



St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church

views from the pews

How it all began . . .

May 13, 2018

IN HONOUR OF OUR MOTHER MARY, WE CELEBRATE **ALL** OUR MOTHERS TODAY!

We love and venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary because she is the Theotokos or Mother of God. We honour her in many ways, through akathistos (hymns to the Mother of God), Molebens, special devotions, prayers and the rosary that help us contemplate her qualities and virtues. The Mary Garden gives us yet another way to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary through reflecting on flowers named after her and immortalized in legends that tell us about her attributes and significant moments in her life and that of her child Jesus.

Why a Mary Garden at St. Stephen's? Every year the children at St. Stephen's Summer Day Camp, work on a stewardship program. The theme of the camp for 2003 was to dive deeper into your faith. Ukrainians have always had a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and a love for gardening. The Pope announced October 2002-2003 to be the year of the rosary. It was decided the children would deepen their devotion to the Theotokos by learning about Mary Gardens and a Ukrainian prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Each child then had the opportunity of planting the Mary Garden and placing a bead in the rosary mosaic.

The completed garden has been designed to represent the four decades of the mysteries of the Rosary. The Joyful Mysteries are represented by white flowers; The Mysteries of Light are represented by yellow flowers; the Sorrowful Mysteries are represented by red, purple and blue flowers; the Glorious Mysteries are represented by pink flowers. Our Lady, known as the Flower of the Field, is said to be symbolized by all of the flowers. The rose "Queen of Flowers" for centuries has been associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary, in paintings and writings.

There is a rose bush in each section of our garden representing the color of the mysteries of the Rosary. A white rose for Mary's Purity, a yellow rose for Mary Glorious, a red rose for Mary's Sorrow and a pink rose for Mary's Prophecy.



PREPARING MARY'S PERMANENT
CEMENT HOLDING
Larry Mandryk, Sam Bulych, Merl Korchiniński



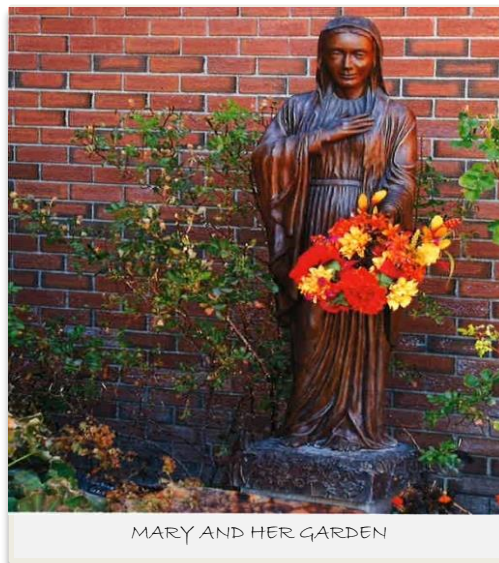
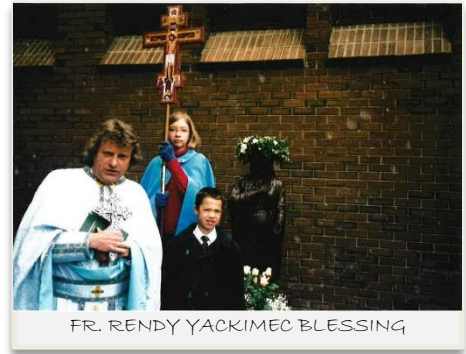
EVERYONE NEEDS A FOREMAN



MARY UNVEILED
Irene Groch, Margaret Mandruk

The Mary Garden was initiated by Margaret and Larry Mandryk and mainly inspired by Mary's love of flowers and also the fact that their son Darryl died on one of Mary's feast days. "My mother always told me that if someone passes on August 15, the day of the Assumption, they will automatically go to heaven. That really struck a cord with me and gave me great comfort" said Margaret.

The bronze statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary was commissioned with Studio West Bronze Foundry (Cochrane, AB) and blessed on May 9 2004 by Father Rendy Yakimec. It was donated by Steve and Irene Groch Family "In memory of our pioneer parents". Ongoing tender loving care of St. Stephen's Mary garden is provided by Adeline Simpson. *Thank you to Margaret Mandryk for this story.*



Please continue to share these memories: Please contact: laurie.kindrachuk@shaw.ca Cell: 403-614-5581

Please join us for the entire 50th Anniversary weekend festivities:

Friday, June 1:

Ain't Your Baba's Zabava—Back to the 80's - Join the young adults as they step into the 80's with their version of the good old fashioned Zabava! Checkout their Facebook Events page for details and tickets.

Saturday, June 2:

11:00am—Divine Liturgy

1:00pm—Champagne Reception—a time to gather to reminisce with old friends and meet new ones as we give thanks and acknowledge our blessings while enjoying delicious food and refreshments. **Tickets available until Sunday, May 27th** in the atrium after liturgies, the parish office 403-249-4818, Don Bobyn 403-830-3215, Andy Sakundiak 403-923-6344 or Ambrose Comchi 403-862-3269.

Sunday, June 3:

11:00am – Trilingual Divine Liturgy- St. Stephen's and St. Basil's join together for this singular Divine Liturgy of the day celebrating in English, Ukrainian and Arabic.

12:30pm – Farewell to Fr. Bo—St. Basil's will be providing a simple picnic style lunch after liturgy either inside or out, weather permitting, as we gather together in thanksgiving. Proceeds from the lunch will go to St. Basil's as a fundraiser.

We hope to see you all weekend long!