

# St. Mary's Newsletter

St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish  
550 West 14<sup>th</sup> Ave Vancouver BC V5Z 1P6  
www.stmarysbc.com 604-879-5830



Fall 2023

Newsletter editor: Orest Kernycky

Email: Orestbohdan@outlook.com

## Spiritual Focus



**Divine Liturgies**  
**Sundays: 8:30am English**  
**10:30am Ukrainian**  
**Weekdays: 7:00 am (Chapel)**  
**Holy Days: 10:30am / 7pm**

Fr Joseph Pidskalny, OSBM-Admin  
Fr Teoktyst Mishchuk, OSBM  
Fr Josafat Oliinyk, OSBM

**Confessions**  
*Before both Sunday Liturgies*

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**Iconostasis**-In the Byzantine Catholic Tradition, the Iconostasis (Greek for icon stand) a screened wall consisting of one or more rows of icons, separating the nave from the sanctuary. In Byzantine spirituality the Iconostasis is a boundary between two worlds, the Divine and the human. In some Byzantine churches the Iconostasis may be completely absent or may be replaced by small icons. In St Mary's the iconostasis is represented by two icons at the front of the altar.  
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**Thanksgiving Day**  
**Monday October 9, 2023**

## Parish Stewardship

It is not a new program or a single action or a number of actions. It is the personal conversion and renewal of one's heart and mind, i.e., living the Faith Day by day with gratitude and love in an entire life.

Stewardship of **time** involves first our time spent with God in prayer and sacrament, then the time spent in service to others inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit. Stewardship of **talent** is sharing God's unique gifts bestowed on us. It is our loving response to God's appointed calling to do HIS will, to proclaim the Good News of Salvation, to heal the afflicted, to feed the hungry, to care for one another, to give full life just as Jesus did. Stewardship of **treasure** is taking care of and sharing our blessings, i.e., in what we do with our blessings from the heart as a faith response. Stewardship is giving of the first fruits of our time, talent and treasure.

Consider the opportunities for volunteering in our Parish community.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Silent Candlelight Vigil  
Day of Defenders  
**Sunday October 1, 6:30pm-7pm**  
Vancouver Public Library  
Ukrainian Cdn. Advocacy Group

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.

All events subject to change. Check with the venue for details or updates

You can see more at [stmarysbc.com/events](http://stmarysbc.com/events)

Submit your event to:

[orestbohdan@outlook.com](mailto:orestbohdan@outlook.com)

## Coffee and Hospitality



Providing hospitality to strangers is a hallmark of Christian stewardship. In the Gospel of Matthew good stewards were commended for their hospitality: **“I was a stranger and you welcomed me”** (Matt. 25:35). St.

Benedict directed his followers to receive guests and travellers as if they were Christ. Extending hospitality is especially important when it comes to welcoming visitors who may be attending liturgy at our parish for the first time.

There is a lot of anecdotal evidence suggesting that the ability of a first-time visitor to have a meaningful experience of Christ in the liturgy is directly impacted by the warmth of the welcome extended by the local worshipping community. When people say hello, the worship experience is enhanced. A warm welcome is part of evangelization, work necessary in a church’s mission to help people discover or renew faith in Christ.

How do we treat the unknown person who walks by us in church, or who sits next to us at mass? Do we ignore them? Talk around them? Look at them and say nothing? Do we take the initiative to greet them, smile, and extend a warm handshake?

Remember, we are Christ’s ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). Our actions and reactions toward visitors at liturgy communicate who we are and who we represent. Let us take time to welcome visitors to our parish. Welcoming gestures, however small, will not only have a positive impact on visitors, they will make us more hospitable ambassadors of Christ.

## Parish Contacts

Donna Busko - St Mary’s vice- chair Parish Council  
Adrian Kopystynski - Knights of Columbus  
Gerry Ukrainetz -Parish Grounds Maintenance  
Marlayne Andrijaszyn - UCWL President  
Rick Ruta – Parish Choir and Cantor  
Orest Kernycky - webpage/ newsletter

## A Visit to the Past

Ukrainian Catholics’ first Divine Liturgy was May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1911 in the **Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church**. (Campbell and Keefer St)



The Parish was named St Stephens Greek Catholic church in 1927 and celebrated its divine liturgy at **3525 Fraser Street**. In 1936 the Divine Liturgy was held at the **side altar of Holy Rosary Cathedral** then moved back to **Sacred Heart** and finally in October 1937 regular services resumed at the **Fraser St** property.

In 1941 property on the corner of Quebec and 7<sup>th</sup> was purchased with the intention of building a new church; but in

1944 the **Swedish Lutheran Church** on Princess and Pender was purchased (both properties on Fraser St and Quebec Street were sold)



In 1944 **St Stephens Greek Catholic Church** was renamed **Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, known as St Mary’s Ukrainian Catholic Parish. With expansion in mind the parish purchased property on Fraser St and 29<sup>th</sup> in 1958. In 1961 a bigger site on Oak and 41<sup>st</sup> is looked at. The current 6.4-acre site was purchased in 1962.

In 1963 Divine Liturgy is held at the current **Catholic Centre** until 1968 when it moved over to the **temporary church** (now the Recreation Centre)

Finally, the **new church** became a reality on October 31, 1968. Our Parish has had **9 different locations** in the past 100+ years....



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