



# St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church

## views from the pews

*How it all began . . .*



April 22, 2018



This loving memory submitted by the children of Helen and Joe: Daria, Julie, Mark, Cynthia and Dave.

Our parents, Helen and Joe Ewanchyna, moved to Calgary in 1981 and immediately joined St. Stephen's Parish. Helen was very familiar with the parish because her brother Ed Demchuk was one of the founding families and Ed had told her great things about St. Stephen's. Upon arrival, Helen and Joe felt right at home and

actively participated in many parish activities. Joe was a leader on Parish Council and Helen was active with UCWLC.

One thing that they both enjoyed doing was welcoming new parishioners, having been one themselves. Helen and Joe would identify new faces in the pews, and would make it a point to visit with them after Liturgy and get to know them. Many current parishioners have shared their memory of Helen and Joe welcoming them on their first day, and how this "personal touch" strongly influenced their decision to remain with the parish. Helen and Joe both cared deeply about their faith in God, their Ukrainian heritage and contributing to the strong community at St. Stephen's; they encouraged their children and their grandchildren to do the same. Helen and Joe celebrated many important events at St Stephens, including the marriages of their five children and various celebrations with their grandchildren. Many of the special memories our family share center around this parish, and the friendships that have been developed over the years.

- ❖ **Save the dates:** June 1 – June 3, 2018 for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary **Commemorative Events** – details coming soon!
- ❖ Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> during 10:30 Liturgy - Most Rev. Bishop David will facilitate the Sub-Deaconate Ordination for three of our parishioners.
- ❖ Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 Liturgy - The Bishop's Annual Tea.
- ❖ The 3<sup>rd</sup> session in our speaker series, **Beginning the Grief Journey** is on Friday May 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 9:30. Cost is FREE and refreshments will be served. Register with Jean Pashulka: 403-271-6092 or email mykitchen@shaw.ca.

Linda and Randy Dudar remember Joe and Hellen with much fondness:

*Joe and Helen were the first couple we met when we first arrived to St. Stephen's parish. We happened to stay after church for a coffee in the hall and that was when Joe and Helen introduced themselves to us. Their smiling faces, gentleness and spirit of hospitality made us feel so much at home. They also made plans with us to visit their home for Sunday brunch. Although they hardly knew us, their generosity was demonstrated once again through their time and love for others.*

*What Joe and Helen may not have known that Sunday was that Randy and I were in the midst of deciding where we would become permanent parishioners and had also planned to visit other church locations. Joe and Helen helped us decide that we did not need to look any further. So many couples in our parish become role models for others and we were blessed with these and many lovely people in our lives. We will never forget them.*

*May God grant them both Eternal Memory.*

*Veechnaya Pamyat*

I know everyone enjoys the stories about our parishioners and the fun times as St. Stephen's grew into the wonderful parish we have today. I know there are many, many, more so:

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