



№ 16

№ 16

ПІД ОПІКОЮ  
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ  
МАРІЇ ОДІГТРИЇ

UNDER THE  
PROTECTION OF  
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN

April 19 – 2015 – 19 Квітня  
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

Thank you, sisters Kathleen and Sr. Tekla, for visiting us this Saturday. Thanks to all participants.

Сердечна подяка сестрам Службницям за візиту. Рівнож дякуємо всім за участь.

The Sisters Servants were founded on Aug. 27, 1892 in the humble village of Zhuzhel. Sister Josaphata Hotrdashevsk, remarkably mature at the age of 22, was the first superior and directress of the novitiate. A group of seven postulants was already waiting for her at their new, albeit rustic and nearly bare, convent. The congregation started with almost nothing; but filled with zeal, their numbers grew so rapidly that in ten years there were 128 sisters in 28 homes. For over 75 years we have been serving the needs of people in the United States. We count on your spiritual and financial support so that we can continue serving in our various ministries and to make necessary improvements on our property. Thank you for spending time with us and may God grant you many blessings!



Blessing of the Paschal food, April 11, 2015  
Baptism of Abel Robert Mackey, April 12, 2015

Time to go back to make varenyky Blessing...

Visit with the Sikhs  
(at the start of the New Year in the Nanakshahi solar calendar, April 14)



APRIL 19 2015

## CHURCH BULLETIN

April 19 – 2015 – 19 Квітня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



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

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

2:00 PM Moleben – Молебень

Вітаємо в нас

Сестер Службниць зі Зловствурґу

We welcome

Sisters Servents from Sloatsburg

4:30 PM +Aleksandra Grega (Serediuk Family)

April 19 S. of Myrrhbearing W. - Н. Мир.

11:00 AM For Parishioners

Easter Dinner afterward

Monday, April 20 Квітня, Понеділок

9:00 AM +Hilary & Julia Holowaty  
(Mishelle & Michael)

Tuesday, April 21 Квітня, Вівторок

8:45 AM +Володимир і Зиновій Гіль (син)

Wednesday, April 22 Квітня, Вівторок

10:00 AM +Aleksandra Ilkiwsky (Family)

Thursday, April 23 Квітня, Четвер

9:00 AM В Нам. Лідії Грецишин

Friday, April 24 Квітня, П'ятниця

9:00 AM +Анна Седлярчук (р. Мартинюк)

Sat. April 25 Квітня Субота

4:30 PM +Sophie Pucak (Family) - 40 day

April 26 S. of Paralytic. - Н. Розслабл.

12:00 AM For living and deceased  
Members of Sitch

The Eternal Light burns in mem. of

+Sophie Pucak

Requ. by Dolores Baranyukj

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М.

Горить за МИР в УКРАЇНІ.

19 Квітня: Томина Неділя

11:00 р. За Парохіян

Свячене опісля

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!  
ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС! ВОІСТНУ ВОСКРЕС!

26 Квітня: Неділя Жінок Мироносиць

10:00 р. В наміренні давшого (Р. В.)



Mother's Day Breakfast  
Sunday, May 10, 2015

The religious education students and their catechists would like to invite all parishioners and their families to attend the Mother's Day breakfast following Sunday liturgies. Eggs, pancakes, sausage, hash browns, fruit, desserts, and beverages will be served for a minimal suggested donation of \$8 per person. Proceeds will benefit St. Nicholas Parish and its religious education program. We hope to see you there!

Bible meeting, Mon. April 27 at 7:00 PM.

We will alternate between Monday and Thursday. Our discussion is New Testament from historical point of view and its importance for us.

У Пон., 27 Квітня о 7 гоод. дискусія на тему Н. Завіту в історичній перспективі. Послухаємо доповідь Проф. Ермана на CD а опісля відбудеться дискусія. Просимо до участі.

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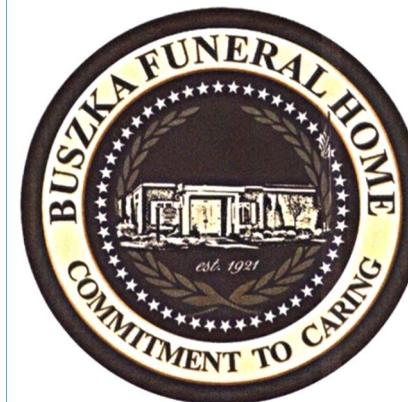
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### ПЕРСОНАЛЬНІ ТА БІЗНЕСОВІ ФІНАНСОВІ ПОСЛУГИ

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

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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.

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Thank you for your donations!

We welcome your comments.

\*\*\*

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\*\*\*

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Cell Phones - Мобільні Телефони:

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

\*\*\*

Просимо вилучувати ваші мобільні телефони підчас Святої Літургії.

### ATTENTION SITCH MEMBERS & GUESTS

Because of the harsh winter, the spring dinner meeting usually held in March, was rescheduled for **SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2015**

to make it easier for everyone.  
**SITCH DINNER MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2015**

At Joseph Hriczko Post  
Clemo St., Buffalo, NY  
After 12:00 pm Liturgy

For the reposed and living members  
of our organization at  
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church  
Fillmore & Oneida Sts., Buffalo, NY

**COCKTAILS** at 1:00PM

**DINNER** at 1:30 PM includes  
refreshments

Meeting to be held after dinner.  
Dinner cost is \$10.00 for members and  
\$15.00 for guests  
Membership dues of \$5.00 For the 2015  
year must be current and may be paid at  
the door.

For reservations call:

Mike Liskiewicz – 837-0285 or  
Maria Malaniak – 668-5105  
Nadia Marc – 839-3016

Reservation deadline is April 19, 2015  
Reservations are a must and liable.  
Thank you

2015 LUC dues are now payable.  
Please make checks (\$7.00) payable  
to

League of Ukrainian Catholics,  
Niagara Frontier Council.  
Dues can be sent to Ihor Pereyma,  
38 Lester St., Buffalo, NY 14210.

### DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS "Special Appeal"

IMO Irene Tschip

Anna Ploiszczyk - \$20.00

Hurney Family - \$20.00

Eva Kowtalo - \$10.00

Andrij & Maria Petryshyn - \$25.00

Marija Dranka - \$10.00

Elaine Nowadly - \$20.00

Andrew & Gertrud Diakun - \$30.00

Fred & Nadia Marc - \$25.00

Dolores Baranyckyj - \$20.00

Peter Petryshyn - \$25.00

Mykola & Tanya Paslawsky - \$25.00

Maryann Sitarski - \$10.00

Mr. & Mrs. Delaney & Brittany - \$20.00

Dave Janowski & Cathy Decker - \$20.00

Pat & Mike Reynolds - \$50.00



49-ий Відділ СУА

широ запрошує

Вас на смачний обід,

3-ого Травня по Св.

Літургії Просимо

\$10.00 даток за обід.

Прошу прийти і провести приємно  
час в колі приятелів і знайомих!

UNWLA Branch 49 invites you to  
lunch on Sunday, May 3, 2015 after  
10:00 am liturgy. A donation of \$10.00  
is requested for the lunch. Please  
come and enjoy spending time among  
parishioners and friends.

З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

Нинішня неділя називається неділею Св. Апостола Томи. У Євангелії від Івана читаємо що Тома не був між апостолами, коли то Христос вперше їм з'явився. І кажуть йому його друзі: "Ми бачили Христа. Він – живий. Він з нами говорив." Аж 10 осіб, яким не можна не довіряти. Вони ж з Христом постійно ходили, і ніхто інший не міг би виступити замість Нього щоб їх обманути. Вони ж на власні очі бачили.

І жінки їхні потверджували. Ті самі, що з Христом так часто перебували, що були під хрестом коли його розіп'яли, і брали участь у його похороні. І вони також, з радістю промовляють: "Ми його насправді виділи, і доторкалися його одежі. Він дійсний а не дух."

О ні, Тома немає причини прийняти їхніх свідчень. Він же не помішаний. У нього розум упорядку. Він тверезо думає. Хіба ж Христа не розіп'ято на хрест між двома розбійниками? Хіба ж коп'єм ребра Його не проколено? Хіба Він не помер на тому хресті? Та ж свідків було аж забагато, бо хотіли подивитися на позорище, а може і бути свідками якогось чуда, де Христос зійшов би з хреста. Але ж це не сталося, і поховали його, і великий камінь над входом до гробу привалили, і сторожу коло нього поставили, щоб часами під час ночі хтось не украв його тіла і не сказав, що він устав із мертвих.

"Як сам не побачу на його руках ран від цвяхів і не поставлю своїх пальців у рани від цвяхів і не вложу свою руку у його ребра, не повірю."

І приходять Христос і знову каже усім: "Мир Вам", а тоді звертається до сумніваючого Томи кажучи: "Дай сюди твій палець і поглянь на мої руки і подай твою руку і вложи в мої ребра, і не будь невірним але вірним."

А що Тома на це. Він не підходить, не кладе руки своєї у ребра Христові, але схилив голову перед своїм учителем кажучи:

### "Господь мій і Бог мій!"

І так, дорогі, святий Тома став доказом для нас, що Христос дійсно Воскрес. Бо коли той, що ніяк не міг прийняти Христа Воскреслого, аж поки сам не побачив, одержав зрозуміння, то і ми, взоруючися на його прикладі, можемо також те саме одержати і мати сильну віру.

Христос сказав до Томи: "Тому, що ти побачив, віруєш. Блаженні ті, що не бачили а вірують." Між ними, очевидно, ми усі. Віримо на основі свідчення апостолів, а головню того Христового учня, що так багато сумнівався.

На кінці, дорогі в Господі, звернім увагу, що ми можемо доторкнутися Христових ран і сьогодні, так як це хотів зробити апостол Тома. Ці рани Христові є на тілі тих що постраждали у великому Голодоморі, у концтаборах, у сталінських лагерах, по різних тюрмах, у Чорнобилі, у Боснії, у хмародерах Нью Йорку, і тепер в Україні в наслідок бажання панувати над іншими, і в Сирії і на кожному місці де людина людині завдавала ран. Кожний і кожна що терплять носять на собі Христові рани, яких ми можемо побачити, доторкнутися до них, і принести полегшу а то і вилікувати. Часами вистарчить тепле слово потіхи, розради, поради, часами тільки вислухати інших.

Важним є, щоб ми самі Христові не завдавали більше ран, щоб ми Його наново не розпинали своєю неухважністю, своїм себелюб'ям, своєю ненавистю.

Скажимо разом з Томою "Господь мій і Бог мій", і приймемо до себе Христовий мир, якого він так щиро роздає тим, що хочуть його прийняти до своїх сердець. Амінь



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!
- Lent starts February 16 according to Gregorian and February 23 according to Julian Calendar.

### 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. Щоб 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

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**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 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!**

## To All Visitors, Friends And Parishioners:

Welcome to our Ukrainian Catholic parish of Saint Nicholas. Make yourself at home.

Every married couple or single person over 18 years old should be registered with the parish. Your donations to support our parish indicate your willingness to be a member of St. Nicholas Parish. In other words, to be considered a member of this parish attendance and support is strongly recommended. We use the system of envelopes. In the case you decide not to use envelopes, you can choose other method of supporting the parish, but your support is appreciated and much needed. May good Lord bless you all!



Вітаємо до нашої і Вашої Церкви Св. Отця Нашого Миколая. Двері завжди відкриті. Господній дім є нашим домом. Хай Господь благословить усіх!

Подружжя і самотні особи понад 18 років можуть зареєструватися. Якщо ви не бажаєте вживати систему коверт, будь ласка дайте нам ваші адреси і телефони, щоб могли з вами сконтактуватися по потребі. Ваші датки просимо вложити у коверту і написати Ваше ім'я, бо в противному Ваші пожертви будуть анонімними.

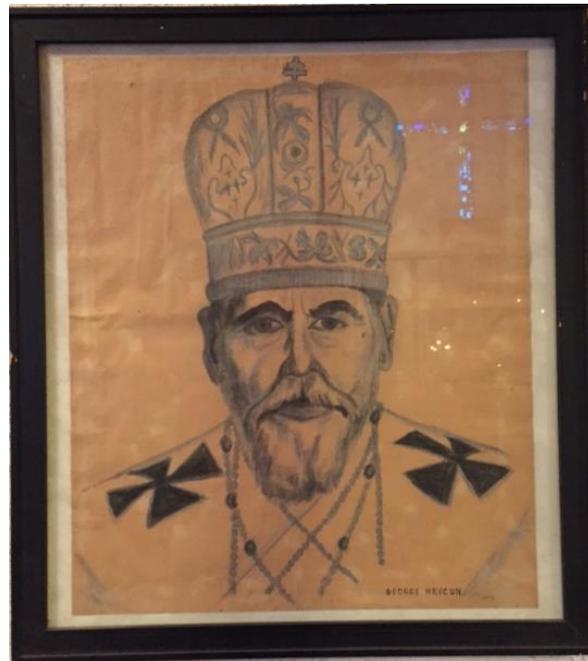
## Very Important! Дуже Важне!

If you plan to schedule an event in St. Nicholas Church Hall, talk to Pastor first and then contact Mrs. Anna Melnyk before putting your event on the calendar.

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

\*\*\*

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



This portret of Servant of God Patriarch Josyf Slipyj, by George Hrecun could be seen on the back wall of St. Mary's Church in Niagara Falls.

Цей портрет Слуги Божого Патр. Йосифа Сліпого можна побачити на останній стіні у церкві в Ніяагара Фалс. Автор Юрій Грицун.

## Letter from Fr. Ray April 19, 2015

Christ is Risen! He is Truly Risen!

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

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

Blessed Pascha! Happy Spring! I don't know about you, or how it is where you live, but around here people are almost giddy as they welcome each other out of hibernation. Everyone has a special and personal story (almost all bad ☹) about the winter past. Remembering the long, harsh winter our conversations are all the same, but in different words: "Wow! What a winter! That was brutal! Glad it's over! Haven't seen one like that since I was a kid!" Then celebrating, not only the arrival of spring, but also the arrival of some beautiful weather, we hear words like these: "What a beautiful day! Doesn't the warm air feel great? Hear those birds singing? ! I hope it stays this way! We are ready for it!"

In a nutshell, that's what has been happening around here for about two weeks. We've had some really tantalizing days when it got near 70 degrees, but most people are lovin' it when the temperature is 45 degrees, or warmer! Unless some really, really crazy weather event occurs, which no one can count out, it is now open arms and full speed ahead for beautiful warm days and nights. Now our snowbirds down south will be safe to head north, leave all that sticky humidity and bug population down there and return home to enjoy the beautiful springtime climate. Welcome home, Snowbirds! I hope your houses are all still in one piece, and you won't find a flood in the basement!

It was indeed a long, tough winter for people and animals! The other day as Presbytera and I were returning home from one of our jaunts to Niagara Falls, while we were driving on the NYS Thruway we noticed groundhogs feeding on the grassy median. There were two of those furry rodents there, and boy were they ever skinny! I'm sure it was their very first day up into the sunlight and out of hibernation. I think maybe they have been afraid to stick their cute little heads out of their burrows. Their name has

been "mud" in this area since that fateful day in February when they not only predicted six more weeks of winter, but somehow added on about four more for good measure! And it was snow, and snow, and...

I think I first saw them about a week ago when they looked so malnourished. That all changed very quickly! As the grass has greened up, they have put on a lot of weight and now are their cute little pudgy selves. They, along with the deer, always enjoy that piece of New York State property from the Niagara Frontier all the way down to New York City. As long as they don't venture into the roadway, their life is mostly enemy free and almost perfect on that beautiful grassy stretch.

Our neighborhoods have also come alive with the humans coming out of hibernation. However, we don't come out of our "burrows" skinny, do we? Unlike the groundhogs and other animals, we are blessed with easy access to all kinds of foods, even during those cold, cold days of winter. But out of hibernation we are, and everyone in Western NY, and probably all around all the northern states, is engaged in some kind of yard or house cleanup. The growing season is not going to get off to a good nor early start this year. It is still first stage clean-up, which means tree limbs and buried leaf piles are being gathered for town pick-up. Planting a garden is still a far off project.

Not only are we cleaning up, but as we go along, we continue to assess the damage done to our property. By now we know about any problems to the house or garage, but also we see the major loss of shrubbery and other plants in the yard. We lost a small tree that was broken and split by the snow of "Snovember" being shoveled off the roof. I also lost a very nice pussy willow tree which I had hoped would be a partial supplier of branches for next year, Palm Sunday.

That tree found its demise by the mouth of the bunny. The little "Peter Rabbit" gnawed the bark of the young tree trunk. From the stripped bark, it was easy to see how high up the tree the snow had piled!

As with everything of this winter, we are not alone in our troubles. Everyone has something or other. The snow and hungry animals really did a number on the plants and trees! The garden supply stores and nurseries will be busy (one of these days) when it becomes possible to work the ground and replace all those damaged and ruined plants.

It is almost impossible to go any distance in the neighborhood without running across some kind of repair truck or contractor, a clear indication of the "trouble in the house." Only the really lucky ones escaped the leaking water/ice dam problem. Other homeowners are repairing downed rain pipes and other damage to roof vents, siding and roofing. The roofers, insulators, and other building experts will certainly be under that wonderful umbrella of 'job security' for many months to come. Winter is over, we've dug out, and now we try to put the pieces all back together again.

To everyone who "came home" for some, or for all the Holy Week and Pascha services, we want you to know how happy we were to see you there! Welcome Home!!! In Toronto, Ontario each summer there is a great festival called the *Canadian National Exhibition*, affectionately known as *The CNE*. And you, Dear Ones, who only make it to services on Christmas and Easter are also affectionately known as "C 'n E" people. That would be "Christmas and Easter." ☺ We are glad you come when you can and, of course, wish you would come more often. We need all the help we can get, and it is so wonderful to have a full church! You belong home with us, and as you always find out, we continue to save your special spot for your return.

We continue our celebrations of the Lord's Resurrection. Today St. Nicholas is having their parish Paschal meal. Also at St. John's in Kenmore they, also, will gather for their 'Sviachenne.' Prior to

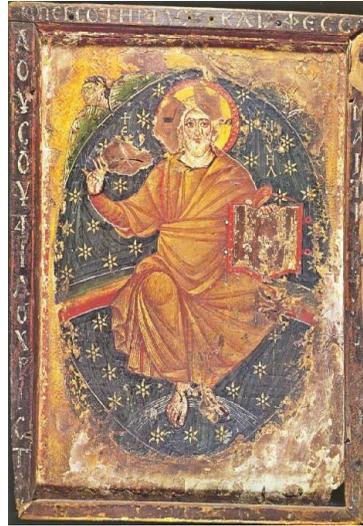
that meal, Bishop Paul will celebrate a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy as he visits the parish.

Remember how we fasted and prayed for the 40 days of the Great Fast? Well we must also keep in mind that we are now in the 40 days of Festal Prayer as we ponder the meaning of the Resurrection for each and every one of us. Yes, we continue to celebrate the "Great Day," especially by our attending the services of the Sundays, and hopefully as many weekday services as we can.

We are SO blessed as we continue to read the Gospel of St. John and the Acts of the Apostles. "*Who is so great a God as our God? Our God is the God who workest wonders!*" (The Great Prokeimenon) Let us pray for one another to truly believe in this Awesome, Powerful and Loving God who sent His Only Begotten Son to us....who shed His blood for the life and salvation of the world. Even as we continue to be overjoyed and awed by the events which 'took place in Jerusalem,' we are also now waiting and praying with the

Apostles in the Upper Room as we wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit which we have already received at our Baptism, and the Spirit in which we were sealed at our Confirmation. Now we are called to be grown up Christians and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit and live our lives in the Light of the Holy Resurrection. Our Blessed Lord rose from the dead and the world was changed! Our Blessed Lord is Truly Risen, and we are changed! Celebrate the Day! This is the Day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! "With power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 4:33). May we, the People of Pascha, know and be filled with that same power so that we can be His witnesses. God bless you and the Holy Theotokos protect you. In the Love of our Lord,

Risen from the Dead, Fr. Ray



Today Bishop Paul will be celebrating Liturgy at Noon in Kenmore. Immediately following the Liturgy there will be a parish Paschal meal in the Church Hall.

## Що до клякання в церкві

У цей час до Зіслання Св. Духа нема клякання в церкві ані в приватних молитвах. Взагалі у церкві можна стояти цілий час, хіба що є певні покутні відправи. Очевидно нема гріха якщо будете клякати.

## Kneeling in the church

As a sign of the glorious Resurrection, from Pascha until Pentecost Sunday, we are encouraged not to kneel as well as our private prayers. This is in accord with an ancient rule where we are called to show our respect for the Risen Lord according to our Tradition.

## Wine Tasting at St. Mary

Wine Tasting Event at St. Mary Church in Niagara Falls: Friday May 29, 2015. This Sunday the sign-up sheet is on the door to the church office. We ask you to look at it and consider a donation to this to help in any way you can. Tickets will be printed next week. As we did last year we will ask each family to take five of these to sell to your family and friends. God bless this endeavor for the good of His church.

## Sacraments of Confirmation, Baptism, and Holy Eucharist

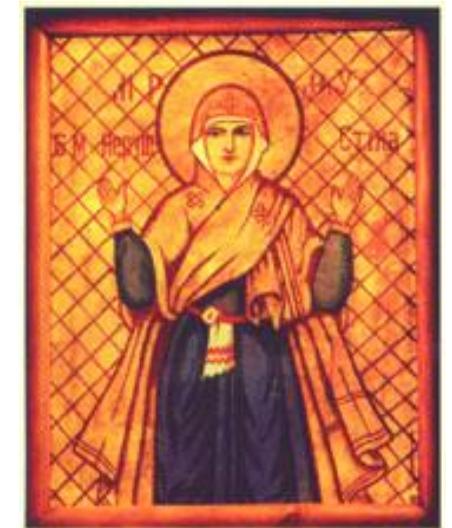
Was bestowed Sunday,  
April 12, 2015, upon:

Abel Robert Mackey

Son of Lawrence R. Mackey  
and Rebecca Jennifer Coker.

May our good & loving Lord grant His blessings of peace, health, and happiness upon Abel Robert as we welcome him into our Church of faith!

**Congratulations!**  
**Mnohaya Lita!**



Авель Роберт Макей

Син Лаврентія Роберта  
і Ревеки Дженифер Кокер  
прийняв в неділю 12 Квітня, 2015 р.  
тайни хрещення, миропомазання і  
Пресвятої Євхаристії. Хай Господь  
благословить щастям і здоров'ям!  
На Многая і Благая Літа!

## Розмова з Патр. Святославом ([www.radiosvoboda.org](http://www.radiosvoboda.org))

– Минулого тижня з листом до Вас звернувся єпископ УАПЦ Ігор Ісиченко про те, аби прийняти їхню єпархію до лона вашої церкви. Відповіді це не було. Чи, може, вона буде сьогодні?

– Наша відповідь вже прозвучала. Але, очевидно, ця відповідь, можливо, не до кінця всім була зрозуміла. Тому я, може, користуючись з нагоди цієї розмови, трішки поясню, у чому є зміст тієї відповіді. Відповідаючи, скажімо, відкритістю владиці Ігорю на ініціативу Собору Харківсько-Полтавської єпархії УАПЦ, ми підкреслюємо, що нашим завданням, нашою метою не є поглинути цю єпархію. Тобто ми не хочемо збільшити присутність греко-католиків на Слобожанщині за рахунок інкорпорації цієї єпархії. І, наскільки я розумію, теж це не було прагненням священників, які брали участь у тому Соборі, якимось так механічно бути доплюсованими до структур УГКЦ. Що, властиво, нас просили? Просили поради. Просили поради, як досягнути повного сопричастя між двома церквами, які є спадкоємцями однієї і тієї ж самої традиції – Київської Церкви. І, скажемо, модель, яку ми завжди намагалися пропонувати, як фундамент об'єднання, це є модель сопричастя. Тобто ми хочемо бути найперше в євхаристійному спілкуванні з нашими православними братами без того, щоб робити ще одну якусь структуру, надбудову над кимось. Ми тепер розпочнемо процес спільної праці, процес шукання відповідей на ті питання, які поставив цей Собор. Безперечно, ми вважаємо це дуже знаковим моментом, знаковою подією зокрема через те, що якимось цілком спонтанно наші православні брати бачать греко-католиків спадкоємцями тієї самої традиції, яку вони самі носять.

– З іншого боку, вчора з'явилася інформація про те, що митрополит Макарій вирішив об'єд-

нуватися з УПЦ КП. Це так само частина Автокефальної Церкви. Складнощі української Церкви я знаю, як ви в одному з американських інтерв'ю так з легкою іронією розказували про кілька українських Церков, частина з яких не є канонічними. Як можна оцінювати цю пропозицію митрополита Макарія?

– Я її оцінив би безперечно позитивно. Тому що ми, з одного боку, не втручаємося у внутрішні об'єднувчі процеси між частинами українського православ'я, але з іншого боку, нам не байдуже, як живуть, як діють наші православні брати. Ми не хочемо нікому диктувати якихось рецептів об'єднання, але всі ми прагнемо єдиної помісної церкви в Україні. І те, що десь чергові мури поділу, чергові уламки розколів трошки будуть заліковуватися і бодай крок за кроком до якогось єдиного, спільного знаменника ця православна сторона Київської церкви буде прямувати, то це, я думаю, безперечно позитивний факт. Ми молимося за єдину помісну церкву в Україні. Але я, бачите, навмисне не вживаю терміну єдиної помісної православної церкви.

– Я знаю, що хотілося би помісної Греко-Католицької Церкви в Україні. Останній раз, здається, ви були у Ватикані у лютому. І що, там є подвижки?

– Ми є помісна Церква. Але коли ми говоримо про єдину помісну церкву в Україні, то ми говоримо про об'єднання всіх гілок єдиної колись Київської церкви. І тому необхідно бути свідомим, що до Київської церкви, до цієї традиції, яку започаткував хрещенням Русі-України наш рівноапостольний князь Володимир, належать не лише ось ці Православні Церкви, про які ви згадали, але це ще є Греко-Католицька Церква. І я уявляю, що до цього спільного моменту, коли ми справді зможемо разом молитися, зможемо мати можливість спільно відправляти Божественну літургію, ми разом дійдемо. Бо без єдиної церкви нам важко буде в Україні.

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

Christ is Risen - is the witness of the Church to the world. The discovery of the empty tomb by the Myrrh-bearing Women was the first sign of the Resurrection. Our Church remembers these holy women on this second Sunday after Easter. These women were present when Jesus was crucified. They were present when Joseph of Arimathea placed His lifeless body in the grave. They watched the large stone roll over the mouth of the tomb in which Jesus was buried. And on Easter morning, these women were on their way to perform their final work of love for Jesus. They brought spices to anoint his body as was customary for the time. But when they came to the grave, they were startled when they saw the stone had been moved. They entered the tomb and found an Angel seated there. At first they were afraid, but the Angel said to them, "*Do not be frightened. I know you are looking for Jesus the Crucified, but He is not here. He has been raised, exactly as He promised. Come and see the place where He was laid. Then go quickly and tell His Disciples*" (Mt 28:5-6).

What wonder and amazement must have filled their hearts, undoubtedly a similar joy to the one we have in celebrating Jesus' Resurrection. For a long time, I often wondered who Jesus appeared to first. I questioned whether the Gospel readings told us everything. I believe that Jesus must have had a very special person in mind to first reveal the glory of his Resurrection. The Gospels give different accounts, but Pope John Paul II expressed his opinion back in 1997 when he wrote that it was legitimate to think that Jesus' mother, Mary, was the first person who saw Jesus after his Resurrection. He suggested that the Gospels not mentioning an apparition of the risen Jesus to Mary must not lead us to the conclusion that no such thing took place. The

Holy Father further suggested that even St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians (15:6), mentions appearances of the risen Jesus to many others not recorded in the Gospels. I had often wondered why the Blessed Mother did not accompany these Myrrh-bearing Women to the tomb early on Easter Sunday morning, why she was not there when they went to anoint her son and perform their last work of love, but maybe she did not need to accompany these women because she had already seen her risen Son.

The fact that there is life in the resurrection is our source of faith. We have hope because Jesus rose from the dead. In the resurrection of Jesus, we believe in something greater, something better, and something Eternal. We know that because Jesus lives today, we too can live with Him. The resurrection of Christ is incontrovertible proof of His divinity. When the Pharisees and the Scribes demanded a sign from Christ which would prove that He is the Son of God, He answered them saying that they will not receive a sign other than that of the Prophet Jonas: "*For even Jonas was in the belly of a whale three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth*" (Matthew 12:30). And so it happened, on the third day of His death, the glorious resurrection took place. Centuries have come and gone, but our faith remains, because the Resurrection of Christ is the foundation of our Church and our belief in Eternal life. On Easter morning the women who came to the grave to anoint Christ's body found only an empty tomb. Then the Angel told them: "*He is risen as He said. Why do you seek the living among the dead?*" Later that day Jesus appeared to His disciples, and then, over the course of the next few weeks, to as many as five hundred people at one time

The New Testament makes it very clear that when Jesus rose he was not just an apparition but he also had a body, although his body was transformed. It was the Apostle Peter who testified to this fact when he said, *“We ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.”* (Acts 10:41) We read in all the Gospels about the tomb being empty, but that was never an issue in proving that Jesus rose from the dead. Instead what mattered most for the disciples was that they knew Jesus was truly present with them; they saw Jesus many times, ate and drank with him, saw his wounds and listened to him teaching. There is a theme throughout the story of the myrrh-bearing women of their continuing enlightenment, just like it was for doubting Saint Thomas, the skeptical Saint Peter, and for the other Apostles who doubted the promises of Christ. We see how the resurrection is applied in our own life, here and now. God has the ability to make us whole, to free us of our sins and our passions, and to help us overcome our difficulties which keep us distant from Him. We have been given this ability, through the Resurrection. And all the examples of people that partially believed, even the great Apostles, who were at times disbelievers, at times even cowards, these men who were at odds with each other and vied amongst themselves for who would be greatest - even them - the Lord purified, and brought them to a great wholeness. If God did this throughout the examples we read in Scripture, then God can certainly do this with each of us today.

Most people that drive through rainy and foggy conditions will grab the steering wheel tightly and concentrate on safely reaching their destination. About 10 years ago, I was on my way home from NYC. Just after I reached Syracuse, an intense fog consumed the air

making it very difficult to drive. At one point, I could barely see five feet ahead of my vehicle. It was the thickest blanket of fog that I had ever driven through, and it quickly became challenging to see anything on the road. If you are familiar with the NYS Thruway, then you know that there are very few areas to pull off safely, so I started to pray as I continued to drive and worried about making it home in one piece. Just before anxiety got the better of me, I suddenly noticed something barely visible alongside the road - a solid white line. As I continued to drive, I made sure to keep my eyes focused on that white line. As I gripped the wheel and strained to see more than five feet ahead of me, I just followed that white line like a lifeline and then it dawned on me... I suddenly realized that the weather that night was symbolic of life's journey. The white line was the only thing guiding me down the road that day, and since then I have often paralleled that white line to the values of family, faith and interests in life that guide all of us when we do not know for sure what the future holds. The danger of that situation and the thought of how that white line was the only thing keeping me on the road, keeping me safe when I could see nothing else in front of me, made me wonder about the people in our lives who personify that 'white line': our parents who raised us, brought us to the Church, nurture us and love us, our spouse or closest friends who console us and laugh with us, our children who rely on us just as much as we cherish their love. Each of us is a white line for someone else, for the people we love and care for, the people we live with, the friends we have made along life's journey. They all embody the person that we have become today. And what better time than the present, to remind those special people that they are our 'white



lines', the people who keep us on track and push us to become who we are today. As we celebrate Christ's victory over death, we also begin to realize how Jesus is the 'white line' of the ages. If we think back to the time of Jesus and his disciples, and how he touched the blind and gave them sight, or the way he moved the minds and hearts of sinners and made them whole. How Jesus offered hope to the hopeless, healed the sick, and raised the dead into new life. Because of the Resurrection and the gift of Eternal life, Jesus remains the ultimate white line in each of our lives - and His line will never fade, it will never run dry - it can only grow bolder and more visible as we journey through life with God on our side.

When the stone was rolled against the tomb of Jesus many people thought that was the end of the story. But since Christ journeyed through the valley of death and came out victorious, death is no longer the end of the story. It is not the end for the infant who dies at a tender age or for the parent whose life is ravaged by cancer or some other debilitating diseases. It is not the

end of the story for the young soldier killed on the battlefield in the prime of his youth or for the loved ones whose lives are snuffed out by a fatal car crash. It is not the end for any of us, because the stone has been removed. In rolling back the stone, God removed the largest obstacle of all. He won the final and complete victory over sin and death. All of the stones which stand in our way today are minor compared to the one that Christ moved. Through His incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection,

Jesus already removed the largest stone: the sins, the failures, and the weaknesses of our human nature. He wants us to see that He is risen and very much alive in us. Jesus remains the ultimate white line in each of our lives, forever navigating us towards the Kingdom of God and Eternal life. Jesus did all of this for us on the Cross. He is not contained in the tomb - but has risen and raises us up to new life with Him. The women in today's Gospel saw that the stone was rolled back, and upon entering the tomb, they heard the glorious words of the Angel and were amazed. Upon receiving the good news, these women were full of joy and went to tell the other Disciples. We too share in this joy, the Church rejoices in Christ's glorification - because over the graves of all of our loved ones, there is a gentle whisper in the wind saying: *'They are not here, for I have risen, and because I live - they live also.'*

→ Thank you Susan, for preparing English version of our Radio Program!!!

→ Picture above: Photo of Susan Szczublewski with John Paul at one of our picnics.