

HISTORY

The Holy Trinity Parish was organized in March of 1946. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada was seriously concerned with a need for a central Archiepiscopal Cathedral, and the newly organized Parish offered to serve as a Cathedral Parish.

The Ninth General Council (Sobor) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada which met in July, 1946, accepted the offer of the Parish and ruled that the Parish would be charged with the responsibilities of building a suitable Cathedral Church.

The present site was purchased in May, 1946. Architectural designs for the proposed Cathedral were sought. On May 26th, 1948, the Selection Committee recommended a sketch entitled "KIEV" which was submitted by George Korbin and Alexander Powstenko. This "Kiev" sketch served as a model from which the present Cathedral building was developed. Building procedure guidance was given by Mr. Alexander Lasko, a Toronto, Ontario architect. The firm of Pratt and Ross of Winnipeg were engaged as architects and on the basis of the "Kiev" sketch, drew up plans and specifications for the building of the Auditorium portion of the Cathedral as the first phase of the building program.

The Auditorium was constructed by Wallace and Aikens of Winnipeg, Manitoba. The building was started late in 1949 and was completed in 1952. The completed Auditorium was dedicated on Holy Pentecost Sunday, June 8th, 1962, by the Most Reverend Metropolitan Ilarion who was the spiritual head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. This Auditorium served as a Church and as a cultural centre.

Preparations for the completion of the Cathedral Church were started in 1957. Mr. Alex Nitchuk was engaged as the architect. The building Committee and the architect were guided by the experiences of other Parishes in Canada who had built recently and by some valuable recommendations which were offered by Mr. George Kodak who has distinguished himself as an architect and designer of Ukrainian Churches in Eastern Canada. The building contract was awarded to Semmler Construction Company of which the late Mr. Matt Solonyka, member of the Cathedral Parish, was a partner.

The first Divine Service within the newly built and almost completed Cathedral Church was celebrated on Ukrainian Christmas Eve, January 6th, 1962, by the parish priest, the Very Rev. Father Michael Yurkiwsky. The first Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was celebrated by the Most Rev. Metropolitan Ilarion (Ohienko) on Christmas Day, January 7th, 1962.