



**Наталка і Андрій!  
Вітаємо з далекої Австралії!  
На Многая і Благая Літа!**

**Thank you all for working at our church Picnic!!!**



**And Erie County Comptroller came to help too. Thank you!**



**Thank You all for your dedication! May the good Lord Bless You!**



**SAINT NICHOLAS  
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**



**УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА  
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ**



**№  
32**

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



**CHURCH BULLETIN**

**August 9 – 2015 – 9 Серпня  
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК**

**№  
32  
AUGUST  
9  
2015**



**THANK YOU!**



**ДЯКУЄМО!**



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## CHURCH BULLETIN

August 9 – 2015 – 9 Серня  
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



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

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

## ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

August 9, 11 S. aft. Pent. – 11 Н. по ЗСД

12:00 +Nina Smietana (Katarina Smietana)

Monday, August 10 Серпня, Понеділок

8:00 AM +Марія Пшеничка (Оля Чмола)

Tuesday, August 11 Серпня, Вівторок

8:00 AM +Orysia Pereyma (Mary Ann DuBois)

Wednesday, August 12 Серпня, Середа

8:00 AM +Mary Beth Sukmann (Sophie Pucak)

Thursday, August 13 Серпня, Четвер

8:00 AM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

Friday, August 14 Серпня, П'ятниця

No Liturgy – Нема Відправи

### DORMITION - УСПІННЯ ПДМ

Saturday August 15 Серпня, Субота

12:00 PM +Paul & Helen Nowadly (Elaine)

4:30 PM +Нрыгоріј Swiatkiwsky (Emily)

August 16, 12 S. aft. Pent. – 12 Н. по ЗСД

12:00 No noon Liturgy till September 13

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М.

Горить За МИР в Україні

9 Серпня: 10 Неділя по 3. Св. Духа

10:00 р. +Дмитро і Марія (Анна Ганицька)

16 Серпня: 11 Неділя по 3. Св. Духа

10:00 р. +Марта Боднар (Марія)

### IMPORTANT ---- PLEASE NOTE!

NO NOON LITURGIES ON THE  
FOLLOWING 4 SUNDAY'S

August 16, August 23,  
August 30 & September 6

### IMPORTANT ---- ВАЖНЕ!

Просимо пам'ятати, що Св. Літургія, у  
Fatima Shrine, Youngstown, NY

28 Серпня о 5 год. буде

ЗА МИР В УКРАЇНІ

ПРОСИМО ВЗЯТИ УЧАСТЬ!!!

The Eternal Light burns  
All Church Picnic volunteers

The Liturgical Choir of the Buffalo Deanery will meet for a rehearsal of the Moleben to the Mother of God, in the Saint Nicholas Church Hall at 6:00pm on Monday, August 17, 2015. Director Leo Orynawka respectfully urges all members to attend.



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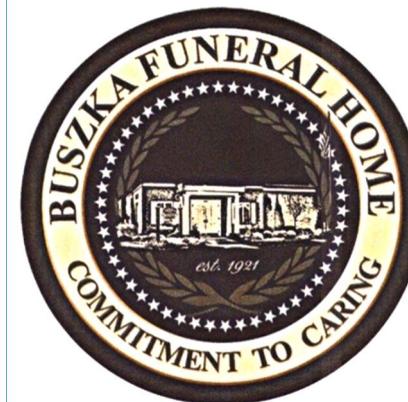
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Your business in the bulletin  
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 AMHERST, NY 14228  
 716.799.8385

Visit us **Tuesday through Saturday** for all your financial needs.

Відвідайте нашу нову філію з вівторка по суботу для всіх ваших фінансових потреб.

**AMHERST BRANCH BUSINESS HOURS:**

(Closed Mondays | Зачинені по понеділках)

Tuesday – Thursday | 3 вівторка по четвер

| 9:30 am – 5 pm |

Friday | 9:30 am – 6 pm | П'ятниця

Saturday | 9 am – 1 pm | Субота

Our existing branch on **GENESEE STREET** will remain open; however, we will be **CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS** starting **JULY 1**.  
 Філія на **GENESEE STREET** буде **ЗАЧИНЕНА ПО СЕРЕДАХ**, починаючи з 1 ЛИПНЯ.

**BUFFALO BRANCH BUSINESS HOURS:**

(Closed Wednesday | Зачинені по середах)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday | 9:30 am – 5 pm |

Понеділок, Вівторок, Четвер

Friday | 9:30 am – 7 pm | П'ятниця

Saturday | 9 am – 1 pm | Субота

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.

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



**LUNCHES & SANDWICHES SERVED DAILY**

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*Many Varieties of:*  
 Bologna • Salami • Fresh Polish Sausage • Head Cheese • Garlic Sausage • Smoked Fish  
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4166 Union Rd.,  
 Cheektowaga, NY (In Airport Plaza) 321-630-0130

2321 Millersport Hwy.  
 Amherst (Getzville Plaza) 688-1495

Are you listening "Good Samaritan"  
 Ukr. Radio Program on WJLL 1440 AM Every  
 Sunday at 2:00 PM?

Thank you for your donations!  
 We welcome your comments.

\*\*\*

Чи ви слухасте 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.

Cell Phones - Мобільні Телєфони:

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

\*\*\*

Просимо вилучувати ваші мобільні  
 телефони підчас Святої Літургії.

**Save the Dates**

August 23<sup>th</sup> – Ukrainian American Day  
 celebrating the 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
 Ukrainian Independence

August 28<sup>th</sup> – Liturgy for Peace in  
 Ukraine (Feast of Dormition of BVM  
 on Julian Calendar) 5:00 PM  
 Fatima Shrine, Youngstown, NY  
**Please make effort to attend!**  
**Просимо взяти участь!!!**

August 30<sup>th</sup> – Msgr. Paul Iwachiw  
 Scholarship Awards Luncheon after  
 12:00 Noon

**Chicken and Ribs BBQ to Benefit  
 ST. BASIL Ukr. Cath. Church**  
 12 Embury Pl., Lancaster, N.Y. 14086  
**August 16 12:00 – 5:00 PM.**

Chinese Auction at 4 PM, Raffle and fun for all.  
 \$10 chicken dinner includes ½ chicken, spuds,  
 chef salad, dinner roll, dessert, pop/coffee.

\$12 rib dinner includes BBQ ribs, spuds, chef  
 salad, dinner roll, dessert, pop/coffee.

Help us selling the tickets.

Call **716-683-0313**.

**Remember:**  
 No English Liturgies at noon  
August 16, August 23,  
August 30 & September 6

**Sunday, SEPTEMBER 13, 2015**

Noon to 7 p.m.

**Ukrainian  
 FESTIVAL**

Presented by St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church



3275 ELMWOOD AVE., KENMORE, NY 14217

(ELMWOOD AVE BETWEEN SHERIDAN DRIVE AND THE I-190 YOUNGMANN EXPRESSWAY)

ETHNIC UKRAINIAN FOOD (Pryohy/Pierogi, Stuffed Cabbage, Sausage) and BEVERAGES  
 CHICKEN BARBEQUE ELIGIOUS/ETHNIC VENDORS, BAKED GOODS, THEME BASKETS & RAFFLES AND MORE...

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Friday, November 6 7 P.M. Exhibit Opening/Reception	Saturday, November 7 2 P.M. Dedication Ceremony 10 A.M. – 7 P.M. Exhibit	Sunday, November 8 2 P.M. Concert
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# ANNUAL PICNIC

## St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church

Sunday, August 2, 2015

**It was very successful! Thank You!**



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

- KITCHEN is now closed.
- Thank you for your patronage.  
Thanks are extended to all who helped!
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!

Have a nice  
Summer Vacation

### 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 помагаєте 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**

**УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА  
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ**

(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ  
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРИЇ)

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

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308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

**Rectory: (716) 852-7566**

**Fax: 855-1319 ~ Kitchen: 852-1908**

**Confession:** Before Liturgies

**Сповідь:** Перед Св. Літургіями

**Baptism:** By appointment

**Хрещення:** За домовленням

**Marriage:** Contact 6 months in advance

**Вінчання:** Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

**Religion classes – Релігійна Програма**  
Субота - Saturday

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

Family members should call the Rectory

Родина повинна повідомити священика

**IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME**

**В разі потреби завжди можна закликати**

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor & dean

Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

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

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



The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Inc.,  
Buffalo Branch, invites everyone to attend

# Ukrainian American Day

Celebrating the 24th Anniversary  
of Ukrainian Independence

on

Sunday, August 23, 2015

at

the Ukrainian Cultural Center "Dnipro"  
562 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY

Hours: 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Prayer of Thanksgiving  
("Moleben") at 1:45 pm

Authentic Ukrainian food, live vocalists and musicians, Ukrainian dancers,  
art displays, craft vendors, full selection of Slavic beer,  
huge basket raffle, bounce house and children's activities.

**Featuring performances by Toronto's DESNA DANCE COMPANY**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**Ample parking available**

**For more information contact:**

W. Serediuk: 821-0711

Akacia Belmega: 674-4916

Andrew Diakun: 632-4212

Luba Terech: 359-3075

Dnipro: 856-4476

Please visit our website at [www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com](http://www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com)



## Letter from Fr. Ray August 9, 2015

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

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

*"And hospitality do not forget; for by this some, being not aware of it, have entertained angels."* (Hebrews 13:2) In other words, don't forget to show hospitality to those you don't know. By doing so, some believers, even though they didn't know it at the time, were worthy to receive and entertain angels. You never know when that person coming to your home or church is really an angel in disguise.

I write to you, my Dear One, on Thursday August 6. For those of us who pray according to the new calendar, today is the great feast of the Holy Transfiguration of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Not too long ago we returned from the feastday Liturgy at Holy Protection, and that is the reason I'm writing right now about hospitality and visitors. We unexpectedly were able to welcome a beautiful family to our church this day.

Remember a few weeks ago when I wrote to you about the closeness of the "Band of Brothers," those guys who were in the seminary at one time. Well today, another one of "The Band", now ordained priest, came to our church along with his beautiful, beautiful family-his Presbytera and three lovely "girl priestlings." What a joy it was to concelebrate the Liturgy with Father, and then to meet in fellowship downstairs afterwards! It was one of those unexpected visits of someone coming to your house, but one that was so welcome and wonderful. I can't even begin to tell you how beautiful and uplifting the Liturgy was because they were with us this day! The joy carried downstairs to the hall where we reminisced and thanked God for each other. In this life a lot of people come and go....but a few will leave footprints on your heart. This family definitely has done that, not only to me, but to

everyone in our family. Special, special people!! Maybe, maybe, we were visited by angels today!!

Today is the day we bless fruit in our churches. We do that as a remembrance of this glorious time of the year when the first fruits are appearing and the land is becoming rich with the summertime harvest. As we bring the fruit to the church for blessing, we recall that all the world is blessed, and we are blessed by our heavenly Father, who cares for us and gives us all that we need. It was a very beautiful celebration and it continues until next Thursday. Then next Saturday the 15th, and the days after, we will be celebrating another major feast, this time the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady and Theotokos.

August, on the new calendar, is truly a month of blessings because of all these beautiful, meaningful and important days, plus other holy days of our liturgical year. During this month we will celebrate the "Three Feasts of the Savior," (The Procession of the Holy Cross-Aug. 1; Transfiguration-August 6; and Icon not-made-by-hands on the 16<sup>th</sup>). Additionally, we will have, as I already said the Dormition plus St. Matthias, St. Lawrence, St. Myron, St. Bartholomew, St. John the Baptist, and the Placing of the Sash of the Mother of God. Yes, the world is blessed and so are we, if we want to be. So much fruit on the farms....so much fruit in the services of our church! By the way, as Baba always asks: "When was the last time you were in church, and Christmas and Easter do not count?" Time to come home.

I wrote a bit last week about places we call "heaven on earth." Our parishes are some of those places, not only during August, but every single day. August is a month of blessings, but so is any day of the year. Please come to the church, if you can, for any or all of these services. You will be glad you did! The Lord is waiting for you to knock so He can open the door for you. He wants to bless you today!

This week the Knights of Columbus have been attending their convention in Philadelphia. Each morning, before beginning the day's proceedings, the members attended Mass. One of the highlights for us as members of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchies was to be able to view the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, celebrated on Wednesday, and which was broadcast on EWTN. I hope you got to see it.

The Liturgy was celebrated by Metropolitan Soroka along with our bishops, other Eastern bishops, and all the hundreds of attending bishops, priests and deacons. The Liturgy was very well done and everyone who had a part in putting together the "logistics" of such an event are to be highly congratulated. It is no easy task to do an event like that for a whole number of reasons, but it came off without a hitch, except for the poor RC bishop who stumbled and fell as he approached the altar in the procession. He looked ok, but I'm sure it wasn't a pleasant experience for him. Congratulations to all who made it happen!!

We watched a few of the broadcast events, the Masses, the Liturgy and the talks. It was good for all of us to once again be reminded about the great organization called the Knights of Columbus. This group was founded in New Haven, CT in 1882 by a parish priest, Fr. Michael McGivney, who by the way, is having his cause for sainthood investigated. The Knights began with the small group in New Haven and now have grown to 1.8 million members around the world, including Ukraine. They have become the world's foremost Catholic benefit society. God bless them for many happy years!

In his homily at the Liturgy Metropolitan Soroka said this about the organization: "The power of prayer and works of charity in an atmosphere of unity, with patriotic love for God, Church and country transformed these men and their families." That statement, as well as watching and listening to the story of the Knights, reminded me of another special and important organization, our

League of Ukrainian Catholics. Isn't that what the LUC is all about? A group of wonderful people working for the Faith, the Church, our country and putting their belief into action with numerous acts of charity and donations of countless gifts of time, talent and treasure. God bless our LUC for many happy years!

Guys, if you ever thought of joining the Knights of Columbus, but never got around to it, how about now? Parishioners of all our churches, if you ever thought of joining the LUC, but never got around to it, how about now? I know these organizations can do nothing but enrich your lives and the lives of many, many individuals and parishes who will benefit from your love and dedication to God and His people!

The "festival frenzy" continues around here, and I'm sure in your area also. You can take your pick of outdoor activities and fund-raisers. As you read this, the Sloatsburg Pilgrimage will be history. We send our prayers to the Sisters for a successful time. Locally, the fund-raiser to help war victims and refugees in Ukraine will also be over. We also pray for the success of that endeavor. And then St. Josaphat's in Rochester will be having their annual festival, which will begin on Thursday and go to Sunday August 16. Lots to do, inside and outside of the church. It's like 'pick a winner' time. All of these events are special times of homecoming, fellowship, charity and prayer. They take time, hard work and commitment, but it is a very good thing. Maybe I'll see you out and about at some of the happenings.

Here comes the bottom of the page, so I've got to get movin' along once more. God willing and the creek don't rise, I'll send you a letter again next week. For now, please know that I think of you all week, and keep you in my prayers. May God bless you and keep you! May He cause His face to shine upon you! May He grant you His peace! Till next time.....

In His Love, Fr. Ray



**43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL**  
**UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL**

**AUGUST**  
**13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>**  
START TIME  
6:00 pm

**15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>**  
START TIME  
1:00 pm

**2015**

Ukrainian Arts & Crafts  
Ukrainian Food  
Ukrainian Folk Dancing

940 East Ridge Road, Rochester, New York



Ron Calhoun-MC



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THURSDAY & FRIDAY  
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2:30 & 5:00 P.M.

LIVE MUSIC FOR DANCING  
"MELODY LANE" THURS & FRI  
"MOSAIC" SATURDAY



Melody Lane



"UAFGR Dancers"

INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE BY  
YARRO ANTONEVYCH RANBURIST

Interactive Rides by "Adventures in Climbing" Friday, Saturday & Sunday  
[www.RochesterUkrainianFestival.com](http://www.RochesterUkrainianFestival.com)

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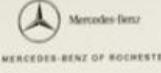




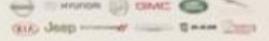












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### З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

Один чоловік, який потребував оздоровлення для свого хворого сина, настоював його по всяку ціну одержати. Подевімся, з яким наставленням він приступає до Христа. Цей чоловік вже роками шукав за лікарями, які нічого не могли порадити. Звертався і до апостолів, та також без жодного результату, бо ж і вони були безсильні. І, як остання надія, з'являється Христос. Він якраз зійшов з гори Тавору, де був переобразився перед своїми учнями: Петром, Іваном і Яковом. Там говорив Він зі законодавцем Мойсеєм і пророком Іллією, правдоподібно про свої страсті, що мають наступити. Обличчя Господнє було немов сонце, а убрання його біле неначе світло. Пригадуємо, тоді то Петро сказав Христові: "Добре нам тут бути. Залишімся назавжди. Зробім три намети. Один для тебе, один для Мойсея і один для Іллі." Та Господь не прийшов, щоб перебувати з нами у славі, але щоб показати нам у який спосіб провадити своїм життям, щоб дійти до перебування з Христом у вічності. Тому то і сходять вони з гори, залишаючи світло і спокій і радість, щоб удолині, у підніжю гори, утихомирити бурю, розігнати темряву, принести надію.

Ледве чи цей батько хворої дитини відчував з ким має до діла. Він чув, що Господь лікує, і чуда творить і бісів виганяє, але він не був свідомий того, що перед ним стоїть хтось більший від звичайного лікаря? Тому Христос і каже: "О роде невірний, доки терпітиму вас?" Батько отже не посідав великої віри. Апостоли також ні, бо в противному змогли б самі вилікувати хворого. І вони навіть знали хто є Ісус Христос, хоча деякі з них у же бачили його славу, коли перед ними переобразився. Вони скріпляться у вірі, щойно після Христового воскресіння із мертвих, і зрозуміють своє завдання, коли Дух Святий освятить їх і дасть їм зрозуміння, помножить віру.

Віра була та, що провадила апостолів Господню дорогою, через тюрми і кайдани, через терпіння голоду, спраги і матеріальних нестач, аж до мучеництва за Христа, до прослави. Отакий повинен бути кінець правдивого християнина, властиво це не кінець, а початок життя, вічного, божественного.

До цього кінця стремлять і наші брати і сестри на наших Рідних Землях, коли радше вибирають тер-

піння ніж зраду. До такого кінця і ми всі повинні стриміти. Нам можливо не доведеться терпіти за Христову віру, але ми мусимо завжди бути такого наставлення, щоб бути готовими, якщо колись доведеться терпіти.

Щоб бути готовими до терпіння, потрібно мати сильну віру. Потрібно жити згідно з тою вірою. Христос при одній нагоді сказав: "Не всі, що кричать: Господи, Господи, увійдуть у Царство Небесне." Це є для нас наукою, що царство Боже не осягають ті що можуть його осягнути, але ті що хочуть, і все роблять щоб перебувати на добрій дорозі. Те царство Боже зможемо осягнути тільки тоді, коли наша сильна віра виявиться на зовні у ділах любови до наших ближніх.

В нашому короткому житті дуже часто веренатимуть довжелезні труднощі. Нервовість, Неспокій, незгода в родині, нестача, біль, різьного роду хвороби. Усе це на нас приходить, і почасти здається, що не можемо собі с тим дати ради, що падемо під отими тягарями, що відійдемо у небуття, що допомоги ні звідки. Це є оті гори про які Христос говорить коле каже: "Якщо маєте віру як зерно гірчиці, то скажите цій горі, двигніся у море і так станеться, і нічого не буде вам неможливе." Усі гори зможемо подолати якщо маємо віру в Господа.

Усі святі мали свої гори і їхні приклади вчать нас, що не має такої гори, яку ми з Божою поміччю не могли б подолати. Якщо ми віддамо себе Богові в опіку, то Він дасть нам таку силу, якої ми не зможемо навіть собі уявити, більшу, як наші недуги, більшу від наших немочий, більшу як наша ненависть, більшу ніж наші невдачі.

У тяжких хвиликах, так як батько з нинішнього євангельського читання звертаймося до Спасителя, який за нас народився, помер і воскрес. Підім до нього, але не з наставленням, що він мусить нас вислухати. Наше є з вірою просити, а Христос побачить, чи наша просьба має підставу. Коли б і чудо було потрібно, то Господь міг його зробити, так як зробив отому молодому хворому. Тільки не забуваймо одного: Якщо хочемо, щоб Христос нам допоміг, то і ми будьмо готові допомогти іншим, бо тільки таким способом зможемо показати, що ми є в дійсності Христовими послідовниками і що наша віра є сильна і правдива.

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

"*Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.*" God sent us His Son to be a picture of His Mercy. When Christ saw a blind man, He gave him sight. To a cripple, He gave his legs the ability to walk, and to a leper He gave cleansing of body and soul. And to those who would crucify Him, Jesus said, "*Lord, forgive them for they know not what they do*". Christ resurrected the dead to life, gave comfort and hope to the brokenhearted. He stilled the raging storm at sea, and fed thousands of hungry souls with five loaves of bread and two fish. All this Christ did to show how our Heavenly Father could touch people, and reach out to them with His tender Mercy and Love. God sent His Son to be a new and living way! Christ is the ladder from earth to Heaven, from mankind's transgression to God's forgiveness. But are we ready to follow Christ? In order to follow Him, we must be willing to forgive one another as God forgives each of us. St. Paul wrote, "*Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you*" (Eph. 4.32). It was Earnest Hemingway who once wrote about a scene of this longing for forgiveness. In Madrid, a father ran a little ad in the local paper one day which read, "Paco, meet me at the Hotel Montana at noon on Wednesday. All is forgiven, signed, Papa." According to Hemingway, toward noon on Wednesday of that week, the hotel actually had to call the police to break up a crowd of some eight-hundred young men named 'Paco'; each one hoping that he was the one being forgiven - eight hundred young men waiting there, just hoping for their Papa to forgive them. Can each of us remember a time when we were truly forgiven? Do you remember how wonderful it felt to have that burden lifted from your heart? Now imagine how someone else might feel if we were willing to forgive them for some kind of hurt they caused us. According to today's Gospel, that initiative of forgiveness must never be broken.

St. Paul wrote, "*Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you*" (Eph. 4.32). In today's Gospel, Jesus is telling us that if we are willing to let go of other peoples' sins, then He will let go of ours. If we dismiss other people's offenses, He will dismiss ours. If we

cancel other peoples' debts, He will forgive ours. And the Lord gives us the strength to do this in many forms. Our strength comes in the form of Baptism. When we are baptized the Holy Spirit works its saving grace in our hearts. At our baptism, we were renewed and regenerated by the Holy Spirit and a new person was created in us. St. Paul writes in his second letter to the Corinthians, "*Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone. The new has come.*" God gives us strength in the form of the Lord's Supper. Our loving Savior has given to us His precious body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Each time we partake of the Lord's Supper, we are strengthened by the words, 'Given and poured out for you!' This is God's way of approaching us on an individual basis, assuring us that our sins are forgiven. But we also take strength from the love of our Savior and what He has done for each of us. Every time we look at the cross we see God's unconditional love for us. The cross is our ultimate symbol of forgiveness, and the love of Christ enables each of us to share that forgiveness with one another - regardless of how fresh or deep our wounds may be.

The king in today's parable could only hope that the servant whose debt he forgave would be likewise merciful to others, and when he was not, the king threw him in prison until his own debt could be repaid in full. The king wanted his servant to be merciful and follow his example. But it is not the same with God. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, God imparts in us a desire to be forgiving. So when someone offends us or hurts us, God enables us to forgive them. And on the occasions we fail to follow what our Lord has taught us, we have His forgiveness because of Jesus. The Apostle Peter's dilemma in today's Gospel reading is one we have all faced. Just how often must we forgive one another? Forgiveness is not a numbers game; it has nothing to do with keeping score. A continuing and constant obligation of love is to be ready to forgive at all times - without limitation. God's forgiveness is not an easy thing. We are not instantly made perfect, but rather God accepts us where we are despite all our imperfections. God does not offer us a means to pay for our sins; instead He offers us complete forgiveness according to His Word.

A letter was written to a prisoner on death row: You are probably surprised that I, of all people, am writing a letter to you, but I ask you to read it in its entirety and consider its request seriously. As the Father of the man whose death you took part in, I have something very important to say to you. I forgive you! With all my heart, I forgive you. I realize it may be hard for you to believe me, but I really do. Through the tremendous love of my Son, I am able to forgive you with a heart full of love. At your trial, when you confessed to your part in the events that cost my Son his life and asked for my forgiveness, I immediately granted you that forgiving love from my heart. I can only hope you believe me and will accept my words as the truth. But this is not all I have to say to you. I want you to become my own child, to live a renewed life with me. You see, my Son who died was my only child, and I now want to share my life with you, giving all that I have as your own. This may not make sense to you or anyone else, but I believe you are deserving of my love. I have arranged matters so that if you will receive my gift of forgiveness, if you will accept my tender mercy, not only will you be pardoned for your transgressions, but you will also be set free from your imprisonment, and your sentence of death will be dismissed. At that point, you will become my own child and heir to all my riches. I realize this gift I offer comes with great risk to me -- you might be tempted to reject me completely or even try to offend me -- but I make you this promise without reservation. I realize it may seem foolish to make such a request to one who cost my Son his life, but I now have a great love and an unchangeable forgiveness in my heart for you. Finally, you may be concerned that once you accept my mercy, you may do something to cause yourself to be denied your rights as an heir to my kingdom. Nothing could be further from the truth. If I can forgive you for your part in my Son's death, I can forgive you for anything. I know you never will be perfect, but you do not have to be perfect to receive my love. I offer it to you through the love of my Son,

who saw in you a reason and a desire to place your life before his own. I cannot force you to accept my invitation to be loved and to be forgiven, but I believe that once you have experienced all that I am able to give, you will see that I am able to love you through the love of my own Son.

Sincerely yours,

GOD

The heart of God is as great as the world, and there is no room in it to hold the memory of our wrongs. There is only room for love, because of the saving grace made possible through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In every relationship, in every friendship, in every family, Christians are faced with the situation in which forgiveness is requested from them - again and again - whether it means giving innumerable hugs or listening to the same excuses over and over again. Christ said, "*If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*" If we dismiss other people's sins, the Lord will dismiss ours. If we cancel the debts of others, God will forgive ours. There is no one who is righteous. We all have sinned. We all fall short. We all are guilty. And the only way for us to be justified is by placing our hope in Christ, who gave his life as a ransom for many in order to pay for our sins. And just like the Apostle Peter gleaned from today's Parable, we have no right to try and bring to a halt in ourselves the forgiveness that flows from the love of our Savior on the cross. Sometimes, we do not fully comprehend the depth of our own sins before God. Why does this matter? Because the less we appreciate how much God had to forgive in us, the less we are likely to forgive one another. Saint Augustine once wrote: "If you are suffering the injustice of a bad man, forgive Him, lest there be two bad men." The place to begin is prayer: Pray that you will want to forgive the person who hurt you more than you will want to get even. We do this by praying that God will give us the strength and desire to forgive the ones who hurt us. We do not forgive to be forgiven. We forgive because we have been forgiven by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Church Picnic - 8/2/15	Income	Expenses	Profit
Kitchen	\$2,123.50	\$437.52	\$1,685.98
Slawko's Bar & License	\$478.50	\$274.04	\$204.46
Outside Grill	\$131.50	\$104.87	\$26.63
Bar, Grill & Lic. Donation	\$378.91		\$378.91
Bar & Grill total			\$610.00
Baked Goods	\$424.00		\$424.00
Kitchen Jar	\$158.00		\$158.00
Donations	\$426.00		\$426.00
Theme Baskets	\$1,885.00	\$74.95	\$1,810.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,005.41</b>	<b>\$891.38</b>	<b>\$5,114.03</b>
RAFFLE + \$50 Raffle Return	\$2,246.00		\$2,246.00
RAFFLE Donation	\$750.00		\$750.00
<b>RAFFLE Total</b>	<b>\$2,996.00</b>	<b>\$750.00</b>	<b>\$2,246.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$9,001.41</b>	<b>\$1,641.38</b>	<b>\$7,360.03</b>
Picadilly's appearance (\$100.00) was donated by Emily Swiatkiwsky. Thank you!			

This years Church picnic was indeed very special. There are many of you, who came and helped. Even Erie Count Comptroller Stefan Iwan Mychajliw came and worked.

Thank you all, who helped in any way. Thank you for your generous donations.

**Congratulations to the winners!**

This is indeed the best picnic ever. May the good Lord bless you abundantly!

**Happy Many Years!**



Сердечна Подяка усім, що спреченилися до успіху нашого Церквного Базару. Дякуємо усім за Ваші пожертви, за ваш час.

**Гратулюємо тим, що виграли!**

Цього року пікнік був найбільш успішний за всі роки. Хай Господь благословить Вас усіх щастям і здоров'ям.

**На многая і Благая Літа!**