

**Зі Знимок + Марії Козар**  
**From +Maria Kozar Files**



**Зі Знимок + Марії Грекуляк**  
**From +Maria Grekulak Files**



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**SAINT NICHOLAS**  
**UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**



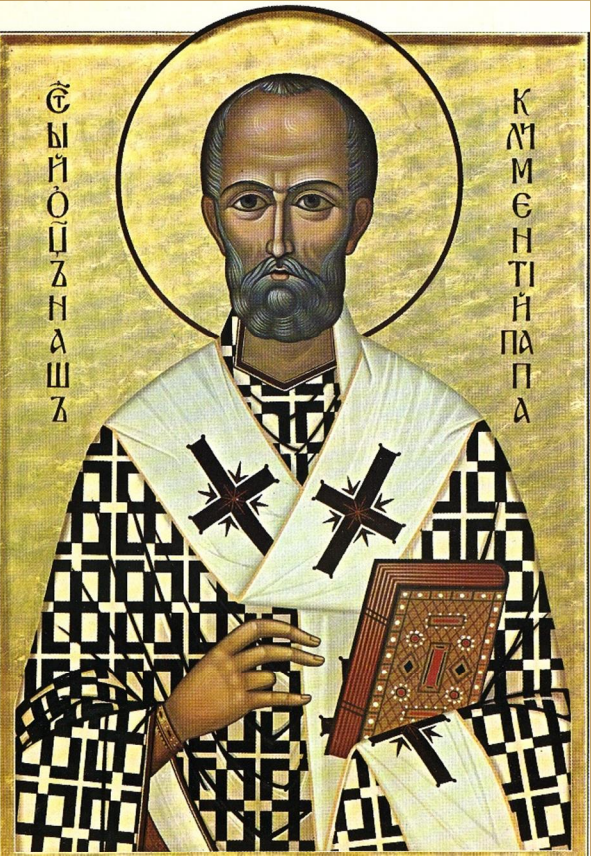
**УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА**  
**ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ**

№  
49

**ПІД ОПІКОЮ**  
**ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ**  
**МАРІЇ ОДІГТРИЇ**  
  
**UNDER THE**  
**PROTECTION OF**  
**MOTHER OF GOD**



**CHURCH BULLETIN**  
**December 8 – 2013 – 8 Грудня**  
**ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК**



**St. Clement Pope of Rome**  
**Conception of Theotokos by St. Anne →**





## CHURCH BULLETIN

Dec. 8 – 2013 – 8 Грудня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

4:30 PM За Парохіян - For Parishioners

Dec. 8 29<sup>th</sup> S. aft. P. – 29 Н. по ЗСД

12:00 PM За Парохіян - For Parishioners

**Cronception of Theotokos - Неп. Зачаття**

Monday Dec. 9 – Пон., 9 Грудня

9:00 AM +Dmytro Baranyukj (Dolores)

Tuesday Dec. 10 – Вів., 10 Грудня

8:15 AM +Olga Bejger (Liturgical Choir of Buffalo Deanery)

Wed. Dec. 11 – Сер., 11 Грудня

8:15 AM +Sukmanowski +Gregor (Michael Pelech)

Thursday Dec. 12 – Чет., 12 Грудня

12:00 PM +Ірена Войчак (Катерина Петрович)

Friday Nov. 13 – П'ят., 13 Грудня

See Julian

Sat. Dec. 14 – Субота, 14 Грудня

10:00 AM +Марія Грекулук (ОЖОЧСУ)

4:30 PM +Irene Kordrupel (Dorothy & Ann)

Dec. 15 S. of Forefathers. – Н. Праотців

12:00 PM За Парохіян - For Parishioners

## ST. NICHOLAS DINNER

Eternal Light burns  
for int. of Maria Grekulak  
Requ. by Dolores Baranyuk

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М  
Горить за +о. митрата Павла  
Івахова (Вдячні Парохіяни)



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

## ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

8 Грудня – 24 Н. по З.С.Д.

10:00 р. +Михайло Коцай - 6 років  
(Дружина Катерина)

13 Грудня – Св. Андрій Первозваний

10:00 р. +Малина Дзюба  
(М. М. Стасюки)

15 Грудня – 25 Н. по З.С.Д.

12:00 р. +о. Павло Івахів (парохіяни)

## ПРАЗНИЧНИЙ ОБІД



### BIBLE MEETING

For next few weeks we will have  
meetings on Monday night  
(not on Thursday night)  
at 6:30 PM.

Next Meeting: Dec. 9, 6:00 PM

Please attend!

Біблійні зустрічі відбуваються  
тепер у понеділки  
замість у четверги.  
Наступна 9 Грудня о 6 в.  
Просимо до участі!

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Thanks are extended to all Sponsors!

# DNIPRO ДНІПРО

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562 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14204 856-4476  
[www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com](http://www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com)

Hall and bar rentals are available.  
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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4166 Union Road 2321 Millersport Hwy  
(Airport Plaza) (Getzville Plaza)  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225 Amherst, NY 14068  
Tel. 716-630-0131 Fax 716-630-0133 tel. 716-688-1495

## Melvin J. SLIWINSKI

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Cheektowaga, N. Y. 14225  
5090 Transit Rd, Depew, NY 14043

(716) 894-1772

The Colonial Memorial Chapels, Inc.  
of Ukrainian Heritage, Serving Western N.Y.

Simon Pasnik & Matthew Pasnik

3003 South Park Avenue  
Lackawanna, New York 14218  
(716) 824-3007

**UKRAINIAN**  **УКРАЇНСЬКА**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ФЕДЕРАЛЬНА КРЕДИТНА СПІЛКА

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*Свій до Свого по Своє*

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*Membership requirements. Federally insured by NCUA.  
Equal Housing Lender.*

562 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14204  
ph: (716)847-6655 fax: (716)847-6988  
Mon., Tues., Thurs., 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Wed.,  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm; Fri., 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

## DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS

### “Special Appeal”

IMO Angelina Pasieka

Ulane Loza - \$30.00

IMO Maria Kozar

Dolores Baranyckyj - \$20.00

Emil & Vera Marc - \$20.00

Elaine Nowadly - \$20.00

### Donations Towards Coffee Hour

*Coffee Hour Benefits- Yearly*

*Communication Assessment Fee*

Eva Kowtalo

Marija Dranka

Chrystyna Brown

Lidia Hreshchshyn

### V. Rev. Marijan Procyk and Trustees

Cordially invite

You and your family

To our Parish's Annual

ST. NICHOLAS

FEASTDAY DINNER (Praznyk)

Sunday, December 15, 2013

Liturgy at 12:00 Noon

Dinner immediately following the Liturgy

In the Church Hall

===

Просимо усіх на наш

## Празничний Обід

По Св. Літургії що о 12 год (замість о 10)



Батьківський Комітет Рідної Школи  
щиро запрошує вас на

## Сніданок зі Святим Миколаєм

Субота 21-го Грудня, 10-а година  
ранку в читальні Українського  
культурного центру “Дніпро”  
562 Genesee St. Buffalo NY 14204

У програмі:

- Сніданок з Миколаєм
- Виступ учнів Рідної Школи
- Подарунки чемним дітям
- Після програми -  
смачний сніданок

**Вхід безкоштовний**

*(будемо вдячні за добровільні  
пожертвування)*

Якщо ви хочете, щоб ваша дитина  
отримала подарунок від Миколая  
обв'язково зателефонуйте до:

Ганя Курій 823-2892

Ульяна Шайдл 743-1965



## До Світла Воскресіння крізь терни катакомб

У нас виставлено 20 великих панелів з Історії нашої Церкви у Підпіллі, виготовлені у Львові «Інститутом Історії Церкви». Їх вже можна оглянути під церквою.

Продаж з книжок (\$10.00)  
підє на потреби Інституту.

Рівно ж Інститут буде вдячний за ваші пожертви. Інститут Історії Церкви заснований теперішнім Владикою, і колишнім Ректором Українського Католицького Університету у Львові,  
**Кир Борисом Гудяком**  
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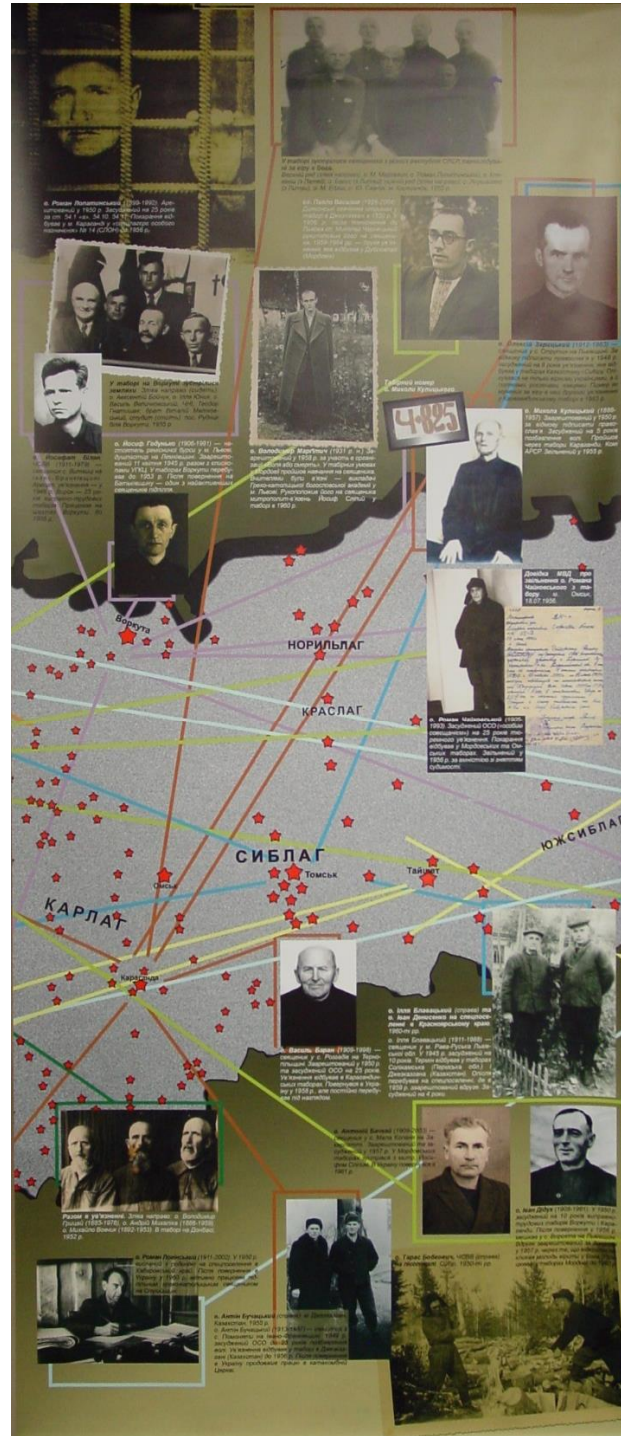
**To the Light of the Resurrection  
Through the thorns of catacombs**

We received 20 pannels about the History of our underground Church, made by the Institut of Church History from Lviv. This Institut is created by now Bishop of France  
**Borys Gudziak**

Exhibit is open downstairs.

Books (\$10.00) are in Ukrainian only. I have English translation, and will share with you on St. Nicholas.

Institute continues to collect materials about persecution of our church, having already many video and audio materials as well as photos and documents. Donation for the Institute are indeed needed.



**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!
- There is an exhibit downstairs "To the Light of Resurrection through the thorns of catacombs"

### 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 помагате 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](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**

**Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest**

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

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

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



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

*Ukrainian New Year's Dance  
МАЛАНКА 2014*

*Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

*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 "СКОРА"*

*Cocktail Hour, Dinner, Zabava, Midnight*

*Buffet, & Champagne toast*

*Or come just for the Zabava*

*Tickets sales from November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013  
thru January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

*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 Buffet & Midnight Toast*

*For More Information, Questions, Tickets &  
Reservations*

*Nicole Grega (716) 903-4777 or*

*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 2014**

**яка відбудеться  
в суботу 18-го січня 2014 р.**

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

**Щиро запрошуємо Українську громаду  
міста Бофало і околиць до участі.**

**До танців приграватиме оркестра:  
"СКОПА"**

**Бієти на Вечерю і Забаву на продаж  
від 1 -го листопада 2013 р. до 11 -го січня  
2014 р.**

**\$50.00 для дорослих \$30.00 для  
студентів (13-18)  
Бієти не продаємо при дверях.**

**Бієти 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 Грегa (716) 903-4777 -**

**ukenikkie29@gmail.com**

**Ганя Середюк (716) 316-1051**

**КУРИТИ ЗАБОРОНЕНО В ЗАЛІ "ДНІПРА"  
КОМІСІЯ КОНТРОЛЯ АЛЬКОГОЛІВ В Н.Й.  
ЗАБОРОНЯЄ ПРИНОСИТИ  
ВЛАСНІ АЛЬКОГОЛЬНІ НАПИТКИ**

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

**December 8, 2013 A.D.**

**Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!**

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

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

Hello, and Happy December! Are all the remnants of the Thanksgiving dinner gone? Sure hope so.... Now that we've celebrated (and indulged?) for a few days, it's time to begin some serious and concentrated preparation, for the soon to arrive, Great and Holy Feast Day of the Nativity of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Isn't our Church wonderful?! Or I guess I should ask, "Do you see how our Fathers were inspired by the Holy Spirit as they passed on the Faith to us?" In the title alone of this holy day, and especially all our "big" holy days, we usually can find the entire basis of the meaning of the day. This name of the feast makes us aware that soon we will celebrate the birthday of Jesus of Nazareth, who is also, at the same time, the All-Powerful and Great God, Who comes to each of us, wanting all to be saved. There it is, The Good News! If we meditate on that, surely we will turn our hearts and minds to the approaching holy day and prepare in earnest to meet Him. It's not only St. Nicholas who will be coming soon, but God, our Eternal God...our Emmanuel, our God with us!

These dark days of December are, indeed a reminder of that time in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. As we are going through this new month we are aware that each day is becoming a bit shorter, and there is much darkness in the natural world. This will continue until December 21 when we will have reached the Winter Solstice, the first day of winter, the shortest day of the year.

If we haven't already, we will very shortly begin to long for the light. Shortly, it will begin, unnoticeable at first, but in only a few short weeks, the days will gradually begin to visibly lengthen as the sun slowly, ever so slowly, begins to make its face shine on this northern hemisphere once again. We will rejoice to

see the darkness change to light. We will still have much winter, but the light will have come.

The short days are physical, natural darkness. There is also the spiritual darkness. In the days leading up to the birth of Our Savior the days must have been extremely spiritually dark, for it is at the darkest time that the light will break in and begin to overcome the darkness. St. Paul writing to the Galatians, and us, tells them, and us, "God sent His Son when the appointed time had come." (Gal. 4: 4) And thus, The Light has come into the world. Our salvation is at hand!

It's really easy to look around at our life in this world and wonder where this salvation is and what has happened to the "Good News." If the Light has come into the world, why is it so dark? And here I write of the spiritual darkness of the evil all around us. But it's true, even in the midst of terror and conflict and sickness and natural disasters, and whatever else we do to corrupt our life and our world, we must always know that "Z nami Boh-God is with us!" That's the very reason why I write this "letter about nothing" to you...just to simply remind you of the Presence of God in our lives; just to remind you that the Light is indeed here; just to remind you to keep up the good fight and to have courage even in the hardest battle; just to remind you that everything really is "ok."

Two weeks ago we remembered the anniversary of the tragedy 50 years ago in Dallas when President Kennedy was assassinated. Those of us old enough to recall that day couldn't help but comment, because of the horrific event, that we knew exactly where we were, what we were doing, and how we had reacted upon hearing the dreadful news. This week we were reminded of another horrible day of man's inhumanity to man, December 7, 1941, the attack on Pearl Harbor. Once again, anyone old enough to remember that tragic, horrible, blood-filled and terrifying day 72 years ago knows exactly where they were, what they were doing and how they reacted upon hearing the news. And it was only the beginning of many, many more tears, heartaches,

losses and evil touching the world during the ensuing days of World War II.

Today, and for the last week or more, we are receiving reports from Ukraine about the unrest there. That beloved country is in turmoil because the “elected” government once again is turning to Moscow to be a “faithful ally and guide.” Many people of faith and conviction, especially the youth, but certainly of all ages, now stand in protest against the actions of the politicians, who would draw the curtain of darkness upon Ukraine. Or should I say close the curtain of darkness, for they have already been slowly drawing it for several years with the conviction and imprisonment of the former Prime Minister, Julia Tymoshenko and other actions contrary to the will of the people.

On Wednesday, Liturgy in our parish of Holy Protection was served for “all the names on our parish prayer list and for all the sick.” Once a month a special Liturgy is offered for this intention. Our parishioners, guests and friends of the parish have compiled a long list of names, which by the way, are read aloud, using first name only, individually at the Liturgy. When the names are written in the book, often times the writer will write the reason for the petition. It is amazing to see the illness, fear, hurt and loss that go along with the names. There are those who struggle with cancer, accidents, an operation, a gambling problem, a drinking problem, a drug problem, a family member who is estranged or in prison, a family member who has left the faith, etc., etc. It is edifying to see the courage and hope of those suffering, and those who suffer with them, as they walk through the dark valley.

All around us this country is shrieking about ‘Obamacare,’ and the hurt it is causing so many families. (By the way, how’s that “Hope and Change” working for you?) The proponents of all the other ‘modern agendas’ such as “gay rights,” the curbing of our freedoms, and yes,

abortion, run around in their godless pursuits trying to make everyone like them. Everywhere we can see the action of the Evil One as he prowls about seeking whom he may devour. Good people face the godless government and wonder why and what they can do. Who can stop this? All around there seem to be questions, but no one gives the answer. The days of the world seem to be so dark. Mankind keeps trying to be the answer, but the confusion and babble continue to spread and no one has the power to stop it.

No, mankind does not have the answer, but we know it don’t we? True prosperity, true hope, true change will only come about when we can say in true belief the words of our Christmas Compline service: “Hear, O ye nations and submit, for God is with us!” Life, true and good Life, is only possible when we allow The Light, Jesus Christ, to come into our world and into our life. Little by little, maybe unnoticed at first, but when we accept him, He will penetrate the darkness and struggles of our life and bring His brightness to us. It may still look like the winter of your life, but know we pray for you so you will remember that the Light has come. Little by little, very gradually and unnoticed at first, but later His Light will penetrate and overcome the dark as “the hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight.” Yes, “at the Name of Jesus every knee shall bend.” (Phil. 2:10)

Have a blessed and faithful week, my dear one, no matter how “winter” touches your life. We rejoice always “in the joyful hope of the coming of our Savior.” The Light has already come into the world. The blessing of the Lord be upon you and those you love. May our holy Lady Theotokos protect you beneath her heavenly veil. St. Nicholas, patron of our Greek-Catholic Church, pray for us.

In His Love,

*Fr. Ray*  
Fr. Ray

## In Memoriam – Вічна Пам’ять!

**+Maria Grekulak (Kuzejko)**



(February 17, 1928 - December 4, 2013)

At the age of 85, the former Maria Kuzejko, passed away at Mercy Hospital, in Buffalo, NY.

Maria was the beloved wife of late Stefan Grekulak, companion of the late Frank “Fedyo” Matijkowicz and dearest friend of Lev Kuzminski.

A devoted mother of Bohdan Grekulak, Walter (Pat) Grekulak, Taras (Donna Pfeuger) Grekulak, Stephen, Jr. (Gina) Grekulak, Anna (Stefan Korol) Grekulak,

Jerry (Debra) Grekulak and the late Wolodymyr Grekulak.

She was predeceased by 5 brothers and also survived by grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Our sympathy to the Family.

May she rest in peace.

**Eternal Memory! Вічна Пам’ять!**

Упокоїлися в Господі Св. Пам.

**+Марія Грекуляк (Кузейко)**

Похорон відбувся у суботу, 7  
Грудня о 10 год. рано

Родині пок. Марії ї складаємо  
співчуття, а її хай буде

**Вічна Пам’ять!**

*(From the Family)*

“Mom loved to cook and bake and would still cook as if all the children were still living at home. Anyone who came to visit would not leave before having something to eat. Even her dog Princess. Mom always feared that she was hungry and overfed her. I believe that is all attributed to her struggles back when she was growing up.

Should would make a big banyak of Holubtsi and call all the children to stop over for Holubtsi. Ma was famous for baking Paska's (Easter Bread). She would bake at least 20 paskas for friends. She would bake one or two for a bake sale and were the first to go. She was also famous for baking Korovai's for Weddings and has baked many throughout the years...”



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

presents a

## **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

**Sunday, December 8th, 2013**

**after the end of Divine Liturgy**

**St. Nicholas Church, 308 Fillmore Ave.**

**Pastries - Delicious Lunches –**

**Christmas Cards - Gerdans**

**Everyone is most cordially invited!!**



**ОБ'ЄДНАННЯ ЖІНОК ОЧСУ**

**Відділ Боффало, Н.Й.**

**Влаштовує**

## **РІЗДВЯНИЙ БАЗАР**

**Неділя, 8-го грудня, 2018р.**

**після Богослуження**

**в церкві, св. Миколая, 308 Філмор вул.**

**Печиво ~ Смачні Обіди ~**

**Святочні Картки ~ Гердани**

**Все Українське Громадянство**

**Боффало і Околиці**

**Щиро Запрошує Управа ОЖ-ОЧСУ!!**



**Українська Православна Церква**

**Святої Тройці**

**При Кому Парк В Чіктоваґа**

**Влаштовує**

## **РІЗДВЯНИЙ БАЗАР**

**У неділю, 8 Грудня**

**Від 12 до 5 год.**

**Просимо взяти участь**

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**Holy Trinity**

**Ukrainian Orthodox Church**

**200 Como Park Blvd.**

**Cheektowaga, NY 14227**

**Phone 684-0738**

## **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

**Sunday**

**December 8, 2013**

**12:00 Noon -5:00 PM**

**Ethnic Foods – Raffles -**

**Baskets**

**Drawing at 4:30 p.m.**

**Free Parking**

**No admission fee**

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

Every year, I like to take a pilgrimage to Fatima Shrine in Lewiston, especially this time of year when the Barnabite Fathers display their magnificent Festival of Lights at Fatima. The past seven years I have had the great pleasure of sharing these precious moments with my son, John Paul, and let me tell you, children make the journey into Christmas that much more special and meaningful, because of their innocence and wide eyed anticipation. They remind us of our own inner child, and help to remove the distractions we have as adults - just long enough for us to focus even more on the child of Christ and the 'reason for this season'. If you have never made a journey to Fatima Shrine, I highly recommend this time of year, because the brilliant assortment of lights and the beautiful nativity scene add to the splendor of our Lord's birth, and rarely can I walk away from Fatima without a tear in my eye, moved so deeply by the images and revelations of our Lord's coming into this world. We sometimes forget the manger, the humble birth, and the gift of salvation that came with the first cry of an infant child that echoed from a stable more than two thousand years ago. One of the many beautiful displays at Fatima that has always intrigued me over the years is called the Tree of Jessie. It is a display of lights that depicts key patriarchs in the lineage of Christ. The Jessie Tree always reminds me of the first Chapter of St. Matthew, because it paints with images, the words we read in the genealogy of Christ, and it is beautifully displayed right near the entrance into the Holy Shrine. My son spotted the Jessie Tree a few years ago; I was pleased to see his own intrigue at the discovery of how we are all connected to Christ. He also enjoys touching every bead of

the rosary that surrounds the central pond at Fatima, to the very end where he puts his little hand into the hand of Christ on the cross. A very sobering thought to keep in mind, while we celebrate the birth of our Lord and consider why He came into this world in the flesh.

The Christmas Season is also a time for giving thanks. A time to celebrate with family and friends, not just sharing gifts beneath a Christmas tree or seated around a dinner table, Christmas is also present in the hearts of those we choose to serve. We are thankful to Christ when we feed those who are hungry, when we clothe those that are naked, when we care for those that are sick. The Christmas season is so much more than tinsel on the trees or stockings stuffed with presents; Christmas is more about Bethlehem, and the child born in the manger. Christmas is about coming to the Church and being part of a wondrous celebration that has been remembered for over 2000 years. It is about our salvation in the making, about a single star that steered the wise men, about a carpenter who took a wife that was filled with the Holy Spirit. About a virgin birth, that would one day lead to a crucifixion - and all because the Lord was willing to humble Himself for you and for me. As we prepare for this Holy Season, we need to keep in the forefront of our minds the real meaning of Christmas, the babe born in a manger, the child led away from the wrath of King Herod, the Son of God who was born in the flesh to bring us the gift of salvation.

The Christmas Season is also about giving something back for everything that we have received. Just a few weeks ago, a friend of mine who has always been cynical about the faith, told me that she wanted to do more for others. She mentioned how she is blessed with healthy

children, a stable job that she enjoys, a genuinely good life, and how it does not seem right to be less than thankful. I told her that we all need a purpose in life, aside from our jobs and our families and our friends. Something that helps us give back for all that we have received. So she asked me how to get involved in mission work and how to help her children realize the value that exists in every human life. Here was someone who has not stepped foot in a Church in years, someone who would hardly call herself a Christian, and now she is beginning to realize the many blessings that the Lord has bestowed in her life; the things that too many of us take for granted. Here is someone who wants to give something back for all that she has received. Our children learn from our example, the lessons we take the time to teach them – because charity begins at home and the Lord needs to be present every day of the year through our words, actions, and deeds – so our children can learn how to love Jesus. Christmas is so much more than a Hallmark tradition; Christmas needs to be about bringing the love of the babe in the manger to the ends of the world.

Dear Friend: I am flat broke from over-spending at Christmas time. But I need to go shopping again soon, because I am completely out of self-respect. I have said things I wish I could take back and I am not feeling too good about myself. I also want to exchange a carton of self-righteousness for



an equal amount of humility. I hear that it is less expensive and wears well, and while I am at it, I am also going to check on tolerance and see if there is any available in my size. I must remember to try to match my patience with the little I have left. My neighbor is loaded with it and it looks quite good on her. I was told the same department has a repair shop for mending integrity. Mine has become frayed around the edges from too much compromising. If I do not get it refurbished soon, there will not be any left. I almost forgot the most important thing of all - compassion. If I see some, no matter what the color, size or shape, I am going to stock up heavily regardless of the price. I have run out of it so many times, looking away from people who need my consideration the most, and I

always feel ashamed when it happens. And while I am at it, I think I will pray for a little more Christmas spirit, because God knows I have been lacking in that department all year. I do not know why it has taken me so long to get around to shopping for these items. They do not cost nearly as much as some of the frivolous things I bought at Christmas time. And I will get a lot more use and satisfaction from them than anything under the Christmas tree. Yes, I am going shopping today and I can leave my checkbook and credit cards at home. The things I am looking for have no price tags, and they bring me closer to the real meaning of Christmas and the child that made all of this possible. What a joy!

2014 Church Envelopes are ready for pick up in the back of the church, on the right side as you enter the church.. Please remember: the cost per box is \$5.00. If you did not receive a box of envelopes and would like to use the envelopes during the upcoming year, please notify the Parish Office, (Father Marijan or Elaine) we have extra envelopes.

Also: if you are celebrating Christmas on the Gregorian (New) Calendar, the CHRISTMAS ENVELOPE IS FOUND AT THE END OF THE BOX. Please use 2013's envelope for CHRISTMAS 2013. There were two Christmas envelopes in the box, one at the beginning and one at the end, just in case you celebrate both calendars. If you are celebrating Christmas on the Julian (Old) Calendar, please use the CHRISTMAS 2014 found at the beginning of your new 2014 box of envelopes. We ordered the church envelopes from a new company. They are in two boxes instead one one, make sure you take the two boxes. PLEASE DO NOT USE YOUR NEW BOX OF ENVELOPES UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2014. We ask this because in most cases the number you had in 2013 is not the same as the number you have in 2014, and this may cause your donation to be entered incorrectly since most parishioners do not put names on their envelopes.

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As part of the new Church Directory, which will be published early next year, we are adding "Memorial Pages" to the book. You can 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.

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Our Lady of Perpetual Parish in Lackawanna cordially invites parishioners and guests to its Annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 14th, after Liturgy, at 6:00PM, in the Church Hall at 1219 Abbott Rd.

The cost will be \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under age 12.

Kindly place your reservation by Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP to Donna Slabyk 822-3643, Maria (Slabyk) LaPaglia 826-0281, Olga Liberti 674-1289 or rectory 823-6182.



**The Liturgical Choir of the Buffalo Deanery will hold a rehearsal of the liturgy for the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas. It will take place in the church hall at 308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, NY, at 7:00pm on Monday, December 9, 2013. All members are urged to attend this one rehearsal.**

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**Проба Хору  
Буде у понеділок  
9 Грудня о 7 год. веч.  
Просимо до участи!**