

18. Edmonton

Saint John Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral

The Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Parish of St. John was founded by twelve individuals (see Founders) in November 11, 1923. Rev. Senata arrived in Canada from Ukraine in 1924. He became the visiting priest of the parish. Prior to that the newly founded parish was served by the visiting priest Rev. Kucey. The first service of the parish was held at the M. Hrushevsky Institute on Easter Sunday of that year. Archbishop Theodorovich, of the United States, was elected Bishop of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada at a Sobor in Yorkton Saskatchewan. In September of 1924 he made his first visit to Edmonton.

Rev. Senata, the parish priest, celebrated his first Divine Liturgy at St. John's on October 24, 1926. The church was acquired for \$6,500 earlier that year. Renovations were made to modify the church building to meet Orthodox standards. In February 26, 1927, the parish adopted its constitution at an annual general meeting. In July of the same year, a fifth Sobor was being held in Saskatoon. Dmytro Proniuk was the first delegate from St. John's parish to attend.

Between the years of 1928 and 1933, the parish continued to grow. Sunday School classes started on Saturdays. The Women's Organization became affiliated with the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada (UWAC). A manse for the priest was purchased next to the church. In 1933, Senior CYMK was founded.

On January 21, 1934 a resolution was adopted at an annual general meeting declaring that St. John's parish in Edmonton would become part of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada. On July 7, 1936, The Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Congregation of St. John was admitted to, and recognized as a member of, the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox of Canada.



St. John's parish celebrated the 950th anniversary of the acceptance of Christianity in Ukraine in September 1938. Bishop Theodorovich celebrated the Liturgy and blessed the new Iconostas.

On May 7, 1950, Bishop Mystyslaw, head of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada, blessed the grounds for the building of the new Cathedral. Collection of funds for the new church began the previous year. Actual construction of the church building began on September 14.

St. John was incorporated under Alberta's Religious Societies Land Act on April 4, 1951. The corporation was made under the name "The Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Parish of St. John in Edmonton". In November of that year, Metropolitan Ilarion, the new leader of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church in Canada, paid his first visit to the Edmonton parish. In August of the following year, Metropolitan Ilarion blessed the cornerstone of the newly built Cathedral. In 1953 (May 17), he officiated

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at the concertation and official opening of the new St. John's Cathedral.

In 1959, an Extraordinary Sobor of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada was held in Edmonton. In July, the Very Rev. H. Metiuk was consecrated as Bishop Andrew. He was assigned to the position of Bishop of Edmonton and the Western Diocese. That same year, St. John's became a Cathedral Parish.

A newly completed Auditorium and Ukrainian School were consecrated and officially opened by Bishop Andrew in October 28, 1965. In 1973, a new Iconostas designed and written by artist Wadym Dobrolige was installed in the Cathedral. In October of that year, the newly built St. John's Ukrainian home for Seniors was consecrated and officially opened. The parish also celebrated its 50th anniversary.



At the 15th Sobor (1975) of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada, in Winnipeg Archbishop Andrew was elected as the Metropolitan. Bishop Boris was elected as Archbishop of Edmonton and the Western Diocese.

In 1984, the Senior Citizen Home (Dnipro) officially opened. The 17th Sobor elected Bishop John as Bishop of Edmonton and the Western Diocese.

In 1988, the Western Diocese celebrated the 1000th anniversary of the acceptance of Christianity in Ukraine. In celebration of the memorable occasion, a Time Capsule was placed near the cornerstone of the Cathedral. The children of the parish helped release 1000 blue and white balloons. Two large stained-glass windows were installed in the wings of the Cathedral on the large windows.

A resolution was passed to make a change in the corporate name of the parish. This involved removing the word "Greek" from the name. The modified name was "The Ukrainian Orthodox Parish of St. John in Edmonton". In July of 1989, the proposed name change was approved by the Government of Alberta.

In 1990, the 18th Sobor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada held in Winnipeg, approved the decision to establish Eucharistic Union between the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada and the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople.

A major renovation project was completed in 1994. This included the connection of the Church to the Auditorium, the expansion and refurbishing of the kitchen, and the addition of a new seminar room.

(Source credits: This information is from St. John's 100th Anniversary booklet.)

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Priests

Dmytro Senata (1923 - 1927)
Peter Bilon (1927 - 1928)
Peter Sametz (1928 - 1933)
Yeronim Hrycyna (1933 -1940)
Peter Melnychuk (1940 - 1949)
Ambrose Chrustawka (1949–1955)
Thomas Kowalishin (1954 - 1955)
Michael Fyk (1956 -1962)
Hryhory Metiuk (1958 - 1959)
Oleksander Chomiak (1959 - 1980)
Thomas Kowalishin (1962 - 1963)
Dmytro Luchak (1963 - 1970)
Frank Kernisky (1970 - 1974)
Victor Lakusta (1974 - 1984)
Dmytro Luchak (1981 - 1987)
Nicholas Rauliuk (1987 - 1992)
Dr. Ivan Stus (1990 - 1991)
Taras Udod (1991 - 1992)
Stephan Semotiuk (1992 - 2022)
Jaroslav Buciora (1994)
Brent Kuzuk (1996 - 1997)
Mykhail Ozimko (1999 - 2000)
Ivan Petrouchtchak (2001 - 2003)
Volodymyr Bilous (2003 - 2006)
Mykola Petrushchak (2006 - 2008)
Cornell Zubritsky (2008 -)



Location and Feast Day

The first church opened in 1926 was located at 10601 96th Street in Edmonton. *GPS Coordinates:* 53.550797, - 113.4854516

In May 1953, the new church was consecrated at 10951 107 St NW, Edmonton. *GPS Coordinates:* 53.556438, - 113.504393

Their *Feast Day* is June 24.

Founding Members

H. Michalyshyn
Dr. G. Dragan
W. Cheladyn
P. Melnyk
E. Bodnaruk
H. Shevchishin
D. Proniuk
J. Yanishevsky
A. Solowan
I. Melnyk
G. Syrotiuk
P. Michalyshyn



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