



# 53. St. Paul

## All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church

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**F**ather Meroslaw Kryschuk first began holding services in St. Paul while serving as pastor of the Myrnam district. It was likely on his initiative that a meeting was convened on September 17, 1960, to adopt the charter and bylaws of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada (UGOCC), marking the formal incorporation of the All Saints parish.

In 1961, the congregation was attached to the Glendon Parish District, which was then served by Father P. Dorosh-Zmiyivsky, who was succeeded the following year by Archimandrite J. Vitenko. The early years proved challenging, but by 1962, the congregation celebrated ten Divine Liturgies. Parish records from 1968 indicate financial struggles, with only eight active members requesting that their outstanding debt to the Consistory be forgiven. Financial difficulties persisted into the 1970s, as communication with the parish became sporadic. However, by 1973, the executive was finally able to provide membership figures for previous years:

- 1965 – 5 members
- 1966 – 13 members
- 1967 – 12 members
- 1968-1969 – 9 members
- 1970 – 7 members
- 1972 – 12 members

Membership fluctuations were largely due to some members maintaining affiliations with neighboring congregations while also contributing to All Saints. Nevertheless, by 1973-1974, with 11 registered members, the parish was finally able to settle its outstanding debt with the Consistory.

Within a year, the situation worsened when St. Paul was left without a regular priest. During this period, the congregation considered ceasing its membership with the Consistory and instead





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supporting neighboring parishes by attending their services. Fortunately, this crisis was averted, and the congregation gradually regained strength, benefiting from its location in a growing town that served as a regional hub.

### Expansion and the Ukrainian Cultural Centre

As the 1988 millennium of Ukrainian Christianity approached, the All Saints congregation envisioned an ambitious future. In December 1986, the executive sought the Consistory's support for a multi-use facility designed to serve the cultural and social needs of Ukrainians in St. Paul and surrounding areas. The proposed center would include:

- A library
- Meeting rooms
- Dance training facilities
- Offices
- A theatre
- A hall and kitchen
- A kiosk for Ukrainian arts and crafts sales

The intention was to generate income and sustain the congregation by renting out the facility. While some viewed the project as a financial risk, the majority approved its construction, incorporating a domed area to serve temporarily as a place of worship. At this time, the congregation had been using an old church, though details about its location and acquisition remain unclear. The deteriorating condition of this structure reinforced the need for a modern facility.

Following the completion of the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, the congregation faced

difficulties in recruiting volunteers to staff events and raising funds to pay off the mortgage. Some parishioners who had opposed the project left the congregation, feeling vindicated by the financial struggles that followed. Despite these challenges, a committed core of members persisted in their efforts.

However, it became evident that the center would not attract enough new members to fund the construction of a modern sanctuary. As an alternative, the congregation decided to acquire the decommissioned Holy Ghost Church from Willingdon and relocate it to St. Paul for restoration and use as the parish's new place of worship.

### Relocation of Holy Ghost Church and Restoration

Over a two-day period, on March 26-27, 2002, Holy Ghost Church was carefully lifted from its foundation and transported by truck more than 80 kilometers north, across the Saskatchewan River, to its new location beside the All Saints Ukrainian Cultural Centre. Originally built in 1938 under the direction of master carpenter Ivan Mnoholitny, the five-domed cruciform church was placed on a new foundation adjacent to the center. It was subsequently restored and connected to the cultural complex through a vestibule and walkway.

The first liturgy in the rededicated church was celebrated by Father J. Lipinski on Palm Sunday, April 4, 2004. The sanctuary was officially blessed during a hierarchical service officiated by Archbishop John on September 18, 2004.





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### Priests

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M. Kryschuk (1960-1961)  
P. Dorosh-Zmiyivsky (1961)  
J. Vitenko (1961-1962)  
P. Zubrytsky (1962-1963)  
E. Stefaniuk? (1963-1964)  
O. Sorochuk (1964-1970)  
L. Kubin (1970-1972)  
S. Semotiuk (1972-1974)  
A. Shcherban (1972-1975)  
A. Chrustawka (1975-1978)  
L. Kubin (1978-1979)  
M. Sawchenko (1979-1985)  
D. Hohol (1985-1994)  
J. Lipinski (1994-present)

### Location and Feast Day

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5601-51 Street, St. Paul, County of St. Paul. *GPS Coordinates:* 53.998436, -111.298967 Their *Feast Day* is celebrated on the Sunday following Pentecost.

The All Saints Ukrainian Cultural Centre remains an important community institution, continuing to support the religious, social, and cultural heritage of St. Paul's Ukrainian Orthodox faithful.

