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N<sup>o</sup>  
35

**SAINT NICHOLAS  
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**



**УКРАЇНЬСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА  
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ**

**V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor/dean**  
**Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest**

**Parish E-Mail:** [stnbuffalo@yahoo.com](mailto: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

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**Vacations - Вакації.**

**Ministry to the sick - Опіка над хворими**

Family members should call the Rectory  
Родина повинна повідомити священика

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**В разі потреби завжди можна закликати**

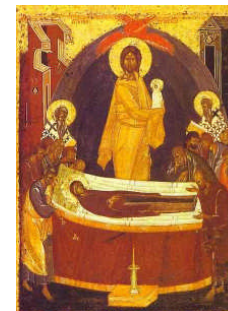
**UNDER THE PROTECTION  
OF MOTHER OF GOD**



**ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ  
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ**

**CHURCH BULLETIN – N<sup>o</sup>35**

**August 28 – 2011 – 28 Серпня**  
**ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК – Ч. 35**



Сьогодні Свято Успіння Преч. Діви Марії. Згідно з легендою, за три дні до смерті Пресвятої Богородиці з'явився їй архангел Гавриїл і повідомив, що Христос забере її незабаром до Себе...

Часто на іконах Успіння бачимо, що апостоли прибули на крилах ангелів. Бракувало тільки апостола Томи. І відбувається похорон. Отці церкви, які багато писали про пречисту співають благодатні пісні, Петро кадить і разом з апостолами відбуває обхід надовкола покійної. Усі вони у своїй болі, і ніхто не запримичує Христа, що у своїй славі, оточений ангелами, тримає душу своєї Пречистої Матері. І насувається думка. Так як Господь тримає душу Пречистої, коли вона розлучається з тілом, таксамо і нашу душу візьме Він зі собою, оскільки ми Йому на це позволимо. Слід пам'ятати, що якщо Христос з нами під час нашого життя, то Він також буде з нами і при кінці цієї нашої туземної мандрівки...



## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

**DORMITION – УСПІННЯ П.Д.М. (ЮЛ.)**  
**Aug. 28: 11 S. Aft. Pent.-11 Н. По ЗСД 12**

10:00 AM +Ярослав Заньків (Анна)  
12:00 PM +Sophie Lucas (Michael Flak)

**Mon., Aug. 29 – Понеділок, 29 Серпня**

10:00 AM +Василь Сивенький (2 річ.)  
(родина)

**Tue., Aug. 30 – Вівторок, 30 Серпня**

8:15 AM +Ольга Попадин (Е. К. Bratach)

**Wenesday, Aug. 31 – Середа, 31 Серпня**

8:15 AM За зд. Стефанії (родина)  
12:00 PM Special Intention – Linda  
requ. By Linda Steeb

**Thursday, Sep. 1 – Чет., 1 Вересня**

10:00 AM +PiJa Procyk – 40 days & panach.  
+Гілько Процик – 40 днів і пан.

**Friday, Sep. 2 – П'ят., 2 Вересня**

8:15 AM +Володимира Гіль (А. Сеньків)

**Saturday, Sep. 3 – Субота, 3 Вересня**

10:00 AM В нам. Антоніни Парашій–95 л.  
Многая Літа! (Дануся)

**4:30 PM +Irene Deckor (Lesia Petrivskyj)**

**Sep. 4: 12 S. Aft. Pent.-12 Н. По ЗСД 13**

10:00 AM +Володимир Осадців  
(Любомир і Соня Головаті)

12:00 PM За Парохіян - For Parishioners

**Eternal Light burns  
In memory of Parents  
Requ. By: Dorothy & Ann Kordrupel**

**Вічне світло в честь ПДМ горить за  
+Василя Сивенького  
Пожертва: родина**

## In the Beginning . . . (cont.)

(week 23) I can hear mom's conversations more clearly now. I can hear her read, sing and talk. I like to kick back, suck my thumb, and listen to her read to me. My eyelids and eyebrows are fully formed. My fingernails have grown to the end of my fingers. My brain is growing really fast so I'm going to be very smart. Chris weighs nearly a pound now.

Dads, did you know: Low-frequency sounds, mimicking a male voice, penetrate the abdomen and uterine wall better than the higher frequencies of the female voice?

*"Teach them (God's ordinances) to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."*

## Banns of Matrimony (3.)

Vera Proskunova, daughter of Jurij & Lubov (Tyran) and Keith M. Carlins, son of James and Loretta (Puhak)

Наміряють вступити в стан подружжя Віра Проскунова, донька Юрія і Любов (Тиран) і Кеїт М. Карлінс, син Якова і Лоретти (Пухак) (3. Оповідь)

## 2 вересня 2011 р. Василь Шкляр

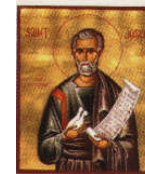
завітає до Баффало на зустріч з українською громадою.

Він автор багатьох творів і зокрема історичного роману "Чорний Ворон" в котрому описано невідомі сторінки історії боротьби українського народу з більшовиками у 20-их роках.

5 год - Український Народний Дім на Блекрак - коротка зустріч з громадою

7 год - Український Культурний Центр "Дніпро" виступ і відповіді на запитання. Буде англомовний перекладач.

Дніпрова кухня до ваших послуг.



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See your old friends on Friday night.  
Help rebuild our Ukrainian Home.

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



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## 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 closed for the Summer. Thank you for your help and patronage.
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- August 7: Church Picnic. Please help!!!

### 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 ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ)

Please call if you are hospitalized,  
homebound and need a priest.  
Просимо закликати якщо ви у  
лічниці або приковані до ліжка!

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

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

*V. Rev. Marijan Proyk*

Are you listening "Good Samaritan"  
Ukrainian Radio Program  
on WJLL 1440 AM  
Every Sunday at 2:00 PM?  
Thanks for donations!

\* \* \*

Чи слухаєте нашу радіо передачу  
«Милосердний Самар'янин»  
Неділя, 2 год. на WJLL 1440 AM?  
Дякуємо за пожертви!

## DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS

### "Special Appeal"

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Georgina Oros - \$10.00  
Christine Chmura - \$10.00  
Catherine Eckhart - \$10.00

\*\*\*

Thank you from:  
Stephen, Gregory and Emily

\*\*\*

Eternal Memory to +Harry!  
Vichnaya Pamiat!

IMO Wasyl "Billy" Lechnowsky  
Anna Holowaty - \$20.00

Donations Towards Coffee Hour  
(Coffee Hour Benefits - Yearly  
Communication Assessment Fee)  
Onufrij & Halyna Biloholowsky

Thank you – Сердечна Подяка!



## LUC News

### Reminder:

The deadline to put an ad the 2011 League of Ukrainian Catholics Convention Journal is Thursday, September 1, 2011. Tickets are available for purchase for convention events from Elaine Nowadly or Mary Beth Sukmann.



**73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention,  
League of Ukrainian Catholics  
October 7, 8, 9, 2011  
Holiday Inn Airport  
- Cheektowaga, NY**



The League of Ukrainian Catholics, Niagara Frontier Council cordially invites the Buffalo area Ukrainian community to join with them in celebrating their 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention from October 7, 8, 9, 2011 at the Holiday Inn-Airport in Cheektowaga, NY. The theme of this year's convention is "Grant me the wisdom of our Eastern rite, to hold it, to renew it and develop it." Taken From the *Servant of God Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky's Prayer of the for Divine Wisdom.*

The Convention will begin on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> with a general meeting of delegates. Following the meeting there will be a workshop conducted by Rev. Ivan Kaszczak.

A "Buffalo Fest" Welcome Party will begin the weekends festivities.

Saturday will begin with breakfast followed by a keynote address by Rev. Kaszczak. Then its on to Niagara Falls, NY . A Panachyda service for deceased members of the League will be held at Protection of the BVM Ukrainian Catholic Church. After the service its on to various locations in Niagara Falls and the Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Lewiston, NY. At the Saturday evening Banquet, Reverend Czeslaw Michal Krysa, Director of Worship of the Diocese of Buffalo will be the Main Speaker, entertainment will follow the banquet.

Sunday morning will begin with Liturgy at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Buffalo, NY. , Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, Eparch of Stamford, will be the main celebrant at this Liturgy. The convention will conclude with Brunch and closing activities at the hotel.

Again, please know, you are most cordially invited to join with us for all the weekend festivities.

**Final Deadline for tickets is  
September 28, 2011**

For ticket information contact:

Mary Beth Sukmann	824-1433
Maria (Slabyk) LaPaglia	826-0281
Elaine Nowadly	825-8169

**SITCH DINNER MEETING**

**Sunday September 25, 2011**

At Joseph Hriczko Post  
Clemo St., Buffalo, NY

After 12:00 pm Liturgy for the reposed  
and living members of Sitch

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church  
Fillmore & Oneida Sts., Buffalo, NY

**COCKTAILS** at 1:00PM

**DINNER** at 1:30PM incl. refreshments

**Meeting to be held after dinner.**

Dinner cost is \$10.00 for members and  
\$15.00 for guests

Membership dues of \$5.00

For the 2011 year must be current and may  
be paid at the door.

**For reservations call:**

**Mike Liskiewicz – 837-0285 or  
Maria Malaniak – 668-5105**

**Reservation deadline is  
September 18, 2011**

**Wasył "Billy" Lechnowskyj**  
(Feb. 23, 1962 – Aug. 16, 2011)



beloved son of John and Catherine Lechnowskyj, devoted brother to 7 siblings and loved uncle to 11 nieces and nephews, died August 16, 2011 at age 49 from complications of Lymphoma that was aggravated by Pneumonia.

Billy was afflicted with schizophrenia his entire adult life. Despite his illness, Billy was always there for his family. He was funny, smart, had an unbelievable memory and cherished each and every family gathering.

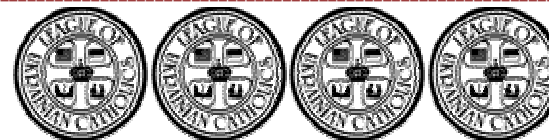
Billy loved to reminisce and take us all back to our younger years. He was a wonderful talker who brought many laughs and smiles to all who knew him.

Although he didn't have much, Billy would never hesitate to share with friends or others who were less fortunate.

He was a gentle soul who cared about all.

You will always be loved, remembered and missed by your family and friends.

**Rest in peace Billy!" (Family)**



**Ліга Українців Католиків повідомляє,  
що Конвенція Ліги відбудеться тут у  
нас в Жовтні. Просимо взяти участь.  
Рівно просимо щоб в цей час не влаштовувати своїх імпрез. Дякуємо!**

**BASILIAN SISTERS**

The Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great are celebrating 100 Years in America as a praying, healing, life-giving presence. Please mark your calendars for following Centennial Events:

**Centennial Pilgrimage**

**October 2nd - Fox Chase**

**Closing of the Centennial Year**

**Divine Liturgy and Banquet**

**November 6th Cathedral of the**

**Immaculate Conception**

**For more information:**

**[www.stbasils.com](http://www.stbasils.com)**

**Проща до Сестер Василяників**

**На Факс Чейс з нагоди 100-ліття**

**Чину Сестер Василянок у Америці**

**буде 2 Жовтня. Просимо до участі!**



On my recent trip to Bosnia I discovered that only object standing on the farm in our village is the well. I had hard time even to reach it through the overgrown thorns. There are remainings of the old house and not even a trace of the new one. The fruits of the war of the ethnic cleansing. Lord, have Mercy!

### **З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"**

Євангеліє сьогодні (Мт. 18,23-35) розповідає нам про царя, який перевіряв рахунки у своєму царстві і знайшов що один управитель був йому винен 10 тисяч талантів. Задумав цар позбутися того управителя, забрати все у нього і кинути його до тюрми. “Дай мені ще одну нагоду, прости мені, зачикай якийсь час і все тобі поверну.”, просив його управитель. І змілосердився цар, та простив йому усі довги...

Управитель вмів просити за себе, але показується, що він не зрозумів у чому полягає молитва, і що Бог від кожного і кожної з нас вимагає.

Пс. 50 каже: “Серце чисте створи мені о Боже, і дух потужний віднови в нутрі моїм.” Отого потужного духа, управитель не шукав, і в жадному випадку його не посідав. Він для нас є добрим прикладом як не слід відмовляти Господньої молитви. У його словах і діях відображувалася тільки перша її частина: “Прости нам провини наші”, а зовсім він не знав другої частини “як і ми прощаємо винуватцям нашим”.

Вийшовше від царя, зустрів він свого співслужу, який був йому винин 100 денаріїв та й собі подумав: “Через таких як він, я майже не постраждав. Коли б він мені був віддав свій довг, то я не знайшов би ся у таких клопотах.”

Він зовсім забув, що тих клопотів більше не має, що цар усе йому простив. Він був засліплений ненавістю і не звертав уваги на благання цього співслужу, який подібно до нього промовляв: “Дай мені ще одну нагоду, прости мені, зачикай якийсь час і все тобі поверну.” Ні! Він замкнув його, аж поки не відасть його довг.

Очевидно, це дійшло до царя, який розгнівався на поступування жорстокого управителя, і сам жорстоко поступив, замкнувши його до тюрми, аж поки не відасть все, що був винен.

Почасто і ми не вміємо прощати, а бажаємо Господнього прощення, кожного разу коли відмовляємо Господню молитву „Отче Наш”. Христос нам готовий простити усі наші провини, якщо ми не пам’ятатимемо провини тих що нас образили, що з нас сміялися, що на нас говорили, що нас кривдили.

Якщо не вміємо простити, то ми показуємо, що не вміємо відмовляти Господньої молитви. Не прощаючи кривди ближнього ми не мов говоримо нашому Богові: “Отче наш, не прощай нам наших провин, бо і ми не вміємо прощати тим, які провинилися супроти нас.”

Якщо ми провиняємося проти інших, то бажаємо, щоб вони нам простили. І коли приходимо до церкви помолитися, нагадаймо собі, чи хтось має щось проти нас. Постановім помиритися, наладнати, просити прощення і простити. Не пам’ятати зло, не відплачуватися за нього, що більше – добром віддавати за образи, незалежно, які вони були б для нас тяжкі. Пригадуємо, коли Христа на хрест розп’яли, Він молився за своїх ворогів, які властиво у тій хвилині і не були ворогами: “Прости їм - не знають що роблять”.

...Коли б Христос не прощав людям їхніх провин, то не було б жодної надії для нас і наступило б цілковите знищення людини.

Кров первомученика Степана і його поведінка, превили до навернення Савла, який став Павлом, і поширив Христову науку на цілий тоді знаний світ.

Наше прощення преверни до нас навіть найбільш завзятих противників. Від ворожнечі перейдемо до приязні, від ненависти до любови. Наші вороги перестають нам бути ворогами, коли ми їм покажемо свою любов і прощення.

“І прости нам довги наші як і ми прощаємо довжникам нашим”. Амінь.

### **From the desk of Fr. Ray Palko**

**GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!**

**GLORY FOREVER!**

**August 28, 2011**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

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

Here we are on Thursday morning, August 25 finally getting a minute to sit down and drop you a line. Know what? Today, being the 25<sup>th</sup>, means that in just four short months from now it will be Christmas Day! ☺ ☺ ☺ They say "time flies when you're having fun." I dunno, should we try not to be having so much fun and maybe slow it down a bit?

Anyway, time marches on and a lot has happened, and is happening, this week. During these days, I have been very often calling to mind my beautiful period of substitution at St. Nicholas Church in Elmira, which I was privileged to have last year during August/September. I fondly remember the kind hospitality and spirituality of the beautiful people in that lovely church and often call them to mind in my poor prayers. I don't want to sound like a broken record, but it sure was a fast year! "Mnohaja Lita!" to all down there.

Using "Plan A and Plan B" the local events of last Sunday were successful in spite of the day long off and on rains. The weather was such that we never knew if it was going to rain or not, so the question of "indoors?.. outdoors?" was heard over and over again. But it all worked out.

Congratulations to all who planned, took part in, and attended the celebration at "Dnipro" for our local celebration of the 20\* anniversary of Ukrainian Independence. It was good to be apart of that historic gathering. And once again the Deanery choir beautifully sang the responses to the Moleben of Thanksgiving as we honored the Mother of God and prayed for her continued intercession for the Ukrainian people. Congratulations choir

members and director Mr. Leo Orynowka! I know how hard you work for all your performances. That choir is truly a gem of the deanery and eparchy.

I was pleased to have been at the celebration for a number of reasons, but one of the foremost was the fact that our priests of the Buffalo deanery had the opportunity to meet the newly assigned pastor at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Fr. Yuri Kasianov. I'm sure we will continue to grow in friendship and fraternity as we did in the past with the former priest, Fr. Mykola, and we look forward to working together in the future. Welcome to western NY and the Buffalo Deanery, Fr. Yuri and Presbyter!

There was a second important event last Sunday and that was the celebration of Ukrainian Day at St. Basil's in Lancaster as they pulled off their Chicken Ribs Bar-B-Q, despite the unpredictable showers, "many heavy at times." They had the same concerns of the heavy "pour-downs" as they did at "Dnipro," but the people came out and they sold their dinners and, all in all, had a very successful fund-raiser. I managed to make it out there after Dnipro. Again, it was nice to see everyone at St. Basil's, even some of my parishioners from Holy Protection. Congratulations to all the hard workers out there who always can be counted on and strive so hard to build up the Kingdom of God. Nice job!

Besides all that, earlier in the day I was in my glory because I concelebrated our Sunday Liturgy with a deacon. Fr. Tibor Turi and his family from Canada visited our church and I love to have Liturgy with a deacon! It was a beautiful, uplifting, reverent and holy Divine Liturgy and everyone was extremely grateful for the presence of Father and his family. If I ever get to make a sign for our church part of it will read, "Deacons Welcome!"



And then on Monday we scooted to Pennsylvania to see the Bremer family down there in the Johnstown area. We had a marvelous time with Presbyteria Laryssa, Fr. Elijah, Jonah and Nathanael. We wanted to have one last summer visit with them before they went back to school, which actually started yesterday, the 24th for Presbyteria Laryssa and Jonah will be a first-grader beginning next Wednesday, the 31<sup>st</sup>.

It's been a real interesting weather pattern since Sunday. There hasn't been persistent rainfall, just short bursts of heavy rain showers. In between the showers we've had fantastic, beautiful days and clear starlit nights. All during this week the sky has been adorned with great, spectacular and luxurious clouds of snow white to the darkest grays, illumined by the sunshine steaming in and through and around them. I hope you saw some of them. Outstanding! Exquisite! Heavenly! Glory to God! By the way, did I tell you I thought the clouds were beautiful this week!!! ☺ The glorious cloud filled sky actually made for the real pleasant drive to Pennsylvania. It was non-stop beauty, both coming and going in the sky as well as on the earth. It is a beautiful time of the year!

It looks as if all this will be changed by the time you are reading this. Our prayers are pouring into heaven as we pray for safe deliverance for all who will find themselves in the path of the storm called Irene. (Hey, I've got a cousin who fits that description – “A Storm called Irene... another story for another day! ☺) As of today it looks like millions of people on the eastern seaboard are going to be seriously affected by the giant storm as it makes its way up north. Hopefully, as you read this on Saturday night, Sunday and the days after, the news won't be as harsh as they have already been predicting.

This week was the crown of summer, the icing on the cake. Wegman's was selling wa-

termelons with seeds! The real thing! I had asked earlier in the season and they told me they didn't have them because people simply don't want them. Did you know that we've gotten so lazy we don't even want to go to the trouble of having watermelon with seeds? Hence that melon they call seedless. Anyway, for whatever reason, they got some and I bought one. So we sat on the driveway, ate a lot of watermelon and had a "see how far you can spit the seed" contest. That's a watermelon! That's summer! Thank you Mr. Wegman!

In Patriarch Joseph's "Zapovit" (Last Testament) he mentions that when one is preparing for death, our people say, "he is sitting on the sleigh." The other day I was in the Falls and had some food I wanted to share with a parish neighbor so I went over to her house and rang the bell. Soon the woman's teen age daughter appeared at the window, kind of peeking from behind the curtain to see who it was, and I clearly heard her say, "Mom, it's just some old white guy." Oh no! Not that again! It was worse than the day way over ten years ago when I went into Burger King with my then unmarried Laryssa, and the person behind the counter gave me a Senior Discount without my even asking. To use Charlie Brown's famous phrase: "AAAAAAGH!" I refuse to take the sleigh out of the barn, much less to be sitting on it, but I guess it's time to admit that I might have the door open and can see it. I told the neighbor as I handed her the food, "Hey Lady, I hate your kid!" ☺ ☺

Have a great and blessed week! God bless you! Mary protect you!

In His Love,  
Fr. Ray, "the Old White Guy"



From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

... One Saturday afternoon, Jack and his friend were throwing rocks onto the roof of an elderly woman's house from a secluded spot in her backyard. The object of their play was to observe how the rocks changed to missiles as they rolled to the roof's edge and shot out into the yard like comets falling from the sky. Jack found himself a perfectly smooth rock and sent it for a ride. The stone was too smooth, however, so it slipped from his hand as he let it go and headed straight for a small window on the elderly woman's back porch. At the sound of fractured glass, Jack and his friend took off from the lady's yard faster than any of their missiles flew off her roof. Jack was too scared about getting caught that first night to be concerned about the older woman with the broken porch window. However, a few days later, when he was sure that he hadn't been discovered, Jack started to feel guilty for her misfortune. She still greeted him with a smile each day when he gave her the paper, but Jack was no longer able to act comfortable in her presence. He made up his mind that he would save his paper delivery money, and in three weeks Jack had the fifty dollars that he calculated would cover the cost of her window. He put the money in an envelope with a note explaining that he was sorry for breaking her window and hoped that the money would cover the cost for repairing it. Jack waited until it was dark, snuck up to the elderly woman's porch, and put the envelope of retribution through the letter slot in her door. Immediately, Jack's soul felt redeemed and he couldn't wait for the freedom of, once again, looking straight into the woman's eyes when he delivered her the newspaper. The next day, Jack handed the kind old lady her paper and was able to return the warm smile. She thanked him for the paper and said, "Here, I have something



for you." It was a bag of cookies. Jack thanked her and proceeded to eat the cookies as he continued his route. After several cookies, he felt an envelope and pulled it out of the bag. When Jack opened the envelope, he was stunned. Inside were his fifty dollars and a short note that read, "I'm proud of you."

In every relationship, in every friendship, in every family, Christians are faced with the situation in which forgiveness is requested from them - again and again - whether it means giving innumerable hugs or listening to the same excuses over and over again. Christ said, "*If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*" There is no one who is righteous. We all have sinned. We all fall short. We all are guilty. And the only way for us to be justified is by placing our hope in Christ, who gave his life as a ransom for many in order to make atonement, in order to pay for our sins. And just like the Apostle Peter gleaned from today's Parable, we have no right to try and bring to a halt in ourselves the forgiveness that flows from the love of our Savior on the cross. We must allow forgiveness to flow freely at all times – and without limit. Sometimes, we do not fully comprehend the depth of our own sins before God. Why does this matter? Because the less we appreciate how much God had to forgive in us, the less we are likely to forgive one another. Saint Augustine once wrote: "If you are suffering the injustice of a bad man, forgive Him, least there be two bad men." The place to begin is prayer: Pray that you will want to forgive the person who hurt you more than you will want to get even. We do this by praying that God will give us the strength and desire to forgive the ones who hurt us. We do not forgive to be forgiven. We forgive because we have been forgiven by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.