

# St. Mary's Newsletter

St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish  
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## Divine Liturgies

Sundays: 8:30am English  
10:30am Ukrainian  
Weekdays: 7:30am (Chapel)  
Holy Days: 10:30am / 7pm

Father Joseph Pidskalny OSBM (Admin)  
Father Josafat Oliinyk OSBM

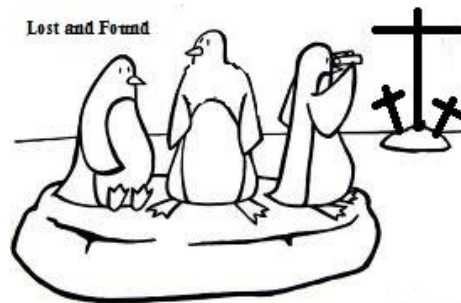
## The Sign of the Cross

Make the Sign of the Cross by touching your Head, then your Heart, then your RIGHT Shoulder and then your Left Shoulder. Then make a bow. (Generally always make a bow when crossing yourselves.)

The entire gesture is called a "Reverence". You touch the Right Shoulder first in order to symbolize Christ, Who sits at the Right Hand of God. You make the Sign of the Cross with the right hand held like...



The first three fingers together (Symbolizing the Oneness of the 3 Persons of the All-Holy Trinity. The remaining two fingers are tucked down into the palm. (Representing the 2 Natures of the Christ [Divine and Human].) The placing of these 2 fingers down into the palm symbolizes the descent of the Word into our world. (The Holy Incarnation)



## Lost and Found

## Gifts and Treasures

As individuals and as a parish each of us is called upon to ensure that the religious, educational and charitable efforts in our parish may continue. These vital efforts can only continue with your support, you can enable our parish to reach out to build the Kingdom of Christ. Life challenges us to share our gifts and our talents with the entire community. Putting ourselves at the service of others and not holding back is how we live our faith.

## Parish Contacts

Lorraine Waslen - Past President Parish Council  
Donna Busko -Vice President Parish Council  
Rick Ruta – St Mary's Parish Choir/Cantor  
Gerry Ukrainetz -Parish Property Maintenance  
Henrietta Ukrainetz – Recreation Centre  
Marlayne Andrijaszyn - UCWL President  
Orest Kernycky - webpage/ newsletter  
Young Adults -smyoungadults@gmail.com  
Teresa Pacholko - Bookstore  
Adrian Kopystynski -Knights of Columbus  
-Auditorium Bookings Coordinator

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sounds of Ukrainian Soul  
**Friday October 13, 7pm**  
Holy Eucharist Ukr. Cathedral

Art from the Heart  
By Ukrainian Displaced Children  
**Saturday October 14 4pm**  
**Sunday October 15 1pm**  
Holy Eucharist Ukr. Cathedral

Ukrainian Food Sales  
**Saturdays 10am -2pm**  
Ivan Franco Ukrainian Hall  
5311 Francis Richmond BC  
**Friday Suppers Oct 20 Nov 17**

Taras Luka- Ukr. jazz accordionist  
**Thursday November 2, 8pm**  
Frankie's Jazz Club 778-727-0337

Holodomor Memorial Day  
**Saturday November 25**

Ukrainian Christmas Fair  
**Saturday December 2,2023**  
11am- 5 pm Parish Hall  
Food, preserves, baking &more.

BC Ukrainian Cultural Festival  
**Saturday May 11,2024**  
9am – 6:30 pm Mission BC  
<http://bcucf.ca> info/tickets

National Ballet of Ukraine  
**February 5 & 7, 2024**  
Centre for Performing Arts

Events are subject to change check with venue

# A Visit to the Past

Father Theodosius Dobko OSBM first organized our choir in 1940, with 15 singers. The first Divine Liturgy was sung by the choir on January 6, 1941 and the first concert appearance was during a Shevchenko Concert on March 23, 1941. It was difficult for Father Dobko to continue as Choir Director once he entered the Canadian Armed Forces as Chaplain for the Ukrainian Catholic soldiers, so at different times Mr. P.Kozak, Mr. J. Bonzal, Mr. J. Kowaliw or Mr. J. Stashuk assisted.



*Father Dobko and the first choir*

In 1949 under the direction of Father Boniface Sloboda OSBM membership grew to 70 singers. Father Boniface extended the horizons of the choir to venture beyond the parish. The choir became well known throughout the Lower Mainland, appearing at Folk Festivals, Churches and on the CBC radio. During this time they choir made its first recording of 16 church and folk songs.



*Father Boniface and the choir*



Michael Pukesh



Bill Smigel

When Father Boniface left in November 1953 (he returned again in 1965 -1974) the choir progressed under the directorship of Michael Pukesh.

In the fall of 1964 William Smigel became the 8th choir director.



Our choir obtained many awards and prizes over the years. There have been 4 albums produced from festive Ukrainian

Christmas carols Easter church hymns to traditional folk songs. The choir travelled throughout the province and into the USA. In 1988 the choir was part of a 600 voice choir which sang the responses to the Divine Liturgy in St Peter's Basilica.....

The choir had the honor of welcoming Pope John Paul II at Abbotsford in September 1984 and Major Archbishop Sviatoslav in 2012.

When Bill Smigel passed away in 2016 Eugene Tokar, Rick Ruta and Sonya Wheelhouse became the Choir leaders.



In 2019 Rick Ruta took over the choir leadership and through the COVID restrictions when we live streamed Liturgies in 2020/21 became a musical rock on which the current choir brings their joyous and wonderful voices to us each and every Sunday.



Olga Pam Michael Maria Olesia Kaitlyn

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