



## St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church

### views from the pews

*How it all began . . .*

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

#### ***GARAGE SALE A SUCCESS! Recap from June 2011 submitted by The Garage Sale Grannies***

A couple of years ago, a seed was planted to hold a fundraiser garage sale for the many needs in our parish. Time went by and the garage sale did not happen. At the 2010 semi-annual meeting, it was obvious there was a need for a Youth Minister. The parish's financial picture was pretty bleak. Unless some serious fundraising happened, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to hire a Youth Minister or support any kind of Youth Ministry programs. It was time to resurrect the idea to have a Garage Sale Fundraiser. Parish Council overwhelmingly supported the idea and was excited that parishioners would tackle this project. The project was given the go ahead and the planning began.

Parishioners donated their treasures which meant they could clean out their basements. There was apprehension that there would not be enough items donated to have a worthwhile sale. God truly answers prayers and the Committee was overwhelmed with donations. Without the response and generosity of all those who donated, the Garage Sale would not have happened. Thank you for allowing your gently used items to be turned into gold. Prayers were then needed for "garage sale shoppers" and these were answered as well. People came, they shopped, some wanted deals, but most were generous beyond the price of the item. The generosity and wonderful comments from the shoppers was very humbling. There was money raised for the Youth Ministry and its mission, and parishioners threw in extra dollars to make this project an overwhelming success.

Left over donations went to the Slave Lake Library and remaining books were delivered to the local fire hall for Servants' Anonymous. Dennis Yurkiw could shop for his cause helping the needy, Ambrose Comchi shopped for Inn from the Cold and the Peplinskis could replenish their supplies for many other charities. The remaining items were picked up by the Inter-Faith Charity. In the broadest sense, this Garage Sale helped an entire community!

Enough cannot be said about the volunteers and the fact that this project involved the entire parish. Parishioners worked side by side and made new friends. We had an opportunity to work with some great kids. Thank you to Parish Council, to Father Peter and Father Mark for all of their support and prayers. All of this meant so much especially at times when the whole project became overwhelming. Thank you to all the volunteers who brought food, who donated their time and those that gave us guidance and encouragement. Mother Teresa said it best, "God has many volunteers for the big important jobs. He lacks cheerful hands for the more humble jobs". St. Stephen's volunteers are always there to do it all ...the big jobs and small, the important jobs and the humble jobs. To say this project was a success is an understatement. It is difficult to find the words to express the St. Stephen's Garage Sale experience ... so many people, so much time, so much effort, so much charity. And always, all glory and praise goes to Our Father in Heaven!

I welcome YOUR stories, so please contact me: [laurie.kindrachuk@shaw.ca](mailto:laurie.kindrachuk@shaw.ca) or cell: 403-614-5581

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- ❖ **Save the dates:** June 1 – June 3, 2018 for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary **Commemorative Events** – details coming soon!
  - ❖ Please don't forget to sign up for this year's **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** Edition of the St. Stephen's **photo directory**.
  - ❖ **Recipe Collections** for the 50th Anniversary Cookbook - please send as many as you wish. Deadline April 1<sup>st</sup>. For more information contact Trish Popel at [50anivcookbook@gmail.com](mailto:50anivcookbook@gmail.com) or 403-835-3077.