



SAINT NICHOLAS
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ

№ 02 JANUARY 11 2015



№ 2

ПІД ОПІКОЮ
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ
МАРІЇ ОДІГТРІЇ
UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN
January 11 – 2015 – 11 Січня
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



Церква Св Миколая на Різдво
Христос Раждається! Славимо Його!

St. Nicholas Church at Christmas
Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!

CHURCH BULLETIN

Jan. 11 – 2015 – 11 Січня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



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

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM За Парохіян – For Parishioners

Jan. 11 S. After Theophany – По Богоявленні

10:00 see Julian

Prosphora - No noon Liturgy

Monday, January 12 Січня, Понеділок

8:15 AM +Ярослава Борачок
(Микола і Таня Паславські)

Tuesday, January 13 Січня, Вівторок

8:30 AM Slawko Michaliw
(Taras, Ann & Brandon Dominkewycz)

Wednesday, January 14 Січня, Середа

10:00 AM see Julian

Thursday, January 15 Січня, Четвер

8:30 AM +Charles & Mary Maxim (Peter)

Friday, January 16 Січня, П'ятниця

5:00 PM +Jerry Szczyblewski 2 years (Family)

Sat. January 17 Січня Субота

8:15 AM В наміренні Степана й Ігора

4:30 PM +Jaroslawa Bobenczyk (Vera & Emil Marc)

Jan. 18 S. Of Zachaeus – Н. Закхея

12:00 За Парохіян – For Parishioners

The Eternal Light burns for

+John Pawlowski

Requ. by daughter Anna Pawlowski

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М. горить за

+Мирославу Райцу

Пожертва: Родина Хутко

Христос Раждається! Славимо Його!

11 Січня: Н. По Різді

10:00 р. +Марта Боднар (Донька Марія)

Парохіяльна Просфора

14 Січня: Обрізання, Св. Василій, Новий Рік

10:00 р. Літургія Св. Василя – За МИР

18 Січня: Н. Перед Богоявленням. Щедрий Вечір

10:00 р. +Клим Панасевич (р. Ганицькі)

Парохіяльна Просфора

Сьогодні, 11 Січня, по Св. Літургії

Просимо взяти участь. Дякуємо усім,
що допомогли приготувати!

Parish Christmas Dinner

After the Liturgy. Please attend

\$10.00 suggested donations

Thanks are extended to all those,
who helped prepare!

Good Samaritan Project

To purchase \$10 tickets, for the "Good Samaritan Project" or give donations for those in need please see the pastor or members of the G. S. P. Committee: Michelle Michalow or Elaine Nowadly. We are ending this year's project with raffle on Sunday 18 at St. John the Baptist Parish Christmas Dinner at 12:30.

Donation for dinner will be \$10.

Дякуємо за закуп білетів «Проекту Милосердний Самар'янин». Якщо потребуєте ще білетів, або бажати зложити пожертви просимо зголоситися. Закінчуємо проєкт у неділю, 18 Січня на Просфорі в Кенмор. Пожертва на обід \$10. Просимо до участі.

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jahawryluk@gmail.com



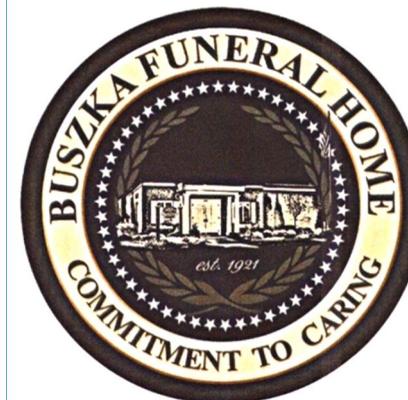
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ПЛАТІЖНІ КАРТКИ VISA | MONEYGRAM |
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*Membership subject to eligibility.
Federally insured by NCUA.*

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.

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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 include Our Church
In Your charitable donations!**

Просимо підтримувати Рідну Церкву талантами, часом і жертвами.

Щоб довідатися більше інформації 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.

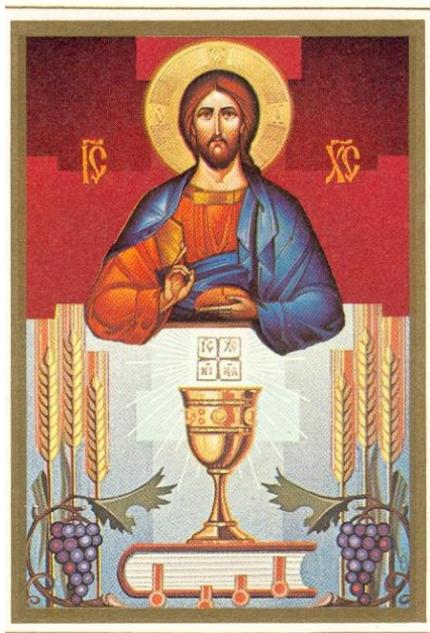
DONATIONS TO SAINT NICHOLAS

"Special Appeal"

IMO Mary Beth Sukmann

Mary Bodnar - \$50.00
Emily Swiatkiwsky - \$20.00

This is a reminder for parents whose children are enrolled in our parish Religious Education Program. The next Saturday Religion Class is scheduled for Saturday, January 17, at 9:00 AM. Religion classes are scheduled from 9:00 AM- 12:30 PM.



Children receiving First Penance & Solemn Communion this coming May, are required be in attendance that Saturday. Thank You!

Проект «Милосердний Самарянин»



"Good Samaritan" Project

Ви всі одержали конверт з листом і побажаннями на Свята, як рівно ж 2 білєти на виграшу. Розграватимемо на Просфорі в Св. Івана Хрестителя в Кенморє, 18. Січня.

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The sixth resolution of the Sobor 2013, states: To recognize those less fortunate in our parishes and in the world and show Christian love to them by performing community acts of charity. We continue to facilitate, with His Excellency Bishop Paul's approval, and the unified participation of all the Buffalo Deanery parishes - the "Good Samaritan Deanery Project". This project is an ongoing effort to perform charitable works on a Deanery level towards our Ukrainian Catholic community both locally and globally.

We sent 2 tickets for "G. S." raffle.

Winners will be announce on January 18 in Kenmore, at their Prospora Dinner.



Envelopes & Calendars are ready.
Please take them.

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Конверти і Календарі приготовані.
Просимо забрати.

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 17th, 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 10th, 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 (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

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

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

ТРАДИЦІЙНУ МАЛАНКУ 2015

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.

My Ukraine photography exhibit

As I Wake, I Cry: Revisiting Ukraine weaves together recent travel photos to Ukraine with family photos and cultural artifacts to reveal the emotional story of one artist's road to cultural identification. This work is dedicated to the 'Celestial 100' who died at Euromaidan, the growing number of dead, wounded, and displaced, the many illegal prisoners of war, and the people of Russia – all suffering the effects of the illegal and undeclared Russian war in Ukraine.



In Ternopil en route to the historical fortress at Tustan

Please join artist Lukia Costello in her solo exhibition at CEPA Gallery titled 'As I Wake, I Cry - Revisiting Ukraine'. The show opens Friday January 30th 7-10 pm and runs through March 28th 2015. CEPA Gallery is located at 617 Main St. Buffalo, NY 14203

A portion of all sales will be donated in the name of Maria and Vasyl Sywenkyj to benefit the Ukrainian Freedom fund as administered through Ukr. Federal Credit Union @ Dnipro.

<http://www.cepagallery.org/portfolio/wake-cry-revisiting-ukraine-lukia-costello/>



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 in the kitchen. Thank you!
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!
- St. Nicholas Prospora Dinner – Sunday, January 11. No noon Liturgy that day.

TOP'S GIFT CARDS:

Please help us raise money for our Church by purchasing Top's Gift Cards from us. If you buy in Tops anyway, why not help. You do not lose or gain anything by doing this, but our Church will benefit greatly. We receive back 5% of your spending. To take advantage of this program, 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!

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
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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 xvorymy

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 ліжниці
або приковані до ліжка!**

“SOCKS for SOLDIERS”

A collection is being held during the new and old calendar Christmas season for new socks for Ukrainian soldiers. Winter is upon us and the need is great for dark color work socks in either a wool or heavy duty cotton blend.

Please do not give used socks or dress socks.

Monetary donations will be used to purchase additional socks and to cover shipping costs.

Checks may be made out to:
Ukrainian American Freedom Foundation
a IRS tax deductible 501C3 charity.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Thank you, Gloria (Slava)

Grega Long - 852-2964



“Шкарпетки Воякам”

Підчас цієї Різдв'яної пори проводимо збірку

Шкарпетки Українським Воякам

Просимо Вас подарувати пару нових робочих шкарпеток вовняний або бавовний вибір темної краски.

Грошові датки будуть використані на додатковий закуп шкарпеток і на висилку.

Христос Раждається!

Славимо Його!

ВАЖНЕ - IMPORTANT

Наша Річна Просфора, Різдв'яний Обід
Сьогодні, 11 Січня. Пожертва \$10.
Дякуємо за солодке.

Annual Parish Prosfhora
is scheduled for Sunday, January 11, 2015
after the 10:00 Liturgy.
There will be no Noon Liturgy that Sunday.
Suggested donation for the Prosfhora
is \$10.00.

Please bring baked goods



Книжки зі знімками і адресами
можна закупити за \$5.

Directory for sale \$5 – We have Parish
Directories on Sale for \$5.00 each.

There is a complete listing of
all parishioners in the directory.
See Elaine after the Liturgy.



Наступні релігійні зустрічі дітей
17 Січня о 9. Год. рано

This is a reminder for parents whose children
are enrolled in our parish Religious Education
Program. The next Saturday Religion Class
is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015 at
9:00AM. Religion classes are scheduled
from 9:00AM - 12:30PM.



Діти до першої сповіді
та торжественного Св. Причастя
повинні також бути у суботу 17 Січня,
щоб відповідно приготувитися.

Children receiving First Penance and Solemn
Communion this coming May, are required to
be in attendance that Saturday, Jan. 17,
In order to be ready for that big event.

Letter from Fr. Ray Jan. 11, 2014 A.D.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

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

Good Day to you with wishes for continued joyous holy days and a Happy New Year! Only one resolution we need to make and that is to completely follow Our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ! It is a real joy for me to see our people still celebrating the great feast days of our lives. Jesus, indeed, is “the reason for the season”! And thank you to all who used “Merry Christmas” in your conversations and writing, especially before the great day arrived. By doing so, you proclaimed your Faith to all who heard you. At first glance, those two words may seem like a very small thing, but they are in no way a minor statement. We often read or hear reminders that we, as Catholic/Orthodox Christians, must stand up for our Faith whenever, or wherever, we have a chance. By our use of the term “Merry Christmas” we have been doing just that.

As Christians, we are always called to be ‘counter-cultural’, i.e. different from the world, and we must seize every opportunity to live, and defend our faith, whenever the opportunity presents itself. Each year, from Thanksgiving until December 25, “the world” enters that futile and crazy period of parties and commercialism. Each year we hear Christians lamenting this, and saying we should put Christ back into Christmas. The answer to that is, of course, for every individual Christian to live his/her Faith every single day and not to be drawn into all that “stuff.” If we truly lived and expressed our Christian Faith, the time before Christmas would certainly be different. That is what happened when you used “Merry Christmas” instead of “Happy Holidays,” or whatever other term someone tossed at you. You did make a difference! You can, and should, feel really great about yourself. Without a doubt, you proclaimed your Faith, proclaimed Jesus Christ, God-with-us, every time you used those words,

“Merry Christmas.” Good for you! Keep up the great work!

Last week, I began your letter with the word, “Riiiiip,” which I said was the sound of the last page of 2014 being torn from the calendar. This week I give you another word, “Brrrrrr!” Yep, we’re cold all the way from the far North, down to Florida. As Yogi Berra, that great sage, once said, “It’s *de ja vu* all over again.” We are definitely having a repeat of last winter’s cold and snow, and I’ve already heard someone say that it’s been a long winter. I know it certainly does seem like that, but that’s what happens when we are forced to deal with the snow, ice and every other thing the harsh weather brings for us. It’s winter, deal with it.... just pull up your big boy, big girl mukluks and head outside! ☺

I know you are having the same cold as we do this week, but for us, it does seem like it’s been here forever, along with the snow. We are in a typical cold and snowy pattern where the weather forecast for every day seems like a repeat of the day before. Goes something like this: “Lake Effect, cold, windy and snow.....windy, Lake Effect, snow and cold.....snow, cold, Lake Effect and windy.” Etc., etc., etc. So that’s your weather report for this week. We gotta do what we gotta do! Sorry for the cold ‘snowbirds’ down in the southern, “warm” places. At least you’ll warm up quickly once this Arctic blast passes through.

“Time flies when you are having fun,” he likes to say, and by the time you read this, we will be heading for the middle of January already. Our parish families all around the world are in a most joyful and active mode. One good thing about this internet thing is that so many of our churches have websites and one can get a real good ‘bird’s eye view’ of our community in the city and area and even around the globe.

Everywhere prayers are being lifted up as we proclaim the birth of our Savior, and also His baptism in the river Jordan where the Trinity was revealed. If you think the service in your church was beautiful and awesome, just think about how

beautiful and awesome our world-wide church is as we, together, celebrate these glorious feast days, not only in December and January, but during the entire year! I am lifted up and become very joyful and happy when I realize how we are indeed one world-wide family.

A while back we discovered a live, twenty-four hour web cam in a church in 'the old country.' From time to time we go to their site and check it out. There is something very attractive about joining in, even though it's on the computer, with those who are praying at that time. Sometimes I know I should be doing something else, but I say, "Let's check it and see if they have a service going on there." Since it's in Europe we must deal with the time change of 7 or 8 hours (they are ahead). So if you want to see morning Liturgy, that's the middle of the night here. However, when they have the Vespers and Vigil service for the holy days, we can easily catch them here in the morning. The other day we had the computer on for about 3 hours as we watched an entire "midnight" Liturgy live. We were on Google and the screen was showing that we were, at one point, the only ones watching. Imagine that...in the entire world, ours was the only computer on Google watching the service! Pretty cool, huh!

Do you know we have a parish, St. Michael's in Woonsocket, Rhode Island where there is a web-cam? It's not a 24 hour one, but is only on live for the 11 am Sunday Liturgy. However, recently they have begun to record that service, and it can be viewed anytime. I mention this because I think it is a marvelous spiritual aid for our people here in the USA, and for as many who discover it on the world-wide-web. This is a great gift from the talented computer folks at St. Michael's for our sick and shut-ins who cannot get to their parish for Sunday Liturgy. If you know someone who could benefit by that televised Liturgy, be sure to let them know about it. God bless Fr. Roman Golemba, pastor, and all who made it happen. I think it is a marvelous and greatly beneficial undertaking. Kudos to "St. Michael's."

These days I know many of our parishioners and friends are ill and suffering from all kinds of sickness and ailments....bronchitis, operation, broken hip, bronchitis, flu, broken ankle, sadness, grief, depression, etc., etc. Let us remember them in our prayers and offer any other help we can to be an aid and comfort to them. May Christ, the Divine Physician, touch and heal all who sick in mind or body.

Speaking of sickness in all its forms, during this month of January we think of the greatest plague ever to attack this country and the world, and that is the holocaust of abortion. In a few weeks thousands upon thousands will be going to Washington, D.C. to once again, for the 42nd time, confront the politicians and lawmakers who have made abortion on demand as the law of the land. As we lead up to those days of protest by good people and believers of the different faiths, all of us should be reminded of the daily terror that happens here and in all the world. And then, being reminded, we should do everything in our power to stop it. We must change our attitude to this, and know abortion is not a word we simply utter, but it is the terrible and painful killing of babies. We all must be pro-life! There are those who want it to continue, and who actively work to do so, right from Barack Hussein Obama and the governor of this state to that group called Planned Parenthood, who recently released their year-end fiscal review: 37 abortions per hour....and they say abortions are "a very small part" of their business. According to their own report PP clinics did 327,653 abortions in the fiscal year. That works out to 37 abortions per hour, or nearly one every 90 seconds." That is human beings being slaughtered. Think about it, pray about it.

Time to leave you for another week. You are always in my thoughts and poor prayers. God willing, and the creek don't rise, I'll write again next week. "May the Lord bless you from Zion, He who lifts up the soul and brightens the eyes, who gives healing, life and blessing!" Our Holy Lady protect you!

In His Love, Fr. Ray

З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

Ми з вами – «останок Його народу» (див. Зах. 8, 12), і мусимо в тиші й у покорі, спільно з усією Церквою прийняти слова про Ісуса, які промовляє до нас сьогодні євангелист Матей. У різдвяну ніч ми просили Діву Марію, щоб могли, як і вона, зберігати в своєму серці ту надзвичайну подію і роздумувати разом з Богородицею, як живий предвічний Бог був «покладений», немов покинутий, «у яслах» (див. Лк. 2, 7), щоб таким чином могли побачити невидимого Бога, пізнати Його, полюбити, щоб Він став нашим Богом.

Коли роздумуємо про сьогоднішнє Євангеліє від Матея і про те, що у цих трьох подіях перших місяців життя Ісуса пережила Діва Марія, перед нами немов постає потрійна ікона, і нехай цей образ залишиться в наших серцях. Потребуємо пізнати Ісуса. Саме того ми можемо просити одні одних на цій Божественній літургії. Ми так мало Його знаємо! Ми мали б відчувати від цього велику нестачу у своїх серцях. Нам здається, що ми «знаємо».., але це зовсім інше: можна знати когось, живучи разом з ним, іноді, можливо, навіть конфліктуючи з ним. Та чи знаємо ми Господа Ісуса?

Нехай кожен роздумає про ті події, так просто описані в Євангелії від Матея: про подорож, яку називаємо «втечею в Єгипет» (див. Мт. 2, 13-14), але котра найперше показує нам вихід з Єгипту Сина Божого; про тих замордованих дітей, які вже тоді долучилися до жертви єдинородного Сина, Який віддав себе за нас; і, врешті, про оселення в Назареті, найнепримітнішому й найзлиденнішому поселенні, назву якого пізніше прибувають до хреста та «приклеять» до Ісусових учнів.

У цих трьох подіях, як наголошує щоразу євангелист Матей, Ісус «сповнює» Писання.

Не просто слова, а обіцянки, які Отець дав усім людям, і які сповнюються в подіях життя Ісуса і надають таким чином сенсу подіям нашого життя. Так Ісус «сповнює» наше життя, яке без Нього було б нонсенсом. Ісус сповнює сенс нашого життя у подіях свого життя – з нами і заради нас – від перших місяців свого життя в людському тілі (див. Йо. 1, 14). Писання, Слово, яке перебуває між нами, відкриває нам ці події, а Святий Дух пригадає. То ж нам належить прийняти до свого життя це одкровення Господнє та сповнення Писання, визнаючи, що:

– Ісус – наша Пасха, наш «перехід» до життя з Отцем, адже в Ньому, єдинородному Сині, ми усиновлені, «покликані з Єгипту» (див. Мт. 2, 15), з рабства, до свободи Божих дітей. А як ми відповідаємо на цей поклик?

– Ісус – мученик, «свідок вірний, первісток із мертвих» (Од. 1, 5), любов Якого перемагає смерть; і в Ньому «переслідувані за правду» вже тепер є учасниками радості Отця, бо «іхнє Царство Небесне» (Мт. 5, 10). Чи приймаємо ми це блаженство?

– У своєму Тілі, яким є Церква, Ісус – досі «назарянин» у цьому світі: будучи непомітним, незнаним, зневаженим, Він приносить мир і радість усім людям. Чи живемо ми в єдності з цією Церквою?

Ангел Господній казав Йосифові: «Устань» (Мт. 2, 13), пробудися... Пробудімося ж і ми, намагаймося «спізнати Його й силу Його воскресення і участь у Його муках» (Флп. 3, 10). «Щоб Бог Господа нашого Ісуса Христа, Отець слави, дав нам дух мудрости та об'явлення, щоб Його добре спізнати» (Еф. 1, 17).

(о. Жан Корбон, *Це називається світанком*)


Христос Раждається! Славте Його!


Quotes on Baptism

The Lord was Baptized, not to be cleansed Himself, but to cleanse the waters, so that those waters, cleansed by the flesh of Christ which knew no sin, might have the power of Baptism.
St. Ambrose of Milan

For whenever unbaptized persons die confessing Christ, this confession is of the same efficacy for the remission of sins as if they were washed in the sacred font of baptism.

St. Augustine, Doctor of the Church

By Baptism we are made flesh of the Crucified
Pope St. Leo the Great

If, therefore, there is any grace in the water, it is not from the nature of water but from the Spirit's presence there.

St. Basil the Great, Doctor of the Church

Every baptized person should consider that it is in the womb of the Church where he is transformed from a child of Adam to a child of God.

St. Vincent Ferrer

No one can begin a new life, unless he repent of the old. - St. Augustine, Doctor of the Church

Just as a man cannot live in the flesh unless he is born in the flesh, even so a man cannot have the spiritual life of grace unless he is born again spiritually. This regeneration is effected by Baptism: "Unless a man is born again of water and the Holy Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (Jn 3:5) - St. Thomas Aquinas

Baptism is not the work of man but of Christ, and this sacrament is so holy that it would not be defiled, even if the minister were a murderer. - St. Isidore, Doctor of the Church



*У святі Різдва
Христового
цього року
молитва про
мир, мабуть, є
основним прохан-
ням, яке ми, укр-
аїнці, скеровуємо
до новонародже-
ного Спасителя.
Ми шукаємо
цього миру. Але*

*миру справедливого, - миру, який би поважав
гідність кожної людини, за якого не було б людей
першого чи другого сорту, не було б країн, які
панують і гноблять, не було б людей, які
терплять від агресії сусідньої держави.*

Про це сказав у день Різдва Христового, Блаженніший Патріарх Святослав під час Архиєрейської Літургії в Патріаршому соборі Воскресіння Христового в Києві.

«І ось сьогодні, – наголосив він, – ангел звіщає нам, що цей мир приходить. Навіть більше, цей мир народився. Цим миром є новонароджений Христос Господь! Бо як буде мир – буде життя, буде майбутнє. Бо як буде мир – буде все решта, сказав мені один маленький хлопчик».

Блаженніший Святослав пригадав слова апостола Павла, що Христос є наш мир. Ісус приходить, щоб сповістити нам мир, далеким і близьким. «Але ми сьогодні мусимо наслідувати мудреців. Мусимо прийти до Князя миру і сповнитися тим даром Божого миру, який Він у своєму народженні нам приносить. Тому що мир – це, найперше, Божий дар. Мир – це не є лише перемир'я чи тимчасове стримання агресії. Сьогодні Священне Писання навчає нас, що мир – це повнота життя і примирення людини з Богом. Якщо людина є в миру з Богом, то лише тоді здатна жити в мирі і з ближніми», – наголосив Глава Церкви. Тому сьогодні, каже він, коли ми молимося за мир, будьмо його носіями. «Прийдімо, – просить Блаженніший, – до цієї стаєнки, припадімо до новонародженого Спасителя. Примирімося з Ним, примирімося з Богом, а відтак будьмо будівничими того миру, який сьогодні сходить на нас з небес».

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

The Gospel reading for this Sunday is like an echo of the Feast of Theophany. It starts by mentioning the imprisonment of John the Baptist, and then reveals the news that Jesus leaves the region of Jordan and comes back to Galilee, where He stays at Capernaum. "The people which sat in darkness have seen a great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death, light has sprung forth." The light manifested on the banks of the River Jordan now spreads into Galilee. Little by little, it will spread to the whole world. Jesus begins to preach. The theme of his preaching is exactly the same as John the Baptist: "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." The Kingdom of God is now identified with Jesus, who is the essence and the power of this kingdom. Nevertheless, this kingdom is only at



its beginning. We shall see it grow, and it will not cease from growing until the end of time. This is what today's epistle reading announces, in which St. Paul declares that when the edification of Christ's church is complete, we shall "all come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect person, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:7-13). The liturgical year, in essence a history of our salvation, represents this growth symbolically for us, from Christmas until the time after Pentecost. It therefore outlines the development of our own inner salvation – the light of Christ within us.

Today, we witness the start of Christ's earthly mission. We learn that the Lord did not begin his ministry in Jerusalem, where some may expect great things to take place, but rather in the obscure region of Galilee, hundreds of miles from any great city. "Christ is our peace", says Saint Paul, who has made us one in Himself, by breaking down the

dividing wall of hostility between men and women, young and old, black and white. In St. Matthew's Gospel the first thing Jesus does in his ministry is to call all people to share the Good News. He refers to his disciples as 'fishers of men'. Then at the end of Matthew, we find Jesus concluding his earthly ministry. The very last words of Matthew's Gospel impart: "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the

Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'" (Matthew 28:18-19). That passage is called the Great Commission and it is given to all Christians, reminding us that we are all called to go and make disciples of all nations. But we need to ask ourselves today, when

was the last time we shared this light of Christ with one another? It has been said, that to the world we might just be another person, but to one person we just might be the whole world. Jesus said: "I am the light of the world; He who follows me shall not walk in darkness." Through the ministry of Christ we can rest assured in the knowledge that God has a higher more divine purpose for each of us, and often our lives are beautifully transformed in ways we have yet to discover. But our willingness to make those changes and abide in the Lord is what is most pleasing to God.

Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up. The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!" The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be

traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world! The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world. Years, passed. The rain came, the sun shone and the little trees grew tall. One day three wood cutters

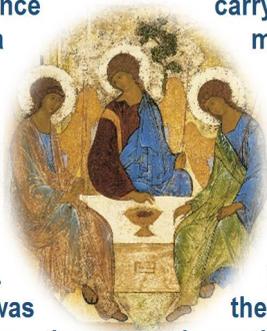


climbed the mountain. The first wood cutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the first tree fell. "Now I shall make a beautiful chest, I shall hold wonderful treasure!" the first tree said. The second wood cutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It's perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the second tree fell. "Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!" The third tree felt her heart sink when the last wood cutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the wood cutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me." He muttered. With a swoop of his shining ax, the third tree fell. The first tree rejoiced when the wood cutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feed box for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, or treasure. She was coated with saw dust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals. The second tree smiled when the wood cutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty



sailing ship was made that day. Instead the once strong tree was hammered and awed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail to an ocean, or even a river, instead she was taken to a little lake. The third tree was confused when the wood cutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened?" The once tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted was to stay on

the mountain top and point to God." Many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feed box. "I wish I could make a cradle for him." Her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and sturdy wood. "This manger is beautiful." She said. And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world. One evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and a thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the wind and the rain. The tired man awoke. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew she was



carrying the king of heaven and earth. One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten wood pile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hand to her. She felt ugly and harsh and cruel. But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. It had made the third tree strong. And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God. That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

This parable helps us to realize that God can make us into something much greater than even our heart's desire, because he has a use, a special purpose, for every one of us. So the next time you feel down because you did not receive what you asked for, or the trials in your life seem more than you can bear, please be patient and rest assured that God has something special in mind for each of us. Just as the light from the River Jordan spread out to Galilee, the light of our Lord, Jesus Christ is given to each of us. It comes to us in the form of the Holy Spirit, and through the Holy Spirit living in us, it is revealed to the world. Jesus was subtle in his ministry. He did not teach in great cities among the elite, but he tended to the needs of the poor and less fortunate, while preaching the Word of His Father. He was not dressed in fine clothing, and he did not lead a life of luxury. The gift of the Holy Spirit is among us, because Christ came to serve His people. He served in silent ways, unbeknown to many. Jesus said that He is the same yesterday,

today, and forever - and that He would never leave, nor forsake His people. As we look back at over 2,000 years of Christ transforming society, we can see an amazing aftereffect, from the concepts and principles of justice to social responsibility, and a thousand other things all directly linked to the way that Christ and His teachings have transformed individuals who together have transformed our society.



When I consider the ways in which each of us are quite capable of transforming some part of society, I am often reminded of this story: One night in 1935, Mayor LaGuardia of New York, went to night court in the poorest ward of the city. On this particular occasion, LaGuardia dismissed the judge for the evening and took over the bench himself. One case involved an elderly woman who was caught stealing bread to feed her grandchildren. LaGuardia said after she pleaded guilty to the crime, "I have to punish you; ten dollars or ten days in jail." It was obvious she could not pay. And as LaGuardia spoke, he threw \$10 into his hat. He then fined everyone in the courtroom 50 cents for living in a city "where a person has to steal bread so that her grandchildren can eat." The hat was passed around, and the woman left the courtroom with her fine paid and an additional \$50 in her purse. Solely out of the goodness of his heart, the Mayor of New York helped this woman who could not help herself. Jesus inspires the goodness within people, the kindness and love that we are willing to give to one another. Jesus did not leave things the way He found them. Jesus came so we could have this special relationship with God, so we would no longer walk in darkness, so we could be forgiven and have the possibility of something even better – Eternal life.