

St. Mary's Newsletter

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



May 5, 2024

Issue 17

Newsletter email: orestbohdan@outlook.com

editor: Orest Kernycky

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

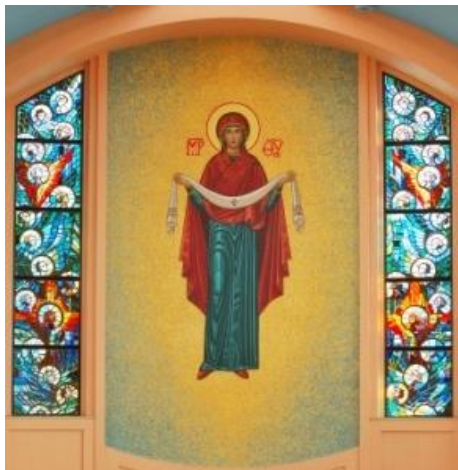
Sanctuary Wall Mosaic

As you enter the church the most striking feature is the Mosaic on the Sanctuary wall behind the altar. It depicts the Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On each side of the mosaic are faceted glass windows depicting choirs of angels.

The Mosaic is 9 meters tall and 5 meters wide and made up of nearly 250,000 pieces of coloured glass.

The Mother of God is seen enveloped in golden brilliance, over her outstretched arms is draped the Omophor, the symbol of her Protection.

The mosaic's creator is Boris Makarenko of New York.



The Carpenter's Last House

Once there was a carpenter who decided to retire from his job of building houses and live a leisurely life with his wife and extended family. He knew he would miss his salary but anyhow he wanted to retire. The employer came to him and requested him to do only the last project as a personal favor. The carpenter agreed and started to work on it and was happy after it he would not be doing this job. Since it was his last project, he did not do it like he was doing throughout his life. He did not care for the best cement and concrete mixture. He said good-bye to overtime. He used average quality woods in the windows and doors. Furniture was not of the good quality. He did not consider to build a swimming pool in this project. Anyhow this was finished.

The employer came to him and gifted him the key of this newly built house for his commendable 15 years services. The carpenter was shocked. He was feeling so shameful that tears came to his eyes. He was thinking if he knew it before it was the house he will be living in, he would have built with whole heartedly and sincerely. But now everything was over, he missed his last chance.

The same goes with our life too. We build our life, a day at a time, often putting less than our best into the building. Then, with a shock we realize that we have to live in the house we have built so far. The life is the build it yourself project, we will never get the second life. All the choices and decisions we make today will be shaping the future home we will be living in.

So, anything you do, put the best of you in it and never regret in your life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ukrainian Cultural Festival

Saturday May 11

Mission BC

Ukrainian Poetry Soiree

Sunday May 12 5pm

1281 Hornby Vancouver

Vadym Krasnooky - Big Canadian Tour

Friday May 17, 7-10pm

Ukrainian Cultural Centre - Surrey

International Vyshyvanka Day

Thursday May 16, 2024

Various locations and Events

Vyshyvanka Walk

May 18 12 noon

Vancouver Art Gallery Plaza

Ukrainian Vyshyvanka Party

Friday May 17 10pm

Bar None Nightclub

Latexfauna Charity Concert

Sunday May 19 7-10 pm

Biltmore Cabaret Vancouver

Anton Tymoshenko -stand-up comedy

Sunday June 2, 7-9:30pm

The Clutch, York Theatre

Taras Luka

Saturday June 8 11pm

Frankie's Jazz Club

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 7)

After COVID (Challenges and Transformations)

COVID -19 Challenges (2020-2021) Masks, pre-registration, live-streaming and closures became part of our liturgical landscape. Despite these hurdles, St. Mary's remained resilient. All Churches were closed to public worship from November 2020. The restrictions were finally lifted Sunday May 30 2021.

In 2021 and **Rick Ruta** took over as Cantor for the 10:30 Liturgy and Choir director; after **Eugene Tokar** and **Sonya Wheelhouse's** many years of dedicated service. **Jerry Ukrainetz** cantors the 8:30 am Liturgy.

The summary from the **2021 AGM** showed 1 Baptism/Confirmation, 13 funerals, 0 First Communion, 0 marriages with 226 registered parishioners. The **2022 AGM** had 4 Baptisms, 6 funerals, 1 First Communion and 241 registered parishioners. These numbers reflect the community's engagement and growth during those years. It was heartening to see the parish continue to thrive despite the challenges.

On January 16, 2022 **Adrian Kopystynski** is commissioned as a Eucharistic Minister.

On 24 February 2022, Russia launched a military invasion of Ukraine which started a mass influx of newcomers to Canada and BC. As of April 2022, 44,000 applications for Ukrainian refugees were approved by Canada. Over 144,000 applications were received. Charter flights bringing Ukrainians to Canada began. It was expected that there would be 20-25,000 Ukrainians arriving in the lower mainland that year.

Fundraisers in support were quickly organized. The young adults of the parish organized a Fundraiser Dinner. They had perogy sales throughout the year. UCWL held a Bake Sale and a Flea Market. That year over \$55,000 was sent to CNEWA Canada for humanitarian aid to Ukraine. At the end of 2023 over 20% of the parishioners attending Sunday liturgies are Ukrainian newcomers

For years dedicated parishioners continue to work behind the scenes without mention

On Thursday August 24, 2023 **Very Rev. Michael Kwiatkowski**, was appointed the 4th Bishop for Ukrainian Catholics in BC since 1974.

The next newsletters will be dedicated to the many parishioners who dedicated their time and talents to St Mary's Parish over the last almost 100 years.



Fr Modeste Gnesko (updated)
1996-2008
1921-09-08+2008-03-30



Fr Iryney Valyavka
2021 -2022



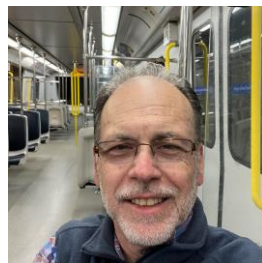
Fr Christopher Kushpit
2021



Fr Teoktyst Mischuk
2023



Fr Josafat Oliinyk
2023-



Adrian Kopystynski
Eucharist Minister
2022-



Fr Joseph Ostopovich
Priest Emeritus
2023-



Fr Joseph Pidskalny
2000-2008 Pastor
2016-2020 Local Superior
Pastor 2020-