

St. Mary's Newsletter

St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish
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Divine Liturgies

Sundays: 8:30am English (spoken)
10:30am Ukrainian (sung)
Mon-Sat: 7:30am (Chapel)
Holy Days: 10:00am

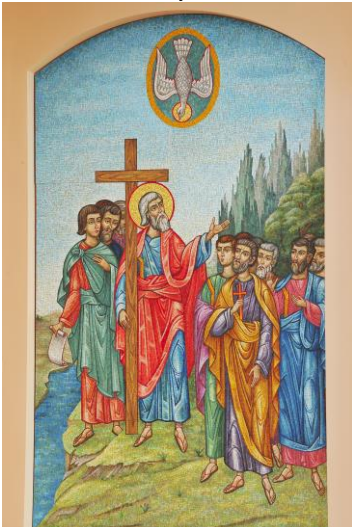
Father Joseph Pidskalny OSBM (Admin)
Father Josafat Oliinyk OSBM

St Andrew and the hills of Kiev

Saint Andrew (Andrii Pervozvannyi [Andrew the First-Called]), b? d ca 70 in Patras, Greece. Brother of Saint Peter and the first of the twelve disciples of Christ. Tradition has it that Saint Andrew was a missionary to lands surrounding the Black Sea, and that he traveled along the Dnipro River. Both the Byzantine and Ukrainian churches have, on the basis of this tradition, associated the origins of their Christianity with his name. The Kyiv Church council of 1621 recognized Saint Andrew as the apostle of Rus', and Saint Andrew's Church was later built in Kyiv in his honor.

The eve of Saint Andrew's feast day was marked by various folk traditions and customs in the Ukrainian churches (13 December [30 November OS]). Games, often involving fortune-telling with hot wax poured in water, were played by young people throughout Ukraine.

East Wall of St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church



The Obstacle in our Path

There once was a very wealthy and curious king. This king had a huge boulder placed in the middle of a road. Then he hid nearby to see if anyone would try to remove the gigantic rock from the road. The first people to pass by were some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers. Rather than moving it, they simply walked around it. A few loudly blamed the King for not maintaining the roads. Not one of them tried to move the boulder. Finally, a peasant came along. His arms were full of vegetables. When he got near the boulder, rather than simply walking around it as the others had, the peasant put down his load and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. It took a lot of effort but he finally succeeded. The peasant gathered up his load and was ready to go on his way when he saw a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The peasant opened the purse. The purse was stuffed full of gold coins and a note from the king. The king's note said the purse's gold was a reward for moving the boulder from the road.

The king showed the peasant what many of us never understand: **every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ukrainian spring Fashion and Music
Sunday April 28, 3-5 pm
AUCC Hall Vancouver

Ukrainian Karaoke Nights
Thurs/Fri April 25-26 8pm- 3am
Bar None Night Club

Melodies of Mercy
Friday April 26 8pm
Holy Eucharist Cathedral New West

Ukrainian Spring Market
Saturday April 27 11-5pm
Ivan Franko Centre Richmond BC

Lamenting for Ukraine (music)
Sunday April 28 7pm
Shadbolt Centre Burnaby

Ukrainian Cultural Festival
Saturday May 11
Mission BC

International Vyshyvanka Day
Thursday May 16, 2024
Various locations and Events

Ukrainian Vyshyvanka Party
Friday May 17 10pm
Bar None Nightclub

Anton Tymoshenko -stand-up comedy
Sunday June 2, 7-9:30pm
The Clutch, York Theatre

Monatik – North American Tour
Friday June 21, 8-11pm
Vogue Theatre Vancouver BC

Check with the venue for details or updates

You can see more at :

<https://sites.google.com/uahub.ca/bcuaca/home>

History of St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish (part 6)

Early Challenges and Strategic Planning (2006)

Facing increased workload and declining attendance, St. Mary's Parish made a strategic move in 2006. The liturgies were streamlined to two services on Sundays. Simultaneously, a **Strategic Plan Committee** was established to address the challenges of the 2nd millennium with **Ed Evancio** (Chairperson)

Notable Milestones

- **Bishop Ken Nowakowski's Ordination (2007):** Bishop Nowakowski was ordained for the New Westminster Eparchy, leaving an indelible mark on St. Mary's spiritual journey.
- **St. Mary's Parish Photo Directory (2006):** A comprehensive directory was published, listing all parishioners—a testament to our vibrant community.
- **St. Paul Chong Korean Mission (2011):** The Korean Catholic Mission found a home within our church.
- **Parishioner Olga Kotelko (Age 93):** A remarkable athlete, Olga Kotelko achieved global recognition by winning 13 gold medals in the Seniors Olympics, breaking her own records. Her 17 world records for her age category are celebrated worldwide.

Challenges and Transformations

- **End of an Era: Bingo and Parish Catering (2014-2015):** After 50 years, **Ed Pacholko** (Chairperson Bingo) announced declining attendance led to the closure of the beloved bingo fundraiser in 2014. Parish catering, under the dedicated leadership of **Irene and John Sliziak, Elizabeth Pura** also concluded in 2015.
- **William Smigel's Legacy:** Celebrating 50 years as choir director, William Smigel left an indelible mark on our musical tradition. His passing in **September 2016** was deeply felt.
- **Vibrant Parish Program (2013-2016):** Launched to engage and strengthen our community.
- **Exterior Renovation (2017):** A major renovation project revitalized the church's exterior.
- **COVID -19 Challenges (2020-2021)** Masks, pre-registration, (live-streaming- **Adrian Kopystynski**) and closures became part of our liturgical landscape. Despite these hurdles, St. Mary's remained resilient.



Br Josef Senjuk
1990
1953-



Fr Modeste Gnesco*
1993-2008
1921-09-18+2008-03-30



Fr Theodosius Machinski
1999-2001
1963-



Fr Joseph Pidskalny
2000 -2008 Pastor



Fr Daniel Wach
2008-2010 Pastor



Fr Joseph Tyrkalo
2010-2013 Pastor
1945-01-31+2020-12-27



Fr Serafym, Grygoruk
2023-2020 Pastor



Fr Mark Zubyk
2015-2017



Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn
Bishop Emeritus
2009-2021 in residence
1930-04-22+2021-09-06



Deacon Howard Burton
2009-

*corrected