

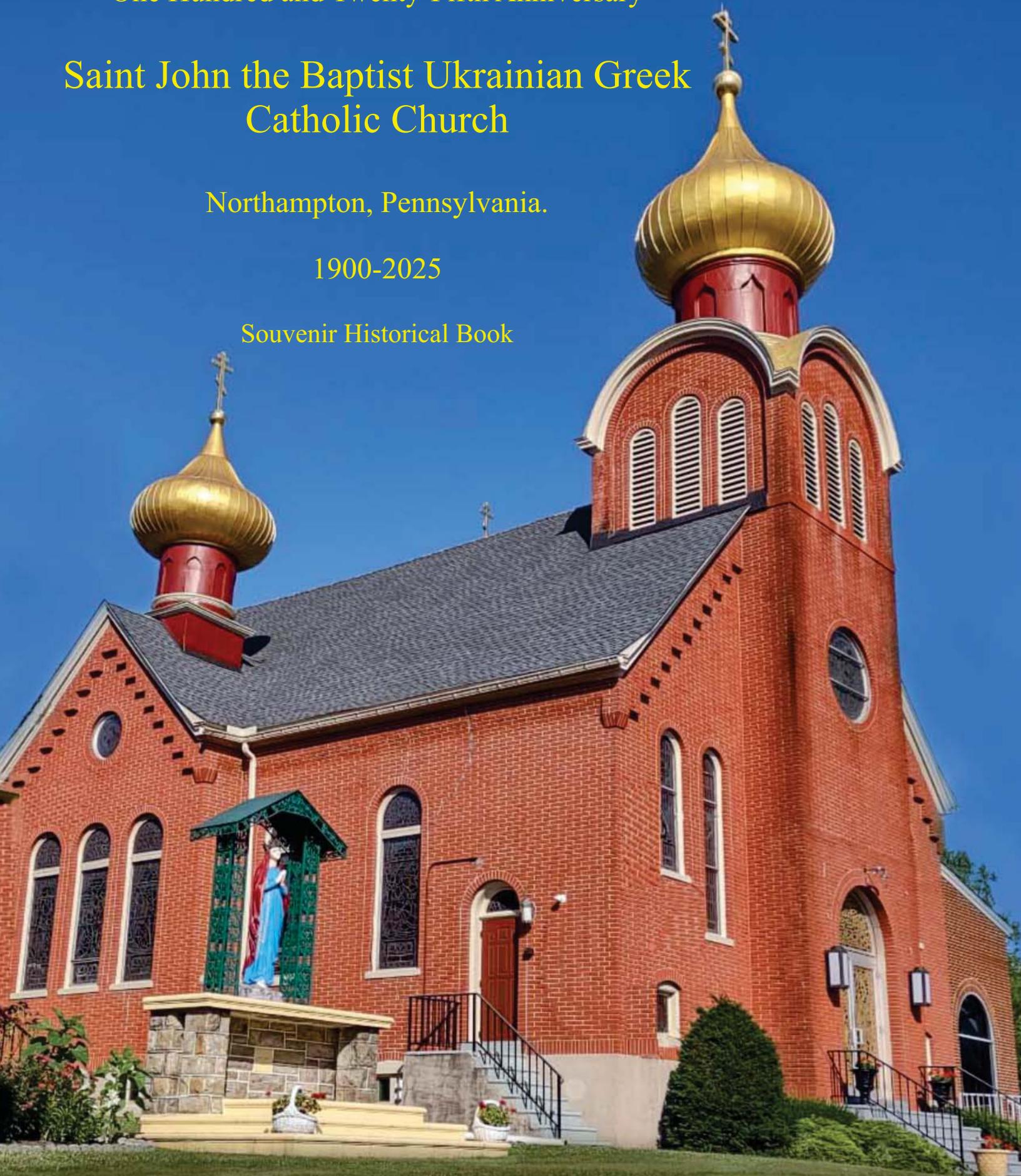
One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary

Saint John the Baptist Ukrainian Greek
Catholic Church

Northampton, Pennsylvania.

1900-2025

Souvenir Historical Book



SAINT

JOHN

THE
FORERUNNER



Saint John the Baptist and Forerunner of Jesus Christ
and the patron of our church

Dedication

Wow 125 years.

Just let that sink in.

That is what I did when asked to put pen to paper and write this dedication. The year was 1900; our ancestors knew they wanted to keep God in their lives. They saved, donated, bought land, put pickaxe to soil, stone upon stone hard work and sweat blossomed into a church building. A house of God where they could gather, worship, pray and communicate with God.

They accomplished their mission.

To their children who were brought up in the faith, that as they grew kept their parents' dreams alive. They added, expanded, and modernized over the years because it was just as important to them as it was to their fathers and mothers.

To their grandchildren who honor the legacy of their grandparents and parents, who continue in their footsteps to keep this house of God going, maintaining, expanding and beautifying it.

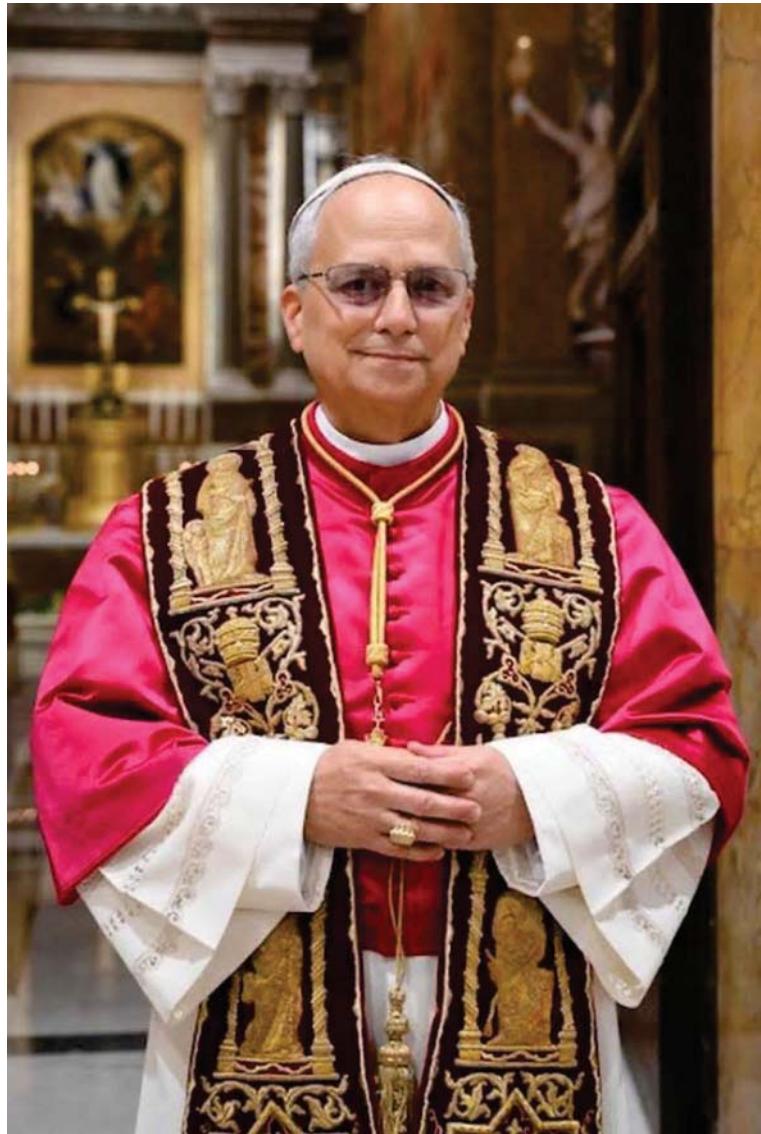
To those people who are long gone, the people who are here with us now and the people who are in the future to come.

To all of those people past, present and future who ever grasped the handle of any of the church doors and pulled them open and entered this beautiful house and gazed in awe at God's presence.

It is with great pride and honor that TO THESE PEOPLE I DEDICATE THESE 125 YEARS OF BEAUTY AND PEACE.

God's Blessings on all,

Peter G. Nush

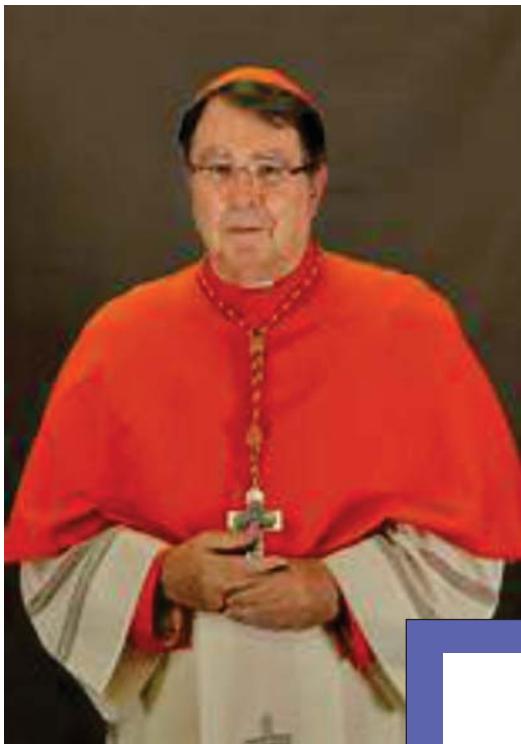


His Holiness Pope Leo XIV

*Elected May 8, 2025
First Pope born in the
United States of America*



*His Beatitude
Sviatoslav Shevchuk
Patriarch of Kyiv-Galicia
Primate of the
Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church*



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3610

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

March 19, 2025

Prot. N. 23463/25

Dear Fr. Bunik and Parishioners of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church:

As the personal representative of the Holy Father to the Church in the United States, I have the honor of conveying to you the spiritual closeness and paternal affection of His Holiness on the occasion of your parish's 125th anniversary which you will celebrate on June 1, 2025.

For your parish, this momentous occasion adds to the joy of the present Jubilee Year, in which as a Catholic Church we celebrate the hope that Christ has given to us by his death and resurrection. Your parish can be a community which inspires hope when, as Pope Francis has said, it becomes "an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration" as well as "a center of constant missionary outreach" (*EVANGELII GAUDIUM*, 28).

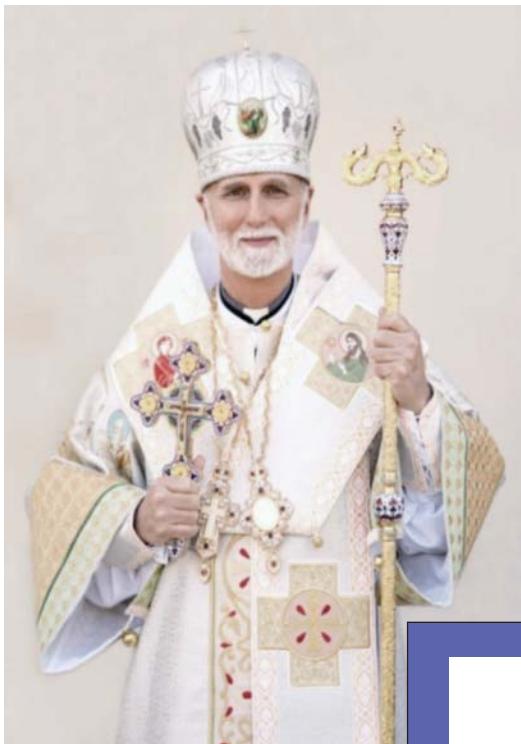
Entrusting you to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist, the Holy Father imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of strength and joy in the Lord.

Joining to the Pope's blessing my own congratulations and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Christophe Pierre
Cardinal Christophe Pierre
Apostolic Nuncio

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
NORTHAMPTON, PENNSYLVANIA
JUNE 1, 2025



METROPOLITAN ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA

Ukrainian Catholic Church
810 North Franklin Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19123-2005
Phone (215) 627-0143
ukrmet@ukrcatholic.org

Rev. Vasil Bunik

Saint John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church
1343 Newport Avenue
Northampton PA 18067

June 1, 2025

215/2025 CH

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Fr. Vasil,

Dear Parishioners of Saint John the Baptist in Northampton,

In the name of the clergy, religious, and faithful of our Archeparchy and the Ukrainian Catholic Metropolia in the United States, please accept our heartfelt congratulations on the 125th anniversary of the founding of your parish!

This celebration marks not only a significant milestone in your history but also serves as an occasion to renew your missionary spirit to share the Gospel in the years ahead.

Your parish, founded in 1900, was the first Catholic church in the newly established city. Thus, the presence of the Ukrainian Catholic community is deeply woven into the very fabric of this town in the Lehigh Valley. Today, you run the renowned pierogi factory, which continues to support the life of the parish.

The fruitfulness of your prayer and life in Christ is clearly visible today, as our Archeparchy rejoices in a new vocation. Seminarian Nicholas Sharga will receive the minor orders of Reader, Cantor, and Subdeacon in the very community where his journey of faith began.

You celebrate this jubilee during the Jubilee Year of Hope. May this celebration deepen your hope and strengthen your witness to Christ, who died and rose for our salvation.

May the protection of the Blessed Mother of God and the intercession of Saint John the Baptist, your parish's patron saint, always accompany you.

May the Lord grant you many blessed years!

+ Borys

Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia



УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛІЦЬКА ЕПАРХІЯ
СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF
SAINT NICHOLAS

2235 WEST RICHLAND STREET • CHICAGO, IL 60622 • TEL: 773.276.3980 • FAX: 773.276.6799 • CHICAGOUC.ORG

April 10, 2025

OUT-2025-143

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Dear Reverend Father Vasil,

I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your kind invitation to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church. This milestone is a profound testament to the enduring faith, dedication, and unity of your parish community over the past century and beyond.

Regrettably, I will be unable to attend the celebration on June 1, 2025, as I will be in California at that time. Nonetheless, please be assured of my spiritual closeness. I will be united with you and your faithful parishioners in prayer as you mark this joyous and historic occasion.

The 125th Anniversary of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church is indeed a momentous celebration. For over a century, your parish has stood as a pillar of faith, a sanctuary of prayer, and a vibrant witness to the richness of our Ukrainian Catholic tradition. Generations have found spiritual nourishment and community within your sacred walls.

May this anniversary be not only a time of celebration but also of renewed mission and hope. May the parish continue to flourish in faith, unity, and love — ever mindful that the church is not only a place of worship, but the living Body of Christ.

May God continue to bless our parish for generations to come.

Многая літа! (Many blessed years!)

May the Lord's blessings be upon you!

Most Reverend Benedict (Aleksiychuk)
Bishop of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy



УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛІЦЬКА СПАРХІЯ У СТЕМФОРДІ
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF STAMFORD

161 Glenbrook Road
Stamford, CT 06902
USA

Tel: (203) 324-7698
Fax: (203) 357-7681
E-mail: stamfordeparchy@optonline.net

March 3, 2025

Rev. Vasil Bunik
St. John the Baptist
Ukrainian Catholic Church
1343 Newport Avenue
Northampton PA 18067

Слава Ісусу Христу! Praise be to Our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Dear Reverend Bunik and Honorable Parishioners of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church,

On the joyous occasion of the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of your parish, I have the pleasure to extend, from the clergy, religious and faithful of the Stamford eparchy, our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes, thanking our heavenly Father for His bountiful blessings of so many years of grace, and praying that your parish family continue to grow and prosper for many more years to come!

Although I would have very much liked to join you for this joyous celebration, previous commitments prevent me from doing so. However, please find enclosed our formal greetings.

Сотвори, ласкавий Господи, Церкви св. Івана Хрестителя у Нортгемптон, Многі і Благі Літа!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

+Paul, OSBM

*Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM
Eparch of Stamford*

enc

Слава Ісусу Христу!

*On the joyous occasion of the
125th Anniversary
of St John the Baptist Ukrainian
Catholic Church
in Northampton, PA,*

*we extend our heartfelt congratulations
and cordial best wishes,
thanking our Heavenly Father
for His bountiful blessings
of one hundred and twenty-five years.*

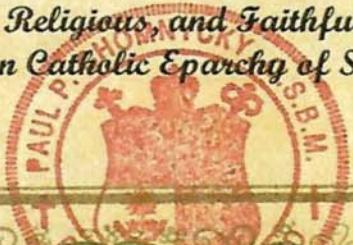
*We pray that God Almighty continue
to shower the parish family
with His choicest blessings, and that
St John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church
continue to grow and prosper
for many more years to come!*

*Сотвори, Господи, Церкві Св. Івана Хрестителя
Многі і Благі Літа!*

Yours in Christ Jesus,

+ Paul, OSBM

*Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, Eparch
Clergy, Religious, and Faithful
of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford*





ANTHONY S. PRISTASH
MAYOR



BRIAN WELSKO
MANAGER - SECRETARY

JULIA KUTZLER
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

RONALD GLASSIC
VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Borough of NORTHAMPTON Pennsylvania

1401 LAUBACH AVE., P.O. BOX 70 • NORTHAMPTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18067-0070 • TEL.: 610-262-2576 • FAX: 610-261-0505

Dear Reverend Bunik, Most Holy Bishop, Priests, Parish Members and Guests;

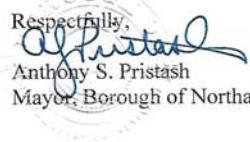
“Krystos Voskres”!

My congratulations regarding the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of “St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church”, on Newport Avenue in Northampton, Pennsylvania!

As the first Catholic Church in Northampton, St. John’s has been the spiritual home for hundreds of families throughout its colorful history. Providing not only the Holy Liturgy, but prayerful dialog, schooling and other social functions, bringing our community together in Jesus’ name. It’s an incredibly proud tradition, one so special and unique to all of our Ukrainian families.

That said, in honor and recognition of your 125 years of faithful and loving religious service to our Northampton-area Ukrainian mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles and all family members who have passed through St. John’s Church doors, now I, Anthony Pristash, Mayor of the Borough of Northampton, hereby proclaim Tuesday, June 24th, 2025 ... the actual date of the 125th Anniversary ... as “St. John The Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church Day”, here in the Borough of Northampton. I encourage all of Borough Council, our staff, and the citizens of the Borough to join me in recognizing St. John’s celebration and what the joyful presence all the Priests, Staff, and Parishioners have meant to our community spirit here in Northampton throughout these 125 years.

I wholeheartedly wish you many more years of joyful, spiritual, Ukrainian Catholic celebrations and may God, our Father, continue to bless you, through His Son, our Divine Savior, Jesus Christ, with the comfort of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Respectfully,

Anthony S. Pristash
Mayor, Borough of Northampton, PA.



*Father Vasil Bunik
our Pastor*

PREFACE

This book was written to inform readers about St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church. It is also a testimonial to the pioneers who established this parish.

I take great pride in our Ukrainian Catholic faith and our church. This is proved by my painstaking research over the past 30 plus years in order to enlighten people about the events and the lives of the priests in our church. These events are documented from the infancy of our parish, leading up to our 125th anniversary.

There have been four other books published about the history of our church. The first was printed in 1950, followed by another in 1975. In 1988 a directory listing the names and addresses of the parishioners along with some historic facts was printed. To celebrate the 100th anniversary in 2000 another book was printed.

A lot of research has been done for this current book: text from the three previous books, along with internet searches that included blogs, newspaper articles, articles from Wikipedia and other outside sources, and the Cathedral archives helped form the makeup of this book. Other churches history books also provided me with some history of our past.

Baptismal, matrimonial, and funeral records from our own church archives were also obtained and offered a lot of information. Interestingly enough, there were some differences found amongst these records. Names, birth-dates, and dates of death did not match what had been previously recorded. Proofreading, mispronunciation, phonetic spellings and other unknown factors may have caused these differences. For example, the names of priests written in Ukrainian/English language varied from place to place. Due to the various regional translations, a lot of confusion ensued. An individual with one specific name may have been referred to by two or three different spellings, despite being the same person.

I hope that everyone who reads this book learns about our church's history and the parishioners that have populated it over the course of these 125 years of existence. Finally, I hope everyone who reads this book can appreciate the sacrifices our forefathers endured in order to give us this beautiful place to worship.

Peter J. Krywczuk

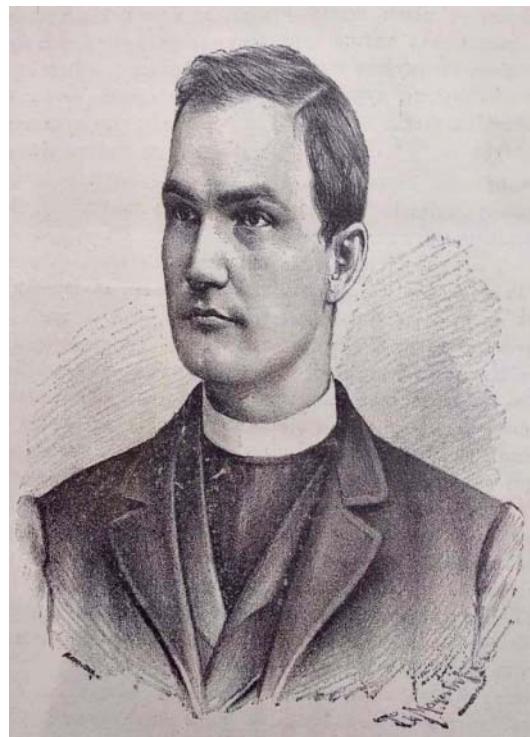
A new country and a new beginning:

Immigrants coming to the United States of America at the end of the 19th century from Galicia, Austria, which is now present day Western Ukraine, arrived in Massachusetts and Vermont and later made their way to Shenandoah, Pennsylvania. They all had the same things on their minds: Purchasing a home, finding a job, (and to some the important thing) having a place to worship in their own Byzantine Eastern tradition.

The people in Shenandoah pleaded for a Ukrainian priest. Understanding this need Metropolitan-Archbishop Sylvester Sembratovych sent Father Ivan Wolansky to America. He came to New York in December of 1884, stopping briefly in Jersey City, N.J., before continuing to Pennsylvania. History was made on December 19, 1884, when the first Divine Liturgy was celebrated in a rented overflowing Shenandoah Hall.

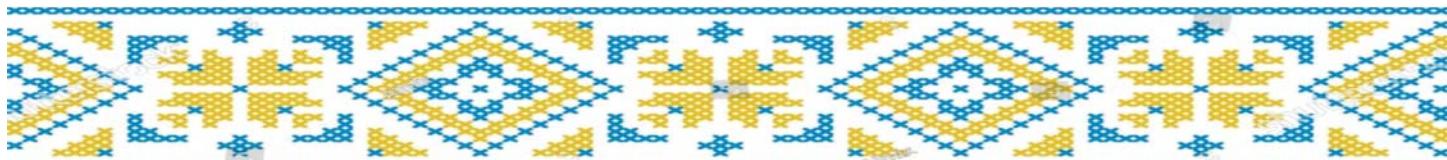


Metropolitan-Archbishop
Sylvester Sembratovych



Father Ivan Wolansky

Shenandoah was a coal-mining town with hard and dangerous work, and this along with the uncertainty of going on strike led some of the people to decide to look for work somewhere else. They heard there was good work in the Lehigh Valley. They arrived in a place called Newport, which in 1902 became present day Northampton. Located near the Lehigh River and canal, pioneers were attracted to the Lehigh Valley area because of its employment opportunities in the cement industry. The Atlas Cement company was the largest producer of cement in the world at that time. There were other employment opportunities too, such as working on the canal (which was used to transport coal and other things), the railroad, the developing truck and trolley manufacturing companies, and garment and cigar factories.



The building of a new church and community:

John Popadich was very interested in building a church in this area. Others who were happy to hear about this exciting news included Michael Lukachowsky, Peter Solan, Stephen Spak, Michael Kowal, Michael Patrick, John Lychak, Anthony Crayosky, Anthony Lukach, Michael Maruschak, Joseph Gladish, Tekla Molchany, and Samuel Drabik.

By the autumn of 1899, enough money was raised, and they were able to purchase land from local businessman Samuel Laubach who sold them six lots for the price of \$150.00 per lot. This was a beautiful wheat field and seemed most appropriate since wheat is grown in Ukraine.

Knowing that the church body needed to have a charter, on January 22, 1900, the articles of incorporation were approved, and a charter was granted for the first Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in both Northampton and Lehigh counties.

The first of its kind in Northampton and Lehigh counties:

The cornerstone of the first Greek Catholic Church in the Lehigh Valley was laid on the afternoon of May 6, 1900, with a large gathering of well over 2,500 people. The churches represented were St. Matthew's of Cementon with a group of 30 people; St. Andrew's of Catasauqua, 84; Sts. Cyril and Methodius, a turnout of 50. The Catasauqua and Stemton Bands and the Sailors' drum corps of South Bethlehem furnished music. At the conclusion of the ceremonies there were addresses made by Father Stephen Mkaro and Father Peter Keshelak. While the church was under construction, the needs of the people were taken care of by Father Gabriel Martyak. The son of Father John and Melania (Staurousky), he was born on November 3, 1859, in Vyskovce, Slovakia and he was ordained to the priesthood on February 15, 1885. He and his wife came to America in 1896. Father Martyak died on April 16, 1934. He came from Lansford, Pennsylvania along with Fr. Peter Keshelak, (born in Hungary on June 4, 1871, passed away on July 2, 1938). Both priests came to the Lehigh Valley to advise these daring pioneers, and performed early weddings, baptisms and funerals at St. Lawrence Roman Catholic Church in Catasauqua, Pennsylvania.

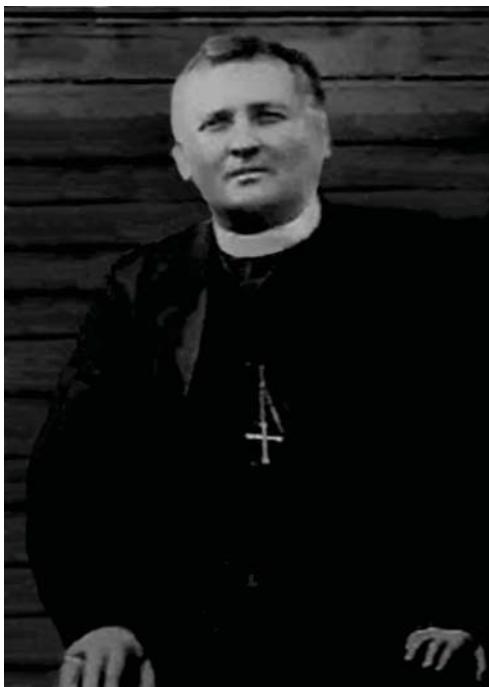
St. John's was the first Catholic Church in Northampton and the first Byzantine Church in the Lehigh Valley. It was not until 1909 that a church was built to administer to the spiritual needs of Germans and Hungarians, followed by churches for the Slovak and Polish immigrants. The members of St John's are proud of this distinction. Even before Northampton received its own charter to become a borough, our church and its people were great forces in laying the foundation for community life. Some of the priests that served our parish (including the two mentioned before) were Ruthenian, which later became the Byzantine church. They were known as Rusyns and came from the Carpathian region of Ukraine.



Father Gabriel Martyak

The new church, the only one of its kind in the Lehigh Valley, (measuring 40 ft. by 80 ft.) was built, at the cost of \$9,000. During renovations in 1999, it was found that two of the bells were cast in 1900, and that a third bell was installed in 1902. They were bought from a foundry in Cincinnati, Ohio. It also must be noted that during the existence of our church it went under several different names: St. John the Baptist United Catholic Church, St. John the Baptist Uniate Catholic Church, St. John the Baptist Greek Rite Church, and presently St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

The first pastor is assigned:



Father Damascene Polivka



The original rectory

Church archives and internet findings make it uncertain on the exact date the first pastor came to the new parish. What we know is Father Damascene Polivka (?-1901) came here from St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Winnipeg, Canada. He was a Basilian priest who was born in the Bohemian village of Hostin u Vojkovic on February 4, 1869 and was ordained to the priesthood on September 12, 1897. He was very instrumental in organizing several churches in Canada.

The church was dedicated and blessed on the feast day of St. John the Baptist in 1900, and for that reason St. John the Baptist was chosen to be the patron Saint of the parish.

Father Damascene Polivka's zeal was so captivating that he was able to overcome most of the difficulties of those trying times. Knowing that these hard-working people had to make great sacrifices to build a church and provide for their own daily needs, he did not even approach them in regards for him to have a place to live. He saved what little he received from the congregation for his services and built a rectory. When the parish was better situated financially, he sold the home to the parish. He received \$1,900.00 for this transaction. This was the only money he had on hand to be able to continue working for the interest of his parish. Later the rectory was used by the sisters as living quarters and eventually used to teach our young children. Research shows that he traveled to other communities in Pennsylvania while here at St. John's to help them organize their parishes. His last day at our church was June 24, 1901.

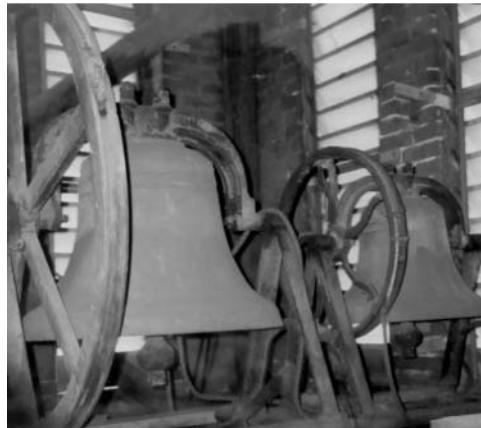
Branch 235 of the Greek Catholic Union was the first organization in our parish. A charter was granted on June 12, 1901. The purpose of the St. John the Baptist Branch of the Catholic Union was to promote the founding and building of the Catholic Church of the Greek Catholic Rite in Northampton, Pennsylvania.

They also banded together for social and beneficial reasons. A sick and death benefit protection was granted to the members. The first officers of the organization were John Maruschak, (president), Andrew Chepelak, (secretary), and Michael Mondrick, (treasurer).

As we continue to grow in spirit and faith:



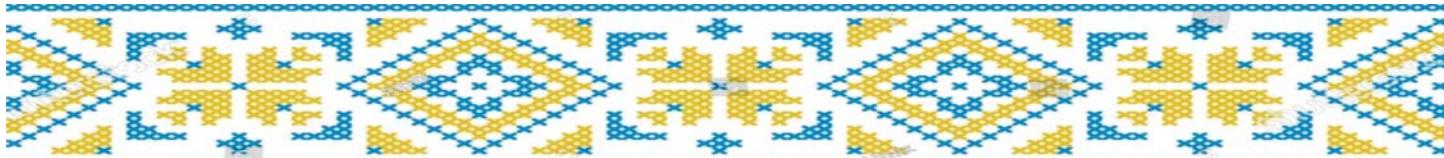
Father Nestor Dmytrow



The second pastor was Father Nestor Dmytrow, (1901-1908) born in Utishkiv, Ukraine. In 1863 he was ordained to the priesthood, and he came to America sometime in 1895, with his wife Kontance (Konstankiewich) Dmytrow and their children Nestor Jr. and Stephanie. He started his work as a missionary in New Jersey and then was sent to Winnipeg, Canada. Father Dmytrow was the first Ukrainian Catholic priest to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in Canada; this happened on April 12, 1897.

Coming back to the United States, he stopped in Chicago and New York before arriving at St. John's. He was instrumental in helping a group of people from the Ormrod area in organizing the St. Nicholas Society Branch 124 in September 1905. The first officers were John Onyszko (president), John Orotyla, (treasurer), Stephen Gressa, (secretary).

Father Dmytrow was one of the so-called American Circle: a group of young seminarians who, while still in Lviv, resolved to immigrate to the United States in order to improve the religious, civic, and cultural status of Ukrainians in America. He was also a writer who printed articles for the Ukrainian paper *Svoboda* (1893) now the *Ukrainian Weekly*. In 1908, he was transferred to St. John the Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey. At this time, the people who traveled from Allentown to Northampton to go to church decided they needed a church closer to them. Father Dmytrow was sent back to the Lehigh Valley in 1911 to help establish St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Allentown. They became St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox church on November 27, 1932. He served at other churches before passing away on May 7, 1925, in Elizabeth, New Jersey.





This is the oldest picture known of the church, taken in 1905. Fr. Dmytrow along with the parishioners gathered at the church on the Feast of the Theophany, (blessing of water) and they would process to the canal/river to bless them.

A leader is sent to America, and a parish continues to grow:

Also at this time (knowing that the immigrants in America needed a spiritual leader), Metropolitan-Archbishop Andrey Sheptytsky of Lviv appointed Bishop Stephen Soter Ortynsky the first bishop of the Eastern Rite Catholics in America.

Father Peter Luczeczko (1908-1910) was born in 1866, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1893 in Przemysl, Poland. He was sent by Bishop Soter Ortynsky from St. Mary's in McKees Rocks to St. John's, and he celebrated his first Divine Liturgy here on Sunday August 16, 1908. For the sake of history, it must be said that during his time here there were factions among the people regarding who should be in charge of the church financially. In August 1910, Metropolitan-Archbishop Andrey Sheptytsky arrived in New York from Lviv. He joined Bishop Soter Ortynsky in Philadelphia and came to Northampton to settle the issues. Father Luczeczko was transferred to St. Mary's in Ramey, Pennsylvania, on August 15, 1910. Records show that Fr. Luczeczko passed away in 1930.



Metropolitan-Archbishop Andrey Sheptytsky



Bishop Stephen Soter Ortynsky

Father Omeljan Baransky (1910-1914) was born in 1883 in Galicia and was ordained to the priesthood in 1908. He was transferred from St. Nicholas church in Glen Lyons, Pennsylvania. He arrived on August 16, 1910, to replace Father Luczeczko. Father Baransky helped organize the St. Olga's Lodge Branch 318 established on April 1, 1912. The first president was Pazia Rochniak, Ksenia Derewliana was secretary, and Justina Chepelak was treasurer. Another organization Father Baransky was instrumental in organizing was the Brotherhood of St. Michael the Archangel Branch 27; initiated on October 10, 1914. During this time, there was beginning to be the need for a larger rectory. Original plans were to add on to the existing home, which would have been two rooms downstairs and two upstairs. Once again there were issues, and Bishop Soter Ortynsky came to Northampton and held a meeting to sort out the problem. It was decided to build a new rectory on the vacant lot next to the church. Construction started in late summer of 1913 and was completed at the cost of \$6,800.00 by the end of the year. Father Omeljan was also helpful in organizing the Branch 18 of the Providence Association in February of 1914. After four years here, he was sent back to Lviv. Father Baransky died on November 10, 1929.



Father Omeljan Baransky



New church rectory

Father Michael Guryansky (1914-1915) was born in Ukraine on April 4, 1885, and was ordained to the priesthood on October 12, 1912. He was sent to America later that year. He was transferred to St. John's in 1914 to replace Fr. Omeljan Baransky. Father Guryansky was the first president of the Providence Association; Damian Demchyk, secretary; and Harry Kochan, treasurer. The purpose of this organization was to propagate and sustain a religious spirit among the Ukrainian people in America and to assist its members in case of sickness and disability, to aid widows, orphans, and families in general in case of death. The first president of the Apostleship of Prayer was Wasyl Kochenash, which received a diploma of recognition on July 19, 1915.



Postcard of St. John's church dated 1912



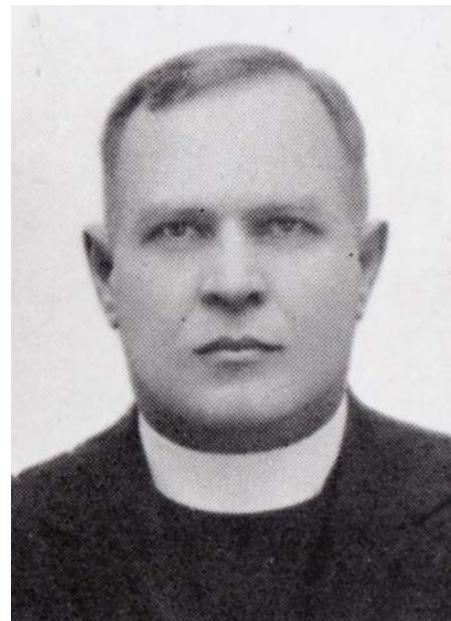
Unfortunately, after less than one year as pastor of St. John's, Father Michael Guryansky was transferred to St. John the Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan.

On December 31, 1915, Father Michael Kuziw (1915-1920) arrived as the new pastor of St. John's parish. Father Kuziw was born on September 17, 1886, in Denysy, Nesterov Raion, Lviv. He was the son of Stephen and Eudoxia (Yurkiv) Kuziw. Father Kuziw came to America in 1909 along with his wife and family.

Shortly after his arrival, the interior of the church was renovated and property was purchased for use as a cemetery (May 11, 1916). During the summer of 1919, a handsome crucifix was erected inside the church and dedicated with impressive ceremonies.



Father Michael Kuziw



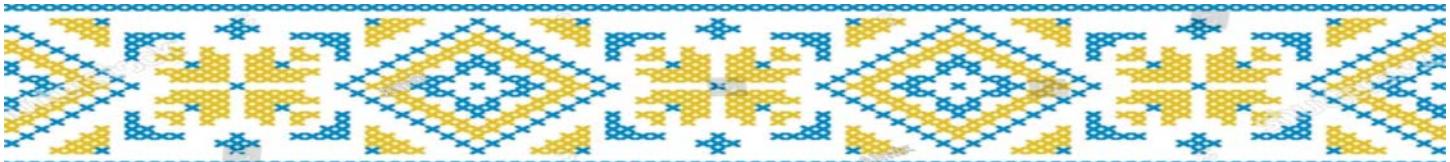
Father Michael Guryansky



The cross of the first cemetery

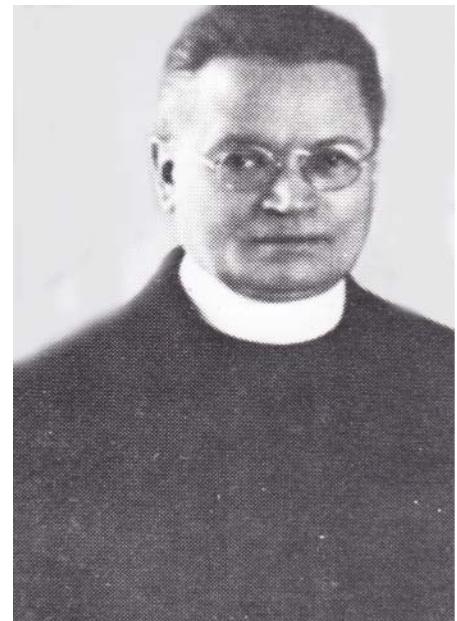
On March 24, 1916, after nine years as Bishop for all Eastern Rite Catholics in America, Bishop Stephen Soter Ortynsky passed away. No immediate replacement was installed.

Again, like those from Allentown, parishioners traveling from Bethlehem to Northampton decided to start their own church. St. Josaphat, having started as a mission, became an independent parish in 1918. Since there were not many Ukrainian priests in America at the time, Fr. Kuziw would travel back and forth from Northampton to Bethlehem to conduct services for a number of years. At the end of June 1920, Fr. Kuziw was transferred to Sts. Peter and Paul's in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. His last assignment was in Syracuse, New York, at St. John the Baptist Church. He died on January 14, 1951, while at that parish. He was survived by his wife Mary (Glowa) and four children, Olga, Sophia, John, and Michael Jr., along with a brother, Father Elias Kuziw, who is buried on our cemetery.



The next priest to arrive was Father Vasyl Maniowsky, (1920-1921), who was born in Western Ukraine in 1871. He was ordained to the priesthood by Metropolitan Sheptytsky in 1902 and came to America sometime in 1913. At the time of his arrival, the people of Ormrod wished to provide their children with instructions in religion and the Ukrainian language. On September 18, 1920, a building was purchased in Ormod. This building was to serve as a meeting place for the different organizations and the parochial evening school conducted by the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great. Prior to that, the church choir director devoted a few hours in the evenings to give the necessary instructions to the children of the parish.

Once again, in 1921 the people who came from West Easton to Northampton to receive the sacraments at St. John's decided they wanted their own place to worship. The new church was named Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church. Unfortunately, also at this time numerous families split from our parish and founded the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox church in Northampton, Pennsylvania (1921). At this time, some members of the family stayed at St. John's Catholic Church while others went to the Orthodox Church. Therefore, there have been several churches that have been established from St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Northampton. For that reason, our church is known as the "Mother Church" of all Ukrainian Catholic churches in the Lehigh Valley.



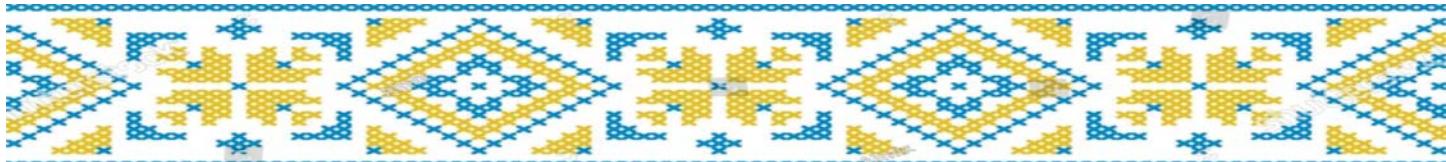
Father Vasyl Maniowsky

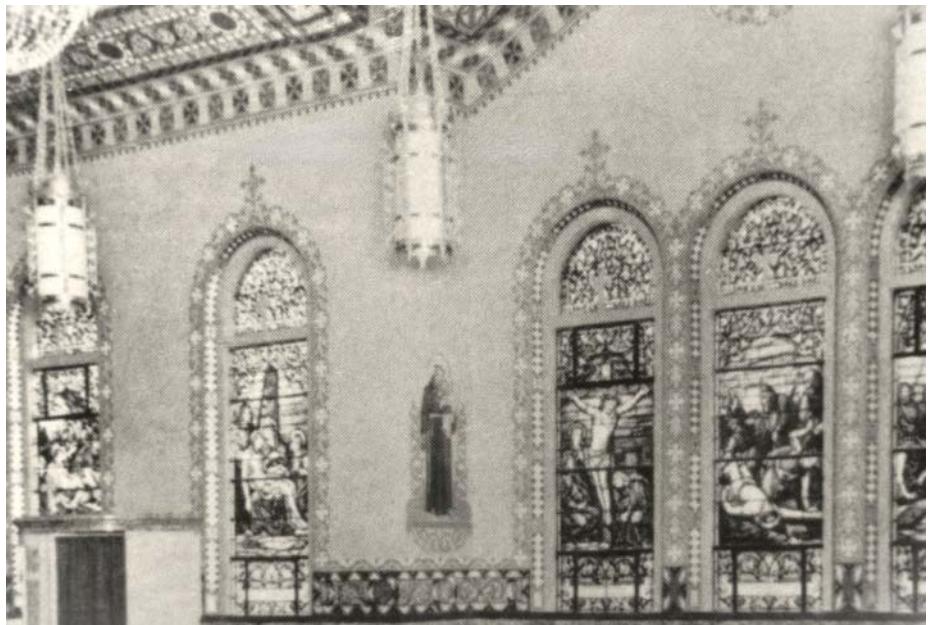


Meeting house in Ormrod

The first 25 years:

Father John Kutsky (1921-1930) arrived with his wife Evelyn (Krasnopera) Kutsky and their two children Irene and Roman. While Father Kutsky was pastor, he made several improvements to the church building. New pews were purchased to replace the dilapidated ones that had been there since the church was built. Additionally during his time a greater interest was shown in the Apostleship of Prayer, and on January 29, 1922, a reorganization of the group took place and new officers were elected.





Father John Kutsky

Our new choir director, Zenon Hradkowsky arrived in Northampton on February 29, 1924. He was a native of Ukraine born on October 30, 1888. His wife was Anna (Buchkowiak) Hradkowsky. They had three children: Helen, Walter, and Alexander. He had been a choir director and cantor since 1917 in both Ford City and Johnstown Pennsylvania before coming to St. John's. Zenon Hradkowsky established an enviable reputation with his choir throughout the area. He had conducted concerts, produced plays -- some of which were performed at the Lyric Theater (The Roxy) -- and taught the children of the church religion, the Ukrainian language, Christmas carols, and other songs. He was so dedicated that he would use his own vehicle to pick up the children and drive them to the meeting house in Ormrod.

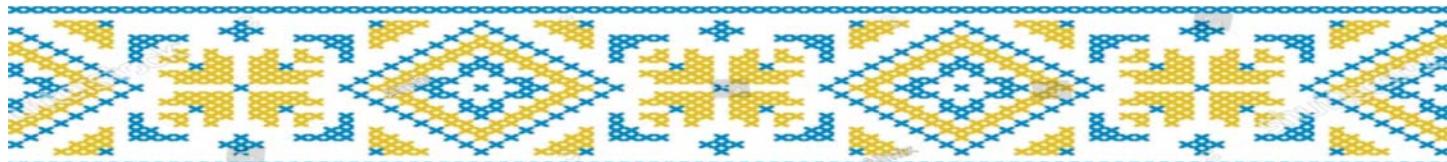


Zenon Hradkowsky



St. John's Choir 1935. Zenon Hradkowsky and Fr. Ulanytzky

Shortly before Father Kutsky was transferred in 1930, new stained glass windows depicting the Stations of the Cross were installed. They were purchased from the Zurich Stained Glass Company in Chicago, Illinois. These windows still adorn our church to this day.



At this time, the Rev. Constantine Bohachevsky was sent from Warsaw to Rome. Pope Pius XI secretly installed him as Bishop in March of 1924. In August of that same year, he arrived in America as the first Bishop for all Ukrainian Catholics in the United States of America. He became the first Metropolitan-Archbishop of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia in 1958. He held this title until his death on January 6, 1961.



Father Michael Pazdrey



Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky

Father Michael Pazdrey (1930-1933) was born on November 21, 1872, in the town of Toki, Galicia, Austria. His parents were Constantine and Helen (Shemansky) Pazdrey. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 22, 1907. He was the husband of Mary (Ivanush) Pazdrey. Father Pazdrey and his wife had five children: Michael, George, Helen, Olga and Sister Carmela (Mary).

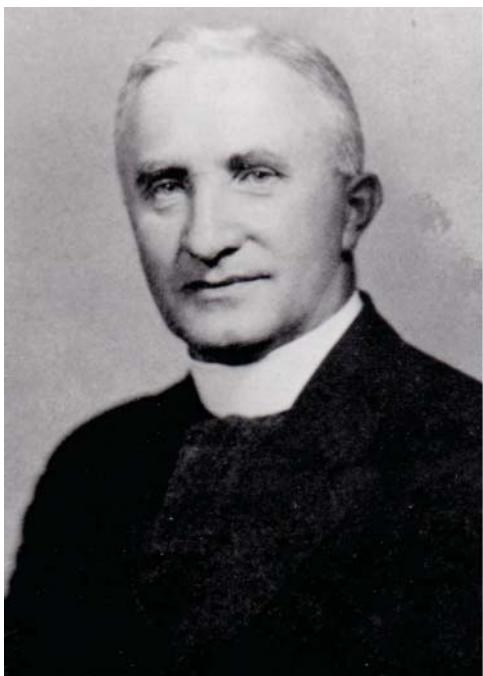
He arrived from Sts. Peter and Paul in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Father Kutsky was transferred to the same church in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Father Pazdrey worked hard to carry on the good plans for the further development of the parish. In spite of his best efforts, a faction formed within the church that failed to cooperate with him. Since the condition did not improve, Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky transferred Father Pazdrey to a church in Frackville, Pennsylvania, and appointed a determined spiritual leader: Father Vladimir Ulanytzky (1933-1946), who was born in Austria, on July 27, 1879, and ordained to the priesthood in Lviv in 1909. Father Pazdrey passed away on May 3, 1944.

Father Ulanytzky came to America in July of 1912. Before coming to Northampton, he was administrator of both Transfiguration of the Lord church in Nanticoke and St. Nicholas in Glen Lyon. Father Ulanytzky and his wife Vladimira (Jaciv) had two children: Roman and Bohdan. With his arrival at St. John's, the faithful of the parish worked with their new pastor and after a short time, the church was able to liquidate its debt and save enough money to acquire other properties.

On September 3, 1940, the church purchased property for the purpose of a social hall on Stewart Street. This area would also be used as a parking lot since it was located within walking distance of the church.

On the weekend of February 6-7, 1943, Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky made a canonical visit to the church. There was a special vesper service held in his honor on Saturday evening and a Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. There were hundreds of parishioners in attendance for both events.

With the need for more burial ground, property was purchased on January 25, 1943, across the street from the original cemetery. In November of 1944, a surprise anniversary banquet was held in the church hall to celebrate the eleven years of Father Ulanytzky being pastor of St. John's. There were over 500 people celebrating this event.



Father Vladimir Ulanytzky

The dedication of the new cemetery took place on May 30, 1946. Father Ulanytzky's health was failing and demanding more attention. Because of this Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky sent Father Paul Iwachiw (born on February 12, 1909 and died on November 2, 1992) to administer to the needs of the people during his illness. Saint John's parishioners received the sad news on June 4, 1946 that Father Ulanytzky had passed away. A few weeks after the burial, Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky decided to transfer Father Iwachiw and sent another priest to be the pastor of our church.



Father Paul Iwachiw



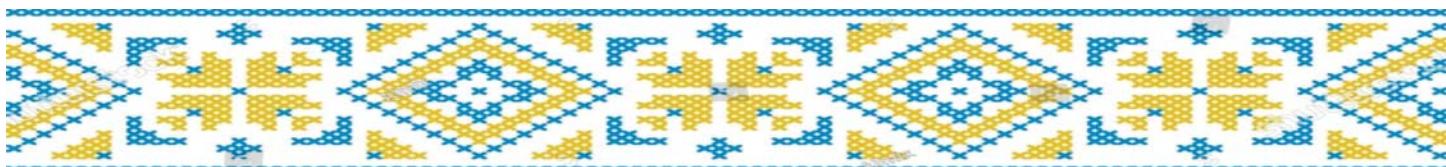
House on Main Street



St. Nick's Club on Stewart St.



Original cross on the new cemetery



New life is brought to the parish:



Father Stephen Chehansky



Father Strotzky, Bishop Bohachevsky, Father Chehansky and Paul Lauser Sr.

On July 8, 1946, parishioners received wonderful news that Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky had appointed Father Stephen Chehansky (1946-1982) pastor of St. John's church. The oldest son of John and Julia (Paulishak) Chehansky, he was born on November 23, 1905, in Peckville, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. He was ordained to the priesthood on October 1, 1930, in Rome and celebrated his first Liturgy the following day at the tomb of St. Peter.

Father Chehansky has the distinction of being the first Ukrainian Catholic priest born on American soil. His previous assignments were at the Cathedral in Philadelphia; St. Basil's in Chesapeake City, Maryland; and before coming to St. John's he was very instrumental in the building of a new church in Hamtramck, Michigan, (Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church).

The reason for the appointment of Father Chehansky was that the parish might benefit from the instructions of sermons in both the English and Ukrainian languages, so that the young and older people of the parish may take a more active interest in the church. Within a relatively short period, a greater zest of the parishioners was noticed. A keen interest in all parish activities began to take place. Not only older members of the church but the teenagers and young children were concerned about their duty to Christ and their church.



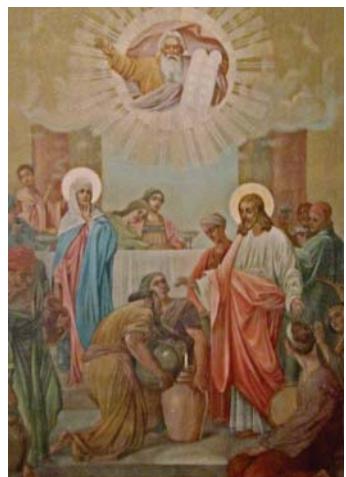
Properties are purchased and a return to teaching the Byzantine Theology to our young:

Two plots of land adjoining the rectory were purchased on March 24, 1947. These would serve as a future building site for our parochial school, gymnasium, and kitchen. During 1946 and 1947, the rectory was redecorated and new furniture was purchased. Beginning in 1948, a special campaign was launched. This campaign included the plans to repair, improve, redecorate, and modernize our church in preparation for the Golden Jubilee of our parish.

Much effort, time, and money would be necessary to remodel the home that served as a sister's convent and parochial school. The majority of the people of the parish were keenly interested in having sisters conduct the evening school. They recalled that in 1932 when the parish had financial difficulties the sisters had to leave because there was no means of support. The members of St John's were glad to hear that in September 1948- after the lapse of 16 years- the sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great would return to the parish. Sister Eugene and Sister Wladimira were assigned the first year and the following year Sister Joan replaced Sister Wladimira. Sister Angela was appointed to conduct for the first time in the history of our parish the first grade in our parochial school. Our elementary school began on September 4, 1950, with 11 children in the kindergarten and first grade classes. When the second school year began, there was an enrollment of 36 children. These studies took place in the basement of the church, and as more grades were needed, they moved some classes to the convent. Several female members of the parish chose to join the religious life. These women included Sister Augustine from the Termena family, Sister Dominica from the Maslany family, Sister Marina from the Goida family, Sister Innocence from the Bodnar family, Sister Clement from the Bartholomew family, and Sister Christina from the Kraynick family.

The home on the new cemetery property was completely remodeled in 1948. It was prepared for living quarters for our choir director, a worthwhile expenditure that increased the valuation of the property considerably. Other improvements of our church properties were then made when living quarters on the third story of the parish club were completed. Father Charyna occupied this space, and during the housing shortage, we had allowed the displaced persons coming to the parish to use it. This renovation made use of an entire floor previously without any value due to idle vacancy. Assistant pastors resided in this apartment for several years.

Renovations inside the church included murals of the Nativity of Jesus, Annunciation, Resurrection, and the Wedding Feast in Cana on the ceiling in the nave of the church. In addition, a decorative paper mache border was put around the murals and other parts of the church. Also at this time, green marble laminate was installed over the original wooden wainscot.



Also colorful Byzantine style ornamentation was added around the windows and other parts of the church. The final touches of this magnificent renovation were changing the columns on the icon screen from plain white to a faux finished marble.

New furniture and other upgrades to the rectory along with improvements on the outside of the church property had been completed. At this time, a new retaining wall was built along the front of the church property and landscaping around the grounds was completed in order to beautify the surrounding area in front of the church, rectory, and convent grounds. All this was accomplished for the price of over \$40,000. During that year, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kraynick and other families who wanted to remain anonymous made donations to the church. With this money, statues of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette were erected on top of an altar that was built by the parishioners in front of the rectory. This shrine was dedicated on May 21, 1950, at the annual May procession. This was also the start of the Golden Jubilee celebration.

A Golden Anniversary of faith and dedication:

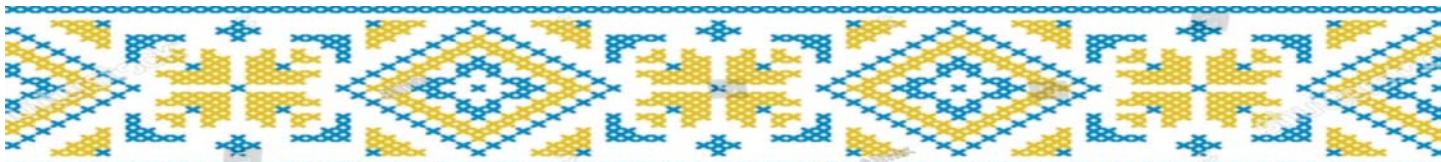
The celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the parish was an outstanding event. It took place on May 30, 1950. Father Chehansky, assisted by Father John Bobyock and Father Constantine Berdar as deacons, celebrated the Divine Liturgy. The sermon was preached in Ukrainian by the Father Dr. Basil Feddish of Staten Island and in English by Father Bennett of the Mary Immaculate Seminary. Over 50 priests attended the Divine Liturgy to represent all the Catholic churches of both the Greek and Latin Rites in the Lehigh Valley.

A civic reception followed at the Lehigh Valley Dairy Auditorium in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Well over 800 people (including priests, sisters, state officials and parishioners) attended the banquet and program. Rev. Fr. Dr. Stephen Knapp of New Kensington, Pa., was toastmaster. Speakers included Rt. Rev. Msgr. Leo Fink, Hon. Francis Walter, (a member of Congress), and Hon. Blair Gunther, (Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania).

Keen interest from the public about the happenings of our church festivities was maintained through the many informative articles and write-ups along with pictures of the interior and exterior of the church in the daily editions of the local newspapers "The Morning Call" and "The Evening Chronicle". Several broadcasts over local radio stations were very instrumental in keeping the majority of the listeners well informed of the activities of the church, especially through the facilities of the Lehigh Valley Catholic Hour (a broadcast on radio station WSAN) where Fr. Chehansky explained the importance of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. The church choir under the direction of Zenon Hradkowsky was also most cooperative in enhancing the prominence of these broadcasts.

A Ukrainian Catholic Parochial school building is constructed:

The growth of the parochial school prompted the good people of the parish to contribute towards the building of a new school building that could accommodate the children that attended along with future enrollment. Father Chehansky blessed the cornerstone on January 4, 1953. A formal dedication of the new school took place on Labor Day, September 7, 1953. Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky officiated the solemn blessing. The school opened two days later with 120 children in kindergarten through fourth grade.





Teaching in the basement of the church



Children learning in the convent



Groundbreaking for the new school



Blessing of the cornerstone



St. John's parochial school building

Mr. and Mrs. Zenon Hradkowsky were honored on March 7, 1954, with a surprise celebration for the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary. This also coincided with Zenon's 30th anniversary of him being choir director at St. John's. Miss Mary Kraynick, president of the choir, presented him with a gold watch. In Zenon Hradkowsky's remarks he said, "the job is not too easy, since according to the Eastern Rite all the singing is done a cappella (or done without accompaniment)". Father Chehansky and Paul Lauser Sr. headed the banquet. Well over 300 people attended this happy occasion.

To liquidate the school debt, the St. John's Holy Name Society and the St. John's Ladies Society offered to sponsor various fund-raising projects to provide income for this building plan. In 1954, a group of women began making pyrohy, and to this day proceeds from the sales have been a very important source of income for the parish.

When the 8th grade started in 1957, there were 233 pupils in our school. The first graduation was held on June 9, 1958, with 14 students receiving their diplomas.

The following is a list of some of the sisters that had the pleasure of teaching in our school; Sisters Angela, Eugenia, Joan, Lucy, Ignatius, Gabriel, Gregory, Innocence, Ruth, Damian, Ambrose, Anselm, and Daria. The laypeople included Irene Demchuk, Richard Stetch, Marie Sedonic, Irene Liebold, Carol Simon, Julie Cubbage, Marie Skrotsky, Michael Duda, Colleen Berger, Michael Berger, Andrew Batcho, Anna Marie Bodnar, Francine Nush, Ann Halko, John Barner, and others.

Groundbreaking for a second floor of classrooms along with a gymnasium and kitchen took place on March 3, 1957. Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky along with Fr. Chehansky dedicated the addition on April 27, 1958. Within four years of fund-raising and pyrohy sales, the parish was able to celebrate a mortgage burning ceremony with a dinner for over 700 church members at the Northampton Community Center.

25 years in the priesthood and the elevation to Monsignor:

A testimonial dinner was held on August 28, 1955, at the Northampton Memorial Community Center in honor of Fr. Chehansky. They celebrated the Silver anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Father Chehansky was honored by the church on July 12, 1958, for his appointment as a Papal Chamberlain by Pope Pius XII. He was elevated to the dignity of Reverend Monsignor by Metropolitan-Archbishop Constantine Bohachevsky in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

With the death of Metropolitan-Archbishop Constantine Bohachevsky on January 6, 1961, Bishop Ambrose Senyshyn of Stamford took over his position on August 14, 1961 as Metropolitan-Archbishop. More sad news came when the parish was told their choir director Zenon Hradkowsky passed away in October of 1968. He had been the cantor/choir director for 44 years. With the need of a new choir director, Msgr. Chehansky approached Michael Prosak, who at this time was the choir director for St. Vladimir's church in Palmerton. Mr. Prosak was born on June 6, 1916, the son of Frank and Mary (Rubaha) Prosak. He studied music theory and voice at the Homer Nearing School of Music. He also had been taught under the guidance of Zenon Hradkowsky. Michael Prosak agreed to direct the choir at both churches.

Other milestones for a priest and the church:

While the pyrohy sales were a great source of income, it mainly supported the school. There were thoughts about finding other ways to raise money to continue the maintenance of the church and start renovation for the upcoming 75th anniversary. It was decided to hold a BINGO social every Monday evening in the gymnasium.

St. John's parishioners wished to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Rev. Msgr. Stephen Chehansky's pastoral work at the church. On June 27, 1971, in St. John's Auditorium a testimonial banquet was given in his honor. During this celebration, he was presented with a very generous gift of \$11,000.00. Realizing St. John's 75th anniversary was soon approaching, Rev. Msgr. Chehansky offered the entire amount to the church to create a Jubilee fund for much needed renovation and repair to the church building. This act inspired many parishioners to make their own generous contributions. In fact, the Jubilee committee found it unnecessary to make any assessments for the renovations because of his generosity, and the entire project was accomplished without incurring any debt.

In spring of 1969 the convent was leveled and a new modern convent was built. The \$70,000 structure contained six bedrooms, several bathrooms, an updated kitchen, living and dining space, and a laundry room along with a chapel and office. In October of that year more than 2000 people toured the new home. The St. John's Ladies Society served dinners in the school gymnasium during the open house.



New convent

In preparation for the Diamond Jubilee celebration the exterior of the church was resurfaced, chandeliers and new lighting were acquired, the interior was painted, new confessionals were purchased, and wood paneling was installed along with new carpeting and air conditioning.

Sunday, May 25, 1975 was chosen as the date to mark this milestone of St. John's, the first Catholic Church in Northampton and the first Eastern Rite Church in the entire Lehigh Valley. Metropolitan-Archbishop Ambrose Senyshyn O.S.B.M. D.D. concelebrated the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with several priests from the Ukrainian Catholic Church.



Archbishop Ambrose Senyshyn
Aug. 14, 1961-Sept. 11, 1976



Archbishop Joseph Schmondiuk
Sept. 20, 1977-Dec. 25, 1978

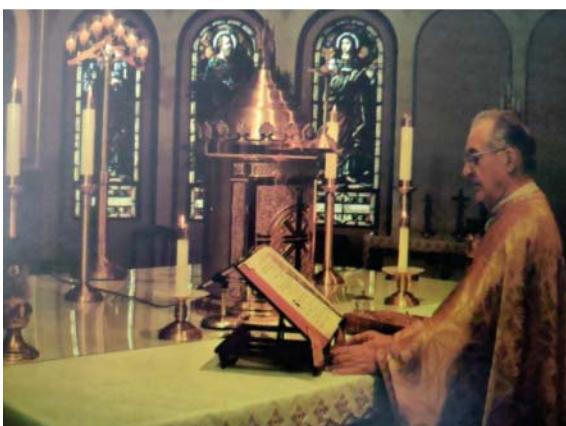


Archbishop Myroslav Lubachivsky
Nov. 12, 1979-Mar. 27, 1980

The Divine Liturgy was recorded by the local cable company and was televised to the public the following week. This celebration was capped off by a banquet held at the Northampton Community Center which was attended by hundreds of faithful and scores of priests.

Another highlight at this time was the recording of the Divine Liturgy by Rev. Msgr. Chehansky with Fr. Michael Batcho, assistant pastor, and the church choir directed by Michael Prosak. This was the first time the Ukrainian Divine Liturgy was recorded in English. On May 8, 1977, the choir appeared on Channel 6 WPVI with Auxiliary Bishop Basil Losten to sing the liturgy on the TV program "The Mass".

Michael Prosak, who was still directing St. Vladimir's in Palmerton and our choir, was having some health issues. He thought it would be best if he would just direct here at St. John's and not travel the long distance to Palmerton anymore.



Msgr. Stephen Chehansky



Father Michael Batcho

A parishioner is ordained to the priesthood and another priest's pilgrimage:

At this time, Rev. Msgr. Chehansky's influence was very inspirational to a young parishioner, Thomas Sayuk. Born in Northampton on December 13, 1949, he was the son of Stephen and Margaret Sayuk. After graduating from Northampton Area High School, he entered the seminary and was ordained to the priesthood on August 15, 1974, by Metropolitan-Archbishop Ambrose Senyshyn. Ten years later on December 3, 1984, Father Sayuk was elevated to the rank of Monsignor by Bishop Robert Moskal from the Parma Diocese in Ohio. Rev. Msgr. Sayuk passed away on August 22, 2022, in Brookville, Florida at the age of 72.



Pope John Paul II and Msgr. Chehansky



Auxiliary Bishop Basil Losten



Archbishop Lubachivsky, Msgr. Chehansky and Paul Lauser Sr.



Father Thomas Sayuk and his parents



Msgr. Sayuk and Peter J. Krywczuk



Father Thomas Sayuk giving communion to parishioners

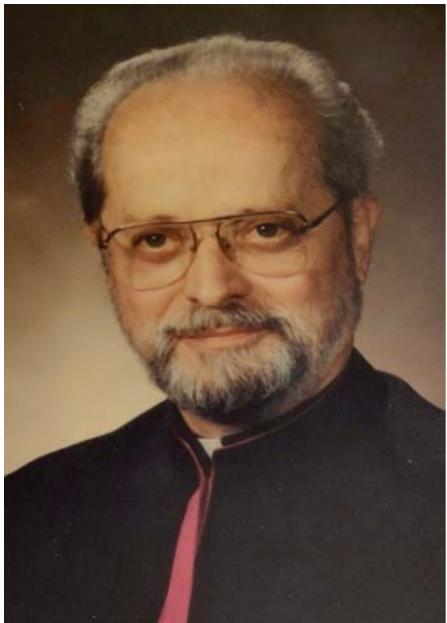
By the mid 1970's, the parish had grown to around 500 families. At this time there were four Divine Liturgies on Sunday morning: 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 (which was sung by the choir) and 12:00 noon. With changes in society as far as people needing to work on Sunday mornings, it became necessary to have a Liturgy on Saturday evening and three Liturgies on Sunday morning.

After the death of Metropolitan-Archbishop Joseph Schmondiuk, Msgr. Chehansky served as Apostolic Administrator for approximately one year. Rev. Msgr. Chehansky continued to lead the church, and on August 31, 1980, celebrated his Golden Anniversary of his ordination with a Divine Liturgy and banquet in his honor. The celebration culminated with a two-week pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Italy and Germany. Highlights of the trip included a private audience with Pope John Paul II and the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the grave of St. Peter at the Basilica of Saint Peter in Rome. Rev. Msgr. Chehansky retired on November 28, 1982, and spent the rest of his life living with his sister and her husband until his death on September 12, 1985.

A new leader and a change in traditions:

On August 17, 1982, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk transferred Reverend Monsignor Constantine Berdar (1982-1994) from St. Anne's in Warrington, Pennsylvania to St. John's. Msgr. Berdar was born on August 26, 1922, in Watervliet, NY, the son of Cornelius and Natalia (Demianchyk) Berdar. He was ordained to the priesthood on March 3, 1945. He became a Papal Chaplain on September 15, 1980, and a Domestic Prelate on June 26, 1985. Both honors were bestowed on him by Pope John Paul II.

His first action was to reopen the school, which was closed for a short period by Rev. Msgr. Chehansky before he retired. During the next few years, renovations and improvements were made to the gymnasium and kitchen along with the parking lot.



Msgr. Constantine Berdar



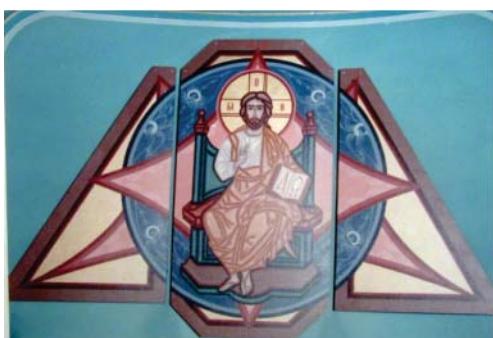
Peter Nush greeting Archbishop Stephen Sulyk



Also during Msgr. Berdar's time here, he started a monthly breakfast, which was prepared by several church members. This was with the intention of bringing the parish closer together as a family.

On March 3, 1985, Rev. Msgr. Berdar celebrated his 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood with a Divine Liturgy followed by a banquet held in the school gymnasium.

In anticipation of the 1000 years since Ukraine adopted Christianity in 988, a series of religious icons portraying Ukrainian Saints and other artwork were commissioned. The millennium of the Ukrainian church also prompted a number of other renovations including the installation of a ramp for easier access to the church and the repainting and new carpet installation in the interior of the church.



On September 18, 1988, Christians from all the Ukrainian churches in the Lehigh Valley gathered at St. John's to mark the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine with dinner and entertainment by the Lehigh Valley Millennium choir, which consisted of members from both Catholic and Orthodox churches and was directed by Michael Prosak.

Rev. Msgr. Berdar's health was declining and he asked Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk for assistance. Father Stephen Hutnick was assigned as assistant pastor in 1984. However, he was needed elsewhere and only spent a short time here. Father Marian Kawola, a missionary from Sybertsville, and Father Julian Anthony substituted whenever needed and performed the Divine Liturgy and other services. Father Anthony also conducted adult Scripture classes while he was here.

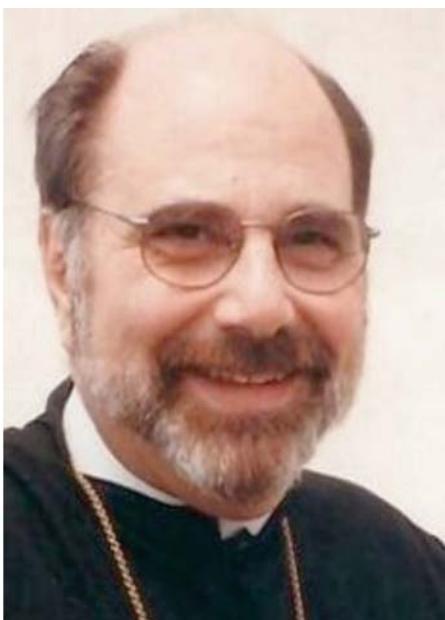


Father Kawola, Archbishop Sulyk and Msgr. Berdar

Father Kawola concelebrated the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Rev. Msgr. Berdar when Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk made a canonical visit to the church on May 13, 1991.

Deacon Joseph Szupa was sent to help Rev. Msgr. Berdar in 1993. While he was here, he instructed the parishioners on congregational singing.

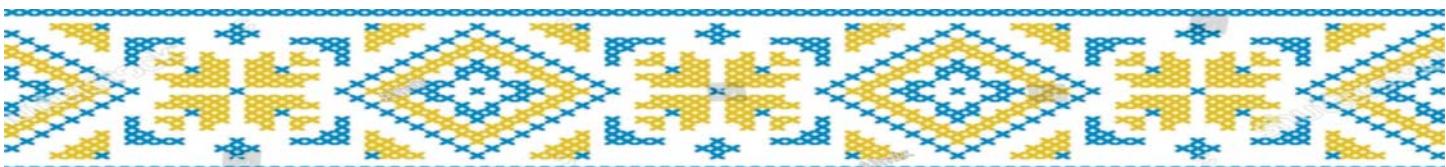
After serving 12 years in the parish, Rev. Msgr. Berdar asked Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk for permission to retire. He was named pastor emeritus in February 1994 and Father Leonard Sinatra (1994-1999) was appointed Administrator. He was born on March 31, 1941, the son of Leonard J. Sr. and Victoria (Solazzo) Sinatra and was ordained to the priesthood on December 21, 1967.



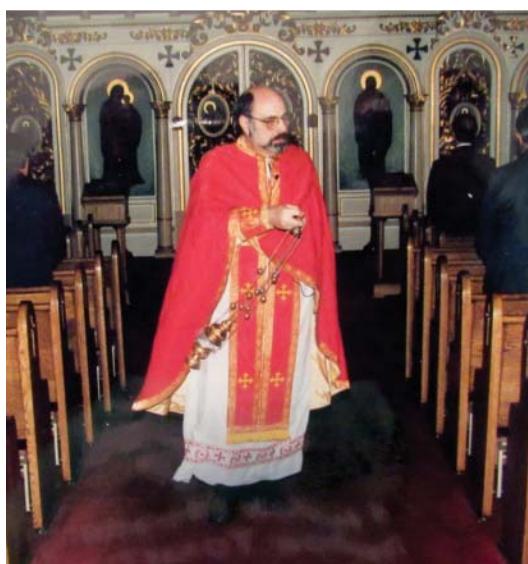
Father Leonard Sinatra



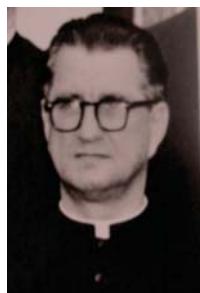
Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk
Mar. 1, 1981-Nov. 29, 2000



St. John's parishioners received the sad news of the passing of Rev. Msgr. Berdar while he was on retreat at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Trappist, Kentucky, on May 25, 1994. At this time, Father Leonard Sinatra was assigned pastor of St. John's. Father Sinatra began to incorporate changes in the church practices in an effort to follow the directives of the congregation for Eastern churches: Vis-a-vis the liturgical and spiritual renewal of the Eastern Tradition. He had a series of classes to inform parishioners about the history of the church and the rationale for these changes.



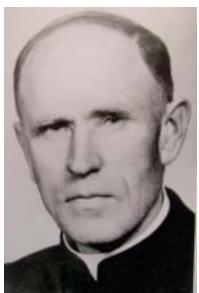
Assistant pastors who served at Saint John's Parish



Fr. Charyna
1949



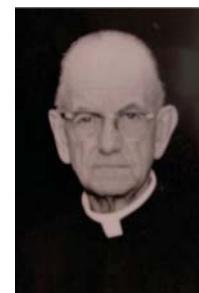
Fr. Bobyock
1949-1951



Fr. Bohatiuk
1951-1952



Fr. Kocaba
1952-1953



Fr. Strotsky
1955-1961



Fr. Wiwcharowsky
1961-1962



Fr. Lewycky
1962-1964



Fr. Bauchalk
1964-1965



Fr. Petrentka
1965-1967



Fr. Hnatyshyn
1967-1968



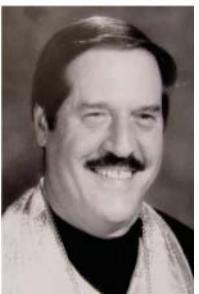
Fr. Kuberski
1968-1969



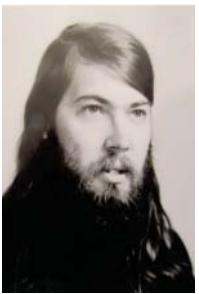
Fr. Korpics
1969-1972



Fr. Nestor
1972-1973



Fr. Levandusky
1973-1974



Fr. Batcho
1974-1978



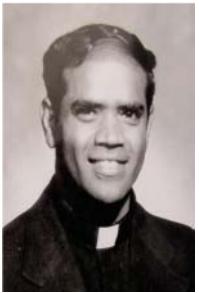
Fr. Worschak
1979-1980



Fr. Kubacki
1980-1982



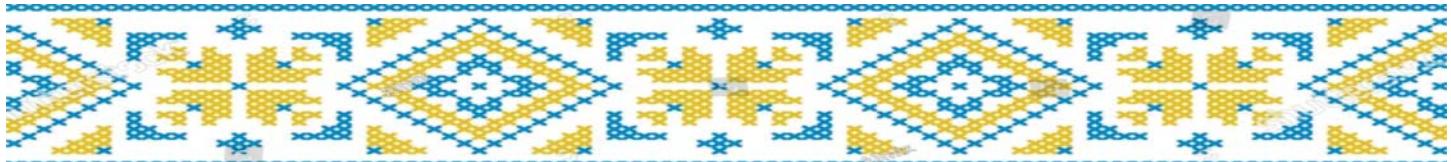
Fr. Hutnick
1984



Fr. Anthony
1991



Deacon Szupa
1993



Working towards the 100th anniversary:

With the centennial of the church fast approaching, a parish meeting was called on April 28, 1998. At this time, a centennial committee was formed along with other subcommittees pertaining to matters such as the centennial book, renovation, and fund-raising.

On September 23, 1998, the Schmit Construction Company from Palmerton removed the original cornerstone of the church, which contained a wooden box from W. Baker Chocolate Candy Company. Within that box, a small metal box was found containing the following items: a fountain pen, a pencil wrapped in a part of a newspaper clipping, three prayer cards, three coins (1879 Austrian Hungary Franc, 1900 U.S. Indian Head penny, 1899 U.S. dime), three newspapers (Jednota-July 4, 1900, Slovak V Amerika - July 10, 1900. The Catholic Standard and Times -July 7, 1900), a partially deteriorated handwritten letter with President William McKinley's name on it, a newspaper article about Archbishop Martinello, and a document bearing the church seal. The contents were put on display at the centennial banquet.



Paul Lauser III, Peter Nush
and Peter Krywczuk



Fr. Leonard Sinatra



Paul Lauser III and Paul Lauser Jr.

Father Sinatra blessed the new cornerstone on November 22, 1998, which had been donated by the Northampton Memorial company and was installed by Paul Lauser Jr. and Paul Lauser III.

Placed behind the new cornerstone was a Divine Liturgy Book of Saint John Chrysostom (1999 edition), five icon prayer cards, an 1899 U.S. silver dollar (donated by Peter J. Krywczuk), a 1999 U.S. proof set, an article reporting removal of the original cornerstone the week of October 12, 1998, and a photograph of the original cornerstone removal.

Because of health reasons, Father Sinatra resigned from his position as pastor on February 28, 1999, after five years of dedication to our parish. Father Sinatra passed into eternity on June 11, 2013.

Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk appointed Father John Seniw (1999) as the next pastor of St. John's parish. He was born on July 9, 1956, in Erie, Pennsylvania, the son of Wasyl and Sophia Seniw. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 16, 1982. Father Seniw was confronted with the task of continuing the renovations in anticipation of the upcoming centennial, but at the same time, he was taking care of his aging mother.



Paul Lauser III

Also at this time our choir director/cantor, Michael Prosak, approached Father Seniw and explained to him the reasons that he was going to retire. Father Seniw asked Michael Broschak, son of Michael and Olga (Hrynkiv) Broschak, to take over as the church choir director. He was a music teacher at Whitehall High School, which made him suitable for the job. At the same time, he asked Paul Lauser III to be cantor. He was born in Whitehall, PA on May 27, 1958 the son of Paul and Teresa (Gober) Lauser. As student of St. John's School he served at the altar for Fr. Kuberski. Father heard his exceptional voice and was determined to teach Paul our Ukrainian services. As a teen he was a member of the choir, and later joined the Lehigh Valley Millennium Choir. Along with fulfilling his cantor duties, Father Seniw asked him to lead the Saturday evening Liturgy. He never hesitated. He accepted, knowing he would help fellow parishioners to sing and enjoy the Divine Liturgy.

Within a few months, Father Seniw was finding it difficult to take care of the church and his mother at the same time. He requested a leave of absence and his final day at St. John's was June 30, 1999.

On July 1, 1999, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk assigned Father George Kuzara C.P.P.S., (1999-2001), who was a bi-ritual priest, to lead St. John's parishioners and continue plans for the centennial celebration.

Father Kuzara was first exposed to the Byzantine Church and the Divine Liturgy during his elementary school years in East Chicago, Indiana. After attending high school and graduating from Brunnerdale Seminary in Canton, Ohio, he earned a BA in Theology from St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana. Throughout this time, he read extensively about Eastern spirituality and the history of its churches.



Michael Broschak

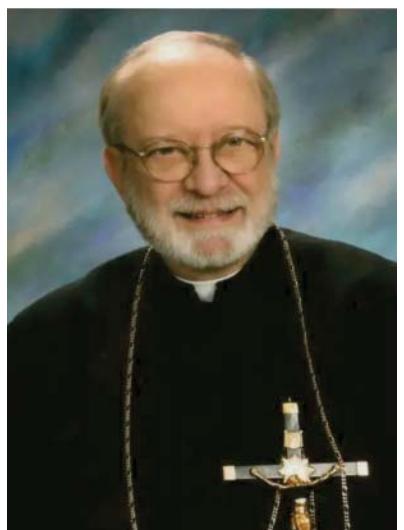
While studying at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West in Cincinnati, Ohio he was encouraged to continue his Byzantine interest. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 24, 1978, for the Society of the Most Precious Blood. After that, he earned his master of Byzantine theology from John 23rd Center for Eastern Christian studies in New York in 1983, faculties for the Ukrainian Catholic church. He is the only member of the Society of the Most Precious Blood throughout the world to receive this honor.



Fr. John Seniw

When Father Kuzara arrived at St John's he was given the opportunity to use his bi-ritual faculties for the first time in a Ukrainian Catholic Church.

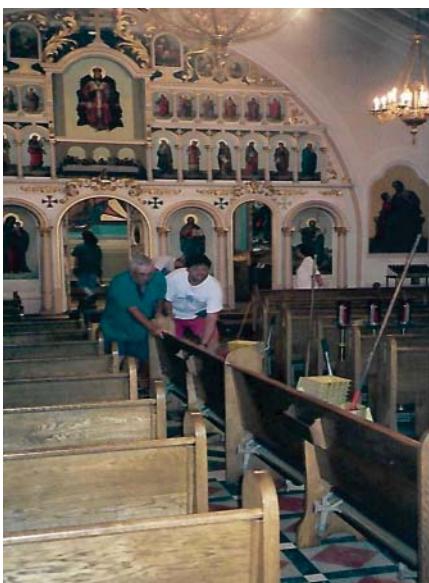
One of the first activities Father Kuzara was asked to join was in recognizing the accomplishments and dedication of Michael Prosak. On July 11, 1999, our longtime choir director was honored at a retirement banquet in St. John's hall. He had served as a choir director and cantor in the Ukrainian Catholic Church for over 62 years, with more than 25 of them here at St. John's.



Fr. George Kuzara

A centennial celebration:

Renovations of the church for the centennial celebration progressed with unwavering support and wonderful generosity from parishioners and friends, which allowed much to be accomplished. Work progressed inside the church as the paneling was removed exposing the original wainscoting. Father Kuzara removed several icons to prepare the walls for repainting. Painting and repairs began on October 11, 1999. This work was completed in December of the same year. During this time, Father Kuzara conducted the Divine Liturgy in the school gymnasium.



Also at this time there were more adult men serving at the altar, so Father Kuzara found it necessary to purchase new vestments to accommodate their needs.

Early in 2000, after the painting was completed, new carpeting was installed and the pews were rearranged slightly to allow for more room in the front of the church. A closet was built to store priests' vestments. Also at this time, the installation of a chandelier low-rater had taken place.

On the afternoon of July 23, 2000, close to 300 parishioners and priests came from near and far to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first Catholic Church in Northampton, Pennsylvania.

Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk was welcomed by Paul Lauser III at the front of the church. As elders of the parish, Joseph Hnat presented him with the traditional bread and salt and Miroslawa Lutsky presented him with flowers.



Concelebrating the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Archbishop Stephen Sulyk were Very Rev. Angelo Anthony C.P.P.S., Father George Kuzara C.P.P.S., Rev. Monsignor Thomas Sayuk, (son of the parish), Rev. Archpriest Daniel Gurovich, (pastor of St. Josaphat's in Bethlehem, Pa.), Father George Worschak, (Totowa, NJ; former assistant of St. John's Church), and Rev. Deacon Michael Waak of Perth Amboy.

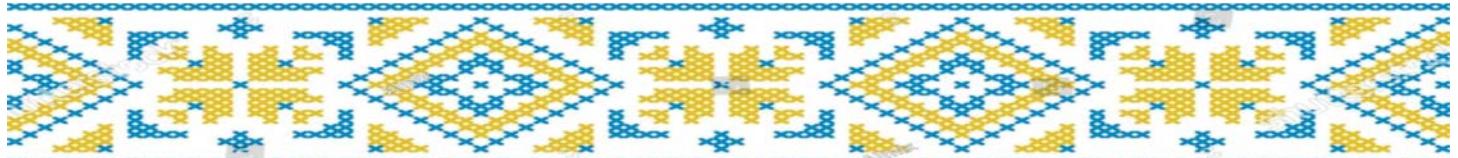


Following the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy there was a formal reception at the Holiday Inn in Allentown, Pennsylvania. At this time, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk recalled the dramatic changes that occurred during the 20th century and reminded the faithful of their responsibility to their children and grandchildren to instill their faith in God and the traditions of their church.



The church parishioners decided to hold a festival celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of our church. The festival took place on the weekend of August 23-26, 2000. The Lauser family, owners and operators of The Winding Brook, a banquet and event center in Whitehall, PA, graciously allowed the festival to be held on their property.

Ethnic foods, including pyrohy and halupki made by the church members, and a Midway with games and rides were enjoyed by parishioners and residents of the area. Other activities were karaoke, and local bands playing everything from polkas, oldies, and country music.



At the end of the year-long celebration, a time capsule was buried in front of the church on November 19, 2000, after the Divine Liturgy. The capsule was marked with a plaque telling the faithful to open it in 2050 for the 150th anniversary. A dinner followed afterwards at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Home Association.

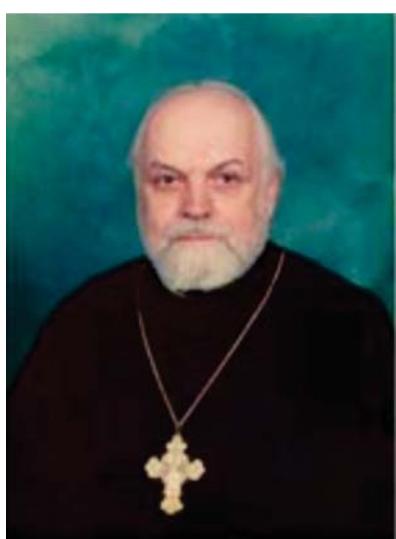


More changes come with a new leader:

Father George Kuzara requested a transfer because of personal reasons. Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka granted his request. Father Kuzara's last day at St. John's church was June 1, 2001. Rev. Archpriest David Clooney came to the church on weekends to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. On July 15, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka made a visit to St. John's to assess the situation of the church and served the Divine Liturgy.

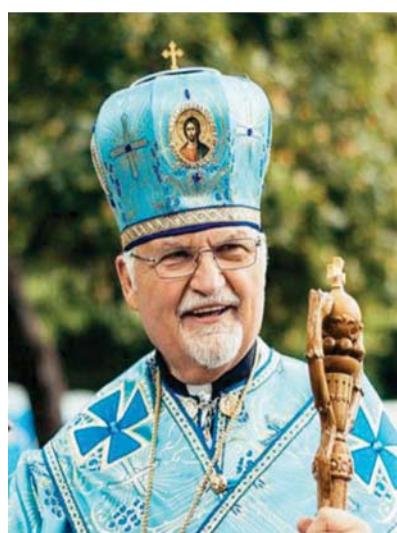
Choir director Michael Broschak also put in his notice for resignation. His last Divine Liturgy was on July 20, 2001. Paul Pristash, born on May 30, 1933 in Northampton, PA, the son of Fedor and Tanka (Salasky) Pristash, was asked to take his place. Paul Pristash was a long time member of the choir, learning from Zenon Hradkowsky and Michael Prosak.

On August 1, 2001, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka announced that the Very Rev. Archpriest David Clooney (2001-2017) would become pastor of St. John's. He was born on August 17, 1938, in Malden, Massachusetts, the son of David and Faith (Miltimore) Clooney. He was ordained to the priesthood on March 30, 1964 and was elevated to the dignity of Archpriest on June 2, 1987.



Rev. Archpriest David Clooney

During his pastorate, there were more improvements done to the church. He had an elevator installed for easier access to the church and the new multi-purpose room (the basement). He also had electric clappers installed on the church bells and a spiral staircase making it easier to get into the bell tower. This all happened during 2003.



Metropolitan-Archbishop Soroka
Nov. 29, 2000-Apr. 16, 2018



Rev. Archpriest Clooney celebrated his 40th anniversary as a priest on April 17, 2004, in conjunction with the annual Easter dinner and the official ribbon cutting for the elevator.

Shortly after this celebration, Rev. Archpriest Clooney had the difficult decision to close our Parochial School due to lower enrollment, higher salaries, and (the biggest reason) the asbestos, which was in the building of the school. The school was closed on June 9, 2004, after the 8th grade graduation.

St. John's parishioners received the sad news that their former choir director, Michael Prosak had passed away on January 16, 2005, in Cape Coral, Florida. He was survived by his wife Kathryn (Levitsky) Prosak; son, Darwin; and daughter, Marcia Bellew.



Michael Prosak



Saint John's Choir 1975



Lehigh Valley Ukrainian Millennium
Choir 1990

Continued improvements and 50 years as a priest:

During July and August of 2005, plans were made and achieved to convert the lockers in the gymnasium into handicapped accessible bathrooms. Also at this time, the apartment on Stewart Street, was demolished to make more room for parking.

Many things happened in 2006. Property on Main Street in Northampton was sold, and the church parking lot was resurfaced and relined. The church domes were also painted and later that year a fence was installed around the parking lot.

Rev. Archpriest Clooney kept going. In May of 2009 a new icon style cross was erected on the altar at the cemetery, and the driveway was repaved. Demolition of the school building took place at this time. It was possible not to damage the gymnasium. The two rooms in the basement, the first floor bathrooms, and two rooms on the second floor are still intact.

On April 27, 2014, Rev. Archpriest Clooney was honored with the presence of Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka concelebrating the Divine Liturgy followed by a banquet at the Northampton Memorial Community Center in celebration of his 50th anniversary to the priesthood.

In 2017 due to failing health, Rev. Archpriest Clooney asked Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka for permission to retire. His last day serving St. John's parish, after 17 years as pastor, was March 1, 2017. He had the second longest pastorate in the history of the church.



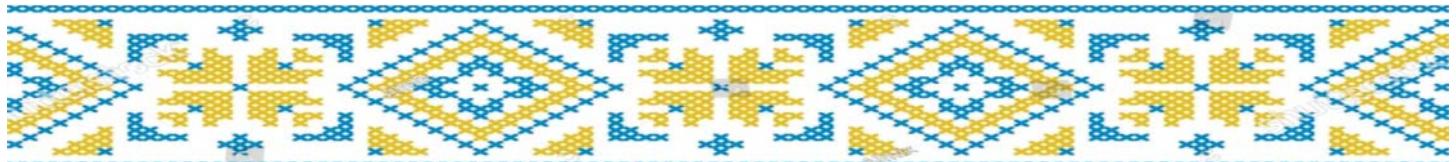
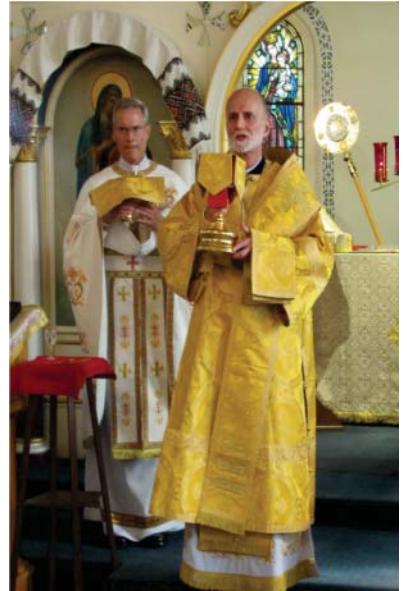


Fr. Roman Petryshak



On March 2, 2017, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka sent Father Roman Petryshak (2017) to be administrator of St. John's parish. Father Petryshak was born on August 11, 1974, in Stryi, Ukraine. He is the son of Vasyl and Anna Petryshak. His ordination to the priesthood took place on June 2, 2002. He and his wife Nataliya have one son: Damyan. Father Petryshak was the first married priest at St. John's since Fr. Vladimir Ulanytzky in 1946. He was only at our parish for about four months. He was then transferred to Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Berwick, PA and the pastor of that church was transferred to St. John's.

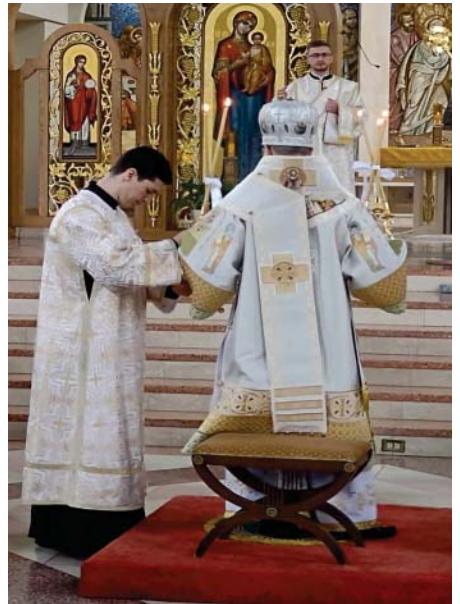
Appointing Father John Seniw as pastor came as a surprise to the parish. This was the second time Father Seniw would be pastor of St. John's church, making this the first time a priest served two times at our parish. During Father Seniw's second time here, he remodeled the kitchen in the rectory. He also held adult classes teaching the parishioners about different aspects of Catholicism in the Ukrainian Catholic church. This took place after Lenten services. He also reinstated the tradition of having a Parastas on Pentecost Sunday at the cemetery.





Nicholas Sharga

Happy news came from one of our young parishioners. Nicholas Sharga, son of Paul and Marie Sharga, decided to enter the seminary. Nick was a 2012 graduate of Northampton Area High School and he attended Temple University studying kinesiology. He was also a running back for the Temple Owls football team and received his degree in 2018.



After college, the Oakland Raiders signed him, but unfortunately, he was cut during tryouts. At this time, he decided to follow the footsteps of his role model, Jesus Christ, and was accepted into the seminary in the autumn of 2021. Over the last

few years, he has attended several religious functions with Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak.

The pandemic that changed our church:

In January of 2020, a worldwide pandemic changed the way we celebrated the Divine Liturgy. Covid-19 was a flu-like sickness that for some was just a mild likeness of the common cold and others a much worse sickness, which could even cause death.

Some of the precautions taken to stop the spread of this illness were keeping people distanced from each other and the wearing of facial masks. The Divine Liturgy was celebrated but with a huge change: only the priest, the cantor, and one other person were allowed in the church. With the resources of social media (Facebook), we were able to live stream the Divine Liturgy to the parishioners via the internet.

Once again, our parishioners received very sad news. On April 25, 2020, cantor Paul Lauser III suddenly passed away. He is survived by his wife Stephanie M. Terleski. Paul was very instrumental at all the church activities. Not only was he cantor; Paul was an integral part in the church's centennial celebration. He organized fundraisers and procured companies to make the essential repairs to the church.



Ann Saurman

Long time choir member, Ann (Kochanasz) Saurman, daughter of John and Pauline (Romanic) Kochanasz, born on December 9, in Allentown, PA volunteered to take his place. To this day she still continues to direct the choir.

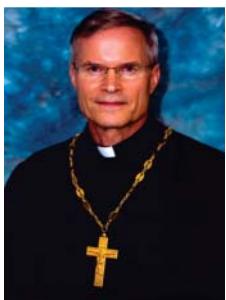
In June of 2020, Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak and Auxiliary Bishop Andriy Rabiy visited St. John's pyrohy workers to see the process of the making of our famous pyrohy.



St. John's parishioners received the additional sad news on October 19, 2020, that their former pastor Rev. Archpriest David Clooney had passed away. He served the Archeparchy in several ways at different parishes. Some of his assignments included parochial vicar of the Cathedral, several churches in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and rector of St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Washington D.C. Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak and Bishop Andriy Rabiy presided over the Divine Liturgy along with several other priests.



In May of 2021, the Ukrainian priests in the area held a meeting to discuss the idea of forming a religious group. This group became the Lehigh Valley Brotherhood of Ukrainian Catholic/Orthodox Clergy. Charter members were Fr. John Seniw, Fr. Daniel Gurovich (St. Josaphat's, Bethlehem), Fr. Paul Makar (Holy Ghost, West Easton), Fr. Richard Jendras (St. Mary's, Allentown), Fr. Oleg Kravchenko (Assumption of Mary, Northampton), and Fr. Edward Higgins (Sts. Peter and Paul, Bethlehem).



Fr. Seniw



Fr. Gurovich



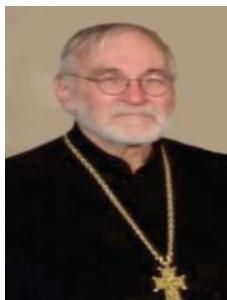
Fr. Makar



Fr. Kravchenko



Fr. Jendras

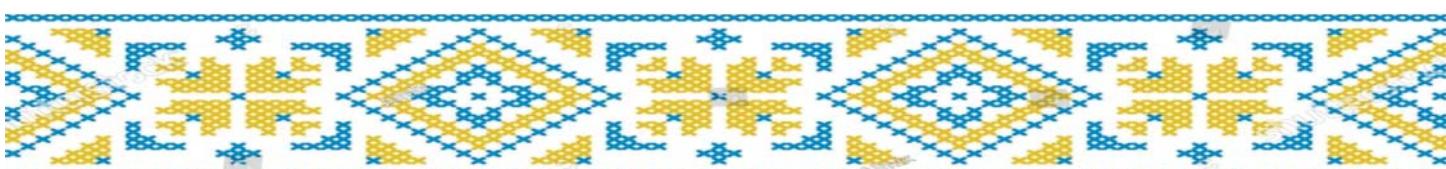


Fr. Higgins



Paul Pristash

The parishioners received more heart-breaking news on October 8, 2021, when they were told about the passing of choir director Paul Pristash. He sang on the church choir for almost 70 years. Over the years he sang several solos both during the Divine Liturgy ("One is Holy") and several Christmas carols. During his lifetime he was also a member of the Lehigh Valley Millennium choir. He was fortunate to be able to be part of a recording of the Divine Liturgy in both English and Old Church Slavonic and a recording of Christmas songs. At this time Ann Saurman took over as both cantor and choir director.



The war in Ukraine:

On February 24, 2022, the Russian Armed Forces invaded Ukraine, in what Russian President Vladimir Putin called a military exercise.

At this time, the Lehigh Valley Brotherhood of Ukrainian Clergy decided to hold a Moleben prayer service for peace in Ukraine to the Blessed Virgin Mary every Tuesday evening. The Moleben would be rotated to a different Ukrainian Orthodox or Ukrainian Catholic Church on a weekly basis.

To get more use out of the church's multi-purpose room (basement), Father Seniw began a monthly social after the Sunday Divine Liturgy so that parishioners could chat with each other while enjoying a beverage and some pastries.

After almost five years at St. John's parish, Father Seniw requested Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak for permission to retire. He was granted retirement with the condition that if needed he would substitute for priests that are on vacation or for other reasons. His last day at St. John's was July 31, 2022.



Quasquicentennial Anniversary:



Fr. Vasil Bunik

On August 1, 2022, Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak appointed Father Vasil Bunik pastor of St. John's parish. Before coming to St. John's, he served at two parishes: St. Anne's in Warrington and the Presentation of Our Lord in Lansdale.

Father Bunik was born in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, Ukraine on November 26, 1954. He is the son of Ivan and Tatiana (Kachur) Bunik. Father Bunik was ordained to the priesthood on April 27, 1993. On October 30, 1993, Father and his wife Natalia (Marchak) Bunik along with their daughter Tanya and her



husband Vasyl Nesteruk came to America. When Fr. Bunik was sent to our church, he also had the duties as administrator of St. Vladimir's Church in Palmerton, PA. He held both positions for about six months until a permanent pastor was assigned to St. Vladimir's.

Father Bunik was charged with the monumental task of preparing our church for its upcoming 125th anniversary. His first hurdle was replacing the church roof. Work began shortly after Easter in 2023. This was the first time in the history of the church that the whole roof was replaced. Immediately following completion of the new roof, the domes were painted a brilliant golden color.

Other things that happened during this time were the installation of new windows in the rectory and in the basement of the church, new downspouts and gutters on the church, and repainting of the trim around the windows.

Now, with the outside of the church complete, it came time to focus on repairing and painting the interior in anticipation of the Byzantine icons and ornamentation that were going to adorn our church.

Several factors were taken into consideration on what should be done. It was decided to remove the four murals that were on the ceiling and the three others so that the fragile plaster that was pulling away from the wood lathe could be dealt with in a proper way.

This process would not only make the ceiling stronger and smoother, it would also give the iconographer a blank canvas to work with. For the next several months, it was necessary to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and other religious services in the gymnasium.

On September 23, 2023, the repairs to the ceiling, walls, and the painting of the church were finished. Not only was the church repainted, the remaining paneling in the vestibule and choir loft was removed. Although the work was not complete, the parishioners were excited to return to the church with the understanding that there was more work to be done to the inside of the church.



Also at this time, the rectory was being renovated. Over the past 30 years, there were some changes, like remodeling the kitchen and bathrooms, but now it was decided to renovate the whole house. The work started on the second floor. An additional bathroom was added along with a laundry room. The bedrooms were also remodeled.

The first floor living room and dining room were worked on next. After the completion of that area the office area was remodeled. New cabinetry in the main office along with new flooring was installed along with the addition of a small powder room in the middle office.

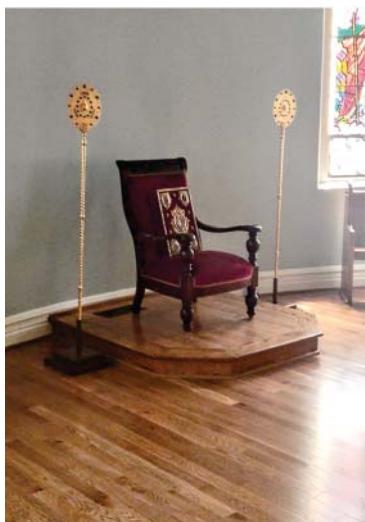
On November 24, 2023, former pastor Father John Seniw along with Father Roman Dubitsky were elevated to the Dignity of Archpriest. Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Gudziak performed this ritual in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia.



A Byzantine Iconographer is contracted to decorate the church:

In May of 2024, hardwood flooring was installed in the altar area. It was decided to extend the height of the floor beyond the icon screen to make a safer entrance from the nave to the altar area.

Needing more storage space in the altar area a cabinet was built in the priests' sacristy. This would be a place to store theological books and religious paraphernalia. The altar servers' sacristy was also redesigned so vestments would be hanging instead of folded and several cabinets were installed for the storage of icons, candles, incense, charcoal and other religious items. In the summer of 2024 Andrew and Nicholas Sharga installed a sign at the cemetery.



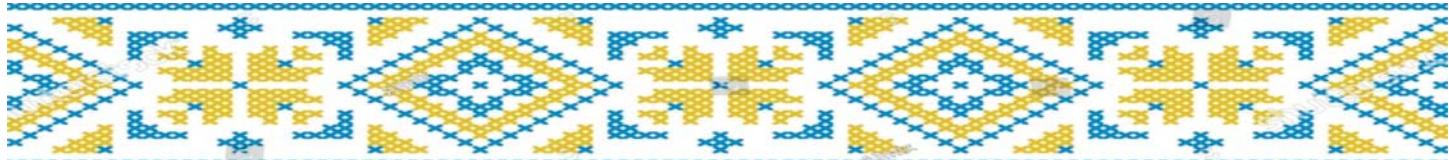
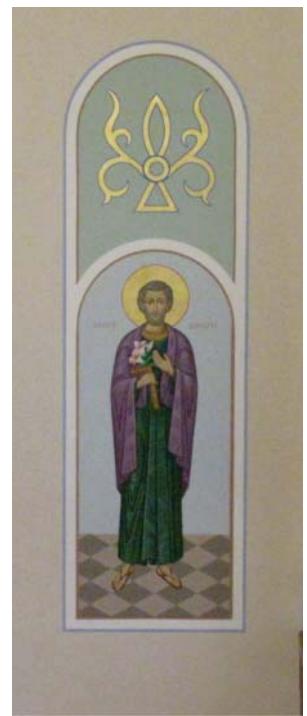
Andrew and Nicholas Sharga

Ecclesiastical Art & Design, LTD was contracted to write and install icons in the church. Formerly known as Makarenko Studios Inc, they evolved in Philadelphia, PA in the late 1950's.

What are icons? Icons are representations of the Heavenly; they are considered a window or portal into the divine realm. They are expressions of teaching and worship. Icons are not drawings or creations of imagination. They are in fact writings of things not of this world. Byzantine icons, unlike Western murals, change the perspective and form of the image so that it is not naturalistic. This is done so that we can look beyond appearances of the world and instead look to the spiritual truth of the holy person or event. The Eastern Church uses icons to assist in worship and education of the faithful. It is important to note that the icons themselves are venerated only, not worshiped; we only worship God in the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and the Holy Spirit).

The icons that were decided to adorn our church were the Nativity of Christ, the Descent into Hades, the Annunciation, the Presentation of Mary to the Temple, the Epiphany, the Shroud of Turin, St. Anne teaching Mary, a Descending Dove, two Seraphim, symbols of the Eucharist, Noah's Ark, the Burning Bush, the Instruments of the Passion, Pokrova, several ornamental Tryzub, Byzantine stars, and Saints Joseph, Jospahata, Laurentia, Cyril, and Methodius. Ornamentation was also added around the stained glass windows.

By the end of October 2024, several icons had been installed in the church. The work started in the sanctuary, where the Descending Dove surrounded by stars was put on the ceiling above the altar. Following that, the icon known as the "Icon Made Without Hands" was put on the highest area of the icon screen followed by the icons of Saint Anne teaching Mary and Saint Joseph, on either sides of the icon screen.



On Sunday January 9, 2025, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated to kick off the 125th anniversary, followed by a social in the church multi-purpose room where Fr. Bunik cut a ceremonial cake.

In March of 2025, work started on repainting the icon screen. A brighter white was used and the gold was also repainted after not being touched for nearly 40 years. New decorative molding was also placed on several areas and the bottom set of columns were highlighted with a marble faux finish to complete the job.



On the weekend of May 2nd and 3rd the church held its first Flea Market along with a food and bake sale. Parishioners donated household items which nearly filled the gymnasium along with baked goods that would be sold. Hundreds of people came from all over the Lehigh Valley to purchase these goods.



The 125th celebration and Minor Orders given to a seminarian:

June 1, 2025 was the date chosen to celebrate our church's 125th anniversary. The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was presided by Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak, along with Fr. Vasil Bunik, Archpriest Fr. John Seniw (former retired pastor), Fr. George Worschak (former assistant of St. John's), Mitred Archpriest Peter Waslo (Chancellor of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia), Fr. Volodymyr Radko (Vocation Director), Fr. Paul Makar (Pastor of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church Bethlehem, PA), Fr. Andrii Rubel (pastor of Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church, West Easton, PA), Fr. Bohdan Vasyliv (pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church, and St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, both in Shenandoah, PA). Though unable to attend the Divine Liturgy, Fr. Roman Petryshak (our former Administrator), now pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Jersey City, NJ joined us at the banquet later in the day.



Emily Shoenauer, Josie Brule, Charlotte Hansen, Fr. Vasil Bunik, Peter Nush and Marko Vovchok

Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak was greeted at the entrance of the church with the traditional bread presented by church trustee Peter Nush. He was also given flowers by the students of our Religious Education program, Josie Brule, Charlotte Hansen, Emily Schoenauer and Marko Vovchok. Fr. Bunik presented him with a hand cross symbolizing the transfer of leadership of his flock to the Metropolitan.



Before the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys bestowed the Minor Orders of candle-bearer, reader, and cantor to our parish seminarian Nicholas Sharga. During this ritual some hair of the seminarian is cut in the form of a cross. This is a symbol of religious devotion, humility, and the entrance into a new stage of religious life. This hair can be burned as a sacrifice to God or saved as a remembrance of the ceremony.



During his homily Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys spoke about teaching the young of the parish the Ukrainian Catholic traditions. He also encouraged the faithful to read the bible more, maybe two or three chapters in the morning or before bed time.

Following the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy there was a banquet held at The Club at Twin Lakes. Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak started by saying grace before the meal was served. Following remarks were made by Father Bunik saying “Today, celebrating the 125th anniversary, we say “We did it!” In 25 years, I hope that we will say “You did It!” he said pointing to the younger parishioners. Other remarks were made by former pastor Fr. John Seniw. He thanked the parishioners for their support and fellowship of the parish community. While the parish is well known for their pyrohy making, many said that the work of making them is more than financial support--it is also building and strengthening the community. He also expressed the honor of being the only pastor to served the parish two times.

Parishioner Andrea Kochan Neagle, a fourth-generation member of the parish, was asked to speak about the history of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in America. She encouraged parishioners to bring their children and grandchildren to Divine Liturgy so they could experience the icons, incense, bells, chants, and the Word of God.

The Benediction was said by Mitred Archpriest Peter Waslo, and he referred to the feast of the Third Finding of the Head of Saint John the Baptist, which had been celebrated just a few days earlier. He said, “But the body of John the Baptist was never discovered. Where is it? And today I’ve Experienced--you are the body,” calling the parishioners the “body of St. John the Baptist”.



Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak



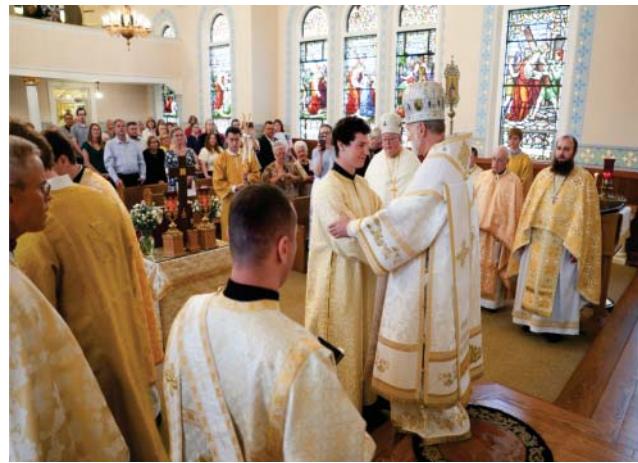
Father John Seniw



Andrea Kochan Neagle



Mitred Archpriest Peter Waslo











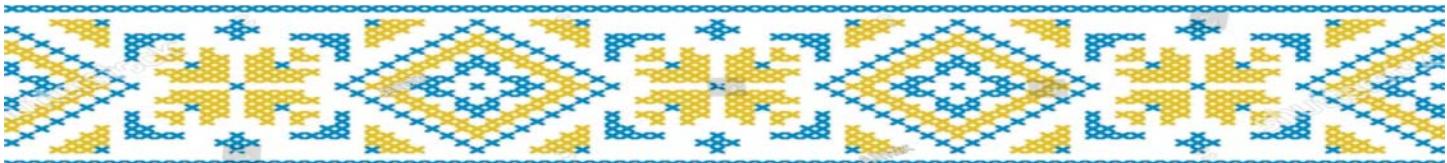
Pastors who have served at Saint John the Baptist Ukrainian Church

1900-1901	Father Damascene Polivka
1901-1908	Father Nestor Dmytrow
1908-1910	Father Peter Luczeczko
1910-1914	Father Omeljan Baransky
1914-1915	Father Michael Guryansky
1915-1920	Father Michael Kuziw
1920-1921	Father Vasyl Maniowsky
1921-1930	Father John Kutsky
1930-1933	Father Michael Pazdrey
1933-1946	Father Vladimir Ulanytzky
1946	Father Paul Iwachiw
1946-1982	Monsignor Stephen Chehansky D.D.
1982-1994	Monsignor Constantine Berdar
1994-1999	Father Leonard Sinatra
1999	Father John Seniw
1999-2001	Father George Kuzara C.P.P.S.
2001-2017	Very Rev. Archpriest David Clooney
2017	Father Roman Petryshak
2017-2022	Father John Seniw
2022-present	Father Vasil Bunik



Altar servers:

Alexander Neagle, Nicholas Sharga, Stephen Rusyn,Jr, Fr. Vasil Bunik, Maksam Komperda, Matthew Hochmiller, Michael Harbove and Andrew Sharga.



Church choir:

Front row left to right: Amelia Hochmiller, Christine Krywczuk, Anna Hirsch, Ann Saurman, Gabrielle Hochmiller, Karly Hirsch, Kathleen Turcotte.

Back row left to right: Peter Krywczuk, Catherine Neagle, Elizabeth Neagle, Damon Neagle, Father Vasil Bunik, Jack Kochanasz, John Popiak, and Tony Lopsonzski

Teaching our faith to the children:

Educating the children of our parish in the Ukrainian Catholic faith has always been an important part of our church history. Students have had opportunities to learn when the parochial school was open and throughout the years in St. John's Religious Education program. Children pre-kindergarten through high school meet in the church multipurpose room on Tuesday evenings during the school year. They learn about the traditions of our church as they develop their relationship with God through Liturgy and prayer. A vital part of this instruction is the preparation to receive First Confession.



In addition to the classes, students participate in special activities and service projects. In the fall, our Religious Education Program organizes a collection of clothing, small snacks, and school supplies that fill backpacks to be sent to children in Ukraine. During the Lenten season, St. John's holds a food drive led by the Religious Education students for the Northampton Area Food Bank. Each year students visit the food bank to learn about the services it provides, deliver the collected items, and pack bags for families that come to receive assistance.

A very special tradition in our parish for over 35 years is the annual visit from St. Nicholas in December. In recent years, it has been held as a breakfast for the children and their families in the church multipurpose room. At this event, each child enjoys receiving treats and a gift from St. Nicholas.

This program has worked to educate the children of St. John's for many years. Our parish greatly appreciates all those who have volunteered their time and resources in support of this endeavor. God grant them many years.





The Pyrohy Project:

For over 70 years, parishioners (and now even non-parishioners) have come to make pyrohy, which was first started in the basement of the school. When the gymnasium and new kitchen were built the project was moved there. These dedicated people have been making pyrohy almost every week to supply the Lehigh Valley with one of their favorite staples. Over the years, things have changed in big ways. When the project started, everything was done by hand, which included making and rolling the dough, peeling the potatoes and then shaping them into balls, and cutting the dough patties. With advancements in technology, these tasks have been made easier. Some of the first things that were invested in were an electric mixer and potato peeler. This made the preparation of the dough and mashed potatoes faster. Then there was the purchase of a dough roller. This would roll small batches of dough thin enough so they could be cut by hand into circles. This would make about a dozen circles. To make it simpler and have more accurate measurements, a meatball maker was bought to make the potato balls. It just so happened to make the mashed potatoes the same size for each pyrohy. After years of doing the project this way, parishioner Charles Chrin donated a machine that would roll the dough and cut the patties at the same time. This machine would roll large batches of dough and cut close to 3 dozen circles in a matter of minutes. Our pyrohy are sold to various retail stores and restaurants in the area. We estimate that there have been close to one and a half million dozen pyrohy made over the years and that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been earned from these sales.



Here is a fantastic 125 year photographic journey of our church



THE FOUNDERS OF OUR PARISH



Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Solan and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lukachovsky, the oldest members of our Parish.



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH GLADISH AND MRS. TEKLA MOLCHANY
The above group was active in Church work. Mrs. Molchany was the maid of honor at the first wedding performed in our Church. The first couple was Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sember. Mrs. Michael Sember now lives in Bridgeport, Conn. Her husband died in 1949. Mr. Mike Maruschak was their best man.



ANDREW ANTOLICK



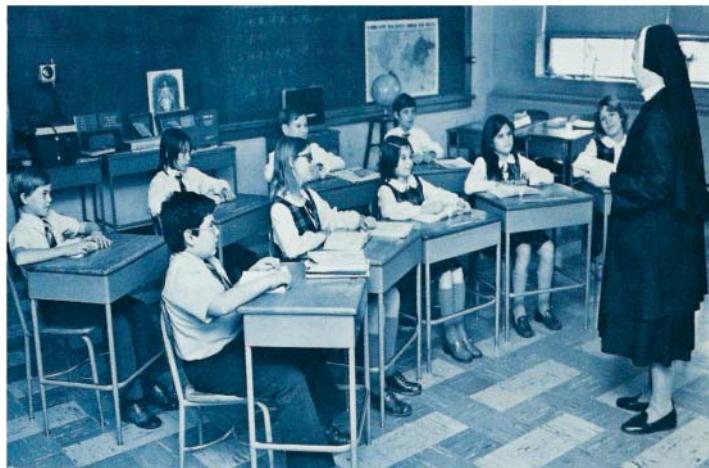
MICHAEL LUKACHOVSKY





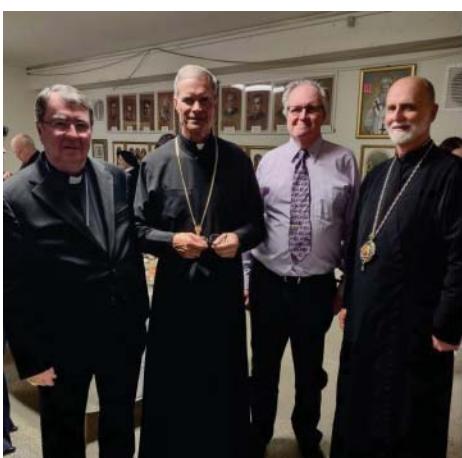


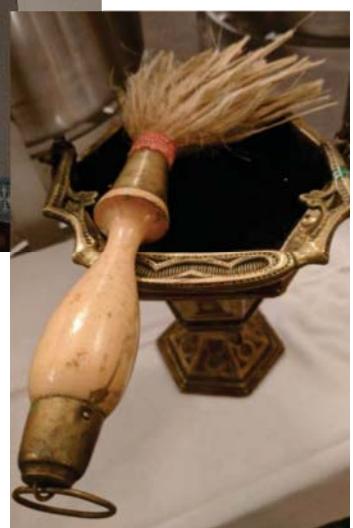


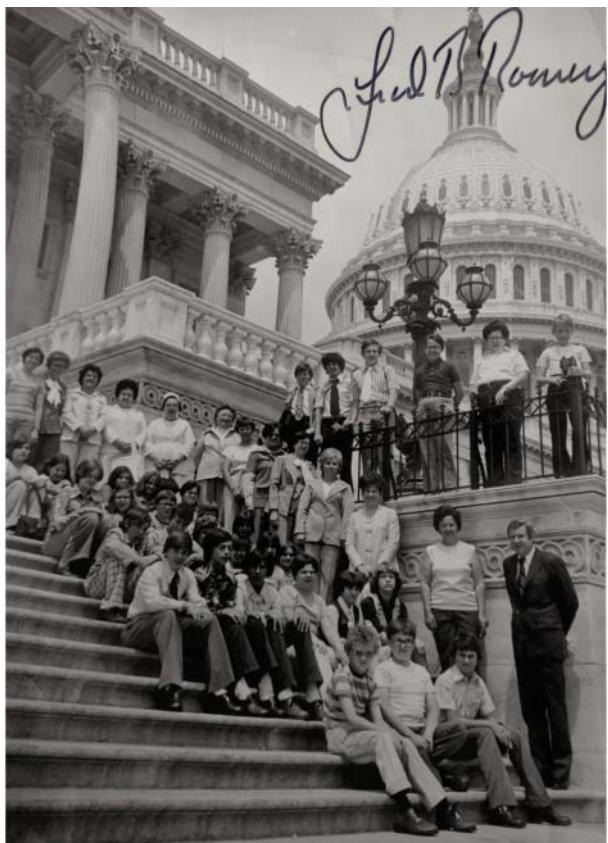






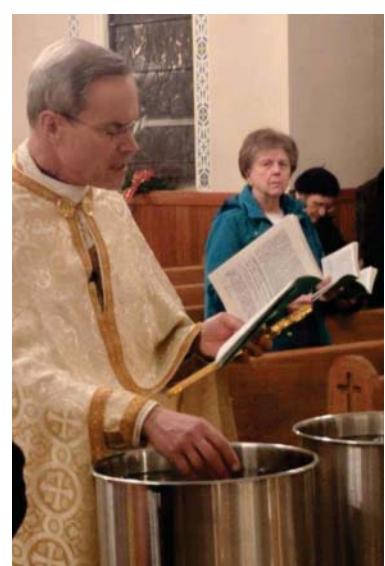
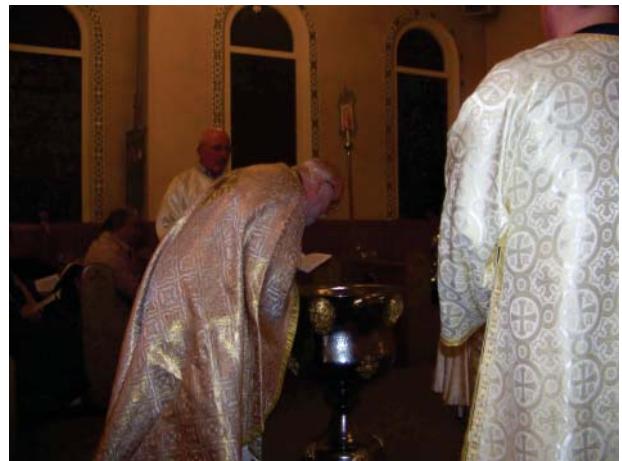




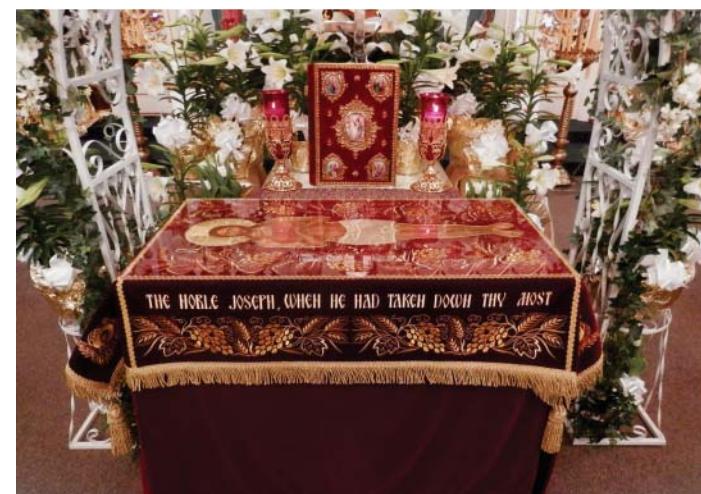






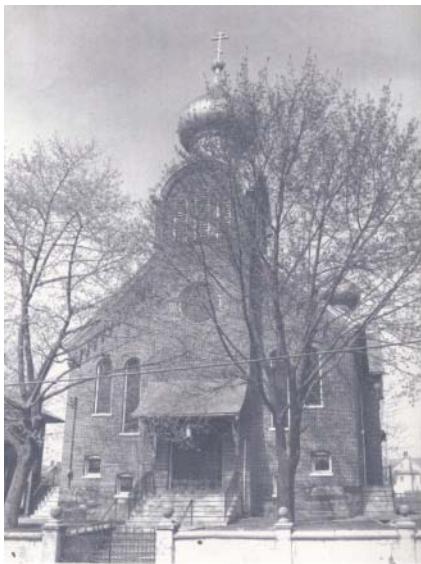








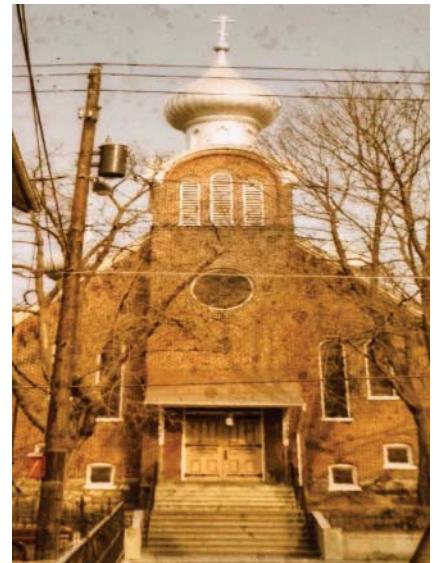




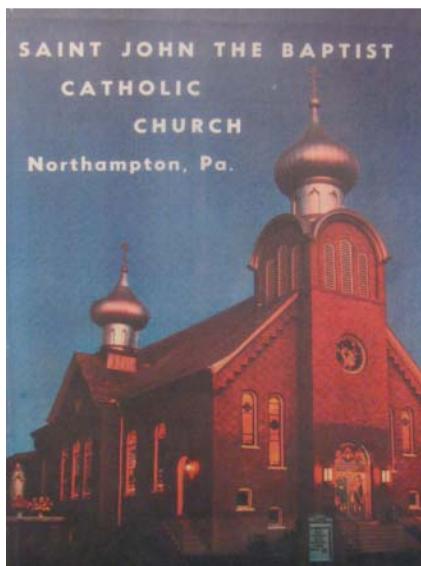
1945



1955



1965



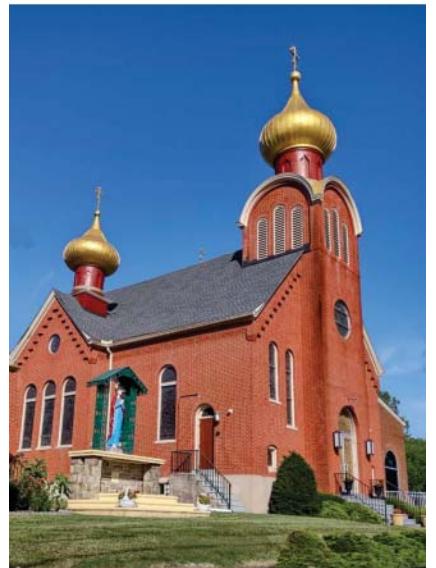
1975



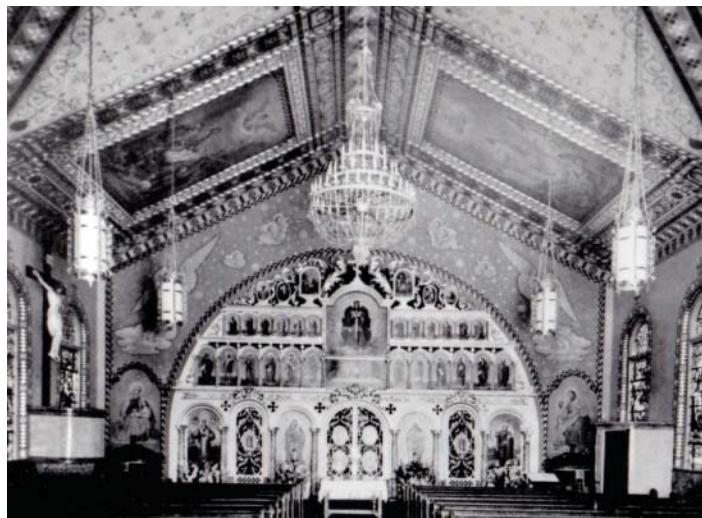
1985



2005



2025



1965



1985



1995



2000



2025

ICON DONATIONS

St. Anne teaching Mary:

Stephen and Sharon Nachesty

In Honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Shroud of Turin:

Daniel and Paulette Yonosh

Pokrova:

Phillip and Joanne Nonemaker

Symbols of the Eucharist, Passion, Noah's Ark and the Burning Bush:

Dech, Dziadual, Smith and Rundel Families

Descending Dove:

Charles and Julie Roth

In Memory of
George and Helen Jupina/Alex and Anna Mitchell

Angels in Flight:

Kathleen Lobach

In Memory of Dennis

Stars on the Ceiling of the Nave:

Richard Smith Family

Dech, Dziadual, Smith and Rundel Families

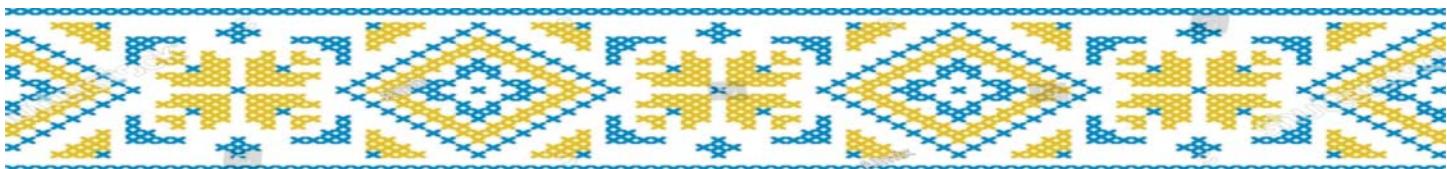


“CONGRATULATIONS”

FROM

**HOLY GHOST UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

WEST EASTON, PA 18042



**Our prayers and best wishes on
your 125th Anniversary.**

**Assumption of the Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Orthodox Church**

**1301 Newport Avenue
Northampton, 18067**

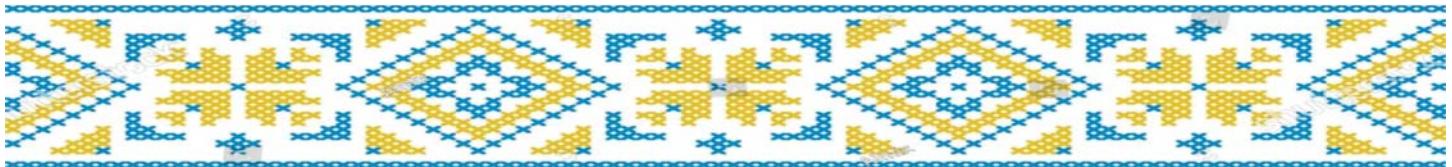
**Rev. Oleg Kravchenko, Pastor
Protodeacon Mikhail Sawarynski**



Congratulations to all the parishioners and clergy of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church on the occasion of your 125th anniversary.

May God grant you all long life and many happy years!

Rev. Paul J. Makar and the parishioners of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church
Bethlehem, PA. 18018



CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES
ON THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF YOUR PARISH.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH BOUNTIOUS
SPIRITUAL FAVOR.

THE PARISHIONERS
OF
ST. MARY UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH
PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
CATHEDRAL.
ALLENTEWN, PA. 18102

REV. RICHARD JENDRAS, PASTOR
REV. ALEXIS CLODFELTER

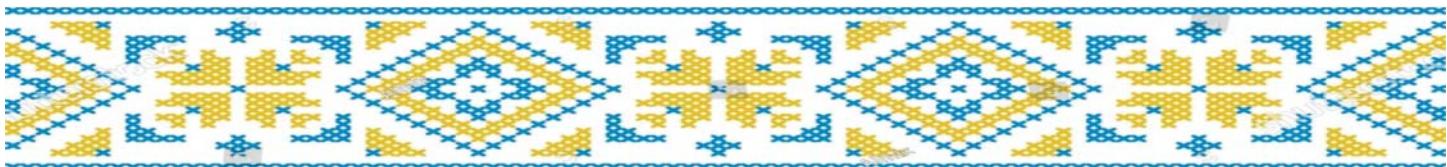
Congratulations on the 125th anniversary of the founding of your parish.



May God who began this good work in your predecessors continue it for generations to come.

God grant you peace, unity and spiritual guidance, for many years,
Mnohaya Lita.

Lehigh Valley Brotherhood of Ukrainian Clergy



CONGRATULATIONS
AND BEST WISHES

FROM THE PARISHIONERS OF

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH

ON OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY.

1900-2025

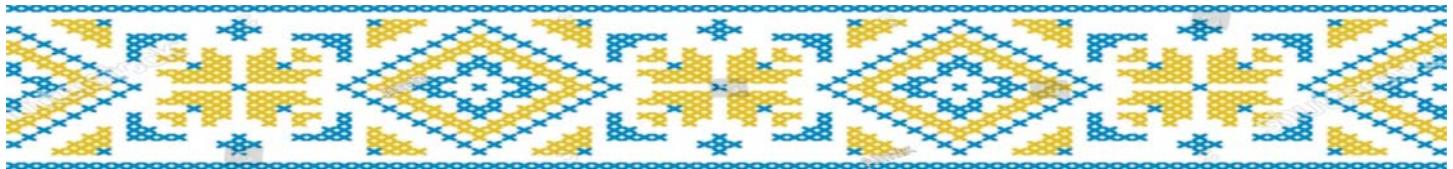
GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS,
MNOHAYA LITA!



BEST WISHES ON THE
125TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF YOUR PARISH.

MAY GOD GRANT YOU ABUNDANT BLESSINGS!
MNOHAYA LITA!

Rev. Richard Jendras
St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church
Allentown, PA



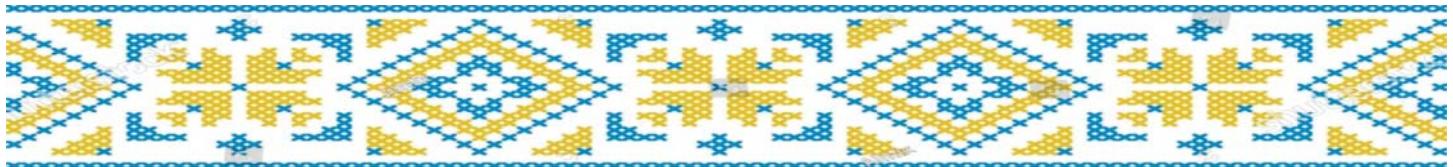
Congratulations to all
the parishioners and clergy of
St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church
on the occasion of your 125th anniversary.

May God grant
you long life and many happy years.

Compliments of
Rev. Paul J. Makar and the Makar Family

BEST WISHES ON THE
125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING
OF YOUR PARISH.
GOD BLESS YOU WITH ABUNDANT
GRACES AND JOY.
LET HOPE AND FAITH GUIDE YOU FOREVER.

Father Andrii Rubel and Halyna Vasylynia



It is a true joy and honor to
extend my heartfelt congratulations to
Fr. Vasil and the faithful of St. John the Baptist Church
on the occasion of your 125th anniversary.

Your parish stands
as a strong witness to the enduring
faith, cultural heritage, and community
spirit of our Ukrainian people.

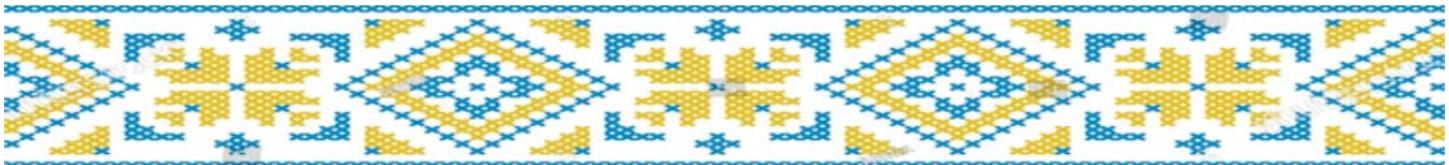
May the Lord bless your church with grace,
unity and spiritual strength for many years.

Mnohaya Lita.

Your Neighbor,
Rev. Oleg Kravchenko, Pastor
Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church
Northampton, PA

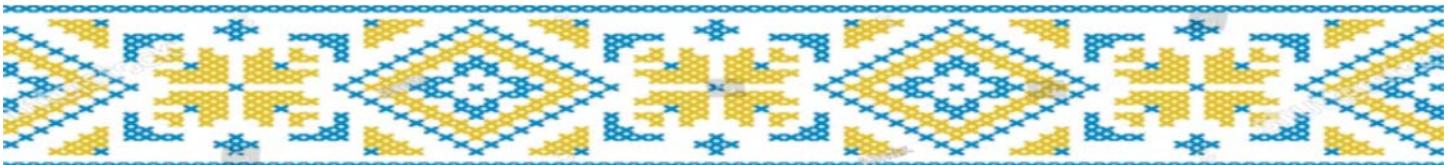
“IN MEMORY OF OUR FAMILY MEMBERS.”

Tony and Jean Lopsonzski



**“CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO GOD FOR 125
YEARS TO WORSHIP AS A PARISH.
PRAY FOR MANY MORE.”**

John and Doris Drabic

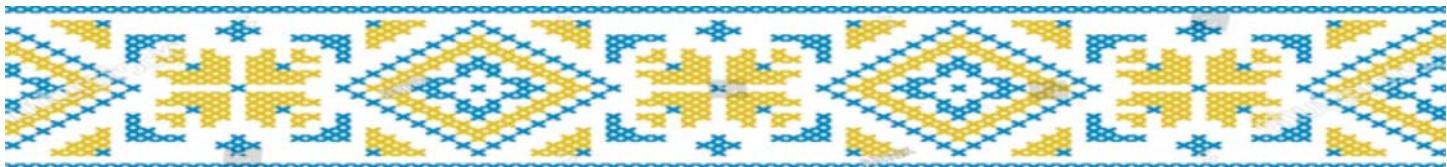


**“IN MEMORY OF SOPHIA BOBENKO
AND CHARLES BOBENKO SR.”**

Roger and Sandra Bobenko

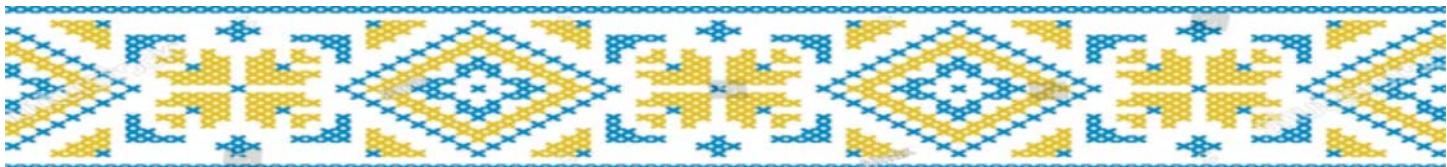
**“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ALL WHO HAVE WORSHIPED AND IN
HONOR OF ALL THOSE WHO WILL WORSHIP
IN THIS HOLY TEMPLE.”**

Peter and Christine Krywczuk



**“DENNIS LOBACH, JOHN & KATHERINE YONOSH,
YONOSH & BOBENKO FAMILIES & THE LOBACH FAMILIES.”**

Kathleen Lobach

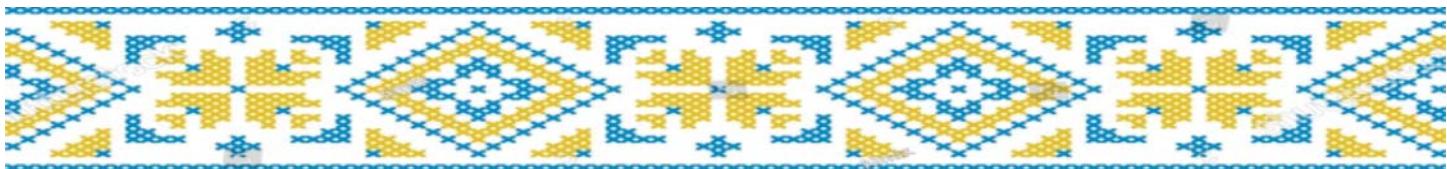


**“IN MEMORY OF THE DECEASED FAMILY MEMBERS
OF WASYL & TEKLA DEMCZYSZYN AND
JOHN AND MARY PAWLESA-BOLESKY.”**

Marcia Bolesky and John Vincler

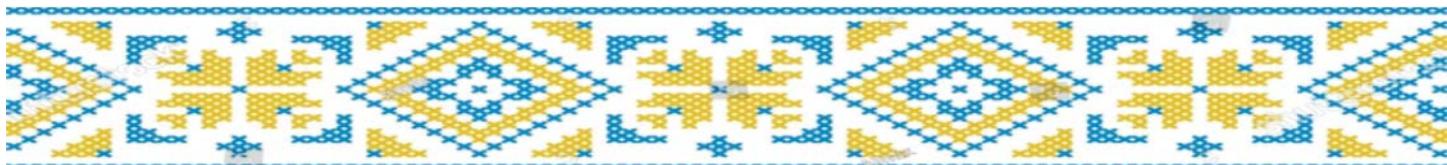
**“STAND FIRM IN OUR UKRAINIAN FAITH.
REMEMBER THOSE WHO LAID THE FOUNDATION
FOR ST. JOHN’S.”**

Philip and Joanne Nonemaker



**“IN MEMORY OF
JOHN & CATHERINE RUSZIN,
GEORGE & CONCETTA RUSZIN,
AND
JOANNE & GERALD HAHN.”**

JoAnne Ruszin Hahn

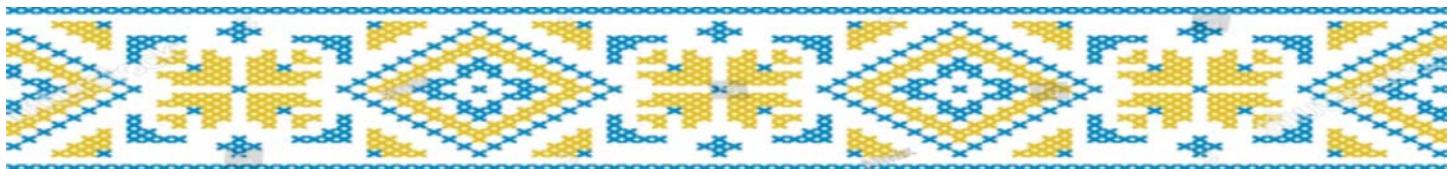


**“IN MEMORY OF
MICHAEL MACSISAK JR.”**

Catherine Macsisak

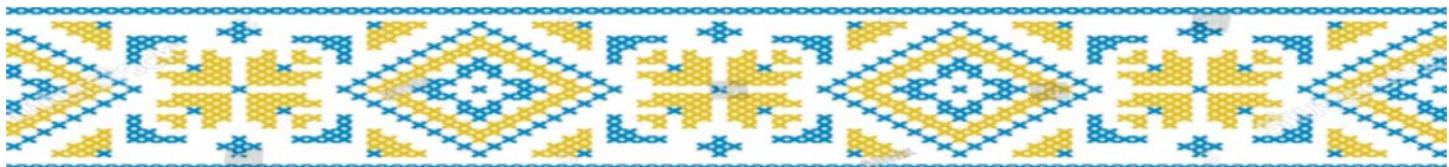
**“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
BARBARA BALLA”**

Paul A. Balla



**“IN MEMORY OF
CHRISTOPHER JOHN MACSISAK.”**

Randy Paul Macsisak

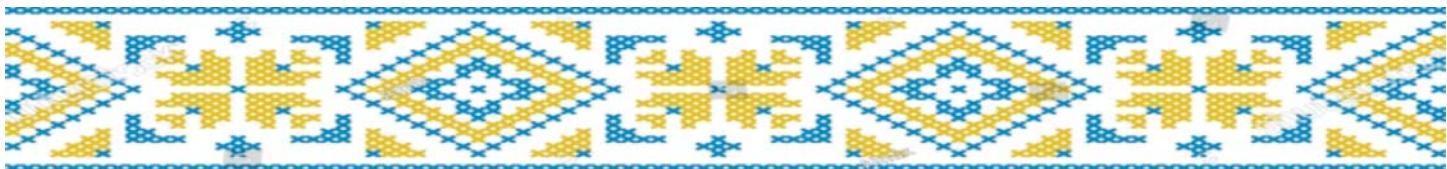


**“FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS,
TESSIE GILL, WILLIAM SR,
ANN MAITSKI, MARY MAITSKI,
MIKE MAITSKI, MATTHEW MAITSKI,
FRED MAITSKI, MARIANNE BIANCKINI, AND JIM BAKER.”**

William Gill and Pat Baker

“IN MEMORY OF
STEVEN AND ETHEL RUSYN.”

Gregory Rusyn



“IN MEMORY OF
KIM DAVIS, CATHERINE & JOSEPH GABRYLUK SR.,
MICHAEL, AND JOSEPH GABRYLUK JR.”

Kathy Davis

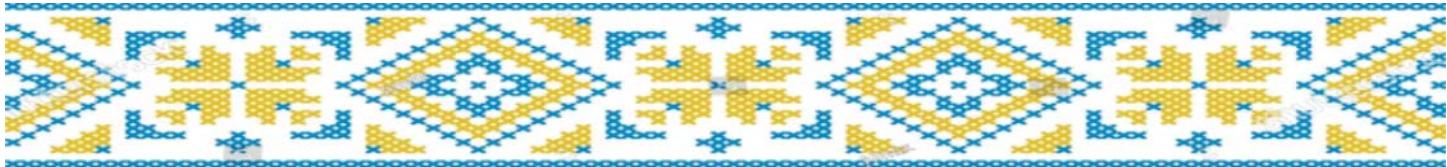


“IN MEMORY OF
JOSEPH & MARGARET FELIX.”

Joseph and Margaret Felix

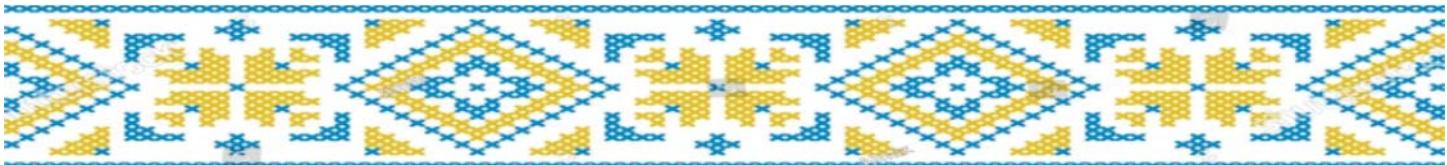
**“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
PAUL AND PAULINE KOCHENASH.”**

Paulette M. Kochenash



**“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
OUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS,
NICHOLAS AND JULIA CIHYLIK.”**

The Cihylik Family

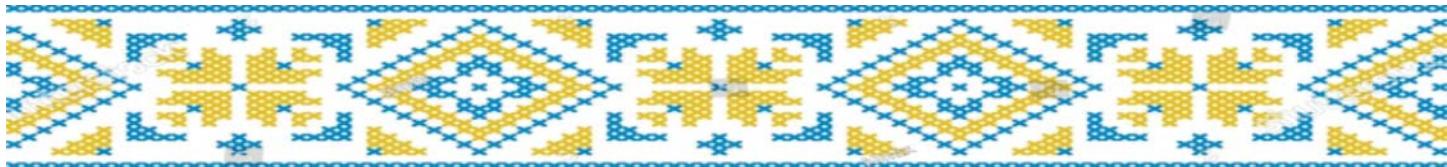


**“IN MEMORY OF
HELEN HARBOWY, JOHN AND ANNA HARBOWY
AND EVA AND NICHOLAS KROWITZ.”**

Dennis J. Harbowy

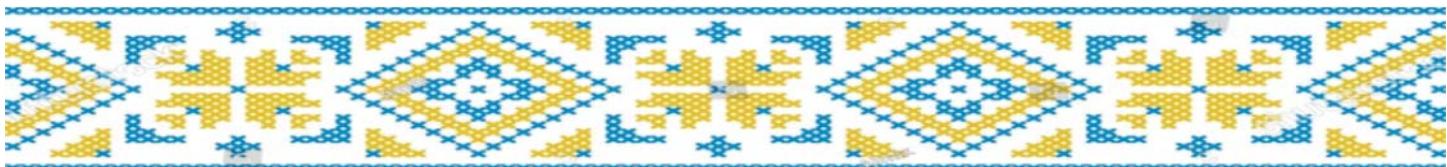
**“IN REMEMBRANCE OF
MY MOTHER-ANNA.”**

Matthew Hurban



“IN HONOR OF MY MOTHER-ANNA.”

Anna Hurban

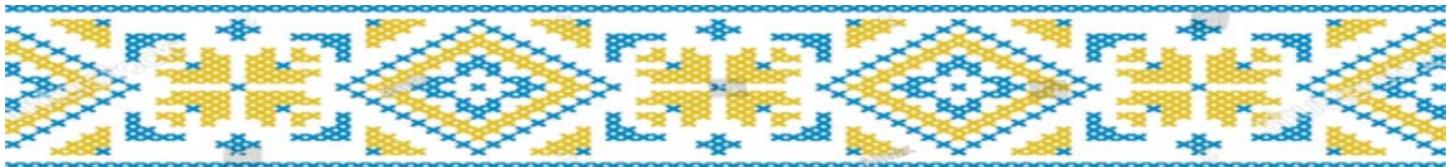


**“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ALEX AND ANNA MITCHELL.”**

Charles and Julie Ann Roth

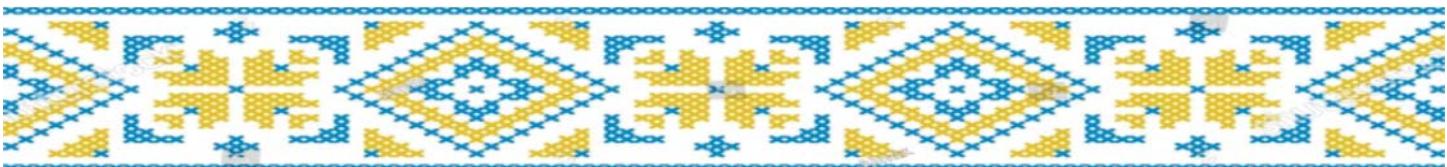
**“IN MEMORY OF
ONUFREY AND ANNA BORUCH.”**

Beverly A. Yankowy



**“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JOHN AND CATHERINE DOBEL
AND SUZANNE DOBEL.”**

Vaughn & Paula Dobel and Pat & Marcie Canavan

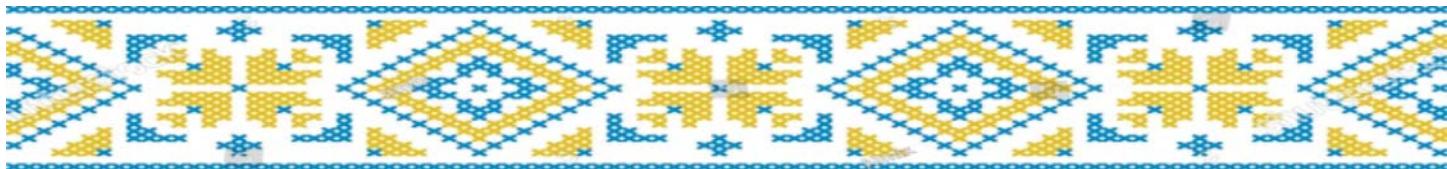


**“MEMORY ETERNAL,
ANNA & FRANK KRUPA, RITA FURST AND
DR. WANDA FLINN.”**

Craig and Gloria Krupa Smith

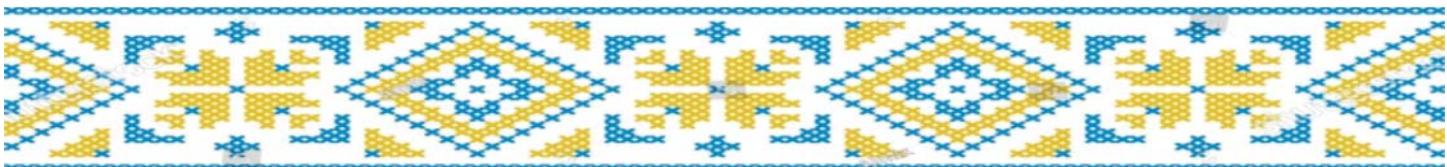
**“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
GEORGE AND HELEN JUPINA.”**

Stephanie and John Cusick



**“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
GEORGE & ANNA FETCHKO AND
NICHOLAS FETCHKO.”**

George & Fran Fetchko and Family

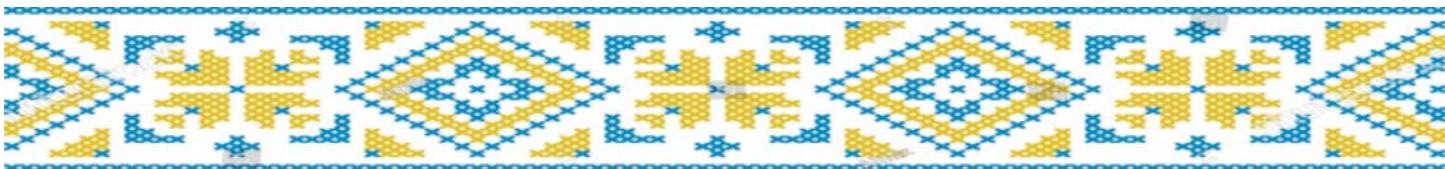


**“MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF OUR PRIESTS
AND PARISHIONERS.”**

The Hebrock Family

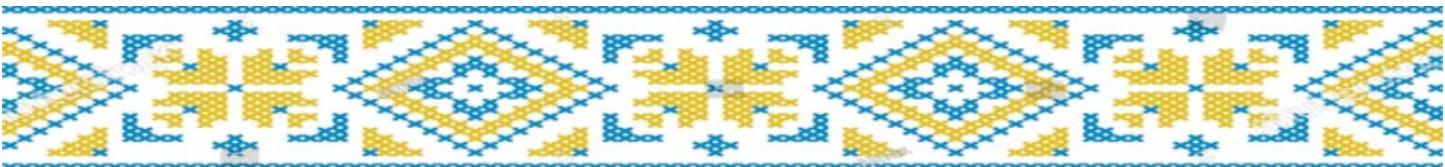
“IN MEMORY OF
OUR PARENTS
JOHN AND PAULINE A. KOCHANASZ.”

Ann (Kochanasz) Saurman, Marie Repko,
Evonne Uhrich, and John Kochanasz



“CONGRATULATIONS ON ST. JOHN’S 125 YEARS.
IN MEMORY OF OUR GRANDPARENTS
PAUL & MARY (MUZYKA) ROMANIC AND
GODMOTHER ANNA ROMANIC.”

Seth J. & Marie P. (Kochanasz) Repko
Thomas M. & Evonne A. (Kochanasz) Uhrich



“CONGRATULATIONS ON
ST. JOHN’S 125 YEARS.
IN MEMORY OF OUR GRANDPARENTS
PAUL & PAULINE (PRYZWANSKY) KOCHANASZ.”

John P. & Melissa A. Kochanasz

“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
FATHER MICHAEL PENKAL,
BROTHER JOSEPH AND SISTER TERESA CHUPAK.”

Julia Werkheiser



“IN MEMORY OF
ANDREW AND OLGA CHRIN.”

Ben & Donna Chrín

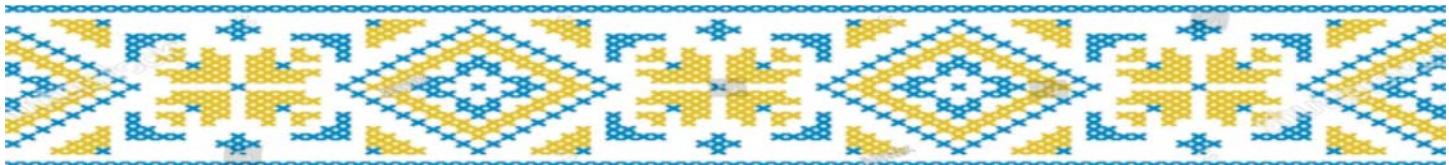


“IN MEMORY OF
THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF
THE HRICINAK FAMILY
AND
JOSEPH MAZUR.”

Michael Pokrifscak

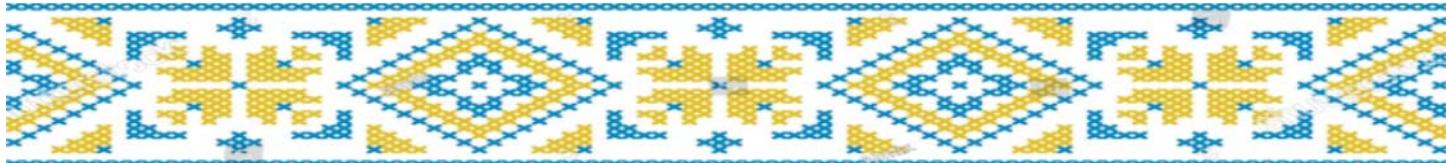
“IN MEMORY OF
MIKE AND MARY SIMOCK.”

Cindy Preston



“IN MEMORY OF
PETER & MARY STEFANYAK
AND
RICHARD & SALLY GLADISH.”

Edward and Kathleen Stefanyak

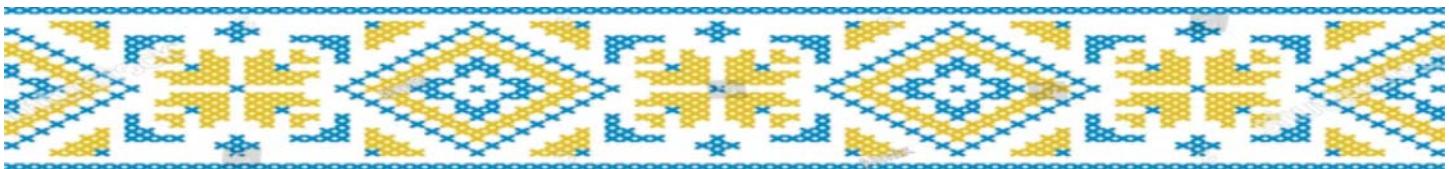


“GOD’S BLESSING FOR
EDWARD & KRISTY STEFANYAK
AND
SAMANTHA, JAGGER, & GUNNAR STEFANYAK.”

Edward and Kathleen Stefanyak

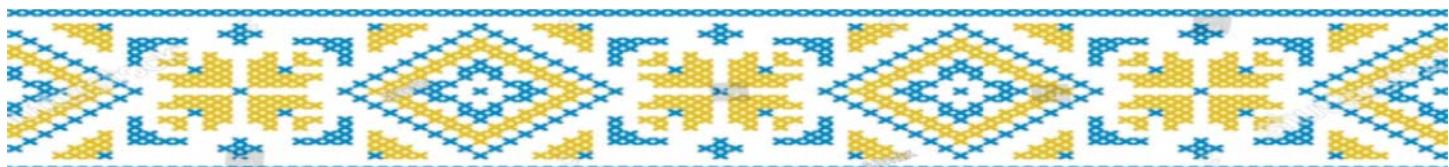
“IN MEMORY OF
OUR PARENTS MICHAEL AND MARY ROMANIC.”

From Children
Susan Steiner, Patricia Miller, Anne Arnold,
Paul Romanic and Michael Romanic



“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
PARENTS NIKOLAI AND HELEN SWERYDA.”

Dorothy (Sweryda) Miller and Family

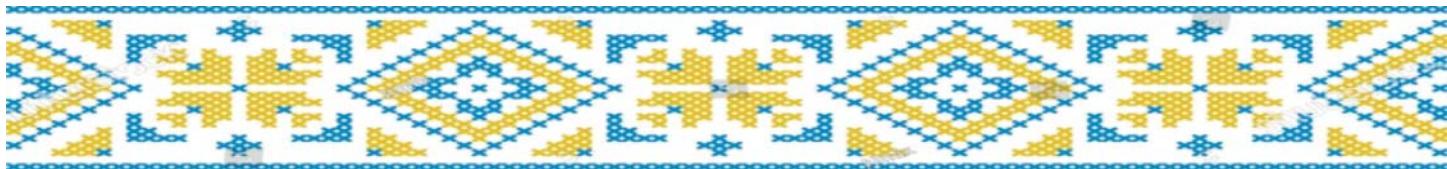


“MAY GOD BLESS ALL THE PARISHIONERS OF
ST. JOHN’S.
MNOHAYA LITA.”

Peter and Anna Wasko and Family

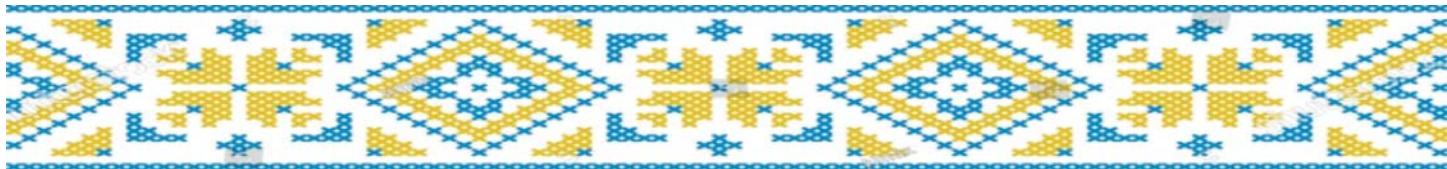
“IN MEMORY OF
MARY & PAUL NAZAR
AND
OLGA & MICHAEL HARBOVE.”

Michael and Nadine Harbove



“IN MEMORY OF
PAUL MICHAEL NAZAR
AND
KATHY MARAKOVITS.”

Daria and Matt Caton

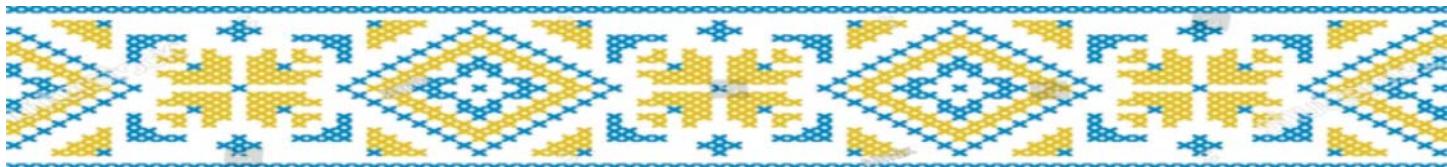


“IN MEMORY OF
LAURA HOLOTA.”

Michael and Meghan Harbove & Son

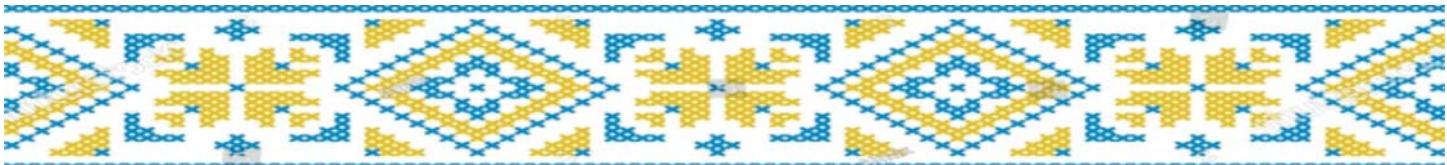
**“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
PAUL LAUSER III
DEVOTED CANTOR & PARISHIONER.”**

Wife, Stephanie M. Terleski



**“IN MEMORY OF GRANDPARENTS
JOHN & ANNA SIRKO
AND
JOHN & MAGDALENE TERLESKI.”**

Loving Grandchildren

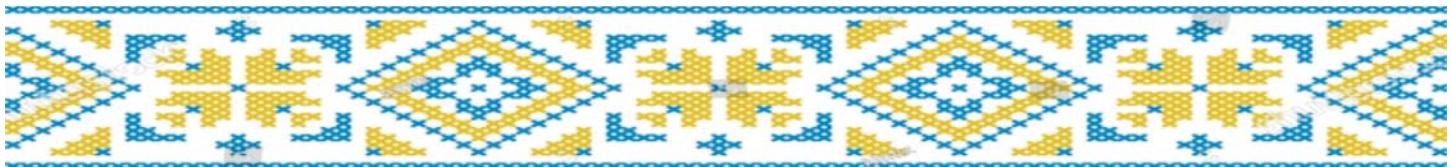


**“IN MEMORY OF
OUR PARENTS
GEORGE AND SOPHIE TERLESKI.”**

Children John, Ann, Stephanie,
+Carol, Cathy and Patricia

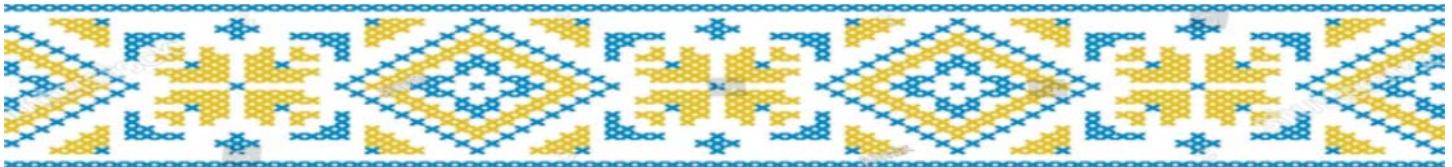
**“CONGRATS ON YOUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY
GARDEN CITY GREENHOUSES.
SERVING YOU FOR 50 YEARS.”**

John and Josie Terleski



**“IN MEMORY OF
WOLOODYMYR AND MIROSLAWA LUTSKY.”**

Marta and Tania Kulischenko

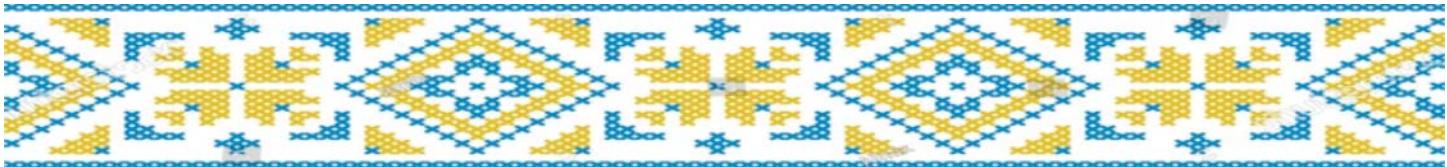


**“IN MEMORY OF MY
GRANDPARENTS
BETTY & EDWARD HOCHMILLER.”**

Amy & Dan Brigidi and Family

“IN MEMORY OF
PATRICIA SOMMER
AND
ESTHER & ALEX PALY.”

Lisa Sommer



“AS WE CELEBRATE 125 YEARS,
WE PRAY THAT GOD WILL
GRANT US HIS BLESSINGS FOR MANY MORE.”

Daniel, Paulette, and Lisa Yonosh



“CONGRATULATIONS & HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
MAY THE MESSAGES OF HOPE, LOVE, AND UNITY CONTINUE
TO BE PREACHED IN OUR CHURCH.”

Megan, Rob, Robbie, & Emily Schoenauer

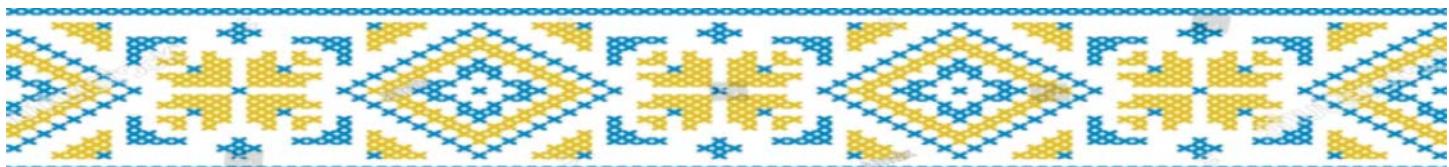
“WISHING OUR CHURCH A HAPPY 125TH
ANNIVERSARY FILLED WITH HOPE,
JOY, AND INSPIRATION.”

Greg & Patrice Gabryluk



“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
CATHERINE & JOSEPH GABRYLUK SR,
MICHAEL, AND JOSEPH GABRYLUK JR.”

Ronald Gabryluk

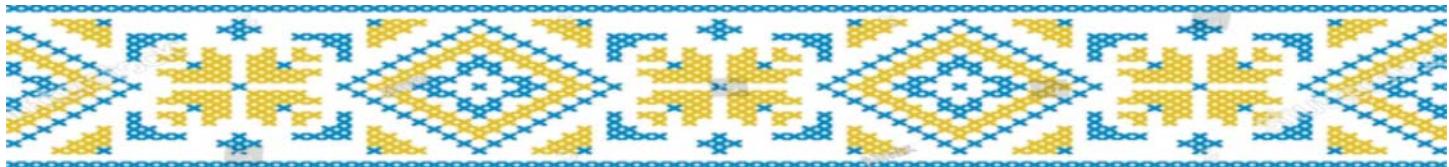


“IN MEMORY OF
MY GODMOTHER NANCY KRYZAN.”

Doris Halushak

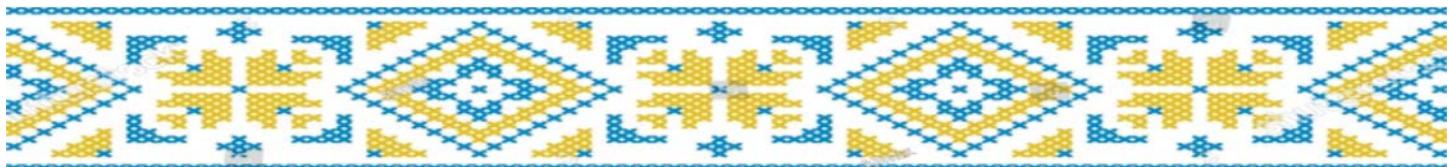
“IN MEMORY OF
ELIZABETH PERDICK
AND
JOHN & ANNA SALASH.”

John & Susan Perdick



“IN MEMORY OF
ANDREW & ELIZABETH HANSEN,
WASYL & KATHERINE GULKEWICZ,
JOSEPH & MARY HANSEN AND
ALEX & HELEN WOLANSKY.”

Keith & Carey Hansen



“MEMORY ETERNAL:
RICHARD DECH, WALTER RUNDLE,
DARWIN FLICK, KATHRYN FLICK AND
RONALD FLICK.”

Maryann Dech

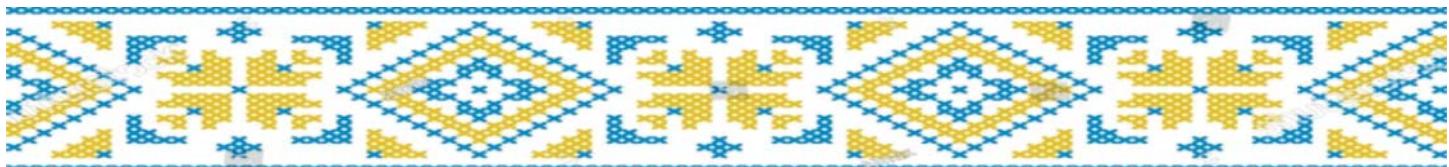
**“JESUS, YOU ARE THE WAY. SHOW ME A
PATH TO FOLLOW.”**

Peter & Bernadette Nush



**“IN MEMORY OF
NICHOLAS AND NANCY PISTON.”**

Patricia and Donald Dogmanits

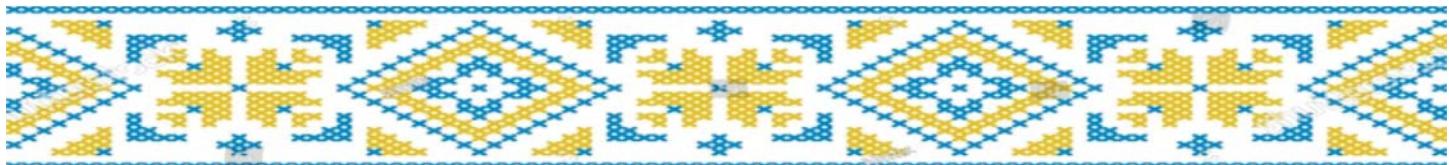


**“IN MEMORY OF
THE
SUPP FAMILY AND CHAPUTER FAMILY.”**

Barbara Supp

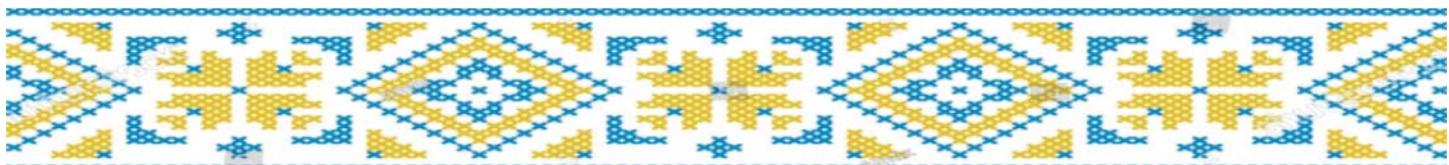
**“IN MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS
EDWARD & BETTY HOCHMILLER.”**

Rob & Mary Hochmiller



**“IN MEMORY OF PARENTS
STEPHEN & MARY RAPCHAK.”**

Marge Deutsch

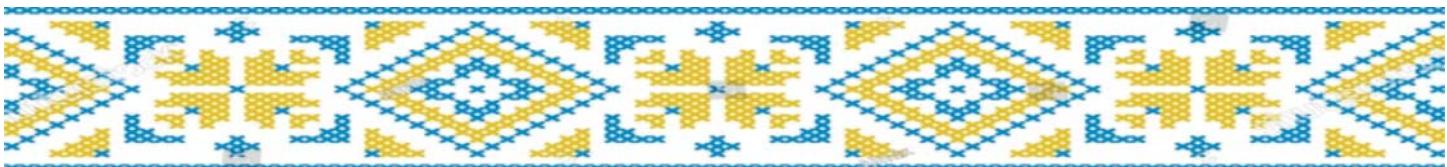


**“WHAT A BLESSING FOR OUR CHURCH TO
BE CELEBRATING 125 YEARS.”**

Stephen and Monica Fedorak

**“CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY.
OUR PARISH HAS BEEN A PILLAR
OF FAITH AND CULTURE
PRESERVING UKRAINIAN TRADITIONS.
MAY THE FUTURE BE FILLED WITH BLESSINGS.
MNOHAYA I BLAHAYA LITA.”**

Stefanie Kochan and Family



**“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
OREST KOCHAN.
1942-2025.”**

Stefanie Kochan



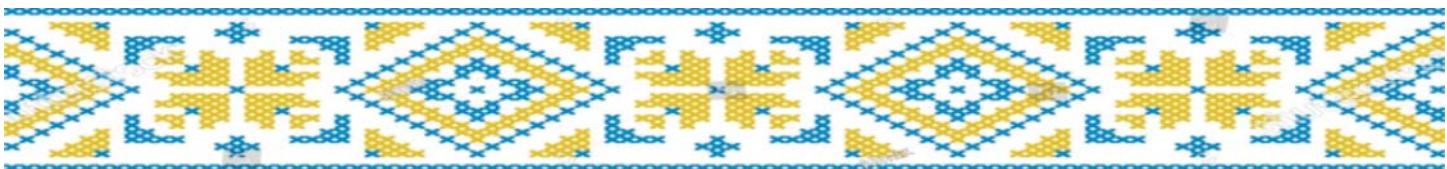
**“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
OREST M. KOCHAN
AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE
KOCHAN AND DYTYNIAK FAMILIES.”**

Damon and Andrea Neagle

**“I AM BLESSED AND HONORED TO BE A
MEMBER OF ST. JOHN’S PARISH FAMILY.
OUR CHOIR KEEPS UPLIFTING OUR HEARTS
AND PRAYERS BY THEIR BEAUTIFUL SINGING.**

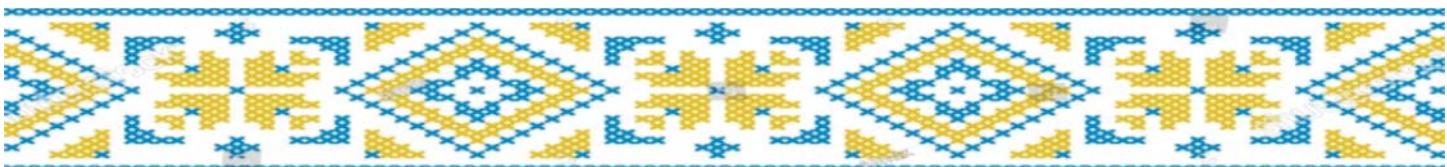
**MNOHAYA I BLAHAYA LITA TO
FR. VASIL AND OUR PARISH FAMILY.”**

Teresa Car



**“IN MEMORY OF
MELVIN AND IRENE SCHALL.”**

The Schall Family

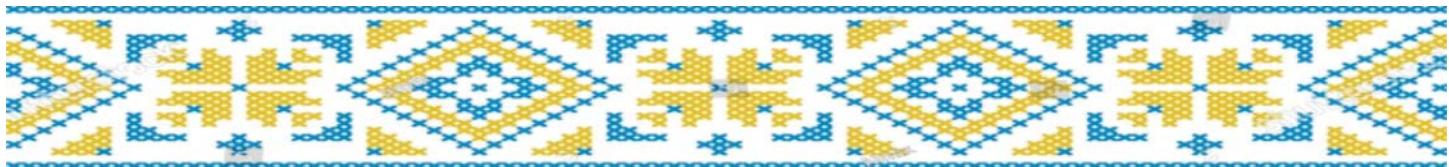


**“IN HONOR OF
PETRO & KSENIЯ KRYWCZUK,
JOHN & ANNA KRAWCHUK, EDWARD & ANNA WEIDER,
WASYL & MARION KOHUT, JOHN & OLGA MATSCO,
ALFRED & MARY HIRSCHMAN, NIKOLAI & HELEN SWERYDA,
WASSYL & JOSEPHINE KRYWCZUK & JOHN & IRENE O’DONNELL.”**

Peter Kohut Sr. and Family

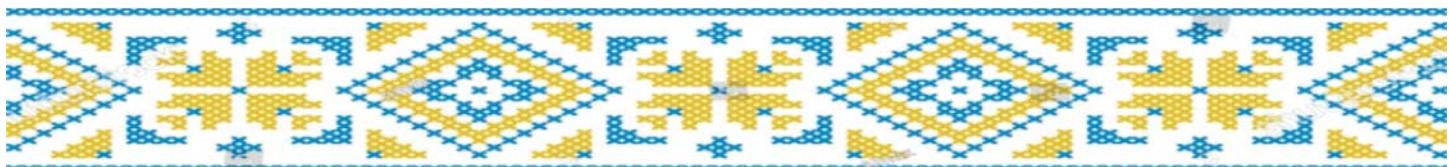
**“IN MEMORY OF
GERALD AND PAULINE NEWHART.”**

The Newhart Family
Karen, Gerald Jr., Alan, Lynda and Lydia



**“IN MEMORY OF
STEPHEN RESZETAR.”**

Karen and Jim Kucharik

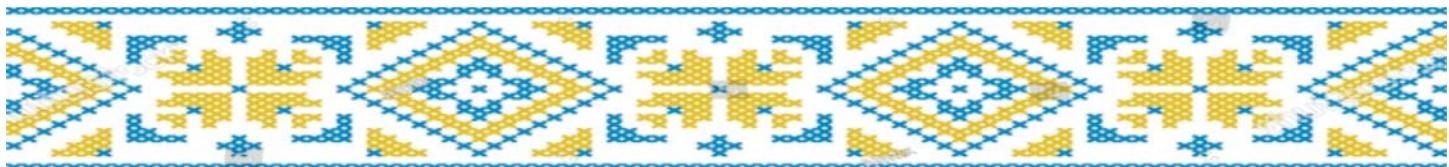


**“IN MEMORY OF
JOSAPHAT AND NANCY RESZETAR.”**

Nancy and Reggie Haseltine

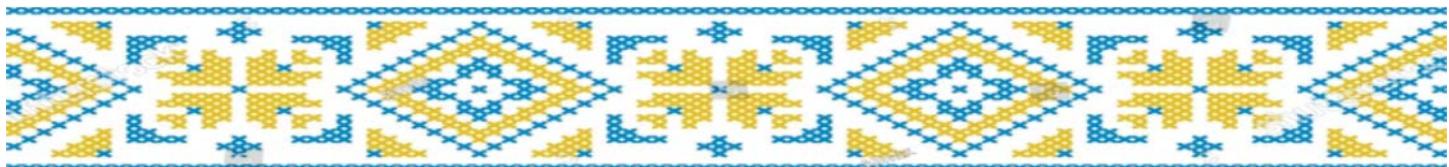
“BLESSINGS FOR
THE
RESZETAR FAMILIES.”

Jim and Karen Kucharik



“BLESSINGS FOR THE
NEWHART AND KUCHARIK FAMILIES.”

Jim and Karen Kucharik

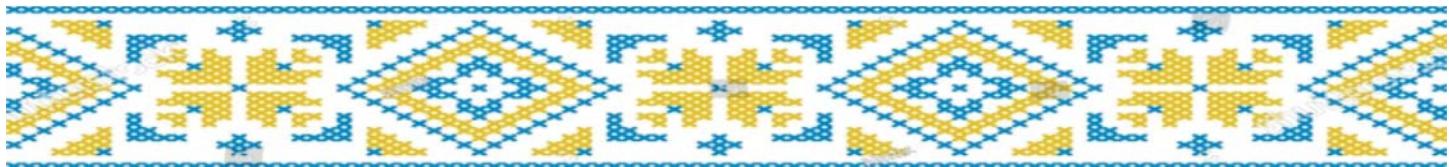


“CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR
125TH ANNIVERSARY, GOD GRANT THE PARISH
MANY MORE YEARS.
MNOHAYA I BLAHAYA LITA.”

Jim and Karen Kucharik

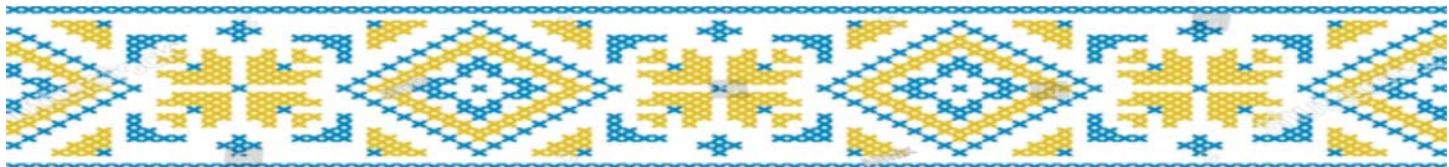
“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MY GRANDPARENTS,
EDWARD AND BETTY HOCHMILLER.”

Matthew & Dorothy Hochmiller



“IN MEMORY OF
MR. & MRS. CHARLES BODNAR SR.”

James & Mary Ann Bodnar

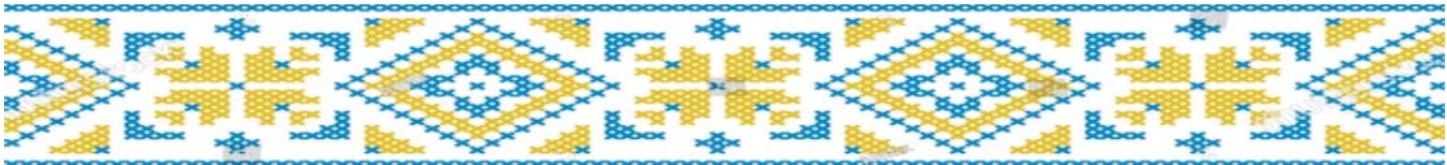


“CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. JOHN'S.”

Walt/Yvonne Mayoryk and Alyssa Luby

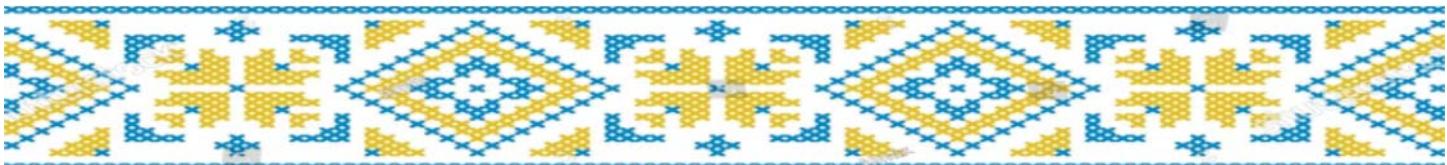
“MNOHAYA LITA!”

Rob & Michelle Barbieri and Family



**“IN MEMORY OF THE
NACHESTY, MICIO, PYLAT AND MUNLEY
FAMILIES.”**

**Stephen & Sharon Nachesty and
Daughters Nadia & Alexia**

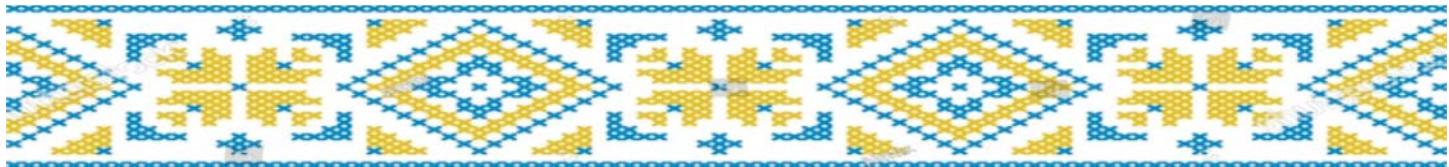


**“IN MEMORY OF
STEPHEN & HELEN BANDURA,
FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS.”**

**Children
Stephen, Barry, and Diane**

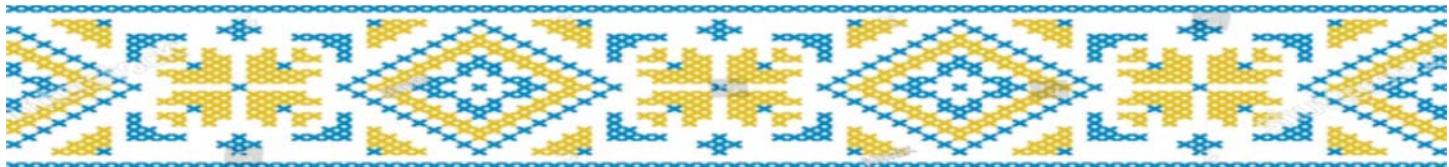
**“IN MEMORY OF
WALEK AND MARY SAGANOWICH,
LOVED FOREVER.”**

Grandchildren
Stephen, Barry, and Diane



**“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JOHN J. SCHNEIDER
AND
STEPHEN & ANNA LALIK.”**

Karl, Michelle, Jonathan, Anna,
Stephanie, and Karly Hirsch

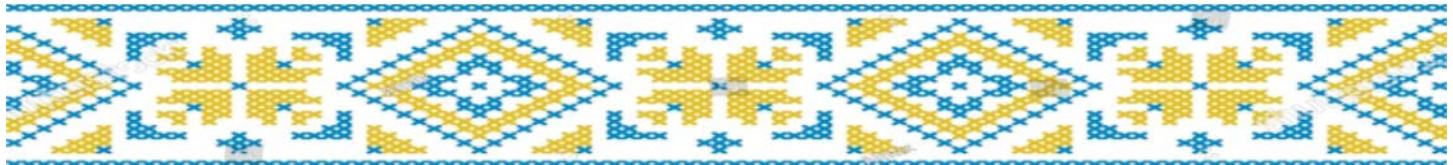


**“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JOHN J. SCHNEIDER
AND
SAMKO & JOSEPHINE RUSYN.”**

Patricia Schneider

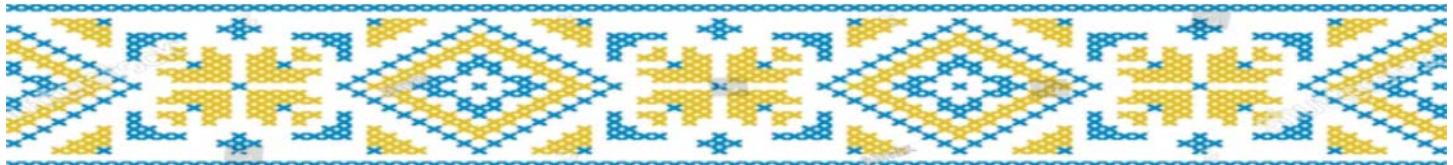
“BLESSINGS AND GOOD WISHES
ON THE CELEBRATION
OF YOUR 125TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARISH.”

Reichel Funeral Home



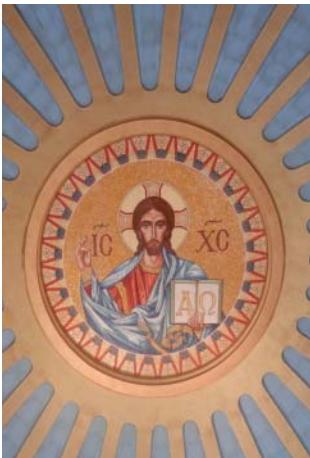
“IN MEMORY OF
THOMAS & MILLICENT KYRA
AND
GERALD J. FABIAN.”

Patricia (Kyra) Fabian



“IN MEMORY OF MY PARENTS STEPHEN & MARYBETH,
MY GRANDPARENTS JOSEPH & MARIA AND
MY AUNT BARBARA FERNANDES.
CONGRATULATIONS TO
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH ON THEIR 125TH ANNIVERSARY.”

Lisa-Jon Lepeta



The Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia:

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception located in the Northern Liberties district in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was erected in 1966 through the efforts of the Ukrainian Catholics in America. This magnificent edifice, designed by Julian K. Jastremsky, replaced the old Cathedral Church, which had been purchased in 1907 by Bishop Sotor Ortynsky, O.S.B.M.

The present Cathedral, constructed to reflect authentic Byzantine architecture, is built in the same style as *Hagia Sofia* (St. Sophia) Cathedral in Constantinople (present day Istanbul Turkey).

The limestone and architectural concrete structure is 172 feet in length, 128 wide, and 106 feet high. The most impressive feature is the central dome, which is 100 feet in diameter. The exterior is covered Venetian glass tiles made of 22 karat gold fused glass. The dome's interior portrays a mosaic of the Pantocrater (Christ, the Almighty ruler). The dome seemingly rests on 32 windows, depicting the coat of arms of regions of Ukraine.

When the Cathedral cornerstone was laid on October 16, 1966, a stone from the tomb of St. Peter the Apostle was placed therein. This stone was given to Archbishop Ambrose Senyshyn by Pope Paul VI for the Cathedral as a fitting symbol of unity of faith of the Ukrainian people with the Apostolic Roman See. Below the Cathedral sanctuary, there is a crypt that contains the remains of four bishops: Bishop Sotor Ortynsky, O.S.B.M., Archbishop Constantine Bohachevsky, Archbishop Ambrose Senyshyn, O.S.B.M., and Archbishop Stephen Sulyk.

The Ukrainian Catholic faithful do not only go to this beautiful edifice to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. They also make the journey from near and far to bear witness of the enthronement of a new Metropolitan, bishops, and the ordination of priests.

In October of 1979, Pope John Paul II visited our Cathedral and prayed along with over 2000 Ukrainian and Roman Catholic bishops, priests, nuns, and laity.

Acknowledgments

At this time, we would like to thank the people who made this book possible.

The writing and design for this book was accomplished by Peter J. Krywczuk, a lifelong member of the church. Peter J. Krywczuk is a 1978 graduate of St. John's school where he was an altar server. This is where he began to have a keen interest in the history of the church. Sometime in 1980 Michael Prosak approached him and asked if he would like to join the church choir. Along with singing in the choir, he also helped in other church activities over the past 45 years.

The cooperation of the Fella Photography Studio in Northampton has been very instrumental in taking photos of activities at our church since Msgr. Stephen Chehansky was our pastor.

Photos include kindergarten, 8th grade graduations, First Holy Communion, the 50th, 75th, 100th and this anniversary book. Their photos from many events, such as weddings and canonical visits by Archbishops, have kept the Fella Studio family busy here for generations. Unfortunately Marty Fella passed away unexpectedly on February 3, 2025. With the need of a new photographer we asked Halyna Vasylytsia, wife of Fr. Andrii Rubel, pastor of Holy Ghost Church in West Easton, if she would be willing to take the photos. She has done photographic work for the Archeparchy of Philadelphia for several years. She graciously took the job.

For this book, we also had the help from Markian Komichak, choir director and historian at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio. He was very instrumental in his ability to research several different newspapers that had information about the priests who served at St. John's. Those newspapers included the following; The Morning Call, The Allentown Leader, The Allentown Democrat, The Tribune (Scranton, PA), and The Philadelphia Inquirer. Other information was acquired from the history books from Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic church in West Easton and St. Josaphat's in Bethlehem. Our own prior church history books also supplied information. Researching the priests and other churches on the internet provided helpful input in the writing of this book.

We would also like to thank +Jennie Menio, who was very active with the 1950, 1975, and the 2000 anniversaries. Her knowledge of the church and her collection of photos and newspaper clippings were very helpful. Also, +Orest Kochan was very instrumental with his knowledge of the renovation of the church in 1949.

The primary proofreaders were Anna Hirsch, a graduate of Northampton Area High School, and current student at Moravian University, Bernadette Nush, and Markian Komichak. We would also like to thank Father Vasil Bunik, Christine Krywczuk, and Peter Nush for all their support and insight.

Steve Pausinger, owner and operator of Budget Printing in Whitehall, Pennsylvania, did the printing of this book. His knowledge was very helpful in the productions of this anniversary book.

UKRAINIAN GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH



**JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE & PERSEVERANCE
AND
PEACE & JUSTICE
2025**