



Day before Independence of Ukraine at "Dnipro" & Liturgy at St. Nicholas, Aug. 23 Holy Theotokos, Protect us and Ukraine!



SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ

№ 35 AUGUST 30 2015

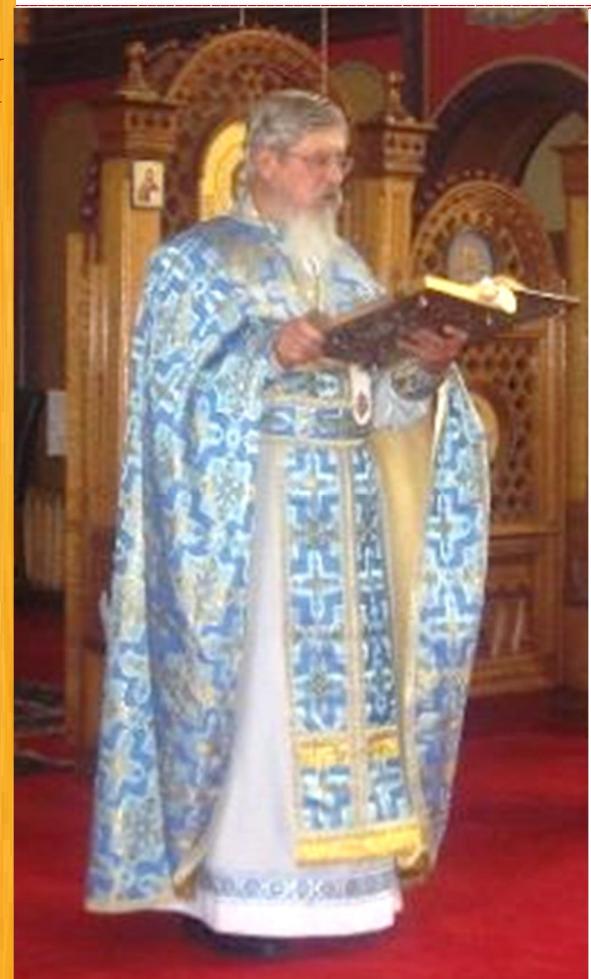


№ 35

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



CHURCH BULLETIN August 30 – 2015 – 30 Серпня ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



Congratulations to Fr. Raymond Palko On the occasion of 25th Anniversary of Priesthood! May the Good Lord Bless you, and Holy Theotokos Protect You and Your Family! Happy Many Years!

Гратулюємо О. Романові Палко З нагоди 25 річниці Ієрейських Свячень! На Многая і Благая Літа!

CHURCH BULLETIN

August 30 – 2015 – 30 Серня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



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

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM +Alexandra Grega
(Rose Serediuk & Family)

August 30, 14 S. aft. Pent. – 14 Н. по ЗСД

12:00 No noon Liturgy till September 13

Monday, August 31 Серня, Понеділок

8:15 AM +Леся Лисак Тивонюк (О. Чмола)

Beg. Of the Church Year – Начало Индекта

Tuesday, August 1 Серня, Вівторок

9:00 AM For God's Blessing

За Боже Благословення

Wednesday, September 2 Вересня, Середа

9:00 AM Int. of Marija Helen, Sheryl & Alex

Thursday, September 3 Вересня, Четвер

9:00 AM For Parishioners - За Парохіян

Friday, September 4 Вересня, П'ятниця

9:00 AM +Michael C. Chort (Marianne)

Saturday September 5 Вересня, Субота

4:30 PM +Irene Tship (Emil & Vera Marc)

Septem. 6, 15 S. aft. Pent. – 15 Н. по ЗСД

12:00 No noon Liturgy till September 13

Вічне Світло в честь П.Д.М.
Горить За МИР в Україні

30 Серня: 13 Неділя по 3. Св. Духа
10:00 р. +Дозьо Пришляк і пан. 1 річ. (Родина)

6 Вересня: 14 Неділя по 3. Св. Духа
10:00 р. +Софія Пуцак (Марія Дранка)

The Franciscan Center

Reminder: Please continue to bring in non-perishable food as well as hygiene products for the boys at the Franciscan Center.

They also will gladly accept lightly used clothes for the boys of teen age as well as gift cards to food or clothing stores.

You should give the cards or money gifts directly to Father. Other items can be placed in the box at bottom of stairs in vestibule. Fr. Joe and everyone at the Center are always greatly appreciative of all the donations.

God bless your charity!

Вічне Світло горить за
+Дозя Пришляка
Дякуємо за Довголітне служіння!

Congratulations to
The Recipients of
Msgr. Paul Iwachiw
Scholarship

May the Lord Bless you and
Holy Theotokos protect you!



Гратулюємо
Діянні Середюк,
Ірині Меленчук і
Андрієві Шутка, що сьогодні одержують нагороди ім. о. Митрата Павла Івахова

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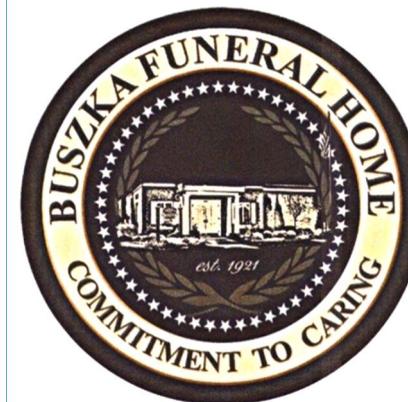
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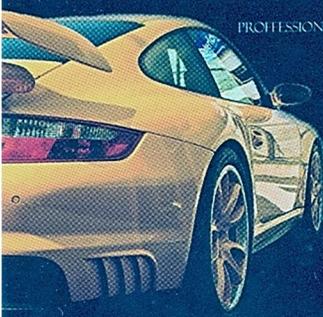
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AMHERST BRANCH BUSINESS HOURS:

(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.

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 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 пожертвами.

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.

**SITCH DINNER MEETING
 Sunday September 27, 2015**

At Joseph Hriczko Post
 29 Clemo St., Buffalo, NY
 After 12:00pm 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 1:30PM 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**

Reservation deadline is September 20, 2015

Reservations are a must and liable.

Salvation Army Box



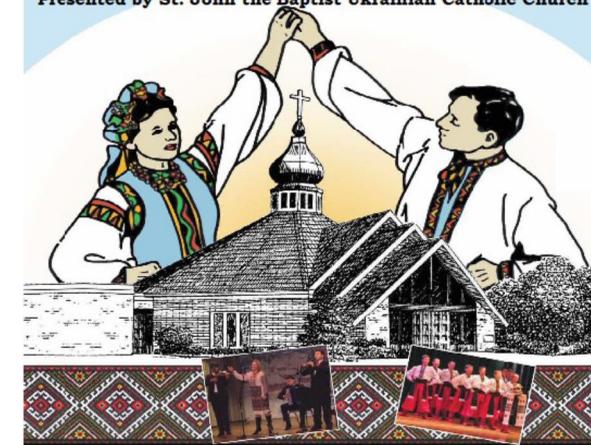
**By our Parking Lot from Fillmore.
 Used clothing. Help those in need.
 Thank You!**

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

Noon to 7 p.m.

**Ukrainian
 FESTIVAL**

Presented by St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church



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ETHNIC UKRAINIAN FOOD (Pierogi/Pierogi, Stuffed Cabbage, Sausage) and BEVERAGES
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Washington, D.C.

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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IN SUPPORT OF UCU

The **UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY** is in the public phase of its Comprehensive Campaign to support the building of a modern campus and the establishment of new academic programs. **Support Ukraine's Future!**

UNITED STATES



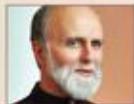
- **OCT 24, 2015**
Washington DC
Army Navy Country Club-Arlington
- **OCT 25, 2015**
Chicago
Ritz-Carlton Hotel
- **OCT 31, 2015**
Syracuse, NY
Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel
- **NOV 1, 2015**
New York City
The Roosevelt Hotel

CANADA



- **NOV 14, 2015**
Toronto
Liberty Grand Complex
- **NOV 15, 2015**
Montreal
Centre Mont-Royal
- **NOV 20, 2015**
Calgary
St. Stephen Protomartyr
Ukrainian Catholic Cultural Center

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Bishop Borys Gudziak
President, Ukrainian
Catholic University



Fr. Bohdan Prakh
Rector, Ukrainian
Catholic University

- **Maria Burmaka**
Activist and Musician
- **Christia Freeland**
Writer, journalist and
politician
- **Victor Morozov**
Musician

- **Oksana Mukha**
Musician
- **Mikhail Saakashvili**
Governor, Odessa Oblast,
Ukraine
- **Pavlo Sheremeta**
Director of UCU's School
of Public Management

- **Timothy Snyder**
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- **Sviatoslav Vakarchuk**
Activist and Musician

FOR MORE INFORMATION call the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation at
1 (800) 599-3671 or visit us at www.ucf.org



Scan this QR code for more info

* Not all will appear in every city



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

УКРАЇНЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ

(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГТРІЇ)

Parish E-Mail: stnbuffalo@yahoo.com

Web Page: <http://www.stnbuffalo.com>

Dioc. Web: <http://www.stamforddio.org>

308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

Rectory: (716) 852-7566

Fax: 855-1319 ~ Kitchen: 852-1908

Confession: Before Liturgies

Сповідь: Перед Св. Літургіями

Baptism: By appointment

Хрещення: За домовленням

Marriage: Contact 6 months in advance

Вінчання: Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

Religion classes – Релігійна Програма
Субота - Saturday

Ministry to the sick - Опіка над 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 лічниці
або приковані до ліжка!**

У День Незалежності Глава УГКЦ закликав захищати свою країну, утверджувати її та бути патріотами

У своєму відеоблозі з нагоди Дня Незалежності України Блаженніший Святослав накреслив три завдання, які сьогодні стоять перед усіма українцями: необхідність захищати незалежність нашої Батьківщини, утверджувати, допомагати реформувати державні структури і органи державної влади та плекати державницьку свідомість і патріотизм.

Роздумуючи про необхідність захищати незалежність нашої Батьківщини сьогодні, Глава УГКЦ наголосив, що це обов'язок усіх нас. «Згадуючи наших героїв, кров'ю яких окроплено нашу незалежність, ми повинні збагнути, у чому полягає відповідальність кожного з нас за укріплення обороноздатності нашої держави», – сказав Блаженніший Святослав.

Він пригадав, що сьогодні ми переживаємо річницю, можливо, найкривавіших подій, коли рік тому, саме в ці дні, на Донбасі розгорнулися найбільш кровопролитні бої за незалежність нашої Батьківщини. Ми пережили вторгнення регулярних військ Росії, і, за оприлюдненими даними, понад 600 наших героїв загинуло, ще 200 пропали безвісти, багато потрапили в полон, у якому перебувають до сьогодні.

«Обороноздатність України – чи не головне завдання, яке стоїть перед Президентом України та органами державної влади, – наголосив Блаженніший Святослав, – але, гадаю, у цей День Незалежності всі разом маємо відчутти, що, як українське суспільство, як український народ, ми повинні боронити свою землю, свою Батьківщину відповідно до дарів, завдань і покликань кожного. Сьогодні кожен має відповісти у своєму сумлінні на питання: а де є мій блокпост, який я зобов'язаний захищати до останньої краплі своєї крові?»

«Що сьогодні означає для нас будувати Україну як незалежну державу?» – запитав Предстоятель Церкви, говорячи про необхідність утверджувати

державні структури. Блаженніший зазначив, що сьогодні часто можна почути заклики боротися з українською владою... «Особисто я, – зазначив він, – дуже обережно поставився б до таких закликів. Я б радше сказав, що нам треба боротися за утвердження державних органів в Україні. Нам треба боротися за їхню чистоту, ефективність, за те, щоб ця влада справді стала нашою. Ми сьогодні як ніколи повинні відчутти відповідальність за українську владу. Можливо, сьогоднішня влада не відповідає нашим запитам, але ми мусимо відчутти відповідальність за правильний вибір тих, кому доручаємо виконувати державницькі функції. Говоримо про необхідність реформування влади. І це справедливо, адже багато механізмів її діяльності ми отримали в спадок ще з радянських часів. І відчуваємо своїм обов'язком зробити механізм державного будівництва цілком прозорим, європейським».

«Отож, – закликав Предстоятель УГКЦ, – як ми разом стояли на Майдані, борімося разом за справедливі, прозорі європейські механізми функціонування Української Держави».

Ще одним завданням українців сьогодні, вважає Блаженніший Святослав, є плекати державницьку свідомість і патріотизм, які є рушієм державного будівництва.

«Справжній патріотизм є базований на любові до своєї Батьківщини. Тому цей патріотизм дає можливість відновлювати наші сили, дає нам могутність, бо любов завжди надихає. Тільки любов може зробити з людини героя», – пояснив Глава УГКЦ.

При цьому він зазначив, що несправжній патріотизм вчить ненавидіти чужих: «І такий підхід швидко вичерпує сили людини, адже не можна ненавидіти вічно».

На завершення Блаженніший Святослав процитував слова митрополита Андрея, який сказав так: «Любов до свого народу зробила мене справжнім українським патріотом».

Департамент інформації УГКЦ

Letter from Fr. Ray August 30, 2015

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Dear _____

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

Happy New Year! Yep, this coming Tuesday will be September 1st, the first day of the new liturgical year. You had to have followed the cycle of feast days and fast days to have the joy of turning from the back of our church books and the last day of August to the front of the book, September 1. (Most of our liturgical books are printed with September 1 being the start, and August 31, the end). That's just one more, small, but very, very important "Byzantine Tidbit."

So have you made your resolutions for the New Year? I hope so. It's now the time to do it... The old man with the long beard, carrying the scythe is marching out and the little top-hatted baby in the diaper, is coming in. You know, the last days of August should conjure up the very same feelings of the end of a year as do the last days of December. Time to tear off that last calendar page and move ahead!

In December we recall the civil New Year, of course, and we are counselled and reminded to make those important decisions and commitments about how we are planning to live the next year. Basically, these resolutions all come down to answering these important questions, "How can I resolve to make myself a better person? What do I need to change, or overcome, in order to move forward?"

The end of the liturgical year, and the coming of the new, should cause us to take the same pause, but this time in the more important spiritual realm. We need to look over the year which is about to end. In this year-end review we then examine our conscience in order to find our faults and failings, and thus, to allow us to form those resolutions to "make us a better person" in the future. In looking back and doing this examination and soul-searching, we will find many blessings that have been bestowed upon us, blessings which may have

been forgotten or never noticed. We can't forget to thank God "for all His gifts and blessings, known and unknown, evident or concealed," as we pray during the Divine Liturgy.

With our resolutions made, we then move forward into the New Year and ask our Heavenly Father to continue to bless us with more days for our health and salvation. We pray for the future days when we will continue to love Him and to serve Him, as we journey to the Kingdom of Heaven. God bless you and grant you many happy and blessed years as you work out your salvation "while it is still daytime." Mnohaja Lita! Happy New Year!

Every once in a while I dedicate this letter to a special group of people. For example, in the past it's been among others, people in nursing homes, or perhaps "Baba's Kids" who no longer come to church. This week I think I need to make a special dedication to all our farmers and growers of the good things of this earth. God bless them and give them strength to carry out their important and life-giving labors. As we stroll the aisles and produce counters of our super markets rarely do we give thought, much less a prayer for those who, with God's help, produced all the food. So we stop today as remember them and say, "God bless you, O Tillers of the earth!" We think you are magnificent, special people!!!!

If I were a farmer, I would be a starving farmer! I don't know how they do it! This summer I have long ago conceded the battle for the garden to "Bambi", his Mom and Dad, as well as to Peter Rabbit and his clan. They easily devoured the vegetables as they grew. I must admit, we did get some nice flowers, but those "cute" deer and bunnies ☺ had a few feasts on the impatiens, roses, geraniums, before moving on to what appeared to be their very favorite, the hostas. Sadly, I didn't get one sunflower. That was Mister Squirrel, who stole some of the newly planted seeds, and then later on destroyed the young plants. Welcome to Father Ray's natural habitat! Soon as I finish your letter it's off to the Farmers' Market!! ☺

You know I joke a bit about all this, but it is really serious stuff. We are so blessed in this country to have the food we do. We are never in need of the basics and we have access to all kinds of delights for the palate and for the stomach. Where would we be without the farmers?!! Thank you to all who have been called to this vital task of growing food for our needs. May you be blessed with health and salvation, and may God grant you many happy years. Next time you see him or her, you've gotta hug your farmer!!!!

In several of your letters I recently wrote about the "Band of Brothers" of seminarians and priests. Late in July we had those visitors, then earlier this month I wrote about the priest and his family who visited Holy Protection to join us for Liturgy and fellowship. Well it's happened again...more of "the Band" got together last week. This time it was five of us meeting in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

We were four priests and one monk, all of whom entered St. Basil's Seminary in September 1961, fifty-four years ago! Yikes! "Hey Joe, tell me it ain't so!" It had been 48 to 50 years since we had last seen each other! We all enjoyed the opportunity to pray and to remember those seminary days which made us the "Band of Brothers." It was very good for us to be there, and we welcomed the time together. Hopefully, we will continue to meet from time to time, and maybe even find a few of the classmates who are still around somewhere, but whom we hadn't been able to contact. Once we were seminarians!

The 'festival frenzy' of summer is nearing its end, but I know throughout the Eparchy and Archeparchy, there are still a few more to go. Our Erie County Fair, "America's Fair," is history for 2015. For us in the Buffalo area, there is still one more and big one left in the church, and one more big one in Lewiston. The church event will be at St. John's in Kenmore on September 13 and the civic one will be the three day Peach Festival from Sept. 11-13. Good luck with the weather for mid-September. It can be anything from beautiful and summery to cold and raw gales!

As you change to the new Church year calendar now is also the time to mark in some other upcoming events. Pope is coming to Philly.... LUC Convention... Priest meeting in Chicago to name a few just off the top of my head. There is never an end to our entertainment. Just got to remember that much of what we do is mere futility. Remember in the gospel narrative read on all Marian feasts how we are told that Mary "took her place at the Lord's feet and listened to His words." When Martha complained about this, as she was busy with all the details of hospitality, the Lord said, "Martha, Martha, you trouble yourself with many things! But only one thing is necessary; and Mary has chosen the better part, which shall never be taken away from her." In all our comings and goings and all the "stuff" we have to do, we've got to be sure to always find time to sit at the Lord's feet and listen to His words. The hospitality needs to be done, the festivals have to be celebrated, the games have to be watched, and the travel needs to be accomplished, but they are nothing in comparison to "the one thing necessary." When we sit at His feet He promised Martha and Mary, and He promises us, "It will never be taken away!!"

August, one of the most beautiful months of the year, in my humble opinion is now almost over. It was days filled with blessings of all kinds. We celebrated the "Three Feasts of the Savior", the Holy Dormition of the Theotokos and had all the blessings of honey, fruit and flowers. On the 29th we celebrated the courageous and faithful John the Baptizer and tomorrow we close out the church year, remembering once again the Most Holy Theotokos, and the placing of her precious sash in the church at Calcoprateia. Yes, the beginning day and ending day of the liturgical year are dedicated to our Holy Lady. May we always feel the warmth of her embrace throughout the coming year! God bless you! Happy New Year!

In His Love,

Fr. Ray

Папа: Хай Господь подасть мир Україні!



Папа Франциск промовляє з вікна Апостольського палацу у Ватикані. 23 серпня 2015

«Дорогі брати й сестри, з глибокою тривогою слідкую за конфліктом на сході України, який знову загострився останніми тижнями. Повторюю ще раз свій стурбований заклик, щоб були дотримувані зобов'язання, взяті з метою досягнення примирення, і щоб з допомогою організацій та людей доброї волі, було дано відповідь на надзвичайну гуманітарну ситуацію в країні. Нехай Господь подасть мир Україні, яка готується до відзначення завтра національного свята. Нехай заступається за нас Пречиста Діва Марія!», – цими словами Папа Франциск, промовляючи у неділю, 23 серпня 2015 р., після проказування молитви «Ангел Господній», напередодні Дня незалежності України вчергове побажав їй миру, молячись за нього з десятками тисяч паломників на площі Св. Петра у Ватикані.

Діти із зони проведення АТО на Сході України зустрілися з Папою

З ініціативи Посольства України при Святому Престолі, у загальній аудієнції з Папою Франциском середу, 19 серпня 2015 р.,

взяли участь діти з України, які походять із теренів проведення Антитерористичної Операції на сході України. Під час зустрічі, що відбулася напередодні 24-ї річниці Незалежності України, діти, частина з яких – сироти із родин Донбасу та учасників АТО, просили Святішого Отця молитися за мир в Україні, відвідати їхню батьківщину та подарували картину із зображенням православного собору на фоні українського пейзажу.



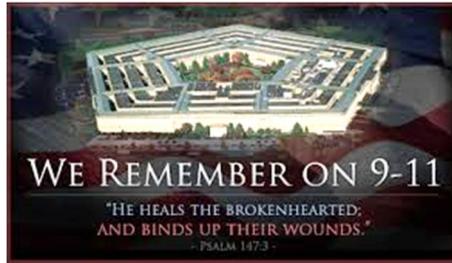
Папа вітає дітей з України на загальній аудієнції 19 серпня 2015 - OSS_ROM

Хоч ми і православні, але сьогоднішня зустріч з Папою Римським означає для нас оживити надію на краще майбутнє, надію на примирення між нашими людьми», – наводить слова учасників зустрічі ватиканська щоденна газета «L'Osservatore Romano».

Група дітей з України, які постраждали внаслідок збройного конфлікту на сході країни, від 22 липня до 28 серпня перебуває в Італії з метою оздоровлення та відпочинку в у рамках спільного проекту Посольства з благодійною католицькою організацією "I Bambini visti dalla Luna" (м. Казальн-контрада, регіон Абрुццо), де проживають в італійських родинах.

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr. (2)

In Saint Paul's letter to the Romans we are reminded: "Now we know that for those who love God, all things work together unto good, for those who, according to His purpose, are Saints through His call" (Romans 8:28). Al had survived the WTC bombing in 1993; he even helped a



woman with asthma escape from the building. Jeannie didn't think it would be any different this time. "I knew he would stop to help and minister to people," she said, "but I never thought for a minute that he wouldn't come home." Family members held out hope that Al had only been injured in the events of September 11, 2001. They called area hospitals, searching for him. But, Jeannie said, "By the time I went to bed that night, I knew he was never coming home." A week later, Al's body was found in the rubble. Then reports trickled in from friends and acquaintances. Some people on the 105th floor of the WTC had made a last call or sent a final e-mail to a loved one saying that "a man" was leading people in prayer. A few referred to Al by name. His family learned that Al had indeed been ministering to people during the attack. When he realized that they were all trapped in the building and would not be able to escape, Al shared the Gospel with a group of 50 co-workers and led them in prayer. This news came as no surprise to Jeannie. For years, Al had been praying for the salvation of these men and women. According to Jeannie, Al hated his job; he couldn't stand the environment. It was a world so completely out of touch with his Christian values. But he wouldn't quit. He was convinced that God wanted him to stay there, to be a light in the darkness. To that end, Al freely shared his faith with his co-workers, many of whom sarcastically nicknamed him "the Rev." "They mocked him," Jeannie recalled, "but when horrible things happened in their lives, they always asked Al for prayer." He prayed with them and shared the importance of having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He wanted to be a light and to shine, and let people see Jesus in all of us. Al's daughter even told reporters, "The last thing my dad did involved the two things most important to him - God and his family. He loved to lead people to Christ. And right now, that takes away a lot of the hurt and the pain". Scripture reminds us today: "For many are called, but few are chosen". There is no doubt that Al heard the invitation of Christ, the Divine summons

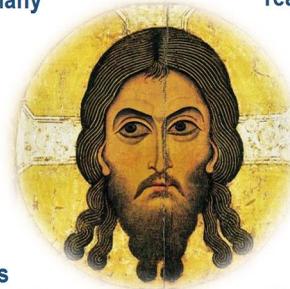
of the Lord in his heart and chose to follow it, while bringing others closer to God. How many of us listening today have heard the divine call and still chosen to follow Christ?

The idea of distinction between a Divine call and a definitive choice is found at the beginning of the Epistle reading for this Sunday (2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4). The greater part of the text refers to personal difficulties that St. Paul experiences with certain members of the Church of Corinth, but the first two verses remind us that: "God hath anointed us... hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts". These three metaphors: an anointing, a seal, and a pledge, express the same idea of a beginning, of a point of departure that also beautifully parallels the Gospel reading for today. What must be made clear is that someone who has received these signs of being called is already admitted to the Kingdom of God, but does not yet belong to it definitively. They possess, if one can so express it, the 'first installment' of Eternal life. But the climax is still to come, and it is our duty as faithful members of God's Church to prepare ourselves for it. (Excerpt taken from: *The Year of Grace of the Lord.*)

The good news is that the invitation still stands. God has prepared a spiritual Feast for everyone who will come to Him. But no one will enjoy the "feast" of the Kingdom unless we are willing to take part in God during our lives here on earth. I cannot help but feel that if God had the opportunity to speak to us this afternoon, His biggest regret would be for all the times that we missed out on an opportunity to be with Him, to get to know Him better, because we were more preoccupied with our own personal concerns than we were about doing what was right. But the good news, my brothers and sisters, is that the invitation remains. Whether or not we come to the Feast depends from you and me. Whether or not we are wearing the proper garment of grace is still up to you and me. If we take the Kingdom of God for granted, we will miss out on Christ. But if we give the King's invitation the priority it deserves, willing to believe in our Lord and obey Him, then we will receive Lord's gift of salvation and inherit God's Kingdom for all Eternity. Each of us has been called, divinely summoned in one way or another, so let us live our lives in such a way that we will be chosen by God.

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr. (1)

The Gospel for this 14th Sunday after Pentecost records how a King prepared a feast for the occasion of his son's marriage; he sends his servants to call on those who were invited, but they inevitably excuse themselves for one reason or another; they cannot attend the feast because of their important business negotiations, because they must work their farms, or because of their many other obligations; some even go so far as to ill-treat or put to death some of these servants of the King. St. Matthew then goes on to tell us that in response to this, the King destroys the murderers, and instead of retrieving the other unworthy guests, he sends his servants into the highways and the byways, to gather all those they can find. The house is then filled for the wedding feast; however, the King notices that one guest in particular is not wearing a proper wedding garment. He has this guest bound and thrown into the outer darkness where he can "wail and grind his teeth". The general meaning of today's Gospel is very clear. Here, we are concerned with that great and continual feast which is the union – the marriage – between Christ and all of humanity. Each of us is invited by the Lord to take part in this union, each of us has received the invitation through the sacraments of the Church, but the Gospel warns us that consequences await those who prefer the things of this world over the wedding feast of the Son of God. And for those who would dare to kill the messengers of the King, it is made clear that others will take their place. "For many are called, but few are chosen".



The King sincerely desires that all should come to his feast, "As many as you shall find, bid to the marriage feast", but God has also given us freewill to choose whether we will attend; He will not force us to enter into marriage with His Son or partake of this glorious feast unless it is likewise our desire to do so. Rather, we must be prepared when we are invited to the feast, and being prepared means seeking redemption, being pardoned for our sins, by accepting the opportunities of purification and communion offered to us through Christ, Jesus in the form of the sacraments. God does not expect us sinners to come to Him on our own merits, for we have none; instead He brings us into his home, the Church, purely through His own grace and mercy, and opens to us this gift of salvation by extending to us this invitation to live in

constant communion with Christ. However, it is for each of us to make use of this divine opportunity and prepare ourselves to take our place, repentant and pardoned, at the Lord's Feast. In this way only, can we hope to clothe ourselves in the proper wedding garment and having been invited - be chosen and accepted by the Almighty One. But very few, as we find out from today's Gospel reading, even from among those whom this king has so generously invited into his home, actually prepare themselves for the feast. The warning in today's Gospel amounts to this reality: Each of us has been called, but how many among us will be chosen? To accept the invitation of Christ requires a willingness to strive toward the same spiritual perfection that our Lord sought out among His Apostles.

Our salvation and everything that comes with it is only made possible because of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He met every condition for our salvation and the only thing we are asked to do is to accept His invitation, to come and partake of the Feast. This Feast is to celebrate our reunion with God and the blessings He has bestowed upon us, His chosen people. It is to celebrate the marriage of His Son, Jesus Christ with His bride, the Church. But whether or not we come to the Feast depends from us. We cannot do anything to merit our invitation. Christ did all that was necessary by paying the penalty for our sins. All we need do is acknowledge what He has done for us, seek repentance for our sins, and believe that Jesus rose from the dead so we might have Eternal life. God has sent out His invitations, we see them inscribed throughout the stories of the Old and New Testament - but there are different ways in which people respond. Some are indifferent to God's Word while others appear too busy, but the invitation remains, it is present in every aspect of the world around us, even in the disadvantaged people we pass along the street without taking much notice of them. Because even in the least of our brethren, Jesus lives! And yet, sadly enough, many of us refuse the invitation of Christ, we refuse to wear the garment of grace; and because of this, we stand to lose our relationship with God. We neglect the people of this world in which God has created, because we place our own personal concerns before the needs of others. But there are those faithful believers who are prepared to accept this Divine summons with a pure heart, and we pray to be one among them.



Thanks are extended to all catechists (from left to right) Elaine Nowadly, Mary Bodnar, Anne Serediuk, Susan Szczublevski, as well as Stephanie Berghold & Michelle Michalow. God Bless you



Thanks are extended to all those who joined us in Prayers for Ukraine in Fatima Shrine, Youngstown. May the Holy Theotokos protect Ukraine in her quest for Peace!!! Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, Have mercy on us!



Hudymiak Family after the Funeral of +Anna Hudiamak

