



St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church

views from the pews

How it all began . . .

October 28, 2018

Candles and Prayers at the Icon to Our Lady of Pochaiv

Submitted by Adeline Simpson

Everyone likes to light a candle for their intentions with a prayer. Have you ever thought about what happens to the candles after the flame is gone?

The brass center section stand consists of 161 votive candle holders which sit below the POCHAIV ICON. In 1998 the stand was donated and dedicated in loving memory of Peggy Raaflaub and William Strashok.

Later, the two blending stands were added consisting of 77 votive holders on the left side and

77 on the right. The total is now 315 candles. That's a lot of burning candles!



Over the years there have been different volunteers who tended to this caring work, including parish members who have passed away. Adeline Simpson took on the care for a number of years, took a break and now is back cleaning away "for the Glory of God". Every Monday, after the four Sunday Divine Liturgies (St. Stephen's – three - and St. Basil's) the work is done. The bottom pin is removed and new candles are inserted. The colored glass holders are washed only at Christmas and Easter with extra touch up cleaning done in between for special events held in the church.

Adeline tells me "she feels the presence of the watchful eye of the Lord while working and as a candle is lit to end the day with a prayer."

- ❖ Please continue to share your memories as they are important to our parish family.
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