

St. Mary's Newsletter

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



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Newsletter email: orestbohdan@outlook.com editor: Orest Keryncky

Divine Liturgies

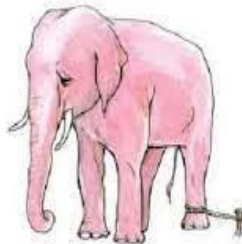
Sundays: 8:30am English
10:30am Ukrainian
Weekdays: 7:00am (Chapel)
Holy Days: 10:00am

Father Joseph Pidskalny OSBM (Admin)
Father Josafat Oliinyk OSBM

Ukrainian Catholic Belief

Ukrainian Catholics believe in the oneness of God, the trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the divinity of Christ, the resurrection of the body, and the second coming of Christ. However, there are a few distinctions that set Ukrainian Catholics apart from other Christian denominations. Ukrainian Catholicism emphasizes the importance of icons and religious images as an aid in prayer, the significance of the Easter season as the most important time of the liturgical year, and the veneration of Eastern saints and martyrs. Ukrainian Catholics also place a great emphasis on the role of the Virgin Mary in salvation history. They believe that Mary played a key role in the birth of Jesus Christ and in his ministry on earth, and they honor her with special prayers and devotions. Another important aspect of Ukrainian Catholic belief is the concept of theosis, or divinization. This refers to the idea that human beings can participate in the divine nature through the grace of God. Ukrainian Catholics believe that through the sacraments and a life of prayer and spiritual growth, they can become more like God and participate in his divine life. Ukrainian Catholics have a strong tradition of social justice and outreach to those in need. They believe that it is their responsibility to serve others, especially the poor and marginalized, and to work for a more just and equitable society.

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton



ELEPHANT ROPE

The Elephant Rope

As a man was passing the elephants, he suddenly stopped, confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could, at any time, break away from their bonds but for some reason, they did not.

He saw a trainer nearby and asked why these animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away. "Well," trainer said, "when they are very young and much smaller, we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free."

The man was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds but because they believed they couldn't, they were stuck right where they were.

Like the elephants, how many of us go through life hanging onto a belief that we cannot do something, simply because we failed at it once before?

Failure is part of learning;

we should never give up the struggle in life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ukrainian Film Series
February 1 -22 Various Times/Days
The Cinematheque -Vancouver

National Ballet of Ukraine
February 5 & 7, 2024
Centre for Performing Art Vancouver

Ukrainian Film Fundraiser
Saturday February 10,2024 7:30pm
Centennial Theatre North Van

Ukrainian Standup Comedy Shows
Feb 9,11 7pm Underground Comedy
Feb 10 7pm Chill Pill Comedy Club

Max Barskih – Ukrainian Performer
Wednesday February 14,2024 8pm
Vogue Theatre

Ukrainian Valentine Day Speed Dating
February 14,2024 7-10pm Ages 30-40
Red Card Sports Bar Eatery

Maria Sonkina -Ukrainian Portraits
Thursday February 15,2024 4pm
Jewish Community Centre

Ukrainian Lights -Music
Sundays Feb 4,11,18, 2pm
Tom Lee Music Recital Hall Richmond

Maple Hope Foundation -Gala
Saturday March 3 5:30-8:30pm
Vancouver Club

DakhaBrakha -Tour for Ukraine
Friday March 29,2024 8pm
Massey Theatre New West

Pysanka Egg Decoration Workshop
Saturday March 30,2024 1-3pm
Roundhouse Community Arts Centre

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

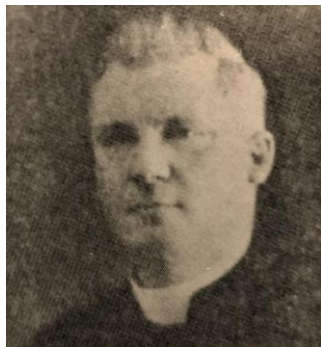
Early History of St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish



From May 24, 1911 until 1927, Vancouver was a center of missionary activity for Ukrainian Catholics in the surrounding area. With the consent of Bishop Budka, 35-year-old, **Father Antonin Ulanytsky** arrived in Vancouver in 1927 from the USA. He successfully gathered several Ukrainian families and with their help makes a deposit on a property at 3525 Fraser St. **Father Louis Forget** the Roman Catholic pastor of St. Patrick's Parish signs the deed as guarantor. The new parish is named **St. Stephens Greek Catholic Church**.

Father Ulanytsky wrote: *"The fact that our numbers are small... does not frighten us. We are building and we will never give up."* That small group of committed people became the cornerstone in the building of the Ukrainian Catholic community in Vancouver.

Father Antonin Ulanytsky leaves Vancouver in 1927. *Born October 29, 1882 Died August 13, 1968 Philadelphia PA USA*



In March 1928, 33-year-old **Father Joseph Bala** arrives from Saskatchewan to assume the post of pastor of the small congregation of Ukrainian Catholics. He takes up residence in the unfurnished house on Fraser Street and on the second Sunday in March he celebrates his first Divine Liturgy in the adjoining hall. At this Liturgy between 25-30 people were present. **Mr. Mykytyshyn** services as cantor.

In August 1928 six Roman Catholic Parishes hold special collections in their churches to provide desperately needed financial aid to Father Bala. In the summer of 1928 Father Bala started having services on Lulu Island at the home of **John Yakimish**, alternating each Sunday.

Father Bala leaves Vancouver in August 1929 with **Father Louis Forget** taking over the administration of the acquired property on Fraser St and made the upcoming payments. *Born: December 17, 1885, Swobodnick, Dworakh, Czech Ordained: March 31, 1912 Final Vows: April 26, 1915 Died: November 2, 1974, Winnipeg, MB*

1929-1936 The Basilian Fathers of Mundare and Edmonton visit Vancouver now and then.



A 35-year-old **Father Nicholas James Bartman** arrived in January 1936 from Sydney Nova Scotia and took up residence in the house on Fraser Street. Although services were occasionally celebrated there, they were generally conducted at a side altar in **Holy Rosary Cathedral**; On May 15, 1936 he issues a circular to all Ukrainians of Vancouver that he has been appointed their pastor and that regular Sunday Divine Liturgies will be celebrated in the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church on Campbell and Keefer St)

On October 25, 1936 St Stephen's Parish first AGM was held in the hall on Fraser St and the first Parish Committee was President Alexander Pastuch, Treasurer- **Peter Lebedowich**; Finance Secretary-**William Glutyk**; Recording Secretary-**Michael Tychey**; Cantor-Michael Tychey; Church Sanctuary Maintenance-**Anna Drushiw**.

In July 1937 Father Nicholas Bartman left his position as pastor of Ukrainian Catholics in Vancouver to pursue legal studies at a local University. (he becomes a Judge in the BC Provincial Court) *Born May 7, 1901 Vegreville AB; ordained 1925, Died January 2, 1986 Vancouver BC*



On September 2 1937 **Bishop Ladyka** issues an Episcopal decree packing the Parish under the case of the Basilian Fathers. With their arrival the next stage in the growth and development of the parish began. The superiors of the Basilian Order assigned a 28-year-old **Father Sebastian Shewchuk OSBM** to be the first Basilian pastor. He arrived in Vancouver on September 10, 1937.

In the next issue we continue the history, with the arrival of the Basilian Fathers.