



## St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church

### views from the pews

*How it all began . . .*

February 4th, 2018

I speak often with my partners Don Bobyne and John Siroishka to gather information. It is because of their sleuthing skills that you read these stories. I must proclaim my appreciation for all they do. We know it is the detectives who do the work ... the reporter (me) merely puts the story to paper. Thank you gentlemen! And thank you to Marcy and Pat for lending me their husbands.

*The Early Days by John Siroishka:*

A need to consider a new Ukrainian Catholic parish in south Calgary, one that integrated English into the Divine Liturgy and our community got us thinking. **What is our plan?** Motivated by enthusiasm and desire we held our first organizational meeting in April 1967. We needed to have a strong plan to present to Bishop Savaryn to convince him we could do this. Approval from St. James Hall and their K of C for use of their facilities was the first step. Then we went to work!

Monies were needed for hall maintenance, supplies and mostly to show the bank we were serious about this project. How do we come up with these funds? We canvassed for parishioners and 33 families signed up. They signed a pledge form making a monetary commitment. The fun began, enthusiasm exploded and a committee was formed. We had socials every month, any excuse for a party, Pop Stomp, dances, auctions, Christmas tree sales, 50/50 draws. We even had someone donate fence paint – anything that would raise a buck or two. Bingos made more money selling hotdogs than bingo cards. **We had a plan!** Parishioner numbers grew, pledges were honored. The Bishop and the bank were both impressed. PRAYERS HELPED! In July 1970 plans were discussed for building a multi-use cultural centre on property acquired from The Church of God next door. Nothing could stop us!

This past Friday we celebrated the 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Men's Dinner. Tickets for the first event were \$25 selling 100 tickets and raising \$1200. Today this is St. Stephen's biggest fund raiser, selling over 300 tickets and raising over \$75,000.

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.