers of the varied bird species are beautiful music! The soon to arrive rains are already announcing their presence in the rustling of the new leaves on the trees. Down the street the neighbor’s dog barks and the far away lonely whistle of a passing train is heard. Yep, it is a quiet morning, but beautiful sounds are heard all around. I praise God for the beautiful gift of hearing, most of which I still have. That is one of those beautiful blessings that we take so easily for granted.

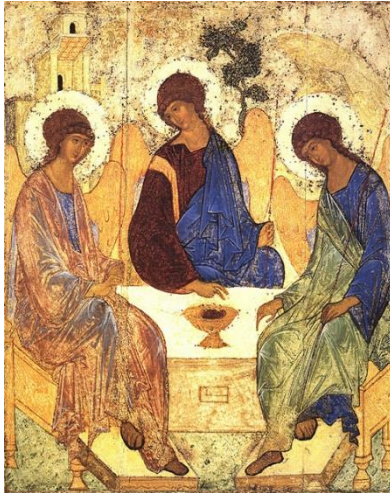
There are actually two big storms on the way today. The first is the weather one; the second is the imminent arrival of the Martelli kids! ☺ They are now graduates of Pre-K as they had their “moving up” day yesterday, and I guess they can now be officially called Kindergarteners.

Wednesday is my usual “priest day off.” Mrs. Martelli works each Wednesday and the kids are at our house all day. It is a fantastic time to be with them! But I will tell you, the night between Wednesday to Thursday morning is my best sleeping night! Wonder why that is.... ☺ ☺

Talk about blessings – I am so incredibly rich, and I thank God for it all! May you too, my dear one, know the joy and presence of the Lord in your family and in the world around you! By the way, God just winked at me. As I finished the last lines, I looked up towards the eastern sky and there, for a brief moment, at a break in the clouds were the rays of the sun shining through. Thank you, Lord! I saw it!

O yeah, I am blessed in so many ways! Happy Father’s Day to all our Dads!! I know it will be a special day as you receive your presents and spend time with your children (or at least hearing from them, if they are far away). True love means *Communion*, which is togetherness and caring. These ‘Hallmark Days’ give us the perfect opportunity to express our true love for each other. It is an absolute joy to celebrate the day with our family members, near or far, with our Dad’s, living or reposed.

I told you I am richly blessed, and Father’s Day is a perfect example. You see, I am Father to three beautiful girls and our family, but I am also called by that beautiful name of “Father” by “my people,” my spiritual family. What a blessing! What an honor! What a privilege! I only pray that when I stand at the Last Judgment I will not be condemned for failing in



this awesome responsibility, neither to my physical nor to my spiritual children. I say to you, as every Father this day says, “God bless you all, my dear children! I try, and have tried, to be the very BEST DAD for you! I am so sorry for the times when I’ve messed up, and haven’t measured up to that awesome name of Father. You are my blessings, my joy, my richness in abundance! You are my BEST children.

No, it isn’t a letter about nothing....it is a letter about EVERYTHING! May we all count our blessings, evident or concealed, known or unknown and give thanks to our good God for them! From the backyard sounds to His very LIFE in us, our God, the Good and Perfect Father, gives us all we need unto salvation. He never fails! He never abandons us! He is never apart from us! Glory to our God and Father in heaven, who has made us His children, and allows us to call Him: “Our Father!”

With either the physical presence of your Dad, if you are so gifted, or his presence in your memories and prayers, if he has gone to heaven, let today be a blessed day with him....wherever you are..... wherever he is. *Mnohaja Lita-Many Years, Dads! Vichnaja Pamjat-Eternal Memory* to those who have gone before us. May God bless all our Dads and our “Fathers,” and us! May our holy Lady Theotokos, protect them and us! Happy Father’s Day!

In His Love,
Fr. Ray

One story I often remember about my dad happened when I was just coming on my teen years, my father and I were standing in line to buy tickets for the circus. Finally, there was only one family between us and the ticket counter. This family made a big impression on me. There were eight children, all probably under the age of 10. You could tell they did not have a lot of money. Their clothes were not expensive, but they were clean. The children were well behaved, all of them standing in line, two-by-two behind their parents, holding hands. They were excitedly chatting about the clowns, elephants and other acts they would see that night. One could sense they had never been to the circus before, so it promised to be a highlight of their young lives. The father and mother were at the head of the pack, standing proud as could be, and smiling at the happy faces of their children. The mother was holding her husband's hand, looking up at him as if to say, "We are so blessed to be such a happy family". The ticket lady asked the father how many tickets he wanted. He proudly responded, "Please let me buy eight children's tickets and two adult tickets, so I can take my family to the circus." The ticket lady quoted the price. Suddenly, the man's wife let go of his hand, and her head dropped as the man's lip began to quiver. The father leaned a little closer and asked, "How much did you say?" The ticket lady again quoted the price. The man did not have enough money. How was he supposed to turn around and tell his eight kids that he did not have enough money to take them to the circus? Seeing what was going on, my dad put his hand into his pocket, pulled out a \$20 bill and dropped it on the ground. Then my dad reached down, picked up the bill, tapped the man on the shoulder and said, "Excuse me, sir, I think this fell out of your pocket." The man knew what was going on. He looked straight into my dad's eyes, took my dad's hand in both of his, squeezed tightly onto that \$20 bill, and with his lip still quivering, he replied, "Thank you, sir. This really means a lot to me and my family." When my dad and I returned to the car later that night, I remember feeling something good inside. We never really talked about it again, dad never boasted about good deeds, but I never forgot what he did, and that was a far greater blessing than any clown or circus act we saw that night. Later that evening, while sipping

over ice cream sodas, I felt like the luckiest kid. Come to think of it, whenever I was with my dad, I always felt like the luckiest kid in the world.

The other day my son asked me: What made grandpa such a good dad? There were so many memories that came rushing back to me that I felt like my heart would overflow, and so I shared many wonderful stories in that priceless moment with my son. I went on to tell him that dads do a lot of small things too that make a world of difference, and then I elaborated: They bring around the car when it rains so everyone else can stay dry. They always take the family pictures, which is why they are hardly in them. They play ball with you even after they have worked a ten hour day. They carve turkeys on Thanksgiving, keep the car gassed up, and are not afraid to go into the basement. They mow the lawn, and tighten the clothesline to keep it from sagging. Dad’s throw their kids up high over their heads until they are weak from laughter. They listen more than they talk. They tuck you in at night and read you a bedtime story, after they have scared away the boogie man from under your bed. They let you make mistakes and then they teach you how to make amends. They run alongside when you are learning how to ride a bike, and they sit beside you patiently when they are teaching you how to drive their car. Above all, what a father really does that is so important - he shows up for the job in good times and bad times. He is a man who is constantly being observed by his children. They learn from him how to handle adversity, anger, disappointment, and success. He will not laugh at their dreams no matter how impossible they might seem. He will wake up and drive in the middle of the night, when one of his children is at a sleepover and not feeling well. He will make unpopular decisions and stand by them. When he is wrong and makes a mistake, he will admit it. He sets the tone for how family members treat one another, and even people who are different from them. By example, a dad can instill a desire to give something back to the community, when its needs are greater than theirs. But mostly, a good father involves himself in his kids' lives, and takes responsibility for who they become. A dad has the potential to be a powerful force in the life of a child – I know, because like many of you, I had a great dad. *(From the “Good Samaritan Radio Program)*