

# St. Mary's Newsletter

St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish  
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## Divine Liturgies

Sundays: 8:30am English (spoken)  
10:30am Ukrainian (sung)  
Mon-Sat: 7:30am (Chapel)  
Holy Days: 10:00am

Fr Joseph Pidskalny OSBM (Admin)

## Sign of the Cross

We make the Sign of the Cross by touching our Head, then our Heart, then we touch the Right Shoulder first in order to symbolize Christ, who sits at the Right Hand of God. and then our Left Shoulder This is the most ancient manner of making the Sign of the Cross  
Then we make a bow. (We generally always make a bow when crossing ourselves.)  
The entire gesture is called a "Reverence".



We make the Sign of the Cross with the right hand held thus: The first three fingers together (symbolizing the Oneness of the 3 Persons of the All-Holy Trinity. The remaining two fingers are tucked down into the palm These 2 remaining fingers represent the Natures of the Christ [Divine and Human]. The placing of these 2 fingers down into the palm symbolizes the descent of the Word into our world, i.e. the Holy Incarnation.

But we never Cross ourselves when: the Priest blesses us, making the Sign of the Cross over us with his hand saying: "Peace be with You/All." here it is proper to Bow one's head in order to Receive the Blessing. (Logically, there is no need to Cross oneself, when the Priest has already signed us with the Cross.)  
Outside of Divine Services, we generally make a Reverence: when entering and leaving Church and when we begin a prayer.



## Cleaning Turtles

Every Sunday morning, a man walked his dog around a lake and saw an elderly woman with a small metal cage. One day, he approached her and noticed she had three turtles in the cage and was cleaning a fourth turtle with a sponge.

Curious, the man asked, "What do you do with these turtles every week?"

The woman explained that she cleaned their shells to remove algae and scum, which could reduce their ability to absorb heat, slow their swimming, and corrode their shells.

Impressed, the man asked, "But don't most turtles live their entire lives with algae on their shells?"

The woman agreed but said, "If this little turtle could talk, he would say I'm making all the difference in the world."

**Moral:** "To the world you may be one person; but to one person you may be the world."

*Even if you can't change the world, you can make a huge difference in one person's life by offering help.*

*The actions of one person can make a world of difference to someone else. When you see someone in need, you may never know how much of a difference your help can make in their life.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Rally For Ukraine  
**Thursdays Sept 5,12,19,26 6-7pm**  
Canada Place Vancouver (3 flag poles)

Ukrainian Golf Tournament  
**September 15**  
Ivan Franko Society Richmond

Kolo Ukrainian Choir  
**Saturday September 14, 7-9pm**  
Centennial Theatre North Van

Autumn Night Ukrainian Party  
**Saturday September 14 10pm-3am**  
Bar none Night Club Vancouver

BeBrave Ukraine Terry Fox Run  
**September 15 8am – 12pm**  
Stanley Park Vancouver

Ukrainian New West Fest  
**Saturday September 28 2-10pm**  
Holy Eucharist Cathedral New West

Taras Luka  
**Monday October 7 9pm-12**  
I Alexander St Vancouver

Homemade Husbands-DIY Manual  
**Saturday October 5 7:30pm**  
York Theatre Vancouver

Ukrainian Christmas Fair  
**Saturday November 30 11am-4pm**  
3150 Ash St Ukrainian Centre Van BC

Ukrainian Opera and Ballet  
**March 2025**  
Richmond Theatre

Check with the venue for details or updates  
You can see more at :  
<https://sites.google.com/uahub.ca/bcuaca/home>

# The Destruction of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ukrainian Catholic Church in BC

In 1912, a group of Ukrainian settlers arrived near Revelstoke, BC, seeking new opportunities. By 1917, they had built a log church named St. Ann. Sadly, it was destroyed by a forest fire just a year later. In 1922, Ivan and Eva Cwikula donated land to rebuild St. Ann, with help from Semen and Theodore Pryhitko and Fr. McKenzie from the Roman Catholic Church. Unfortunately, little is known about the early Ukrainian Catholic priests who served there.

In 1949, Bishop Neil Savaryn appointed Fr. Lubomyr Syvenky as the first permanent pastor. At that time, there were 11 Ukrainian Catholic families in the area. After Fr. Syvenky's transfer in 1952, several priests commuted to Mt. Cartier to celebrate the Liturgy, including Fr. Mativij Pawluk, Fr. Bohdan Hanushevsky, Fr. Michael Shevchuk, Fr. Roman Boychuk, and Fr. Markian Bilyk.



In 1961, BC Hydro offered to buy the property to build a hydro-electric station. Negotiations dragged on until 1967, during which St. Ann's Church was damaged by a dynamite blast. The RCMP arrested three teenagers responsible for the damage, and their parents were ordered to pay \$1,500 in damages.

With the construction of the Mica and Hugh Keenleyside Dams, the area was flooded, and St. Ann became a casualty of the rising Columbia River waters.



After the sale of the property in 1967, construction began on a new location for St. Ann in Revelstoke. It was consecrated on June 15, 1969, by Bishop Savaryn, assisted by Fr. Bilyk. After Fr. Bilyk's tragic death in 1969, Fr. Richard Zubak from Vernon occasionally visited St. Ann. Fr. Marko Stek from Kamloops continued to visit until his death in 1978.

Following Fr. Stek's death, St. Ann's was closed for almost 15 years until it was officially reopened on Palm Sunday, March 31, 1985, with a Divine Liturgy by Fr. Joseph Ostopowich and Deacon Andrij Kyszka, whose wife served as cantor. Deacon Kyszka continued to serve the parish until its closure in 1988.



On the map, to the left, deep beneath the waters of the Columbia River, lies the original church built by Ukrainian pioneers. Their strong Christian faith, dedication, sacrifice, and perseverance were evident as they sought a better life for themselves and their descendants, far from their native land and loved ones.

[https://www.vdfhs.com/cemeteries/columbia\\_shuswap/mount\\_cartier/st\\_ann\\_cemetery.html](https://www.vdfhs.com/cemeteries/columbia_shuswap/mount_cartier/st_ann_cemetery.html)