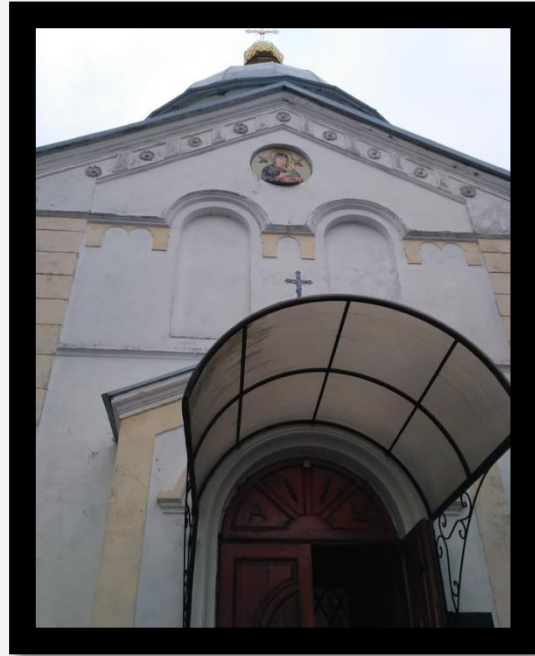


St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Church

VIEWS FROM THE PEWS | April 25/21

Tabernacle Journey



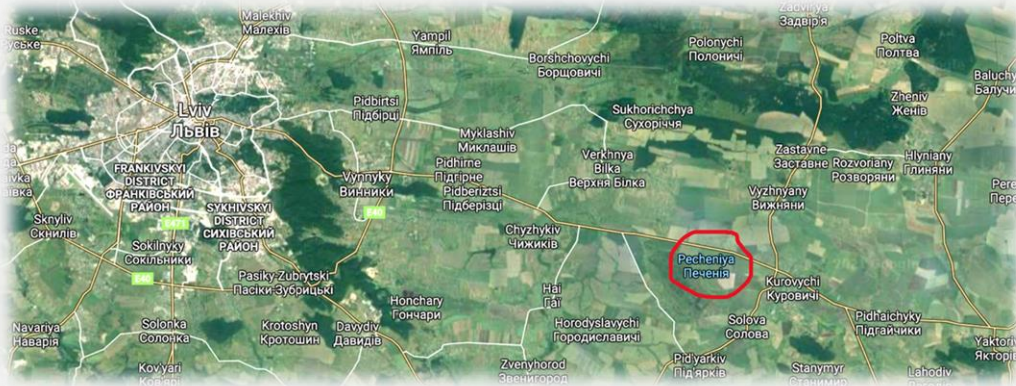
Many of you may remember the first Tabernacle that served St Stephen's Parish.

In early 1971 when our Church/hall was just about build, Father Greschuk, in one of his homily's, asked the parishioners if they would like to donate items for the church; crosses, Tabernacle etc. Mary Hrynew, a parishioner of St Stephen's, had passed away in October and her husband, Peter, donated a tabernacle in her name. There is a brass plate on the bottom back of the tabernacle with a dedication to Mary Hrynew, 1971.

This Tabernacle held a prominent place on the Altar and served St Stephen's parishioners beautifully until 1997 when it was replaced with our present Tabernacle.

The journey of this Tabernacle did not stop but was loaned to other places of worship and returned to St Stephen's several times.

For the last 3-4 years it had been in storage until John Kowal and Ihor Novosilets, a parishioner currently working with John, came across it. Ihor's Mother was born in the small village of Pecheniya Ukraine and Ihor still has relatives there.



According to Ihor, the Greek Catholic church in Pecheniya was closed for many years and the village is populated more by elderly residents (the young people have moved to the city). With the liberation of Ukraine, the Russians removed items from the Church when they left, leaving the church empty. The villagers are in the process of revitalizing the Church and have done many repairs, finding objects to beautify the interior.

When church items become history, a decision has to be made on how to dispose or repurpose items. St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish Council, along with the blessings of the Art Committee and Father Michael Bombak, has agreed to donate the original tabernacle to the church in Pecheniya.

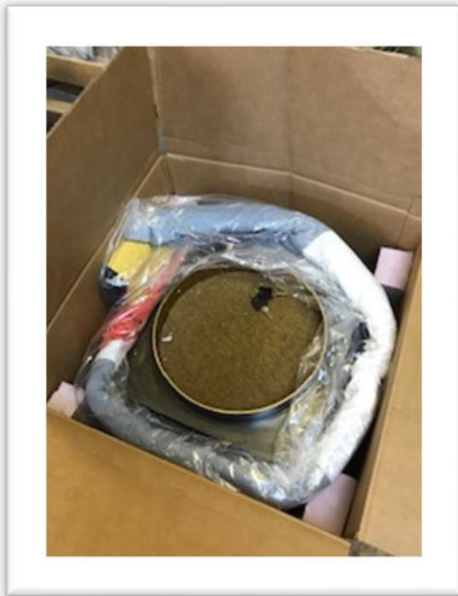
The church is being revitalized and currently Father Taras Holota, from L'viv, makes the trip every weekend to Pecheniya to serve liturgy and has been doing this for two years.

Nativity of the Mother of God / УГКЦ Різдва Пресвятої Богородиці



Along with the Tabernacle, a queen size patchwork quilt is included and is intended for the priest's residence in the village.

There were minor repairs that were needed on the Tabernacle and they were completed by John Kowal, Bob Chudyk and Jordan Chudyk. They were very careful not to disturb the tabernacle while repairing. The Tabernacle was tightly packed and Marge Owerko assisted with the delivery of the parcel to Meest for final delivery to Ukraine.



“May this gift of a tabernacle symbolize the return of the spirit of love by the Canadian Ukrainians to their native lands, whose families brought to Canada a deep faith and an attachment to Christ's Church.”