



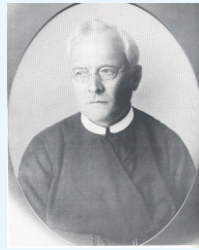
St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church

A Brief History



Celebrating 100 Years

1904 - 2004



The Early Years...

*Rev. Achille Delaere, CSSR
First priest to serve
Ukrainians in Brandon*

In the late 1800's, settlers from various parts of Europe, particularly Austro-Hungary, immigrated to Canada. Ukrainian settlers in the Brandon area hungered for spiritual food and were first served by Rev. Achille Delaere CSSR, a Belgian born, Latin rite priest, who arrived on October 11, 1899, and served until January 12, 1904. Liturgies were provided for the eastern rite Ukrainians (Catholics and Orthodox) in St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church, but it wasn't long before the parishioners yearned for a church of their own.

In 1903, construction on the new church began on the southeast corner of 1st Street and Lorne Avenue. In 1904, and \$800 later, the church was completed and the first Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Rev. Naucratius Kryzanovsky OSBM. Joseph Kaschor was the first cantor. The first parish leaders were Andrew Bandzur, Onufrij Nazarm Oleska Zaplacinsky and Ivan Luchka. Rev. Kryzanovsky served the Ukrainian faithful until 1909.

First Church - corner 1st Street & Lorne Avenue



*Joseph Kaschor
First Cantor for St. Mary's*

Growing in numbers...

On Sept. 4, 1910, thirty-one parishioners held a meeting in the home of Andrew Nazar at which time the parish was strengthened by the election of the first trustees to the executive: A. Nazar, M. Horoshko, M. Brodach, F. Slusar, F. Mychasiw, and S. Matiuk. The Ukrainian community of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary developed a religious and cultural life which helped attract resident priests. The first rectory was constructed in 1910.

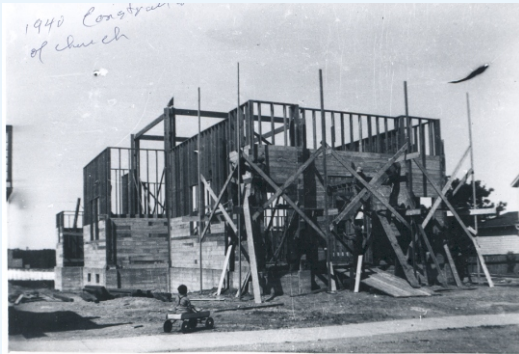
In 1913, Bishop Nykyta Budka, the first Bishop of Ukrainian Catholics in Canada, visited the little parish in Brandon.

By the early to mid 1920's, St. Mary's was operating at full capacity and it was about this time that the Orthodox families decided to build their own church - the Holy Ghost Ukrainian Orthodox Church - which still stands today. In the division of church equity, the Orthodox church retained the hall while the Catholics retained the church on 1st Street. In 1926, the Ivan Franko Ukrainian Reading Association Hall was built and provided a home for social and cultural activities for St. Mary's church.

In 1928, the Olha Kobylianska Society was organized - a women's organization which later re-organized in 1945 as a twenty-eight member of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada (UCWLC) under the leadership Mary Corniat, a very active member of St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Building a new church...

By the late 1930's, the number of parishioners at the 1st Street church grew to the point where a larger church was needed. Harry Pasklevich donated the land on the corner of 10th Street and Assiniboine Avenue for the construction of a new and larger church. In 1940, construction began on the new church and it was completed in 1941, in time to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the arrival of the first Ukrainians in Canada.



Construction of Church - 1940

Tragedy struck the relatively new church building in the spring of about 1945 when a fire caused severe damage to the interior of the church. The cost of repairs was approximately \$12,000, a princely sum for the time. At the time of repairs, Leo Mol (now a world renowned sculptor) was hired to paint the murals on the ceilings and domes of the interior. Completed in 1949, the art still remains today and is considered an art treasure.

In the early 1970's, a small satellite church of St. Mary's, was built on property located on Richmond Avenue near 3rd Street to serve the English speaking needs of families in the church. Father Eugene Rudachek provided Divine Liturgy to about thirty people. The arrangement lasted only a few years after which the property was turned back over to St. Mary's.

More renovations...

In 1986, under the direction of Rev. Jarapolk Radkewycz, the basement of the church was excavated to install washrooms for the convenience of parishioners.

By 1997, under Father Ernest Hafichuk's guidance, it was clear that the interior and exterior of the now fifty year old building needed a major facelift. Phase 1, the facelift of the church exterior, addition of a new foyer and landscaping was completed in September, 1999. Phase 2, the interior work, consisting of a new crying room and confessional, was completed in June, 1999. New stained glass windows were installed by December, 1999. Phase 3, the installation of new pews was completed in 2000. The new chandelier was installed in 2001. The total cost of all these renovations was approximately \$400,000.

A special Re-Dedication Service, celebrated by Metropolitan Michael Bzdel, was held June 27, 1999, at which time the church building and parishioners received special blessings.

Over the years, several archeparchial and ecumenical dignitaries have visited our parish: Bishop Ladyka (around 1950); Metropolitan Maxim Hermaniuk on June 9, 1963, Sept. 08, 1970, Oct. 28, 1975 and Nov. 15, 1981. Cardinal Myroslav Lubachivsky visited June 03, 1986. Metropolitan Michael Bzdel visited the parish on June 27, 1999 and September, 2000. Auxiliary Bishop David Motiuk visited in September, 2003.



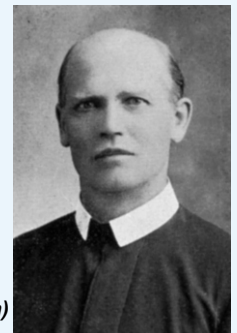
New 400 lb chandelier

Priests who served:

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 1899 - 1904 | Rev. Achille Delaere CSSR |
| 1901 | Rev. Vasyl Zholdak |
| 1904 - 1909 | Rev. Naucratus Kryzanovsky OSBM |
| 1909 - 1910 | Rev. Julian Humniski |
| 1910 - 1913 | Rev. Henryk Boels CSSR |
| 1913 - 1923 | Rev. Ap. Kaluzniacky |
| 1923 - 1924 | Rev. J. Kolsun |
| 1924 - 1926 | Rev. Petro Pasichnyk |
| 1926 | Rev. Michael Olenchuk |
| 1926 - 1927 | Rev. W. Zurawecki |
| 1927 - 1930 | Rev. P. Ryshatalo |
| 1930 - 1934 | Rev. Nestor Drohomorecki |
| 1934 - 1935 | Rev. J. Fulyma |
| 1935 | Rev. W. Shumay |
| 1935 - 1945 | Rev. Joseph Pulak |
| 1945 - 1946 | Rev. Rev. Michael Syrnyk |
| 1946 - 1949 | Rev. Stephen Borys |
| 1949 - 1950 | Rev. Volodymyr Flak |
| 1950 - 1953 | Rev. Myroslav Oleshko |
| 1953 - 1965 | Rev. Stephen Tarnavecky |
| 1965 - 1966 | Rev. V. Olach |
| 1966 - 1967 | Rev. Ihor Shpytkovsky |
| 1967 | Rev. Anthony Luhovy |
| 1967 - 1969 | Rev. Rev. Michael Kolenich |
| 1969 - 1978 | Rev. Eugene Rudachek |
| 1978 - 1985 | Rev. Marian Dawydko |
| 1986 - 1989 | Rev. Jarapolk Radkewycz |
| 1989 - 1994 | Rev. Ernest Hafichuk |
| 1994 - 1996 | Rev. Ivan Mostivsky |
| 1996 - 1999 | Rev. Victor Yakowchuk |
| 1999 (temp) | Rev. Michael Tkachuk |
| 1999 - 2003 | Rev. Victor Yakowchuk |
| 2003 - | Rev. Ernest Hafichuk |

Other priests who served:

Rev. Simon Izyk
Rev. Ivan Iwanchuk



Right: Rev. Naucratus Kryzanovsky OSBM (First celebrant priest in church)