

**The Ukrainian Catholic Parish of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Angle Lake, Alberta**  
**celebrated 100th year Anniversary**

On Sunday, Aug. 30, 2009, one of our Ukrainian Catholic Parishes, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Angle Lake, Alberta, celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Pontifical Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Most Rev. David Motiuk, Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton, along with concelebrants Rev. Vasyl Nykyforuk, Rev. Slavko Dumec and Deacon Ed Lemko. Candle bearers and altar boys were Emilian Dumec, Nathan Colford, John-Daniel Colford and Joseph Nykyforuk.

Bishop David led the procession of clergy, the Knights of Columbus, Edmonton Greschuk Chapter, and faithful around the church. Bishop David was then welcomed into the church with traditional Ukrainian bread and salt by parishioners Nick and Anne Zayac, descendants of one of the founding original parish members. The choir of the Interparish Lakeland Churches beautifully sang responses to the Divine Liturgy. During the eulogy, Bishop David spoke about the "perfume" of faithful Catholics; how they exude a fragrance of holiness that surrounds them, to all who come in contact with them and how important this is for us the faithful to teach and evangelize all we come in contact with.

Following the Divine Liturgy, Bishop David, the clergy, and all the faithful sang a Panahyda at the Cross near the graveyard where so many of the pioneers of the parish repose. This was followed with a group picture of all in front of this beautiful small "Church on the Hill" as many call it. A sumptuous banquet was held at the Derwent Hall, where Rev. Vasyl Nykyforuk led the guests with an opening prayer.

Tim Smereka, a descendent of an original parish member, was the Master of Ceremonies at the program that followed. Greetings were heard from the Interlake Parish Council President, Leonard Fundytus; the Knights of Columbus; the Honourable Ray Danyluk, MLA, Province of Alberta; Present Parish Priest, Rev. Vasyl Nykyforuk; and Past Parish Priest, Rev. Slavko Dumec.

John Gulayets, a son of founding member, Fred Gulayets, spoke on the history of the Parish. The church was built in 1919 on land donated by Harry and Annie Kravchuk by carpenter, Andrew Sakowski. Fr. Ksenfort Rozdelsky blessed the one acre cemetery in 1919. For the first ten years, the parish members attended services in Derwent. The first settlers came in 1909 from Western Ukraine. O. Dziuba, I.Gulayets, H. Kravchuk, N.&I. Zayats, T & P. Gulayets. First visitation of the church was held on July 13, 1934 by Bishop Basil Ladyka. Basilian Fathers served the community from 1915 to 1948. Then the

Eparchial clergy provided spiritual care for the parishioners. Fr. John Cherkawsky (1949-1989), Fr. Joseph Royer (1989-1992), Fr. Mark Bayrock (1993-1994), Fr. Roman Dobriansky (1994-1998), Deacon Richard Nibogie (1998-2000), Deacon Ed Lemko (2000), Fr. Slavko Dumec (2000-2008), and Fr. Vasyl Nykyforuk (2008- ).

An excellent power point presentation " Our History in Pictures " was shown by Denise Bjorkman. Copies are available for purchase from her.

A final Ukrainian dance was performed by Joanne Zayac and Carmen Charchun.

His Excellency Bishop David Motiuk concluded the excellent program with congratulations to the parish members, a thank-you for all present coming and a concluding prayer.

For more information and pictures of the wonderful event, see the Eparchy website.

Written by  
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