

**Ukraine Welcome Circle Update:**  
**Come celebrate the Kushnyrs' first-year anniversary!**

***On Saturday, April 27th, at 5 o'clock Mass, all are cordially invited and encouraged to join the Kushnyr family (Dmytro, Valeriia, Dariush and Aniela) in celebrating their first year in America. Immediately following Mass, the family will be in the Gathering area, where you can greet and congratulate them.*** This is a very exciting milestone for our St. Christopher Ukraine Welcome Circle and our entire church community. We are all mindful of how difficult it has been for the Kushnyrs, and how they have suffered through some horrible experiences. In the March/April issue of Northeast Ohio Catholic, you will find additional details of the Kushnyr family's experiences during their final days in Ukraine, from their escape to their arrival here.

The Kushnyrs have remained resilient, optimistic, hard-working and grateful newcomers. It has been a pleasure and a blessing to walk beside them on this journey. They have learned to speak English and enthusiastically embraced "all things new," to include America's cultural, educational, social and professional nuances (not to mention our unique traditions in the areas of faith, cuisine, holidays and sports). All the progress made by the Kushnyrs would not have happened without our supportive church community and the countless Welcome Circle volunteers. The team continues to remind them that we are now family; we will continue to walk with them through the challenges and the celebrations. Our community remains committed to their progress and their happiness. During this year, the team helped them celebrate many "firsts." The adults are both licensed drivers and have their own vehicles. They are both employed and continue to study English. Dariush, who is now 7, has adjusted well to second grade and helps other new students. On April 19th, Aniela turns two; she is beginning to talk and enjoys being with other toddlers at a nearby childcare center.