



St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church

views from the pews

How it all began ...

Our 50th Anniversary Celebration will take place on the weekend of June 1-3, 2018. Your 50th Anniversary Committee has been working hard to make this event exceptional.

The St. Stephen's Book chronicles the history of our parish from 1967 to 2010. The history book is beautifully written and documented. I have heard stories from parishioners at meetings and through casual conversation. The story of St. Stephen's is filled with the spirit, drive and determination of the founding families, clergy and religious.

This is the story of how it all began ... some might say that the "birth" of St. Stephen's occurred during many discussions by a group of gentlemen from Assumption Parish while playing Troika (Kaiser). They all agreed that they would like the liturgy to include English. After much discussion, in May 1967 Bishop Neil Savaryn approved the establishment of a mission. To preserve the name of the first Ukrainian Catholic Church in Calgary (1912-1957), the mission was named St. Stephen's Mission. Father Phil Shinduke was appointed part time pastor and facilities at St. James Hall (Roman Catholic Church) were made available. This is similar to what we now do for St. Basil's. On June 5, 1967 the first English Divine Liturgy was celebrated.

A spirit of community was created and membership steadily increased. In September 1968, 50 years ago, St. Stephen's was awarded full parish status and Father Martin Greschuk was appointed as first pastor. The first Parish Council was formed in 1969: Walter Krysak - President; Ed Sakundiak - Vice-President; Orest Sachkiw - Treasurer; Stan Kwasniowski - Secretary; Orest Demco, John Zuk, Jerry Jumaga - Directors. To accommodate further growth, St. Stephen's would need a building of its own. In May 1970, 1.8 acres (present parish site) was purchased with a loan from the eparchy. Sod turning took place February 20, 1972; construction commenced in March and finished in June. *The first Divine Liturgy in our new church was celebrated on July 2, 1972.*

The success of our parish is a reflection of us all – past, present and future. Celebrate this milestone by participating in the many planned activities.

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- ❖ **Save the dates:** June 1 – June 3, 2018 for the 50th Anniversary **Commemorative Events** – details coming soon!
- ❖ Come and join the "**Be a Great Dad**" session on January 27th at 10:00 am.
- ❖ Please don't forget to sign up for this year's **50th Anniversary** Edition of the St. Stephen's **photo directory**.
- ❖ **Recipe Collections** for the 50th Anniversary Cookbook can still be sent. We want your recipes!
For more information contact Trish Popel at 50anivcookbook@gmail.com or 403-835-3077.