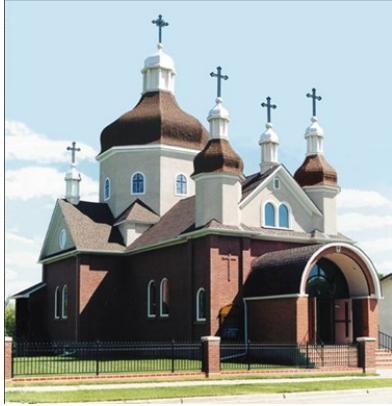


## Renovations

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, it was clear the interior and exterior of the fifty year old church needed a major facelift. Under Fr. Ernest Hafichuk's guidance, Phase 1 (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 designed and constructed by Prairie Stained Glass were also installed in 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.

In Phase 4 of renovations (2011), under the direction of Fr. Michael Tkachuk, Josef Rubenstein was contracted to restore Leo Mol's murals in elegant style. At the same time, the sanctuary wood floor was restored, new high tech lighting was installed and the walls were painted a beautiful red/rose which gives the church an atmosphere of majestic grace. The church is considered to be one of Brandon's historic landmarks.



## 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 - 2005	Rev. Ernest Hafichuk
2005 -	Rev. Michael Tkachuk

Other priests who served:  
Rev. Simon Izyk  
Rev. Ivan Iwanchuk

**Thank you for visiting our church!**

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Brandon, MB R7A 0G7

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[mtkachuk80@hotmail.com](mailto:mtkachuk80@hotmail.com) (Fr. Michael)

## Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church

### A Brief History





## 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. To ensure that these immigrants were not neglected by the Roman Catholic Church, Fr. Delaere worked hard to ensure liturgies could be provided in Ukrainian for the eastern rite Ukrainians (both Catholics and Orthodox) at St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church. But it wasn't long before the parishioners yearned for a church of their own.



*First church— 1st Street & Lorne Avenue*

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.

Rev. Kryzanovsky served the Ukrainian faithful until 1909.



*Rev. Naucratius Kryzanovsky, OSBM  
First celebrant priest*

## Growing in Numbers...

On Sept. 4, 1910, thirty-one parishioners held a meeting in the home of Andrew Nazar at which time the first trustees to the parish executive were elected. Under their leadership, the Ukrainian community of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mary's) developed a religious and cultural life which helped attract resident priests. The first rectory was constructed in 1910.

By the early to mid 1920's, St. Mary's was operating at full capacity and, it was about this time, 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 at 1001 Assiniboine Avenue and provided a home for social and cultural activities for St. Mary's 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.

The services of Mike Sawchuk, a master builder trained and influenced by Rev. Philip Ruh (a Ukrainian priest and the most influential "self-taught" architect of Ukrainian Catholic Churches in western Canada), were retained to lead the construction of the new church using volunteer labour from parishioners.



## Building a new church...



In 1940, construction began on the new church and completed in 1941, in time to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the arrival of the first Ukrainians in Canada.

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 (a re-known 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 celebrated Divine Liturgies for about thirty people. The arrangement lasted only a few years after which the property was returned to St. Mary's.

