



Eleonor Schudlik Dec. 30, 1923 – Nov. 26, 2014  
← Leo Orynawka and +Stephania Orynawka  
Eternal Memory to Eleonor & Stepania  
VICHNAYA PAMIAT'!



Хрещення України - Baptism of Ukraine

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SAINT NICHOLAS  
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА  
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



№  
49

ПІД ОПІКОЮ  
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ  
МАРІЇ ОДІТТРІЇ

UNDER THE  
PROTECTION OF  
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN

December 7 – 2014 – 7 Грудня  
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

Our Yearly St. Nicholas Dinner will take place on December 21, 2014 in the Church Hall after the 10 o'clock Liturgy. There will be only one Liturgy that day. Dinner will be catered, so we need to know who intends to take part. In 5 years there will be 100 years of our church as well as 125 years of our St. Nicholas Parish. We will start preparing for this event.

Наш Річний Парохіяльний Обід з нагоди Празника Св. Миколая буде 21 Грудня по співаній Св. Літургії, яка починається о 10 год. рано.

В цей день не буде другої Св. Літургії. Просимо зголоситися наперед, що будете на обіді. За 5 років святкуватимемо 100-ліття будови нашої Церкви, як рівнож 125-ліття Парохії. Постараємося відповідно приготувитися до цієї великої річниці. Ваші поради, що до святкувань, конче потрібні. Дякуємо!



Conception of St. Anne – Зачаття Анни  
"Празнує днесь вселенна зачаття Анни, що сталося від Бога"  
(Кондак празника).



## CHURCH BULLETIN

Dec. 7 – 2014 – 7 Грудня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

4:30 PM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

December 7 26 S. aft. Pent. – 26 Н. по З.С.Д.

12:00 PM. For living and dec. members of  
Joseph Hriczko Post VFW Post 6245

Monday, December 8 Грудня, Понеділок  
8:15 AM +Anna Koman (Serediuk Family)

Immaculate Conception - Зачаття Анни  
Tuesday, December 9 Грудня, Вівторок

9:00 AM For Peace in Ukraine-За мир в Україні

Wednesday, December 10 Грудня, Середа

9:00 AM +Andrew Kopnak (Peter Maxim)

Thursday, December 11 Грудня, Четвер

9:00 AM +Ілля, Анна, Мирослава, Анна  
Дусанівські (р. Дусанівських і діти)

Friday, December 12 Грудня, П'ятниця

9:00 AM +Стефанія Варцаба (р. Пастух)

Saturday December 13 Грудня, Субота

10:00 AM +Михайло Коцай (дружина Катерина)

4:30 PM Int. of Peter & Olga Pucak  
(Norma & Mary Ann DuBois)

December 14 27 S. aft. Pent. – 27 Н. по З.С.Д.

12:00 PM. For Parishioners – За Парохіян

The Eternal Light for your intention or  
for dec. members of Family is \$7.00

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М. горить  
у нам. тих, що працюють в кухні.

Eternal Light in honor of BVM burns  
for all volunteers in the kitchen



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

### ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

7 Грудня: 26 Н. по З.С.Д.

10:00 р. +Марія Грекуляк (родина)

14 Грудня: 27 Н. по З.С.Д.

10:00 р. +Др. Михайло Лоза  
(Дружина Др. Уляна)

St. Nicholas Parish Kitchen  
Is now taking orders for the Christmas  
Season for Varenyky (Pierogies),  
Cabbage Rolls, and Beet Soup

**Varenyky (Pierogies):**

Potato - \$10.00 dozen

Sauerkraut - \$10.00 dozen

Cheese - \$12.00 dozen

**Cabbage Rolls** - \$ 2.00 each

**Beet Soup** - \$ 4.00 quart

December 12th is

Deadline for orders.

Orders can be picked up on: Friday's -  
December 12, 19<sup>th</sup> from  
11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Дорогі жінки в церковній кухні!  
Сказано мені, що минулої п'ятниці ви  
перевищили дотеперішню допомогу.  
(You went beyond the usual).  
Сердечна подяка Вам за вашу працю.  
Різдв'яний час вимагає більше зусилля  
і просимо помочі коли буде потрібно.  
Дякуємо! Боже Благословення на Вас!

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



PHONE 893-1025

Fusani &  
Kuhn's Monuments, Inc.

ASK FOR TOM

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BUFFALO, N.Y. 14225

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St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church



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Director Peter D. Stachowski

2005 Clinton Street at S. Ogden, Buffalo New York 14206  
(716) 825-7777 [www.buszkafuneralhome.com](http://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](http://www.redstarautomotive.com)

### Ad in the bulletin

If you want to advertise  
Your business in the bulletin  
Business card - \$100 for a year.

Бізнесова карточка  
\$100.00 дол. – 52 рази до року.

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

*Pietszak*

FUNERAL HOME

Orlowski-Pietszak Funeral Home

[www.Pietszak.com](http://www.Pietszak.com) 897-2400

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thoughtful Personalized Service

806 Clinton St. 2400 William St.  
Buffalo Cheektowaga

Thanks are extended to all Sponsors



562 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY 14204  
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[www.rufcu.org](http://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 CERTI-  
FICATES | MONEY MARKET | LOANS | MORTGAGES  
| VISA CREDIT & DEBIT CARDS | MONEYGRAM |  
INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC WIRE TRANSFERS  
| ONLINE SERVICES | NOTARY PUBLIC |

### ПЕРСОНАЛЬНІ ТА БІЗНЕСОВІ ФІНАНСОВІ ПОСЛУГИ

ОЩАДНІ ТА ЧЕКОВІ РАХУНКИ | СЕРТИФІКАТИ |  
ММ | ПОЗИКИ | КРЕДИТИ НА НЕРУХОМІСТЬ |  
ПЛАТІЖНІ КАРТКИ VISA | MONEYGRAM |  
ГРОШОВІ ПЕРЕКАЗИ | ЕЛЕКТРОННІ ПОСЛУГИ |  
ПОСЛУГИ НОТАРІУСА |

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

### Cell Phones - Мобільні Телєфони:

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

\*\*\*

Просимо вилучувати ваші мобільні  
телєфони підчас Святої Літургії.

**EURO DELI AND GIFTS**  
[www.eurodelisausage.com](http://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

Are you listening "Good Samaritan"  
Ukr. Radio Program on WJLL 1440 AM  
Every Sunday at 2:00 PM?  
Thank you for your donations!  
We welcome your comments.

\*\*\*

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

Please Remember  
Our Church in Your Will!

\*\*\*

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

Щоб довідатися більше інформацій  
про це що діється в громаді,  
Просимо відвідати веб-сторінку.  
<http://www.ukrainiansofbuffalo.com>

Is the the web-page to find  
More information and events  
In our Ukrainian Community.

### DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS

#### "Special Appeal"

IMO Onufrij Biloholowskyj  
Pereyma Family - \$100.00

IMO Luba Ciolko  
Pereyma Family - \$100.00

IMO Teodozij Pryshlak  
Pereyma Family - \$100.00

### ОБ'ЄДНАННЯ ЖІНОК ОЧСУ

Відділ Боффало, Н.Й.

Влаштовує

### РІЗДВЯНИЙ БАЗАР

Неділя, 14-го  
грудня, 2014 р.  
після Богослуження

в церкві, св.  
Миколая,  
308 Філмор вул.

Печиво ~  
Смачні Обіди ~

Святочні Картки

Все Українське Громадянство  
Боффало і Околиці

Щиро Запрошує

Управа ОЖ-ОЧСУ!!!



Cathedral Lessons and Carols - The St.  
Joseph Cathedral Choir will present a concert  
of Christmas Lessons & Carols on  
**Saturday, December 20 at 7:30 p.m.** under  
the direction Organist-Choir Director Tim  
Socha. They will be joined by The Royalton  
Ringers & Diane Dick, Solo Handbells. Music  
will include compositions by J.S. Bach,  
Johannes Eccard, Morten Larudsen, Bob  
Chilcott, Matthew Culloton and others. There  
will be a free-will offering. All are welcome.  
St. Joseph Cathedral is located at 50 Franklin  
Street, downtown Buffalo, between Church &  
Swan Streets. Call 854-5855 for more info.

### WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEFENSE OF FOUR FREEDOMS FOR UKRAINE, INC.

Presents a  
**CHRISTMAS  
BAZAAR**

Sunday, December  
14th, 2014 after the  
Liturgy

St. Nicholas Church, 308 Fillmore Ave.

Pastries – Delicious Lunches –  
Christmas Cards

Everyone is most  
cordially invited!!!

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

## Ukrainian New Year's Dance

MALANKA 2015

Saturday,  
January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Ukrainian Cultural Center  
"DNIPRO"

562 Genesee St, Buffalo, NY 14204

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

## MUSIC provided by "My Razom" of Rochester

Tickets sales thru January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Dinner & Zabava \$50 per person adults  
Dinner & Zabava for students (ages 13-18) \$30  
\*\*\*Dinner tickets will be pre-sale only  
NO dinner tickets will be available at the door!\*\*\*

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

Cocktails: 6:30pm  
Dinner 7:15pm  
Zabava: 9:00pm

There will be a  
Midnight Snack & Champagne Toast  
For More Information, Questions, Tickets &  
Reservations

Nicole Grega (716) 903-4777 or  
[ukenikkie29@gmail.com](mailto:ukenikkie29@gmail.com)  
Ann Serediuk (716) 316-1051

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



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

## ТРАДИЦІЙНУ МАЛАНКУ 2015

яка відбудеться  
в суботу 17-го січня 2015 р.

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

Щиро запрошуємо Українську громаду  
міста Бофало і околиць до участі.

До танців приграватиме оркестра:  
"Ми Разом" з Рочистеру

Білету на Вечерю і Забаву на продаж до  
10 -го січня 2015 р.  
\$50.00 для дорослих \$30.00 для  
студентів (13-18)  
Білету не продаємо при дверях.

Білету тільки на Забаву \$30.00 при  
дверях

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

Зустріч нового року – шампанський тост

До замовлення білетів:

Никол Грегга (716) 903-4777 -  
[ukenikkie29@gmail.com](mailto:ukenikkie29@gmail.com)  
Ганя Середюк (716) 316-1051

КУРИТИ ЗАБОРОНЕНО В ЗАЛІ "ДНІПРА" КОМІСІЯ  
КОНТРОЛЯ АЛКОГОЛІВ в Н.Й. ЗАБОРОНЯЄ  
ПРИНОСИТИ ВЛАСНІ АЛКОГОЛЬНІ НАПИТКИ



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

- KITCHEN is now open.
- Thank you for your patronage.  
We need your help. Thank you!
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after  
Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- St. Nicholas Dinner – December 21.

### 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 помага-  
єте 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 кан-  
целярії. 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](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

**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**

**V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor & dean**

**Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest**

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



Глава УГКЦ відслужив Панахиду  
За упокій Св. П. Євгена Сверстюка



Пан Євген був сповнений Божим Святим Духом. Його слово сильне, відважне. Він був безкомпромісним у протистоянні злу в різних його формах. Закликав до боротьби за повну свободу свого народу і своєї держави.

Ці слова сказав Отець і Глава УГКЦ Блаженніший Святослав під час Панахиди в храмі Різдва Богородиці УАПЦ, висловлюючи співчуття, жаль і смуток від себе та від імені всієї Української Греко-Католицької Церкви.

«Відійшов у вічність великий син українського народу, - син, який справді всім своїм єством жив для Бога і для України. Терпів за вільну Україну. Молився і жертвував усі свої таланти для нашого народу», - відзначив архиєрей.

Глава Церкви пригадав, як останній раз мав нагоду спілкуватися з паном Євгеном. «Він дуже поспішав доїхати до Львова й промовити слово на святі з нагоди легалізації Української Греко-Католицької Церкви. Як він дякував Богові, що 3 Жовтня, 2014, зміг прибути і сказати до нас своє слово...» - розповів Предстоятель УГКЦ.

(Департамент інформації УГКЦ)

«Відхід першого грудня Євгена Сверстюка став символічним» Блаженніший Любомир



«Євген Сверстюк був одним із найбільш достойних членів Ініціативної групи «Першого грудня», людиною, яка багато терпіла, власним прикладом служила українському народові.» - сказав Блаженніший Любомир висловлюючи співчуття з приводу смерті українського дисидента і сумління нації Євгена Сверстюка.

Блаженніший Любомир пригадав, як п. Євген часто повторював: нам потрібне очищення від старих, матеріальних переконань, зокрема, що світ можна будувати без Бога. «Те, що він відійшов першого грудня зверне увагу публіки, до чого була покликана ініціативна група. Праця цього проекту – одуховлення чи, як казав покі. Євген, очищення від поганих понять минушнього й заміна їх здоровими духовними цінностями на підставі нашої культури, на підставі справжньої демократії; очищення має уможливити побудову чогось кращого».

Він пригадав, що вперше зустрів нині покійного пана Євгена в 1989-му в Польщі. «Мені було дуже приємно зустріти особу, про яку так багато говорилося на еміграції. За останні три роки, відколи маємо цю нашу ініціативну групу, для мене завжди було цікаво і цінно слухати те, що він говорить. Дай Боже, щоб ми таких людей мали більше; він не шукав собі слави, але будучи тим, ким він був, звертав на себе увагу українців, які шукали чогось духовного».

Letter from Fr. Ray Dec. 7, 2014 A.D.

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

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

“Oh there’s no place like home for the holidays....If you want to be happy in a million ways, for the holidays, you can’t beat home, sweet home.” That’s from the Perry Como song of the 1950’s and I think is the theme song for us as we celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday last week, and now look forward to the great and holy feast of our Savior’s birth.

My wish for you is that you too had a joyful time with your family, hopefully in their physical presence, but also perhaps, via “Skype” or e-mail or maybe a simple text. It was very good to be together in these various ways, with those of our family and friends who are with us, or sadly, couldn’t make it this time. For those of our families who have departed this world, we remembered them in our prayers and even they, in this way, *were home for the holidays*.

Last week Tuesday, our parish family came together to pray at our Thanksgiving Liturgy where we gave thanks for all of God’s gifts and prayed His continued blessings upon us individually, as a parish, and as a country. Every Liturgy is Eucharist, i.e. Thanksgiving, but the one we have in late November is always a very special and meaningful gathering, a blessed opportunity to give thanks and renew the fact that we are always people of Thanksgiving. Dr. Laura always says, “Gratitude is an Attitude,” and that is exactly how we should always live our lives. We praise God from Whom comes every blessing!

One more word about “Snovember.” The storm itself is now long gone, and so is much of the snow, except for those giant man-made mountains in the mall and supermarket parking lots. Yes, the storm is gone and mostly forgotten by most of the USA and the world. It was an international event and I know of phone calls friends and parishioners received from Canada, Germany, Hungary and England. I’m sure

you have heard of, or received those calls yourself. Anyway, it’s over for the news, but the hardship still exists for those who had damage and are trying to put the pieces back together, or worse yet, for those families who now mourn the loss of a loved one who perished in, or because of the snow. Little by little all is coming back to normal.

Yesterday and last night I finally did something which the weather had made impossible for the past several weeks. Even though it’s still a bit hazardous because of piled snow on some sidewalks I was able to get out and take a walk around the neighborhood for some exercise and fresh air. It was an absolutely gorgeous winter night. The rains of earlier in the day were gone and the clouds dispersed to reveal a beautiful, sparkling winter sky. The moon was nearly full and lit up the earth below, while the many, many stars twinkled, glistened and danced among the swiftly moving clouds. It was good to be outside loving Mother Nature, rather than in a fierce battle with her!

It was so good as a matter of fact that I didn’t want to go in. And I didn’t, at least not right away. Presbyter Joanne was on a Ladies Night out, and I was home alone. Acting as if it was like a summer evening, although it was 38 degrees....I went into the garage, found a chair, put it on the driveway, and sat down to enjoy the sights and sounds of the world at night. It probably is as funny a picture for you as it was for the neighbor who was a bit surprised to see me there as he made the nightly trip to his garbage tote. There I was, parka, hoodie, boots, just sitting outside in the dark watching the planes, clouds, stars and moon and enjoying the limitless, fantastic beauty of our backyard heaven. He thought it was a pretty good idea, too, and after returning inside his house, he came back out carrying his chair and a glass of Merlot for both of us! We asked each other, “Where would you rather be than right here, right now?” It was great to enjoy the outdoors once again, and I know I will do it again real soon. ☺ Do you remember every full moon has been given a name, or names, by our Native American brothers

and sisters? This month the full moon is called “Oak Moon,” or “Cold Moon,” or “Long Nights Moon.” Oak, because those strong sentries of the forest, are the last to lose their leaves, but the rustling of the dry leaves, still clinging to the branches, can be heard. The oak is one of the most powerful trees in the forest and reminds us of the attitude to have in the face of winter. *Cold Moon* and *Long Nights Moon* are self-explanatory. We can certainly feel the cold and the early dark and long nights, can’t we? But guess what.....in just two weeks from the day you will read this letter, December 21, it will be the first day of winter. And we all know what that means.....The days will begin to get longer once again!! “Where is that groundhog?” “Get out the seed catalogue!” Well, not quite that, but the sun will once again be stopping on that coldest, darkest night of the year, the winter solstice, and then will commence the journey northward to light and warm us. From that little, unnoticeable break, eventually will come the new light and warmth and growth and we won’t need the parkas, boots etc. to be outside!

December always comes with the deep spiritual message of the proclamation of New Life in our Lord. Shortly after that shortest, darkest day, as the days lengthen perhaps only by seconds, then minutes at first, and then finally break into the complete light, so too, is our dark world. We, who sit in the valley of darkness, will see a Great Light. We welcome the coming of our Divine Saviour as that touch or glimpse of light, but THE LIGHT which will grow and grow until we see the glory of His Resurrection and the Coming of His Spirit upon us. Our whole life is living in His Life and Love. Philip’s Fast and the coming of winter remind us of the fact that THE LIGHT is on the way, and has indeed come! So if you’ve just lost your wife, or your sister passed away this week, if you are sick in hospital, or in an assisted living facility, your loved one is in chemotherapy, or if you are just sad and weary from the journey of life, lift up your eyes to heaven and rejoice and be glad! Our Good God has come to us! This is the great and Good News we will soon be

proclaiming on Christmas Evening and morning when we will proclaim, “God is with us! Hear, all you nations and submit, for God is with us!

Here’s a little poem which I read at Mrs. Orynowka’s funeral which, I think, sums all this up

*Hymn of Promise*

*In the bulb there is a flower;  
In the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise;  
butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there’s a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.  
There’s a song in every silence,  
seeking word and melody;  
There’s a dawn in every darkness,  
bringing hope to you and me,  
From the past will come the future;  
what it holds is a mystery,  
Unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.  
In our end is our beginning;  
in our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing;  
in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection;  
at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.*

(Poet unknown)

Be strong as the oak tree, my dear one; be faithful as the child of God you are; be not afraid, for God is with us! Have a beautiful and blessed week, and God willing, I will drop you another letter next week.

In His Love, and waiting  
His glorious birth in Bethlehem, Fr. Ray

## STEPHANIA KOKOSKY ORYNAWKA MEMORY

By Leo George Orynowka



The living, breathing Stephania Kokosky Orynowka is gone from this earth but she is not forgotten and she never will be. To her family she left a legacy of treasured memories. To grandchildren and other children who came under her care because of working sons, daughters and sister, she gave her heart and soul to nurturing them. To women who sought her services as a dressmaker, she was a God-send because she had the ability to nip and tuck a piece of fabric into a garment that would fit a misshapen body beautifully. In her world of family and friends, church and home she left her mark.

Stephania and I met in Toronto one fine day in 1946 when I accompanied my mother on a trip to Toronto to visit relatives. My cousin, Michael, took me to a Saturday night dance at the church hall. There I saw an attractive young lady talking to her friends. Michael said: I know her; I’ll introduce you. And so I

met her, and it turned out that my first dance with Stephania Kokosky was to last for 67 years.

Our marriage took place in Toronto less than a year after our first meeting (on June 28, 1947). During that time, we saw each other only 7 times before the wedding.

We enjoyed a rich, fruitful and pleasant life together. We considered our most rewarding accomplishment to be the birth and upbringing of our four children: Leo, Catherine, Mary Ellyn, and Taras. They turned out to be the kind of sons and daughters who really knew how to honor their father and mother.

In her married life, Stephania had many roles to play and she played them all, as they say, with distinction. She was wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, babysitter, homemaker, decorator, cook, landscaper, gardener, dressmaker, caregiver, travel companion et cetera, et cetera. You name a task and she could do it. I often referred to her as a wonder woman. When she wanted to turn around a 9 by 12 carpet in a room of the house to even out the wear, she would find a way, single-handedly, to move our massive china cabinet off the carpet, and then back on, without disaster. In our first home on Grand Island in the fifties, we had a water filtration system that required a complicated procedure to flush it out and set it up again. I couldn’t handle it, but she could.

So, I say to my beloved wife Stephania, you are not dead to me. For there are 67 years worth of memories keeping us together in this world until we come together in the next.



### З Радіо «Милосердний Самар'янин»

У сьогоднішньому євангельському читанні чули ми про оздоровлення жінки, яка не могла випростуватися. Розважатимемо за проповіді о. Жана Корбона з його збірки *«Це називається світанком»*, виданою Свічадом у Львові, 2007р. Му усі благаємо в Господа звільнення і оздоровлення, бо Він – наш Спаситель. Чи чекаємо ми на Нього?

Образ кривої жінки дуже промовистий стосовно кожного з нас, стосовно нашої Церкви, а також нашої країни, України, що з усіх сил намагається підвестися, як рівно ж стосовно нашої прибраної Батьківщини, Зєднаних Стейтів Америики, яка також знаходиться в різних труднощах. А піднесення нашої країни починається з кожного з нас. Просімо Святого Духа, щоб дав нам зрозуміти, у чому полягає наша хвороба і як Ісус виліковує нас від неї.

Ми скорчені, коли замикаємося в собі. Існує багато причин цього. Деякі з них зовнішні, і вони не залежать від нас. Це проблеми зі здоров'ям, роботою, а особливо – з клопатами, пов'язаними з тими, кого любимо і ким опікуємося. Ці причини реальні, але від них ми не замикаємося в собі, якщо погоджуємося пережити їх з Ісусом. Наш Спаситель прийшов понести ці труднощі на власному тілі, нести їх разом з нами. Тому з Ним ми можемо підвестися, випростатися, воскреснути вже тепер, ходити прямо і впевнено, за підтримки Його сили, і посеред усього, що пригнічує нас, зберігати Божий мир та приносити Божу радість. То чому ж ми так зрідка є миротворцями, чому не випромінюємо радість?

Бо існують інші причини – внутрішні. Власне в Євангелії сказано, що жінка була скорчена, бо її «тримав дух у недузї» (Лк. 13, 11). Цей дух є і в нас у різних формах. Важливо це усвідомлювати

і розкривати його підступи, не бути його співучасниками. Наша співучасть полягає у звичайному самолюбстві, коли ми вгоджуємо собі, постійно займаємося собою. Наша відвічна схильність шукати себе стає викривленням. Коли дивимося тільки собі під ноги, то важко бачити інших, а ще важче – зробити їм крок назустріч.



Це викривлює Божий Образ у нас, і саме тому Він приходить, як ми співаємо перед Різдом, «щоб воскресити упалий колись образ». То як же нам одужати? В Євангелії сказано, що Ісус спочатку покликав жінку, потім поклав на неї руки. Він, як завжди, виконує свою місію, завдяки якій Отець посилає нам своє Слово і свого Святого Духа. Так, Ісус кличе нас. «Меч духовний, тобто Слово Боже» (Еф. 6, 17), про яке говорить апостол Павло у листі до Ефесян, – це Його головна зброя.

Але не обмежуймося бездіяльними постановами стосовно застосування цієї зброї в нашому житті. Щоб Слово Боже було нашою силою, мусимо пізнавати Його, читати, роздумувати над ним. Кожен з нас повинен мати вдома принаймні Євангеліє і Псалтир. Шукаймо – і знайдемо. Якщо кожного дня до нас промовить бодай один вірш, значить, він долинув до нас, до нашого єства, до нашого життя. Ми можемо пригадувати ці слова впродовж цілого дня. Коли наше серце пригадує їх, воно пробудиться до любови Отця і випростується. Слово Боже стає нашою силою. Наша безнастанна молитва, підтримувана цією силою, зробить з нас людей, які стоять просто, живуть для Бога і для інших...

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

In today's parable, Jesus tells us about a wealthy Master who prepares a great banquet feast and issues invitations to those he has chosen to share in the feast. The host to whom Jesus refers to is none other than our Father in Heaven, and the banquet feast represents our relationship with God, and the place we may one day inherit in His Kingdom. The chosen guests had made their commitments to come, so next the Master sent out his servant to inform the guests that the meal was prepared and it was time to come to the Master's home for the banquet feast, much like Christ was sent out into this world to prepare us for our Heavenly Father's Kingdom. But each of the guests one by one, made a last minute excuse for why they could not come to the Master's feast. Similar to how some people have accepted the invitation of Christ, while others have found excuses for not being able to do so. The truth is that we all have a tendency to make excuses to our family, our friends, and even ourselves. But we forget that God is the One who is inviting us and so often we excuse ourselves from Him. Moses tried to do that. 'God, I am slow of speech and tongue. How can I possibly lead your people? To which God replied, 'Who gave man his mouth? I will help you speak and teach you what you are to say'. And in essence, God was saying to Moses that there is no excuse for refusing His invitation. But still, we make excuses when we become preoccupied with something else. And perhaps all these excuses have good reasons in the right context; but their importance pales in comparison to the value of our own relationship with God and the place in which we hope to spend Eternity.

Jesus then gives us deep insight into the many blessings that result from having a relationship with God. If we know God and abide in Him, a certain set of priorities will guide our lives. And the Bible assures us that if we live by this precedence - we will live at peace with God and with one another. It is not enough to admire the precepts of the Bible; we must also have a deep desire for the person of the Bible - our Lord, Jesus Christ. We have been invited to work out our salvation, knowing and trusting that it is God who is working through each of us. Yet, we often search for excuses to avoid our commitments, even when people need us the most. How about the friend or family member we committed to help. And when that day came, we found something else that we wanted to do, so we made an excuse. Or how about that person who was sick in the hospital, and we knew that we should either call or visit them, but we excused ourselves because we were just too busy. How about the homeless people we pass on the streets that we know are in need, but we assume that someone else will provide for them, so we excuse ourselves. Perhaps there are even times when we attempt to use our excuses on God, as if we believe that our Lord will not see through our selfishness.

All of us are called to be holy, and during this time of Advent, we celebrate the feasts of various Saints to help us prioritize our lives and hopefully remove those excuses which still keep distant from Christ. Right now, every day, Jesus offers us the food that our soul craves. When we excuse ourselves from our Lord's banquet in this life, we miss out on His offer of salvation in Eternal life. Those in the parable, who were first invited and later refused to come, represent the general rejection of many people to the

teachings of the Gospel. We are quick to make excuses, yet slow in our approach to Christ. But the good news is that the invitation is still here, we simply need to accept Christ into our hearts. “Those who are first will be last and those who are last will be first.” When our excuses, our earthly concerns and possessions take priority over our relationship with God, they eventually catch up with us, and when they do - we may very well lose our seat in the Kingdom of God, unless we correct our self-righteousness by striving to be more like Christ for one another.

It was just a small, white envelope placed among the branches of their Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. But it has peeked through the branches of the family Christmas tree for the past 10 years or so, and it all began when Martha's husband Mike, started disliking Christmas. Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it's overspending and frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry or the dusting powder for Grandma. And all the gifts given in desperation, because you couldn't think of anything else to give. And knowing Mike felt this way, Martha decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. She reached for something even more special, just for Mike. But the inspiration for such a well-spirited gift came in an unusual way. Mike and Martha's 12 year old son Kevin was wrestling at junior level that year with the school he attended. And shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church! These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together,

presented a sharp contrast to Kevin's team, in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes. As the match began, Martha was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear. It was a protective necessity that this team could obviously not afford. Well, Kevin's team won every match and took every weight class metal. Yet one could not help but notice that as the boys from the other team got up from the mat, they still swaggered around in their tatters with false bravado, and a kind of street pride that wouldn't acknowledge defeat. Mike, who was seated beside Martha, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Martha knew how much Mike loved kids, all kids, and he knew them well, having coached little league sports. And that's when Martha's inspiration first came, with the perfect idea for Mike's Christmas gift. That afternoon, Martha went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes, and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. And on Christmas Eve, Martha placed a white envelope on the family tree, with a note inside telling Mike what she had done - and that this was his Christmas gift from her. Mike's smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and in many succeeding years to come. For each Christmas, Martha followed the same tradition. One year sending a group of



mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game. Another year sending donations to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground just a week before Christmas. And the list of good intentions went on and on. The envelope became the highlight of every Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning, and their three children, all ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As their children grew older, the white envelope never lost its allure. But the story doesn't end here. Several years later when their kids were already out of college, Martha and the children lost Mike to cancer. And when Christmas rolled around that year, Martha was still so wrapped in grief that she barely got their tree up. But Christmas Eve found Martha still placing an envelope on the Christmas tree, and in the morning when she awoke - it was joined by three more envelopes. All white, and carefully placed on their family Christmas tree. For each of the children, unbeknown to the others, had also placed an envelope on the tree for their dad. Mike's spirit, like the Christmas Spirit, will always be with them. For somewhere, among the branches of that Christmas tree, stuffed in tiny white envelopes - Mike, Martha and their children found the true meaning of Christmas. Not the one that comes wrapped in pretty bows and beautifully arranged boxes, but the Spirit of Christmas that comes alive when we truly give to others – striving to be more like Christ for one another!

Participation in the Kingdom of God requires an acceptance of Christ into our hearts, and our

willingness to build a relationship with Him. Yet how often do we have the invitation to spend time with God, but then we rush for the new car, the bigger house, the better job, and forget about the one who gave us everything that we have. “Verily, I say unto you that none of those who were invited shall taste a morsel of my food” (Luke 14:24). This is most certainly a sobering thought, to consider that at any moment we can make excuses that may very well take us away from God; excuses that remove us as guests from His Heavenly Kingdom. The guests in today's Gospel reading had received their invitations, the first through the law and the prophets and the second in the person of Jesus, and they still would not accept it. I suppose there are many excuses given for not responding to the Word of God, but the man that is giving the banquet (God) is more important than any excuse we could ever come up with. The invitation to the Kingdom of God went out to us the moment we were first conceived. The Lord has always wanted a relationship with us; He has loved us like no other can. In a world where not everyone is free to publically celebrate and share in the Word of God, how sad is it that those who do have their religious freedom still choose not to accept the invitation. God took all of our excuses away when He sent His Son to be crucified on the cross. Salvation is not something that we have to work for; salvation is a gift of grace, freely given for each of us to accept because of Christ Jesus. My brothers and sisters, as we continue our journey through this time of Advent, through our Church's Christmas Fast, let each of us be mindful of the words of Christ from today's Gospel: “For truly blessed is the man or woman who shall feast in the Kingdom of God.”