



Thanks are extended to Fr. Edward Young for conducting the Retreat-Mission in our Parish last weekend, March 21st and 22nd. Thank you all who attend. God Bless You, Fr. Edward! It was good to be with you.

Сердечна подяка о. Едвардові Юнгві за згоду провадити реколекції-місіями у суботу і неділю, 21 і 22 березня. Хай Господь щедро благословить! На многая і Благая Літа! Дякуємо усім за участь!



SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ

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ПІД ОПІКОЮ
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ
МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ

13

UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN

March 29 – 2026 – 29 березня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

МОЛИТВА

(якою молилася св. Марія
Єгипетська до Богородиці)

«О Діво, Владичице, що породила
плоттю Бога Слова, знаю, воістину
знаю, що нема тобі ні честі, ні пох-
вали, коли така нечиста й скверна
блудниця дивиться на твою чесну
ікону Пречистої Приснодиви Марії,
що має тіло й душу чисту й несквер-
ну. Справедливо, щоб твоя дівст-
венна чистота гидувала мною й не-
навиділа мене, блудницю. Та чула
я, що Бог, якого ти породила, на те
став чоловіком, щоб призвати гріш-
ників до покаяння. Поможі мені,
котрій ніхто не може допомогти, по-
вели, щоб і я могла зайти до цер-
кви, дозволи мені бачити Чесне Де-
рево, до якого був плоттю приби-
тий Бог, що народився із тебе, що
віддав свою Кров за моє спасіння.
Повели, Владичице, щоб і мені, не-
достойній, відчинилися двері, щоб
і я могла поклонитися божествен-
ному Хресту. І будь мені найпевні-
шою поручителькою. Коли святе
хресне Дерево Сина твого побачу,
то цього світу і всього, що в ньому,
відречуся». Амінь!



CHURCH BULLETIN

March 29 – 2026 – 29 березня

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



St. Nicholas Ukr. Cath. Church

Церква Святого Миколая

(Під Опікою П.Д.М.)

ПОРЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM +Mykola Paslawsky (family) – Mykola's birthday **STREAMING**

29 березня: 5 н. Великого Посту **STREAMING**
March 29: 5th Sunday of Great Lent

10:00 AM +Євстахій Данчак (внучка)

Monday, March 30 березня, понеділок

Tuesday, March 31 березня, вівторок
11:00 AM За всіх що загинули у війні в Україні

Wednesday, April 1 квітня, середа
12:00 PM Presanctified gifts – Преждеосв. Дари

Thursday, April 2 квітня, четвер
9:00 AM За всіх хворих – For all sick & suffering

Friday, April 3 квітня, п'ятниця
12:00 PM Presanctified gifts – Преждеосв. Дари
Sorokousty – Сорокоусти

Saturday, April 4 квітня, субота
9:00 AM За Парохіян – For Parishioners
3:00 PM Blessing of the Pascha for Gregorian Cal.
Благословення пасок для грегор. кал.

4:30 PM +Michael Ikiwskyj (family) **STREAMING**

5 квітня: КВІТНА НЕДІЛЯ **STREAMING**
April 5: PALM SUNDAY

10:00 AM За Мир в Україні – For Peace in Ukraine

Monday, April 6 квітня, понеділок
5:00 PM +Ray Kowalyk – 40th day
and Panachyda (Family)

Вічне світло горить за мир в Україні
Eternal Light burns for peace in Ukraine

Eternal Light Honoring Mother of God
burns for Special Intention (Maria Petryshyn)

Roof Fund (additional donations):

In memory of Ray Kowalyk

Akacia Belmega – \$100.00
Zino Kowal – \$100.00
Lesia Nowey – \$100.00
Janet Smolinski – \$100.00
Maria Petreshyn – \$50.00
Carole Wright – \$50.00
Olga Bula – \$40.00
Mary Ann Puhacz – \$40.00

Thanks are extended to all who donated to the
Roof Fund in Memory of +Ray Kowalyk, and the
family who assigned it to this needed cause! God
Bless you all! Eternal Memory to +Ray Kowalyk!

Молитва св. Єфрема Сирина (+373)

Господи і Владико життя мого, духа
лінивства, недбалости, властолюб'я і
пустослов'я віджини від мене. (поклін)
Духа чистоти, покори, терпеливості і любови
дай мені слуги твому. (поклін)
Так, Господи царю, дай мені бачити провини
мої, і не осуджувати брата мого ні сестри
моєї, бо ти благословен єси на віки вічні.
Амінь! (поклін)



Prayer of St. Ephrem (+373)

O Lord and Master of my life, Take away from me
the will to be lazy and to be sad, the desire to get
ahead of other people, to boast and brag.
(Profound bow)

Give me instead, a pure and humble spirit, the
will to be patient with other people and to love
them. (Profound bow)

Let me realize my own mistakes, and keep me
from judging the things other people do. For you
are blessed, now and forever, Amen. (Prof. bow)

Christina H. Arthurs, Attorney
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Buffalo Branch Ukrainian Home Dnipro 562 Genesee Street Buffalo NY 14204 (716) 847-6655 www.ukrainianfcu.org	Amherst Branch Ellicott Creek Plaza 2882 Niagara Falls Blvd Amherst NY 14228 (716) 799-8385 www.ukrainianfcu.org
Business Hours Closed Wednesdays, Зачинені по середах Mon., Tuesday, Thursday 9:30 am - 5 pm Пон., вівторок, четвер Friday / П'ятниця 9:30 am - 6 pm Saturday / Субота 9 am - 1 pm	Business Hours Closed Mondays, Зачинені по понеділках Tuesday - Thursday 9:30 am - 5 pm 3 вівторка по четвер Friday / П'ятниця 9:30 am - 6 pm Saturday / Субота 9 am - 1 pm

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DNIPRO ДНІПРО

Ukrainian Cultural Center

562 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14204 856-4476

www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com

facebook.com/DniproUkrainianCulturalCenter

Lounge is OPEN every Friday 5-9 pm.

Підтримайте Ваш Народний Дім

Birthday wishes to the following parishioners
who celebrate a birthday in April:

Susan Szczublewski 1
Bohdan Nazarevych 3
Maria Sedlarczuk 7
Keith Curtis 7
Roksolana Miecyjak 7
Andrew Chwesik 8
Andrew Paul Malaniak 10
Igor Nazaruk 11
Diana Derhak 11
Melissa Obermiller 12
George Borowiec 12
Diana Dmytrasz 14
Luba Terech 18
Victor Bandriwsky 18
Jack Julian 19
Natalia Menclewicz 20
Nataliya Almeter 24
Phillip Procyk 24
Bohdan Kowalczuk 25
Myron Prystyko 27
Mykola Kurij 28
Michael Michalow 29
Marianne Katherine Chort 29

And our Children:

Alannah Ann Dailay 2
Leo Edward Zimmer 6
Alexander Peter Trojan 7
Sophia Manriquez 9
Pavlo Dumin 17
Milayna Berghold 25

Many Happy Years!
На Многая і Благая Літа!

Tuesday, March 31 at 6:00 PM
St. John the Baptist
3275 Elmwood Ave, Kenmore, NY 14217
Confessions available before and after the lecture

Вівторок, 31 березня о 6 годині вечером
St. John the Baptist
3275 Elmwood Ave, Kenmore, NY 14217
Сповідь до і після науки

Sunday, March 29th
11am - 5pm

at Holy Trinity Ukrainian
Orthodox Church Hall
200 Como Park Ave. Cheektowaga, NY 14227

PIEROGI EASTER FEST

AID For UKRAINE Fundraiser

Potato, Cheese & Kraut Pierogi

- Cabbage Rolls
- Borscht
- Cakes & Cookies
- Shish Kebobs
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- Easter Bread (paska)
- Basket Raffle
- Ukrainian Souvenirs

Dine-In or Take-Out

Pre-order To-Go Cabbage Rolls & Pierogi - Text to 716-324-6625



www.UkrainiansofBuffalo.com/fundraiser2026
Make checks payable to: Aid for Ukraine UFCU
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Sponsored by Buffalo Area Ukrainian Churches and Organizations

Lenten Spiritual Lecture

Professor Dr. Vasile Babota
Professor of Sacred Scripture
Pontifical Gregorian University (Rome-Vatican)
Director of the Ukrainian Bible Translation "Kyivska Biblia"

Enter More Deeply into
the Word of God This Lent

- Grow in understanding of God's Word
- Deepen our Lenten conversion
- Strengthen our faith through biblical insight
- Prepare our hearts for the Resurrection of Christ

ВЕЛИКОПОСНА ДУХОВНА ЛЕКЦІЯ

Професор д-р Василь Бабота
Професор Святого Письма
Папської Григоріанської Університету (Рим - Ватикан)
Директор українського перекладу Біблії "Київська Біблія"

Занурімося глибше в Боже Слово
в часі Великого Посту

- Глибше зрозуміти Боже Слово
- Поповити великопосне навернення
- Зміцнити віру через біблійне пізнання
- Приготувати серця до Воскресіння Христового

Dnipro Update

Bar and kitchen open Fridays at 6pm. Support our cook Tatiana and try her delicious, home cooked Ukrainian meals.

Rent out our spaces for your next party or event email bookdnipro@gmail.com or call 856-4476

Annual membership - Please renew your membership or become a Dnipro member. Only \$20 for Ukrainians and \$25 for social membership. Inquire at the bar to fill out a form.

Event Calendar:

March 29 Aid for Ukraine Fundraiser
Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church,
200 Como Park Blvd, 11am-5pm Basket raffles,
Ukrainian food, vendors, baked goods.

April 6 Dyngus Day - DJ Joe Gould
Dnipro 5-10pm Kitchen and Bar open. DJ Gould
playing popular favorites and Polish polkas 6-9pm

April 24 Live Music - Willie May Blues Band
Dnipro 7-10pm Buffalo's award winning
Blues band. Kitchen open 6-9pm

May 1 Live Music - Olivia Amorian
Dnipro 7-9pm Playing original and popular
music. Kitchen open 6-9pm

May 29 Live Music - Bria Blessing
Dnipro 7-8:30pm. Bria Blessing was born in Texas
but traveled to Ukraine and lived there for 25 years
embracing Ukrainian culture and spirit. She sings
and speaks flawlessly in Ukrainian. She was even
on the famous Ukrainian singing competition TV
show "Voice of Ukraine."

June 5 Latin Night with Son Borikua
Dnipro 7-10pm playing latin music.
Professional Latin dance lesson.

Thank you for your support!

Slava Ukraini/Glory to Ukraine!
Heroyam Slava/Glory to the heroes!

Adrianna Liddell
Operations Director
Dnipro Ukrainian Cultural Center

John Paul Szczublewski Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Award



John Paul was selected by the Kate Gleason College of Engineering to receive the Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Award. They had a beautiful ceremony on Thursday, March 26, 2026 during which John Paul and the other recipients were given a special engraved medallion by the RIT President and Provost. It is the highest honor given by RIT. "The Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Award celebrates the top 1% of undergraduate students who achieve academic excellence while also giving back to the community through civic or volunteer work, and by conducting research, being engaged in co-op work experiences in their field of study, and demonstrating exceptional leadership while also participating in various extracurricular activities."

Congratulations, John Paul
Many Happy Years! Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!



- CHURCH KITCHEN is now CLOSED
Check with us later – Things might change.
- Thank you for your help and patronage!
- Thanks are extended to all volunteers!
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall.

See you there!
HAVE A BLESSED DAY!!!

5th Sunday of Lent



5 Неділя Великого Посту

Ukrainian American Freedom Foundation
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Організація Оборони Чотирьох Свобід України
ODFFU – Buffalo, NY – Branch # 22
Emil Bandriwsky, President

CHURCH BULLETIN is published weekly.
Deadline for information is Thursday evening.
ЦЕРК. ВІСНИК видається тижнево.
Інформації просимо подавати до четверга.

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Baptism: By appointment
Хрещення: За домовленням
Marriage: Contact 6 months in advance
Вінчання: Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

Religion classes – Релігійна Програма
See bulletin for scheduled dates.

Ministry to the sick – Опіка над хворима
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

Please call if you are Hospitalized,
Homebound and need a priest.
Просимо закликати якщо ви у
лічниці або приковані до ліжка!

Story of Mary of Egypt: Zosima went far, far into the desert with a secret hope of finding some father who might be living there.... And he wandered on tireless, as if hurrying on to some definite place. He had already walked for 20 days and when the 6th hour came he stopped and, turning to the East, he began to sing the sixth Hour and recite the customary prayers. He used to break his journey thus at fixed hours of the day to rest a little, to chant psalms standing and to pray on bent knees. And as he sang thus without turning his eyes from the heavens, he suddenly saw to the right of the hillock on which he stood the semblance of a human body. At first he was confused thinking he beheld a vision of the devil, and even started with fear. But, having guarded himself with he sign of the Cross and banished all fear, he turned his gaze in that direction and in truth saw some form gliding southwards. It was naked, the skin dark as if burned up by the heat of the sun; the hair on its head was white as a fleece, and not long, falling just below its neck. Zosima was so overjoyed at beholding a human form that he ran after it in pursuit, but the form fled from him. He followed. At length, when he was near enough to be heard, he shouted: "Why do you run from an old man and a sinner? Slave of the True God, wait for me, whoever you are, in God's name I tell you, for the love of God for Whose sake you are living in the desert." "Forgive me for God's sake, but I cannot turn towards you and show you my face, Abba Zosima. For I am a woman and naked as you see with the uncovered shame of my body. But if you would like to fulfill one wish of a sinful woman, throw me your cloak so that I can cover my body and can turn to you and ask for your blessing." Here terror seized Zosima, for he heard that she called him by name. But he realized that she could not have done so without knowing anything of him if she had not had the power of spiritual insight. He at once did as he was asked. He took off his old, tattered cloak and threw it to her, turning away. She picked it up and was able to cover at least a part of her body.

Then she turned to Zosima and said: "Why did you wish, Abba Zosima, to see a sinful woman? What do you wish to hear or learn from me, you who have not shrunk from such great struggles?" Zosima threw himself on the ground and asked for her blessing. She likewise bowed down before him. And thus they lay on the ground prostrate asking for each other's blessing. And one word alone could be heard from both: "Bless me!" After a long while the woman said to Zosima: "Abba Zosima, it is you who must give blessing and pray. You are dignified by the order of priesthood and for many years you have been standing before the holy altar and offering the sacrifice of

the Divine Mysteries." This flung Zosima into even greater terror. At length with tears he said to her: "O mother, filled with he spirit, by your mode of life it is evident that you live with God and have died to the world. The Grace granted to you is apparent -- for you have called me by name and recognized that I am a priest, though you have never seen me before. Grace is recognized not by one's orders, but by gifts of the Spirit, so give me your blessing for God's sake, for I need your prayers." Then giving way before the wish of the elder the woman said: "Blessed is God Who cares for the salvation of men and their souls." Zosima answered: "Amen." And both rose to their feet. Then the woman asked the elder: "Why have you come, man of God, to me who am so sinful? Why do you wish to see a woman naked and devoid of every virtue? Though I know one thing -- the Grace of the Holy Spirit has brought you to render me a service in time. Tell me, father, how are the Christian peoples living? And the kings? How is the Church guided?" Zosima said: "By your prayers, mother, Christ has granted lasting peace to all. But fulfill the unworthy petition of an old man and pray for the whole world and for me who am a sinner, so that my wanderings in the desert may not be fruitless." She answered: "You who are a priest, Abba Zosima, it is you who must pray for me and for all -- for this is your calling. But as we must all be obedient, I will gladly do what you ask." And with these words she turned to the East, and raising her eyes to heaven and stretching out her hands, she began to pray in a whisper.

One could not hear separate words, so that Zosima could not understand anything that she said in her prayers. Meanwhile he stood, according to his own word, all in a flutter, looking at the ground without saying a word. ... he took his eyes off the ground and saw that she was raised about a forearm's distance from the ground and stood praying in the air. When he saw this, even greater terror seized him and he fell on the ground weeping and repeating many times, "Lord have mercy." And whilst lying prostrate on the ground he was tempted by a thought: Is it not a spirit, and perhaps her prayer is hypocrisy. But at the very same moment the woman turned round, raised the elder from the ground and said: "Thoughts, tempting you about me, trouble you, Abba, telling you I am a spirit, and that my prayer is feigned? Know, holy father, that I am only a sinful woman, though I am guarded by Holy baptism. And I am no spirit but earth and ashes, and flesh alone."...

This is only part of the Story of St. Mary of Egypt.

Here is the link if you wish to read it in full:

<https://www.stmaryofegypt.com/maryofegypt>

5 НЕДІЛЯ ВЕЛИКОГО ПОСТУ

Сьогодні П'ята неділя Великого посту. Євангеліє від Марка розповідає нам про подію, коли двоє братів – Яків та Іван – приступають до Христа з проханням, щоб у Його Царстві могли вони сидіти один по правиці, а другий – по лівиці. У Євангелії від Матея згадується подібне, тільки там їхня мати Соломія сама приступає до Христа з вище згаданої причини. Очевидно, батьки завжди журяться своїми дітьми, стараються вивести їх в люди, щоби їм краще жилося, при цьому інколи не звертаючи увагу на інших. Можемо собі увити реакцію інших апостолів. Вони нарікають на Івана та Якова, називають їх самолюбамі. Безперечно, у них у самих були схожі думки, не розуміючи Христового завдання тут, на Землі. Вони мріяли про визволення від римлян, і зовсім не звертали увагу на Христа, який аж тричі сповістив їм про свою смерть, але також згадав і про Воскресіння. Апостоли не журилися, що станеться з Христом, не думали, що означає те, що Він воскресне з мертвих. Вони журилися, що буде з ними і їхньою кар'єрою.

Добре бажати великого. До цього усі ми покликані, але важливо при цьому, щоб все чинити справедливо і когось не скривдити; не заздрити тим, кому краще ведеться; не намагатися когось очорнити, щоб себе підвищити.

Досить часто ми заздримо долі, щастю або маєткам інших людей. Хотіли би бути подібними до них або й кращими, хотіли би мати те, що мають інші, або може ще більше. «Коли б я був багатий, як мій сусід, ото б мені добре жилося. Я був би щасливий», - згадував часто один заздрісний чоловік у своїх молитвах. Далі легенда розповідає, що ангел приступає до нього і каже: «Небо почуло твої молитви, і мене прислано сповнити твої бажання, але тільки під однією умовою. Вртішений чоловік потер радісно руки, сердечно подякував і з цікавістю запитав: «І яка ж це умова?» Тоді ангел пояснив: «Щоразу, коли ти щось здобудеш, твоєму сусідові дасться вдвічі більше.» Чоловік опустив руки, глибоко зітхнув, похитав головою і сумно промовив: "Краще, нехай такого не буде, не хочу нічо-



го, бо це насправді того не варте. Немає причини, щоб мій сусід збагачувався за мій рахунок, і ще й мав більше, ніж я».

Незалежно від того скільки у нас всього є, ми завжди хочемо мати більше. Нам важко прийняти думку, що інші у чому будуть нас перевищувати. Нам бракує скромності. Ми звикли вину за наші невдачі перекидати на інших, хоча у більшості ми самі при тому завинили. Не одну справу можна б легко полагодити, коли б ми навчилися більше слухати, а менше говорити; більше вчитися від інших, замість старатися за всяку ціну їх навчати, накидаючи свою думку; більше приглядатися, як інші роблять, щоб могли зробити краще, а не робити по-своєму, а потім нарікати, що інші мали кращі ідеї.

Заздрість поволи забиває людину. Ми всяко намагаємося переконати інших, щоб вони добре про нас говорили, щоби хвалили нас навіть тоді, коли ми цього не заслужили. Не раз стараємося очорнювати інших, щоб вижитися, і так поволи забуваємо про любов до ближніх, тішимося їхніми нещастями і врешті сходимо з дороги справедливості.

Просім Господа, щоб дав нам більше лагідності і скромності, а забрав від нас заздрість, себелюбство і прагнення панувати над іншими. Коли ми готові заздівувати іншим, подумаймо, наскільки добре ми їх знаємо. Можливо, у них є певні труднощі, про які ми не знаємо, тяжкі хрести, які вони, одначе, несуть без нарікання.

Одного разу якось жінка нарікала перед Господом: «Іншим добре ведеться, а на моїй дорозі завжди якісь хрести. Наплечник моїх страждань затяжкий». І Господь сказав: «Вибирай будь-який наплечник від тих осіб, яких добре знаєш». Жінка втішилася і сказала: «Ось вибираю наплечник моєї сусідки. Вона завжди усміхнена, у неї, мабуть, все добре». Але коли одягнула його, то здивувалася, бо сусідчин наплечник був набагато тяжчий. «Чому так, Господи?» – запитала жінка. «Бо вона має набагато більше, ніж ти пронести. У неї клопоти в родині, клопоти зі здоров'ям...». «Але вона завжди виглядає веселою!». «І Гос-



подь відповів: "Бо вона приймає все, як випробування, і я даю їй сили витримувати різні труднощі...». Тоді жінка промовила: «Дякую Тобі, Господи, що показав мені дорогу, якою маю йти. Допоможи і мені переносити мої труднощі і не зламатися».

Інколи інші заздять нам. Можливо, нашому доброму родинному життю, нашим талантам, не раз не використаним, може нашому здоров'ю. Розповідають, як одного разу директор банку проходячи повз садівника, подумав: «Так би хотілося бути на природі, не сидіти цілий час за бюрком, у задимленій кімнаті, на повні груди дихати свіжим повітрям, бути здоровим, як отой садівник». У той сам час думки садівника трохи іншими: «Коли б я був на місті цього директора банку. Був би багатий, щасливий, міг би купити собі, що душа забажає, сидів би за своїм бюрком у просторій кімнаті». Наскільки це виглядає правдивим. Бо ми бажаємо саме того, чого бракує нам, не вміючи поцінувати те, що Господь вже нам дав.

Постараймося використати це чим Господь нас обдарував, постараймося іншим допомогти використати їхні таланти, і тішмося їхніми успіхами. Якщо заздрість зайде у наше серце, молімся. Молімся за себе, щоб перестати бути заздрісними, молімся за тих, що є причиною нашої заздрости, щоб вони мали ще більші успіхи і не журімся, що це можливо могло б нам пошкодити. Кожний і кожна з нас має сповнити своє завдання у житті. На це Господь нас покликав і дав нам можливість з'єднатися колись з Ним і бути постійно по Його правici. *(З радіо «Милосердний Самар'янин»)*

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

A man asked God how long a million years was to Him. God replied, "It is just like a single second of your time, my child." The man then asked, "What about a million dollars?" The Lord replied, "To Me, it is just like a single penny." The man gathered himself up and said, "Well, Lord, could I have one of your pennies?" God said, "Certainly, my child... just a second." The request of James and John in today's Gospel reading was not for a millions dollars, but it was a significant request. They were asking if they could sit at the right and left hand of God in His kingdom. There is much of John and James in each of us. We all desire for the goodness of the Lord to fill our lives, and for God to respond to our needs in the way that we desire. We often ask in prayer for the Lord to intercede on our behalf. To lift us from our trials and suffering, so we may have a better circumstance. But prayer is not the ability to have our will done in Heaven... it should be about having God's will done on earth. James

and John wanted to be seated on either side of Jesus as He came into the Kingdom of God. They understood and believed that He was the Son of God. But Jesus, instead of rebuking them for their self-centered request, reminded them of what would be required for them to be rewarded in Heaven. In their case it would require suffering, as the Son of Man would be made to suffer in order to redeem the world.

When approached by His disciples about true greatness, Jesus describes greatness not in the terms of how many people serve under one, but how many people one serves. Real greatness is in being a servant to all. Those who exercise lordship over others think only of themselves. But those who are great in the Lord's Kingdom are those who think of others first. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that Heaven's ideal of greatness is much different than the world we live in. The world's ideal of success is how many people can I get ahead of whereas Heaven's ideal of success is how many people can I help along the way. This reminds me of the church in Seoul, Korea. They have up to 7 services each Sunday, and they have had as many as 200,000 attend their services on one Sunday.

When the priest dismisses his services with the final blessing, he tells the people to find someone in the streets of Seoul and help them. And they do just that. Apart from their witnessing, some help young mothers carry groceries up the stairs. Others help elderly people onto public transportation. They seek out others and become a servant to all they can. We are to be more than professors that know we are saved, we are to be confessors that show we are saved. We are to be more than saved sinners, we are to also be serving saints. Our motive is to honor God. Our ministry is to help others.

Before the dawn, one Friday morning, I noticed a young man, handsome and strong, walking the alleys of our City. He was pulling an old cart filled with clothes both bright and new, and he was calling in a clear, tenor voice: "Rags. Rags! New rags for old! I take your tired rags! Rags!" "Now, this is a wonder," I thought to myself, for the man stood six-feet-four, and his arms were like tree limbs, hard and muscular, and his eyes flashed intelligence. Could he find no better job than this, to be a ragman in the inner city? I followed him. My curiosity drove me. And I was not disappointed. Soon the Ragman saw a woman sitting on her back porch. She was sobbing into a handkerchief, sighing, and shedding a thousand tears. Her shoulders shook. Her heart was breaking. The Ragman stopped his cart. Quietly, he walked to the woman, stepping around tin cans, dead toys, and Pam pers. "Give me your rag," he said so gently, "and I will give you another." He slipped the

handkerchief from her eyes. She looked up, and he placed across her palm, a linen cloth so clean and new that it shined. She blinked from the gift to the giver. Then, as he began to pull his cart again, the Ragman did a strange thing: he put her stained handkerchief to his own face; and then HE began to weep, to sob as grievously as she had done, his shoulders shaking. Yet she was left without a tear. "This IS a wonder," I breathed to myself, and I followed the sobbing Ragman, much like a child who cannot turn away from mystery. "Rags! Rags! New rags for old!" In a little while, when the sky showed gray behind the rooftops and I could see the shredded curtains hanging out black windows, the Ragman came upon a girl whose head was wrapped in a bandage, whose eyes were empty. Blood soaked her bandage. A single line of blood ran down her cheek. Now the tall Ragman looked upon this child with pity, and he drew a lovely yellow bonnet from his cart. "Give me your rag," he said, tracing his own line on her cheek, "and I will give you mine." The child could only gaze at him while he loosened the bandage, removed it, and tied it to his own head. The bonnet he set on hers. And I gasped at what

I saw: for with the bandage went the wound! Against his brow it ran a darker, more substantial blood - HIS own! "Rags! Rags! I take old rags!" cried the sobbing, bleeding, strong, intelligent Ragman. The sun hurt both the sky, now, and my eyes; the Ragman seemed more and more to hurry. "Are you going to work?" he asked a man who leaned against a telephone pole. The man shook his head. The Ragman pressed him: "Do you have a job?" "I cannot work," remarked the man. He pulled away from the pole, revealing the right sleeve of his jacket - flat, the cuff stuffed into the pocket. He had no arm. "So," said the Ragman. "Give me your jacket, and I will give you mine." Such quiet authority in his voice! The one-armed man took off his jacket. So did the Ragman - and I trembled at what I saw: for the Ragman's arm stayed in its sleeve, and when the other put it on he had two good arms, thick as tree limbs; but the Ragman had only one. "Go to work," he said. After that he found a beggar, lying unconscious beneath an army blanket, an old man, hunched, wheezing, and sick. He took that blanket and wrapped it round himself, but for the beggar he left new clothes. And now I had to run to keep up with the Ragman. Though he was weeping uncontrollably, and bleeding freely at the forehead, pulling his cart with one arm, and stumbling from sickness, falling again and again, exhausted, becoming old, and sick, yet he went with swiftness. The Ragman staggered through the alleys of the City, this mile and the next, until he came to its limits, and then he rushed beyond. I wept to see



the change in this man. I hurt to see his sorrow. And yet I needed to see where he was going in such haste, perhaps to know what drove him so. The little old Ragman climbed to the top of a hill. With tormented labor he cleared a little space on that hill. Then he sighed. He lay down. He propped his head on a handkerchief and a jacket. He covered his bones with an army blanket. And he died. Oh, how I cried to witness that death, because I had come to love the Ragman. Every other face had faded in the wonder of this man, and I cherished him; but he died. I sobbed myself to sleep. I did not know - how could I know? That I slept through Friday night and Saturday, and its night, too. But then, on Sunday morning, I was awakened by Light - pure, soft, demanding light - filtered all around me, and I blinked, and I looked, and I heard at last the wonder of it all. "Rags, rags, give me your rags!" And there was the Ragman, folding the blankets most carefully, a scar on his forehead, but radiant with Light! There was no sign of sorrow or of age, and all the rags that he had gathered shined for cleanliness. Well, then I lowered my head and trembling for all that I had seen, I myself walked up to the Ragman. The Ragman, the servant... the Savior, Jesus Christ!

<https://www.ststephensarmonk.org/the-ragman-an-easter-story>

Jesus came as a servant of His Father, and not as one to be served. He behaved among His disciples, not as one who is sitting at a table, but as one who serves. Christ took upon himself the condition of servant so as to deliver mankind from their servitude to sin. The goodness of Christ appeared greater and more godlike, and true to the image of the Father, when He abased himself and became obedient to His death on the Cross. For this is what Christ chose to do; when instead He might have regarded His being equal to God as a treasure to be guarded, and as a result refused to accept the condition of servant who has come to redeem the world. "The Son of Man has not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45). Jesus did not live His life for himself. He lived and gave His life for others. Jesus lived the most selfless life the world has ever known. Jesus lived the most caring and compassionate life the world will ever know. If we desire a seat in the Kingdom of God, then we must be willing to follow this example of Christ. I once read about a statue of Christ that was damaged in a bombing raid. The hands were both broken off. The townspeople first intended to repair the statue by replacing the hands, but then thought otherwise. Instead of replacing the hands, they put an inscription on the statue that read, "He has no hands but our hands."

("Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio Program)