

**Celebrating 50 years
of our Orthodox Temple
in Waterloo**

St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Parish
Українська православна парафія Святої



ST SOPHIA
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH



5th of October 2019





PROCLAMATION ПРОГЛОШЕННЯ

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th, the Canadian government encouraged immigration to Canada from Eastern Europe to begin new lives as agricultural experts, settlers, steel workers, and miners. New immigrants came seeking a better life for their families free of suppression and the oppression they had known in their native land.

The first instincts of these new immigrants were to gather themselves together into local communities in order to provide support, comfort, social interaction, but most importantly of all, to worship God Almighty according to their 900+ year old Ukrainian Orthodox customs and traditions. They sought to establish churches. First in the grain fields of Western Canada and eventually in the large cities across Canada, and then in the Waterloo / KW area.

Through those first 50 years of our Waterloo history, our founders and benefactors gave the best of what they had in order to ensure the preservation of our rich spiritual legacy inherited from our ancestors and preserving it in a land free of persecution. We thank God Almighty for their conviction, dedication and devotion, which continues to inspire us to follow their example.

As we prepare for this great celebration of the legacy of our Orthodox forefathers from both Ukraine and here in Canada, we call upon every Orthodox Christian to join us in all commemorations.

Our 50th Anniversary Divine Liturgy will be the 5th of October with Bishop Andriy celebrating with Father Myroslav and guest Priests. We look forward to all your participation and support with all our faithful.

May God Grant Us Many, Many More Years !



PROCLAMATION ПРОГЛОШЕННЯ

Наприкінці 19 століття та на початку 20-х років уряд Канади заохочував імміграцію до Канади зі Східної Європи, кликав розпочати нове життя як першопроходців, фермерів, шахтарів та працівників металургійної галузі. Нові іммігранти приїхали шукати кращого життя для своїх родин, звільнення від утисків та гноблення, які вони мали у рідній землі.

Як тільки наші українські іммігранти осіли в нових місцях, вони одразу стали збиратися разом у місцевих громадах, щоб забезпечити підтримку один одному, соціальну взаємодію, але, найголовніше, щоб поклонитися

Всемогутньому Богові згідно зі своїми 900-річними українськими православними обрядами та традиціями. Вони прагнули засновувати церкви. Спочатку на пшеничних полях Західної Канади, а згодом у великих та менших містах по всій Канаді, включно у регіоні Кінченер – Ватерлоо.

Протягом цих перших 50 років нашої історії у Ватерлоо засновники та благодійники нашої парафії вклали дуже багато в те, щоб забезпечити збереження нашої багатой духовної спадщини на землі, вільній від переслідувань. Ми дякуємо Всевишньому Богу за їх цілеспрямованість, відданість та посвяту, які надихають нас наслідувати їхній приклад. Готуючись до цього великого святкування нашої православної спадщини, ми закликаємо кожного православного християнина приєднатися до нас у всіх запланованих заходах.

Святкова Божественна Літургія приурочена 50-літтю нашої парафії відбудеться 5 жовтня. Владика Андрій служитиме з отцем Мирославом та запрошеними священиками. Ми всіх чекаємо!

На многії і благії літа!

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Christ is in our midst!



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Please accept my greetings with the 50-th Anniversary of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox church in Waterloo.

By looking back in the history of our parish we see that our community was originally founded by people who came to Canada from different parts of Ukraine and other countries of Eastern Europe. Some of the founding members of the parish came directly from Ukraine, others came to Canada through Germany, and some even made their way to Canada from Brazil. But all of them were united by a common intention to praise the Lord the Orthodox way. They had enough faith to organize the ecclesial community, even though, in most cases, their own financial situation and the future of their children was not secured. They did it because in the centre of their worldview were not material goods, but spiritual pearls. We must be really grateful to those pioneers, because they gave us a great lesson which is very aptly worded in a Ukrainian proverb: *Без Бога ні до порога*, which means *Without God you cannot even cross your doorstep*.

When I came to serve at St. Sophia church in August 2007 most of the people who were most active at St. Sophia's in the 60s, 70s, 80s had already passed away. However, I was blessed to meet some of our pioneers: Nikola Skomorowsky, Maria Teminska, Walter Sawitski, Walter Mozor, Vasyl and Luba Yaremenko, Kira Jaworska, Mike Lazarowich and other sincere and God-fearing people. May their memory be eternal!

We are very happy to have our dear pani Maria Skomorowska with us. What a great example of positive outlook and hardworking nature is she! We pray to God for her and we are glad that she can see and appreciate the work we do now, 50 years after the decision to purchase the current building of St. Sophia church was made at the official meeting held in Nikola and Maria's house.

It's also worth mentioning that back in 1969 St. Sophia was the only Orthodox Church in Kitchener-Waterloo area. When we look in our Baptismal record we can see that our church has been open to other ethnicities from the very beginning. Serbians, Macedonians, Bulgarians, Romanians, Polish, Russians, Belarusians, etc. had their children baptized here. Notably, other Orthodox communities started their missions and held their first services at St. Sophia's, i.e. Romanian and Antiochian. May God bless them also and we are very happy to have been "the welcoming walls" to their ecclesial

communities.

I feel very blessed to continue the work of my predecessors who served at the Altar in St. Sophia church in Waterloo. I pray that God blesses our present and future endeavours which our parishioners do together for His glory: serving in the soup kitchen, visiting elderly and sick people in hospitals and retirement homes, cleaning the Orthodox section of Woodland cemetery where Fr. Alexander Kostyuk and many founding members of our parish are buried, going on pilgrimages to Orthodox monasteries, making clothes for orphans in Ukraine, making varenyky and cabbage rolls to help cover our church needs, up-keeping a beautiful flower garden near the church, creating beautiful floral arrangements for Sundays and big feasts, keeping the church and the hall clean, playing soccer with our younger and older generations, having Bible studies, having regular Sunday school classes and pot-luck fellowships after the Liturgy, choir rehearsals, etc.

May God returns everyone a hundred-fold for all the hard work and bless everyone with many happy years!

Слава Ісусу Христу!

Христос посеред нас!

Дорогі брати і сестри в Христі!

Прийміть моє вітання з 50-річчям Української православної церкви Святої Софії у Ватерлоо.

Оглядаючи історію нашої парафії, ми бачимо, що нашу громаду спочатку засновували люди, які приїхали до Канади з різних куточків України та інших країн Східної Європи. Деякі члени засновника парафії приїхали безпосередньо з України, інші прибули до Канади через Німеччину, а деякі навіть дісталися до Канади з Бразилії. Але всіх їх об'єднав спільний намір славити Господа по-православному. Вони мали достатньо віри, щоб організувати церковну громаду, хоча в більшості випадків їх власне матеріальне становище та майбутнє їхніх дітей не було забезпечене. Вони зробили це тому, що в центрі їх світогляду були не матеріальні блага, а духовні перлини. Ми повинні бути дуже вдячні тим піонерам, бо вони дали нам чудовий урок, який дуже влучно міститься в українській приказці: *Без Бога ні до порога*.

Коли я став служити у церкві Святої Софії в серпні 2007 року, більшість людей, які були найактивнішими тут в 60-ті, 70-ті, 80-ті роки вже померли. Однак мені пощастило зустріти в живих деяких наших піонерів: Миколу Скоморовського, Марію Темінську, Володимира Савицького, Володимира Мозора, Василя та Люби Яременко, Кіру Яворську, Михайла Лазаровича та інших щирих і богобоязних людей. Вічна їм пам'ять!

Ми дуже раді, що з нами є наша дорога пані Марія Скоморовська. Який вона подає чудовий приклад позитиву та працьовитості! Ми молимося за неї до Бога і тішимося, що вона може бачити та оцінити роботу, яку ми робимо зараз, через 50 років після прийняття рішення про придбання нинішньої будівлі церкви Святої Софії на офіційній зустрічі в будинку Миколи та Марії Скоморовських.

Варто також згадати, що в 1969 році Св. Софія була єдиною православною церквою в районі Кітченер-Ватерлоо. Коли ми заглянемо в наші реєстри хрещення, то побачимо, що наша церква була відкрита для інших народів з самого початку. Тут хрестили своїх дітей серби, македонці, болгари, румуни, росіяни, поляки, білоруси тощо. Зокрема, інші православні громади розпочали свої місії та провели свої перші Літургії у святій Софії, а саме румунська та антіохійська. Нехай Бог також благословить їх, і ми дуже раді, що були "привітними стінами" для їх церковних спільнот.

Я дуже радий продовжувати справу своїх попередників, які служили біля Вівтаря в церкві Святої Софії у Ватерлоо. Я молюсь, щоб Бог благословляв теперішні та майбутні справи, які наші парафіяни роблять разом для Його слави: служіння на благодійній кухні, відвідування літніх та хворих людей у лікарнях та будинках для старших людей, прибирання православної частини кладовища Вудланд, де поховано отця Олександра Костюка та багатьох членів-засновників нашої парафії, паломництва до православних монастирів, пошиття одягу для сиріт в Україні, виготовлення вареників та голубців, щоб допомогти покрити фінансові потреби нашої церкви, утримання прекрасного квітника біля церкви, створення чудових букетів на неділі та великі свята, підтримання чистоти церкви та залу, гра у футбол з молодшими та старшими поколіннями, уроки вивчення Біблії, недільна школа та обіди після Літургії, репетиції хору тощо.

Нехай Бог віддасть всім сторицею за всю нелегку працю і благословляє всіх на багато щасливих років!

З Любов'ю у Христі Господі,

о. Мирослав Шмигельський

5 жовтня 2019 року Божого

With Love in Christ the Lord,

Fr. Myroslav Shmyhelskyy

October 5, 2019 A.D.

October 5, 2019

Congratulations

St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Church

on your fiftieth anniversary!

*Occasions like this are only made possible
when there are dedicated people involved and working together;
your parishioners and your community should be very proud.*

*Your numerous contributions to the Region of Waterloo
have made us stronger and are a testament to
your dedication and the values you foster.*

*On behalf of the Riding of Waterloo and the Government of Canada,
thank you for the kindness you share
and best wishes for continued success and prosperity.*

Once again, congratulations on this momentous occasion.



Sincerely,

HON. BARDISH CHAGGER, P.C.
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT/ DÉPUTÉE
WATERLOO

City of Waterloo

Dave Jaworsky, Mayor



Welcome from the Mayor



On behalf of Council and the citizens of the City of Waterloo, it is a pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all of you attending St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox church today to celebrate their 50th Anniversary.

I would also like to extend my thanks to St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox church for putting on this wonderful event. Efforts such as yours make our community a truly wonderful place in which to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

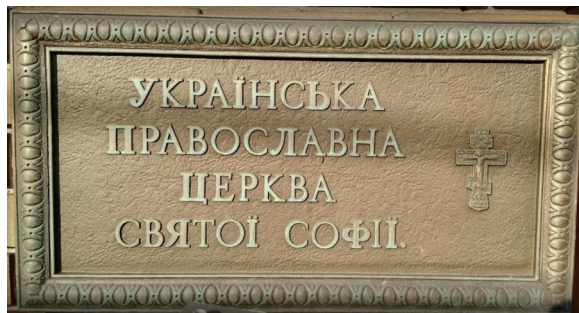
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Jaworsky".

Mayor Dave Jaworsky

Our History



Наша історія



The first meeting of Ukrainian Orthodox parishioners took place on April 27, 1952. Eighteen people were present at this meeting. Their goal was to find a home where the soul could find joy, their own church.

By the 25th of May they had rented space in an Evangelical church where Father D. Foty conducted the service.

Various priests came from London, Waterford and Grimsby.

This first Ukrainian Orthodox congregation endured 17 years without

a home. Services were held only once a month while the membership increased.

Finally, in March of 1969, their patience was rewarded with the purchase of the present building in Waterloo for \$45,000.

On the 31st day of August, 1969 after renovations were completed — the first service was celebrated.

Most of those early worshipers have passed on, but their hard work and enthusiasm remains in those left to continue the faith.



Перша зустріч українських православних парафіян Ватерлоо відбулася 27 квітня 1952 року. На цій зустрічі були присутні вісімнадцять осіб. Їх метою було знайти будинок, де душа може знайти радість, свою власну церкву.

До 25 травня вони орендували приміщення в Євангелічної церкви, де о. Д. Фотій провів першу службу. З того часу різні священики приїжджали з Лондона, Уотерфорда та Грімсбі.

Ця перша українська православна парафія пережила 17 років без дому.

Служби проводилися лише один раз на місяць, а тим часом членство зростало.

Нарешті, у березні 1969 року їх терпіння було нагороджено покупкою нинішньої будівлі у Ватерлоо за 45 000 доларів.

31 серпня 1969 року після завершення реконструкції відбулося свято першої служби. Більшість цих ранніх вірних померли, але їх працьовитість та ентузіазм залишаються у тих, хто залишився, щоб продовжувати віру.

СЛОВО НАСТОЯТЕЛЯ

Дорогі у Христі Брати і Сестри!



Христос Воскрес!

Наші великі мрії — мати свій власний храм сповнилися. Сталося дійсністю те, що ось ще не так давно здавалося не під силу. Часто набуття свого храму у хвилини розчарувань для багатьох здавалися просто недосяжним. На 17-ти річному шляху існування громади Св. Софії в Кіченер зазнало багато з вас великих труднощів, хвилевих невдач та різних прикрощів. — Це був час випробувань. Та Господь є Милосердний і Добрий і не залишив нас Своєї милості. Бог послав і Вам взаємну любов, сильну віру та непохитну надію бути Христовою Громадою. Це скріпило Вас і Ви впродовж останніх двох років своїми руками довершили великого діла.

Нині всі ми безмежно радіємо і ця радість заслужена і довготривала. Подія, яку ми переживаємо, є незвичайної ваги. Посвячення храму сягає далеко поза святочність дня. Ця подія стане переломовим моментом не лише в житті багатьох родин, в житті нашої громади, але й цілої української спільноти цього осередку Кіченер-Ватерлю-Гвелф і околиць. Зріст нашої громади є одним важливим звеном у розбудові нашого, як релігійного так і національного життя цієї околиці.

Ця урочистість посвячення свого храму окрилює всіх нас найкращими надіями і сподіваннями. Але пам'ятаймо, що ніхто нам того не дасть. Пам'ятаймо, що від нас самих багато залежатиме оцей сподіваний розквіт. Пам'ятаймо, що в єдності сила, а в спільності успіх.

Тож у цей для нас святочний день сердечно вітаю всіх вас. Виношу сердечне признання всім, хто безупинно і жертвенно працював при набутті храму. Глибока подяка всім жертводавцям, бо своєю жертвенністю ви уможливили стати дійсністю недавнім мріям. Щира вдячність всім основникам цієї громади, бо ваша праця і турботи не пішли намарно. — Всім подяка, які своїм трудом і жертвами здвинули велике діло на славу Богові, а нашому теперішньому і наступному поколінню на користь. Щира подяка і признання всім отцям-сопастирям, які кожний у свій час вложили свою частину у розбудову громади Св. Софії. Коли ми нині радіємо нашими успіхами, то треба пам'ятати, що все це сталося при незломній і непохитній вірі всіх, і що ця праця була Богові приємною, а нашій спільноті потрібною.

Прошу прийняти від мене з добродійкою та дітьми сердечне привітання та найкращі побажання в розквіті громади. Вірю, що в недалекому майбутньому громада св. Софії займе своє місце серед великих парафій східної Епархії.

Боже благословення нехай буде з усіма вами.

свщ. Т. Міненко, настоятель

СЛОВО ГОЛОВИ УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ ПРАВОСЛАВНОЇ ГРОМАДИ СВ. СОФІЇ В КІЧЕНЕР-ВАТЕРЛЮ



З великою радістю зустрічаємо цей величний момент, коли наша Українська Православна Громада св. Софії досягнула завершення свого великого поступу, набувши свій власний Храм. Сьогоднішній день залишиться історичною для нас датою посвячення цього Божого Дому, до якого ми змагалися на протязі 17-ти років.

З приводу цього маю велику честь і одушевляючу радість у цей день привітати від імені всіх членів і парафіян нашої громади Світлий Духовний Провід наш — Блаженнішого Владику Іларіона, Митрополита Вінніпегу і всієї Канади, Високопреосвященнішого Владику Михаїла, Архiepіскопа Торонта і Східньої Єпархії, Світлу Консисторію і Високостойного Голову Президії її — Високопреподобного Митрофорного Протоієрея Ф. Керницького, Настоятеля нашої Свято-Софіївської парафії о. Тимофія Міненка, Всечесне Українське Православне Духовенство і всіх вірних нашої святої Церкви, шановних Гостей і Делегатів.

Одночасно висловлюю пошану і щире вдячність першим основоположникам і піонерам, які започаткували існування нашої громади, і тим, які продовжують цю працю для Рідної Православної Церкви на славу Божу і честь свого народу.

Щира подяка всім нашим Душпастирям, що духовно обслуговували нашу громаду і допомагали в розбудові її. Особливо виносимо подяку о. Т. Міненкові за його жертвену і віддану працю при розбудові парафії і придбанні цього храму. Глибоке признання і вдячність усім членам громади, прихильникам, жертводавцям, Жіночому Товариству і молоді.

Нехай Всевишній благословить нашу спільну працю, та наділяє нас взаємною пошаною у поєднанні під покровом своєї Рідної Православної Церкви!

Андрій Темінський,
голова громади.

Celebrating Founding Families



БУДІВЕЛЬНИЙ КОМІТЕТ

Сидять (зліва направо): Андрій Темінський, о. Тимофій Міненко, Микола Скоморовський. Стоять: Петро Вітрук, Микола Безбах, Володимир Савицький. На знімці немає Мусія Тихончука.

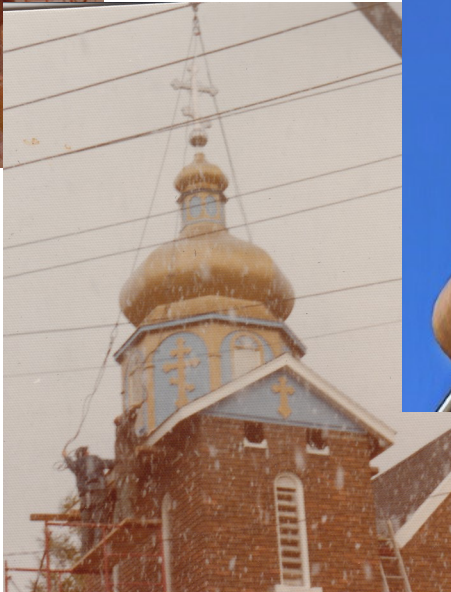


ПІСЛЯ РІЧНИХ ЗБОРІВ В 1968 Р.

Частина учасників Річних Зборів 18 лютого 1968 р. парафії Св. Софії в Кіченер, Онт. коло дому п. Миколи Скоморовського.

...transforming a Parish

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada is an important religious element in Canada, where culture and heritage are fused with the Orthodox Christian faith to form a living and vibrant tradition in Canada



Hagia Sophia: Wisdom of God

The name Saint Sophia comes from the Greek Ἁγία Σοφία — and means “Holy Wisdom”. It is important to remember that the name of our parish — the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Saint Sophia Wisdom of God, should not be confused with the martyr St. Sophia, who together with her three daughters — Faith, Hope and Love — gave their lives for Christ in the early history of the Church.

Every year in September as close as possible to September 21, the Feast Day of the Parish’s Patron is celebrated on a Sunday to mark the Nativity of the Virgin.

At this feastday of the Θεοτόκος — the Ever-Blessed Virgin who gives birth to God and whose intercession with our Lord Jesus Christ, Orthodox Christians fervently pray for — is honoured for preparing the way for the Wisdom of God to become incarnate.

The first church bearing this name was completed by Emperor Justinian in 537 and became the focus of religious life in Constantinople (now Istanbul, in Turkey).

Processions filed in and out of its doors on frequent saints’ days and most of the Byzantine emperors after Justinian were crowned in this church.

More than 10,000 people worked on the building of Hagia Sophia. When it was finished, Justinian is said to have exclaimed, “Solomon, I have outdone thee!” The superficies of the interior are over 23,000 square feet. Passing through two vast porticoes there is a huge vault some 186 feet high and 100 feet wide. The huge central dome, 107 feet across and set on four sturdy piers over the square central area, is flanked by a number of smaller domes. This Byzantine style of church architecture was widely copied, especially in Italy and the Balkans.

Hagia Sophia became a mosque after the fall of Constantinople. Sultan Mehmet II had a soldier flogged for trying to break up a mosaic in the Church of Holy Wisdom. The temple dedicated to Holy Wisdom is now a museum.

The Church of Saint Sophia at the Mother of All Cities of Rus'

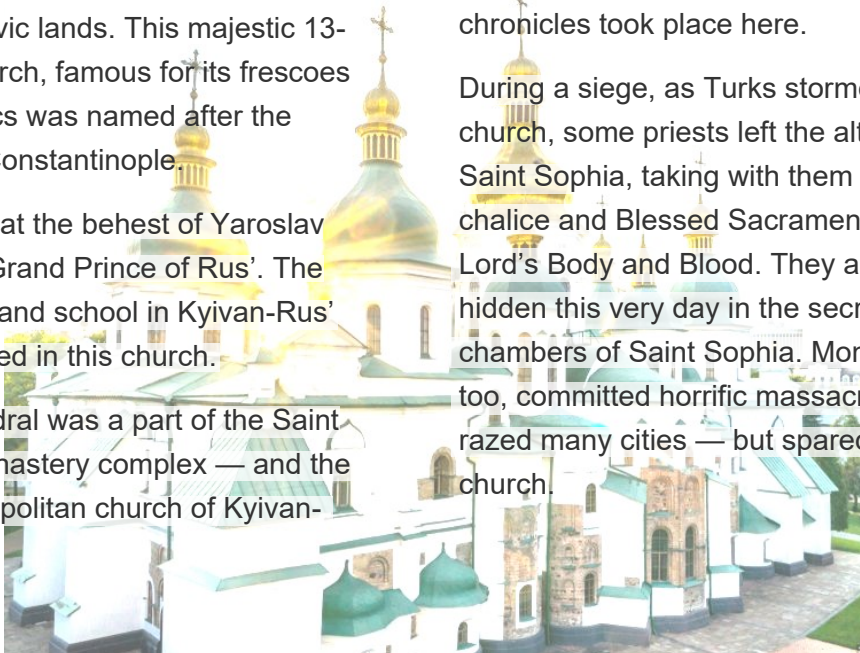
In 1037, Saint Sophia Cathedral was one of the first Christian temples built in East Slavic lands. This majestic 13-domed church, famous for its frescoes and mosaics was named after the church in Constantinople.

It was built at the behest of Yaroslav the Wise, Grand Prince of Rus'. The first library and school in Kyivan-Rus' were situated in this church.

The Cathedral was a part of the Saint Sophia Monastery complex — and the main metropolitan church of Kyivan-

Rus'. Ceremonies to designate envoys, public meetings and the writing of chronicles took place here.

During a siege, as Turks stormed this church, some priests left the altar of Saint Sophia, taking with them the chalice and Blessed Sacrament — our Lord's Body and Blood. They are hidden this very day in the secret chambers of Saint Sophia. Mongols, too, committed horrific massacres and razed many cities — but spared this church.



A City of Churches Crowned with Gold

In its day, Saint Sophia in Kyiv was a spectacle of golden domes, dominating all other churches. It was rumored to be more grand than its namesake in Constantinople; it was said to be both larger and packed with more treasures.

Kyiv, known as the “Mother of all cities of Rus’”, was a place where legend merged with reality. When Saint Sophia was built, it marked a time of prosperity for the Kyivan-Rus' state; a time when it established and maintained close trading and diplomatic contacts with the countries of the Orient and the West. Many European Kings considered it an honour to establish matrimonial ties with the families of the Grand Prince of Kyiv. Rumors of the city's wealth and beauty as well as the high state of the arts reached many countries of the world. Today as one crosses the threshold, the bustle of the present remains, while centuries recede.



ПЕРШЕ БОГОСЛУЖЕННЯ В СВОЙОМУ ХРАМІ

Голова о. Тимофій Мінєнко читає Св. Євангелію в час богослуження в неділю, 31 серпня 1969 р.

A Temple to Worship In

Gathering in a Parish for Prayers,
Feast Day celebrations and
Fellowship is the life blood of the
Orthodox Faith.

Our founders worked tirelessly to
make this come alive and become a
reality in the KW area.



ПЕРША ВЕРБНА НЕДІЛЯ В СВОЙОМУ ХРАМІ

Частина парафіян з виявом радості і задоволення задивлені в майбутнє своєї громади — після Богослуження 19 квітня 1970 р.

The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary—the Feast Day of Our Parish

Troparion

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

Kontakion

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy.

Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feastdays at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer

to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the

living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.



ПІСЛЯ ПЕРШОГО БОГОСЛУЖЕННЯ В СВОЙОМУ ХРАМІ

Pyrogies for Sale

The seed of the Orthodox Faith was sowed on the Canadian land, not by missionaries, but by hard working, simple, devoted peasants, who came from Ukraine and established themselves on the Canadian prairies and eventually all across Canada,

It is indeed on this simple, but at the same time deep faith of the pioneers that the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada was established in Waterloo.

Sisterhood

The purpose of the Sisterhood at St. Sophia is to provide a venue where its members can develop in Orthodox virtue through the labor of supporting and maintaining the holy temple of our Lord and God Jesus Christ.

Hope—Food for the Hungry and helping local students and families.

For Easter, the Twelve Major Feast Days and the Parish Feast Day the Sisterhood purchases flowers and decorates the church.



Several times a year donations are sent to various monasteries, orphanages and convents located around the world.

In order to procure the necessary funds for its projects, the Sisterhood engages in various funding raising activities, such as common meals on Sundays, Pyrogie and bake sales. They provide for the maintenance of the church and church hall.

Funds are also used to support Ray of



ЖІНОЧЕ ТОВАРИСТВО СВ. КН. ОЛЬГИ В 1970 Р.

Сидять (зліва направо): Марія Лаврінок, Віра Жартун, о. Тимофій Мінченко, Ольга Губарик, Марія Никифорчин. Стоять: Марія Коваль, Валентина Безбах, Марія Степанович, Інґа Войтович, Марія Темінська, Анастасія Карпова, Марія Добродій, Анна Вітрук.

Traditional Cooking with the Children



This is not about them becoming chefs,
It's about having them learn a skill and how
much history and knowledge intertwine
through food.

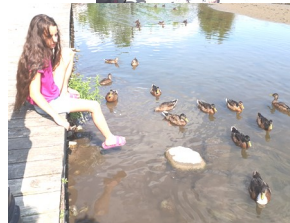
The earliest known farmers in the Ukraine were the Trypillians (4500–2000 B.C.). The territory of the Ukraine had rich soil and a favorable climate perfect for cultivating crops.

The Trypillians grew barley, millet, rye, and wheat. They also herded sheep, pigs, and cattle. Wheat was plentiful, and soon trading routes were established along Ukraine's Black Sea coast to market the grain.

The Ukraine territory became the crossing road connecting Arabia, Europe, and Asia.

Life depended on the activities of cultivating soil for crops. In pre-Christian times, holidays were celebrated during times of transition from one type of agricultural activity to another.

These seasonal festivities were later incorporated into Christian holidays, such as Christmas and Easter.



...and then there is always time for fun



Our Clergy

His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy



Archbishop of
Winnipeg and
the Central
Eparchy,
Metropolitan
of Canada,
Primate of the
Ukrainian
Orthodox

Church of Canada, Locum Tenens of the
Eastern Eparchy

His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy, the second of three sons, was born in Lachine, Quebec on May 26, 1951, to Petro and Anastazia Kalistchuk. He received his primary schooling in Lachine and Hamilton. He completed his secondary education in 1970 in Hamilton. In 1963 the Kalistchuk family moved to Hamilton, Ontario, where the family became members of St. Vladimir's Sobor. The young Yuriy attended Ukrainian School, was involved in Ukrainian Dance (Ensemble Zirka), the Cathedral Choir (which he later became choir conductor of in 1981-1982), and the Ukrainian Youth Organization (CYMK).

In 1970 he entered St. Andrew's College (the UOCC's Seminary in Winnipeg), and during his 3 years of study he obtained

many awards for his academic, musical, and athletic activities.

On September 10, 1989, Fr. Yuriy received his monastic tonsure through the hands of Met. Wasyly. On October 15th, 1989 at the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Hieromonk Yuriy was elevated to Archimandrite by Metropolitan Wasyly. At the Extraordinary Sobor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, on October 22, 1989, at the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Winnipeg, Manitoba, he was elevated to Bishop with the title 'Bishop of Saskatoon and Vicar of the Central Diocese'. His Beatitude Metropolitan Wasyly and Archbishop John of Edmonton fulfilled the act of consecration. In Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on December 17th, 1989 he was enthroned at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

On July 18, 2010 the Sobor (General Council) of the UOCC chose His Eminence to become the sixth metropolitan in the history of this church.

On August 30, 2010 the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Patriarchate of Constantinople ratified the Sobor's decision and elected His Eminence to the Primatial Throne of the UOCC with the title "Archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Eparchy, Metropolitan of Canada".

Bishop ANDRIY

Bishop Andriy (Peshko) was born on April 27, 1972 in Ukraine. In 1979 he entered Elementary School and received the Certificate of Secondary Education in 1989.

In 1989 he enrolled into the first year of St. Petersburg Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1993.

In 1994 -1995 he studied at Christ the Saviour Seminary (Carpatho-Russian Diocese of the Ecumenical Patriarchate) in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, USA under the omoforion of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas (Smishko) of Amissos.

On April 8, 2001 he was ordained a deacon by His Eminence Archbishop Vsevolod (Maidankys) of Scopelos at St. Volodymyr's Cathedral in Chicago.

On September 29, 2003 he was elevated to a rank of protodeacon.

On September 21, 2005 with the blessing of Archbishop Vsevolod he was tonsured a monk and given the name of Andriy (in honour of St. Andrew the First-Called) at St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Chicago.

On September 25, 2005 he was ordained to the rank of hieromonk and was promoted to a rank of ihumen by His Eminence Archbishop Vsevolod. On October 21, 2005 in the Holy Transfiguration of the Lord Cathedral in London (England) he was elevated to the rank of Archimandrite.

On November 22, 2005 His All Holiness Bartholomew I and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate



unanimously elected him as the Bishop for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Europe and the Diaspora with the title 'Bishop of Krateia'.

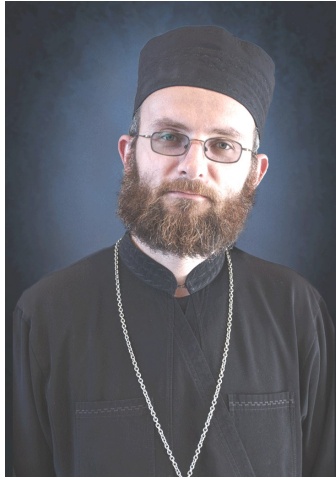
On December 13, 2005 at St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Chicago he was consecrated to Bishop by Archbishop Vsevolod of Scopelos, Metropolitan Nicholas of Amissos, Metropolitan Constantine (Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA), Archbishop Nicholaj (Romanian OC of USA and Canada), Archbishop Job of Chicago (Orthodox Church of America), Archbishop Antony (UOC of the USA), Archbishop Yuriy of Toronto-Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada.

On August 20-24, 2008 at the Extra Ordinary Sobor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada (UOCC), held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, he was chosen 'Bishop-elect of Saskatoon, Vicar of the Central Eparchy of the UOCC – Extraordinary Sobor, UOCC.

On February 1, 2011 he assumed the responsibilities of Bishop of the Eastern Eparchy of the UOCC.

Rev. Father Myroslav

As our Parish Priest of St. Sophia, Wisdom of God, Ukrainian Orthodox Church and at St. Nicholas Simcoe Mission, since August, 2007, Rev. Father Myroslav Shmyhelskyy has provided spiritual care to members of both our Parish and Mission.



Father Myroslav was ordained to the diaconate in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada in April 2007 at St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Toronto.

In May of the same year he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood of the UOCC at St.

Volodymyr Cathedral.

With many group lectures, Bible studies, discussion groups and one-on-one counselling he has attended tirelessly to his flock. He is passionate about building both a strong Orthodox Christian community in Waterloo, KW area and Simcoe.

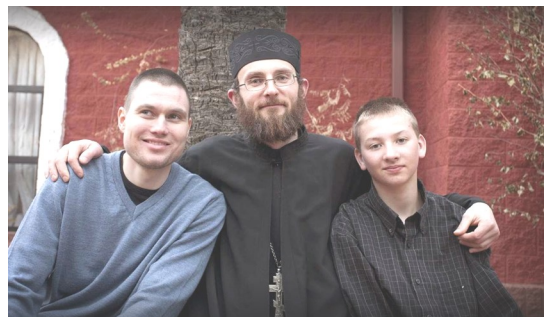
In August 2007 Father Myroslav was assigned to St. Sophia Parish in Waterloo. Truly a great Blessing !

To inspire the Faithful, Father Myroslav has led many pilgrimages to Arizona, New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Mount Athos.

His first Liturgy in Waterloo was served on August 5, the day when Pochayiv Icon of Mother of God is commemorated.

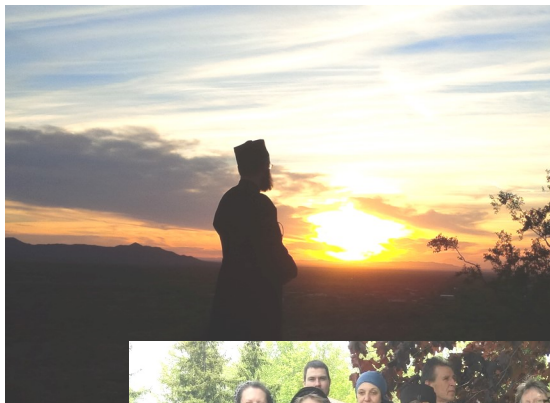
Born in 1980 in the city of Ternopil in western Ukraine, Fr. Myroslav completed school there. In December 2000 Father Myroslav immigrated to Canada and began theological studies in Winnipeg at the Faculty of Theology, St. Andrew's College, University of Manitoba, graduating with the completion of a Bachelor of Theology degree in 2006.

It was also while at St. Andrew's College, University of Manitoba, Father Myroslav



met Marta Velykopska. On November 17, 2006, Father Myroslav and Marta were married at St. Volodymyr Cathedral.

Since their marriage Dobrodiyka Marta assists Father Myroslav in many volunteer capacities within the church. Currently, she plays an active role in the sisterhood, youth programming and with the Parish choir.



Sunday School and Learning about Orthodoxy

Sunday school is an important Parish activity to teach our children about the Orthodox Faith.

The shaping and forming of Orthodox habits and behaviors begins in the home.



When we anoint infants with Chrism at their Baptism, we anoint their eyes, ears, nostrils, mouth, chest, hands, and feet saying “The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Our Sunday school program reinforces what is happening in the family home which is to be a small icon of the Church.

These habits are being formed in a child’s early upbringing it will impact on their being able to connect with the Divine Liturgy and all the other various services of the Faith.



These are the senses that the Holy Spirit empowers so that we learn about the world we live in and the One who made it.

That learning process doesn’t begin at the “age of reason.”

It begins at birth and it is an ongoing process. Young children take in what is around them. As we accommodate to them, they learn to adapt to the world they live in.



While many of the Ukrainian Christmas Eve customs are of a solemn nature, the custom of caroling is joyful and merry.

Ukrainian Christmas songs or carols have



their origins in antiquity, as do many other traditions practiced at Christmas time.

There are two main groups of Christmas songs in Ukraine: the koliadky, which are sung on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; the second group of Christmas songs is called shchedrivky, which are sung during the Feast of the Epiphany.

Teams of carolers start roaming their hometowns on January 7. They are often dressed as characters present during Christ's birth in Bethlehem (the three Kings, Angels, Shepherds, Herod), but also as the ritual goat, and such characters

as the Gypsy and Jew, which had a special place in the life of Ukraine's village agricultural society, as well as Death that comes to take Herod.

Both koliadky and shchedrivky have pagan elements in them, but many have been Christianized.

The themes of Ukrainian Christmas songs vary. Many, of course, deal with the birth of Christ and that occasion's joyful celebrations, and many of them have apocryphal elements; there are carols which contain purely pagan mythological elements; another group deals with Ukrainian history of the 9th to 12th centuries.

Koliadky and shchedrivky are the oldest groups of Ukrainian folk songs. They are sung by Ukrainians at Christmas time throughout the world.



Thank you for your generosity...



All our Prayers and appreciation to Shawky Fahel, Family & Friends for their support and contributions to the major Cupola Project and the replacement of the Parish Hall Kitchen Cabinets.

May God Grant You Many, Many Years !