

# HOLY RESURRECTION RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



VANCOUVER, BC





Divine services in the Sobor are traditionally held in Slavonic and in English (see Schedule of Services).

Fr. Michael Fourik, our rector, has a splendid theological education, including the Moscow Ecclesiastical Academy, and vast experience of serving both in Russia and in Canada. He has the gift of remembering each of us by name, including the smallest children, as well as the joys and sorrows of each of us. Fr. Michael's prayers for us sinners and his admonitions for getting rid of sins and about the path toward Salvation are pleasing to God.

We have an excellent professional choir. Our ladies do everything to ensure that the Lord hears only beautiful singing from us.

All necessary Orthodox Christian sacraments, prayer services and blessings (of homes, of cars, etc.) are performed upon making an arrangement with the Rector – in the church, at cemeteries and in private homes.

At present we have among our parishioners increased numbers of immigrants from Russia, Ukraine and other parts of the former Soviet Union. The church is also attended by descendants of its founders who arrived in Canada in the 1920s.

Alongside the spiritual life, cultural events are held in the parish; much interesting work

valuables which we inherited from our ancestors and predecessors. New generations of parishioners support the church with their donations, with free labour and with their talents.

We are always sincerely glad to see new people – regardless of their ethnicity, language and social status.

We have developed a fine tradition of visits to our church by guests from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Israel, Germany... Mainly they are performing artists who come here on tour; athletes who compete in international events in Vancouver; merchant marine sailors; students studying in local universities and those who came to study English; and relatives and friends of our parishioners who come from all over the world.

Most of them take part in the Divine services together with the whole parish. Often Fr. Michael holds special prayer services, praying to the Lord for success in different endeavors, in studies, for good health, for safe travel...

Welcome!

# WELCOME

## TO OUR HOLY RESURRECTION RUSSIAN ORTHODOX SOBOR!

is done with children and adolescents.

The parish does what it can to help new immigrants who require knowledge about the Canadian society, consolation and support.

We help enthusiastically to preserve and beautify the temple and the ecclesiastical



# ARCHPASTORAL GREETING

to the Rector and the  
Faithful of Holy Resurrection  
Russian Orthodox Church  
in Vancouver, BC



It was on September 24, 1924, exactly 90 years ago, that the Very Reverend Archimandrite Antonin Pokrovsky served the first Divine Liturgy for this Community, dedicated to the Restoration of the Holy Resurrection Temple in Jerusalem.

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, it is with joy in my heart that I greet you on this occasion, of your 90th anniversary. Ever since that first Divine Service, Holy Resurrection has continued to be a community centered on generosity and dedication to the

spiritual welfare of the Orthodox people here in Vancouver. Many of the Orthodox parishes in the area found their origin here. Holy Resurrection continues to bring comfort and help to all those who come to her in need.

For the past 90 years all its dedicated Pastors and faithful have made this church the spiritual stronghold it is. It has seen growth and the future is also in growth and defense of the Faith.

May the blessing of our Saviour and loving God, and His beloved Mother continue to overshadow you all and guide you in your struggles for the Orthodox Church and its flock in Vancouver. May you continue to nurture our beloved Flock in love and faith for many more years.

With Archpastoral blessing,  
IRÉNÉE  
Bishop of Québec City  
Administrator of the  
Archdiocese of Canada

**His Grace Bishop Ireneë and His Grace Bishop Varlaam at our Patronal Feast on October 30, 2011. The moment when Fr. Michael was awarded Mitra.**





# RECTOR'S CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

on the occasion of the  
90th Anniversary of  
Holy Resurrection  
Russian Orthodox Parish  
in Vancouver 1924-2014



*"Let us give thanks unto the Lord"  
(From the Divine Liturgy)*

**M**y warmest congratulations and best wishes with my profound prayers of thanksgiving in honor of 90th Anniversary of our beloved Holy Resurrection Russian Orthodox Parish – Sobor, the most cordial blessings go to the Church Committee, Sunday School children and their teachers, Subdeacons, Altar boys and all the parish-

ioners with their families, friends and most distinguished guests.

The 90th Anniversary marked the beginning of the Holy Resurrection Church's tenth decade and the next century of service to God and people, also to our country Canada.

My dear friends, brothers and sisters in Christ! At this time also we give our most sincere thanks to our Lord, Father God, for every way in which our predecessors-fathers and forefathers were guided, helped and blessed from the very first decision to build to the successful completion of the church building of Holy Resurrection Russian Orthodox Parish in Vancouver.

In memory of those of this Parish who in the course of its ninety years have passed into the great beyond, leaving behind them in all that they have done a monument more enduring than stones or words themselves, this book is reverently dedicated.

Especially to be remembered on this occasion are the mothers and fathers whose loving care was an inspiration to their children.

Also to be remembered all the clergy who formerly served in this Church and whose

ministration was a solace and a comfort to the both the young and all the Holy Resurrection Parish.

On this the 90th Anniversary let us thank God for his love for us and the benefits this love brings. Let us thank Him for the wisdom and guidance He has given this parish throughout the decades.

On the behalf of our entire parish I would like to express our most sincere appreciation and gratitude first of all to his Grace Irénée, Bishop of Quebec City, the Administrator of Archdiocese of Canada, for his spiritual guidance and his prayers. His Grace's yearly visits to Vancouver are greatly appreciated by all of us.

We also are greatly thankful to Proto-deacon Nazari Polataiko, episcopal secretary, who comes every year to our Patronal Feast Day celebration. Our warmest thanks go out to all distinguished priesthood, eminent guests and all people who will pray with us at the Divine Liturgy of the 90th Birthday of our beloved Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Vancouver, BC.

God bless you all with many, many fruitful and happy years to come.



## OUR CLERGY

1999-2014



**MITERED ARCHPRIEST  
MICHAEL FOURIK**

**F**ather Michael Fourik was born in the Trans-Carpathia Region of the Ukrainian Soviet Republic in 1956. Following military service in 1976 he enrolled in the Moscow Seminary, located in the Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra, in the city of Sergiev Posad near Moscow. Upon completing the four-year program, Michael Fourik was enrolled in the Moscow Theological Academy, where he studied for another four years. He wrote his post-graduate thesis on the subject of church archeology – about the church of the Holy Trinity in Nikitniki, in Moscow. The Learned Council recommended him for the doctoral program, in which Michael Fourik was enrolled from 1984 to 1987 and wrote a book about the history and the contemporary situation of the Patriarchal parishes in Hungary. At the same time in 1984-1988

he worked at the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate. He also conducted a choir at the Church of “Znamenie” in Moscow.

In May 1987 the future priest was married; matushka Yelena is a teacher of English. On August 5 of the same year he was ordained a deacon, and on August 25, the Feast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos, he was ordained by the Metropolitan Sergius in Odessa to the priesthood. For one year Fr. Michael served in Moscow in the Transfiguration Church in Bogorodskoye, and in August 1988 he was sent to Canada to serve the Patriarchal parishes in Alberta. For 11 years he nourished those 13 rural parishes. His sons Nestor and Cyril were born in Canada; daughter Anastasia was born earlier in Moscow. In the summer of 1999 Fr. Michael, elevated by that time to the dignity of archpriest, peti-

tioned the Patriarch to allow him to enter the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church in America; the request was granted, and the transition took place in October 1999. In November Fr. Michael was installed as Rector of Holy Resurrection Russian Orthodox Church.

In the fifteen years since Fr. Michael has overseen the growth of the parish. In 2010 he assumed the responsibilities of Dean of British Columbia. In 2012 he founded the St. Archangel Michael mission station in Kelowna.

Matushka Elena and their daughter Anastasia have been singing in the church choir from the start. Their sons Nestor and Kirill serve as altar boys and now as sub-deacons.



**ARCHPRIEST JAMES  
MCLUCKIE**

**J**ames McLuckie was born in Trail, BC, on August 20, 1944 and raised in Castlegar, BC.

He received a BA in sociology with a philosophy minor from Catholic University, Washington, DC, and subsequently earned a STB. He was received into the Orthodox Christian faith in 1971 and continued post-graduate studies at Saint Vladimir's Seminary, which he completed in 1973. He taught high school in Washington, DC and undertook a variety of lay ministries at his home parish there.

He was ordained to the holy priesthood by His Beatitude, Patriarch Elias IV of Antioch on July 3, 1977, after which he was assigned to an assistant pastorate in San Francisco, CA. He also served as founding pastor of Saint John the Evangelist and Theologian Church, Orinda CA,

and other Antiochian missions. After his reception into the Orthodox Church in America in 1991, he was assigned rector of Saint Innocent Mission, Fremont, CA.

On July 2, 1995, Fr. James suffered a heart attack and a stroke after major bypass surgery, which greatly limited his ministry. The following year, he was transferred to the OCA Archdiocese of Canada, and underwent extensive rehabilitation therapy. In 2000, he was attached to Vancouver's Holy Resurrection Cathedral and pursued voluntary ministry with recovering addicts and alcoholics in Vancouver and the Prince George area. On September 22, 2007, he was tonsured to monastic rank. He reposed on July 22, 2009.

Fr. James was also an accomplished iconographer, muralist, and restorer. He was also one of four individuals who collaborat-

ed on "The Icon Book," a "classic" published by the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese in the 1970s and still in use today.

May Fr. James' memory be eternal!



**ARCHPRIEST  
STEPHEN SLIPKO**

**F**ather Stephen was ordained to the priesthood in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. In the late 1970s he served at the St. Herman of Alaska mission in Surrey. In 1995 he obtained canonical release to the Orthodox Church in America and was attached to the altar of the Holy Resurrection Sobor. Fr. Stephen celebrated the Divine Liturgy with Fr. Andrew and Fr. Michael, or alone when the Rector was away. Upon retirement from his secular job, he was granted canonical release back to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in June 2010 and now serves as second priest in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Mary in Surrey.



**ARCHPRIEST  
ANDREW SOMOW**

**A**ndrew Somow was born into the family of a White Guards officer in Istanbul on May 16, 1923. He was raised in France and Czechoslovakia by his stepfather and started serving in the altar in Bratislava since age 7. He worked as an architect until 1968, when the family fled to Canada and settled in Ottawa. In 1974 he was ordained a deacon, and in 1975 the family moved to Vancouver. In December 1992 he was ordained to the priesthood and served as Rector from August 1993 to November 1999. He continued to serve as second priest for as long as his health permitted. He reposed in the Lord on March 29, 2012. May Fr. Andrew's memory be eternal!

# HISTORY OF THE PARISH

## A SHORT CHRONOLOGY

### PROLOGUE: 1924-1999

The first Divine Liturgy was served in Vancouver on September 14, 1924 by Archimandrite Antonin (Pokrovsky) for the Russian immigrants, many of whom arrived in the aftermath of the Russian Civil war. The Greco-Russian Orthodox Brotherhood was formed, including Orthodox believers from different ethnic communities. The first Orthodox parish in Vancouver was dedicated to the Memory of the Restoration of the Holy Resurrection Temple in Jerusalem.

Five years later, the first church was built at the corner of 7th Ave and Fir St. and consecrated by Metropolitan Platon, head of the temporarily autonomous Archdiocese of North America.

During the 1930s the parish included many prominent performing artists who left their mark in the cultural history of Vancouver. Due to the financial crisis, the Russian Orthodox Society was formed to pay off the mortgage and assume ownership of the property. The Ladies Auxiliary was formed for fundraising work.

During World War II, the Russian Relief Fund was formed to support the Allied war effort. Many more Russian and Ukrainian families arrived after the war and after the Communist takeover in China.

Due to the construction of the new Granville bridge, a new house of worship had to be built in 1954 at the present location.

In 1970, the parish became part of the newly autocephalous Orthodox Church in America.

In 1970-1978 bishop Joasaph (Antoniuk) served as Rector of Holy Resurrection. He succeeded in converting many Protestants to the Orthodox faith. These converts subsequently founded the English-language St. Herman of Alaska parish in Langley.

In 1984, the new Rectory and bell-tower were built.

In 1990 the Miloserdiye (Mercy) group was established to help children in Russia's hospitals. Since 1991, a new wave of immigrants from the former USSR invigorated the parish and opened a new chapter in the history of Holy Resurrection.

2000

In September 1999 the 75th anniversary of our parish was celebrated with a visit from His Beatitude Theodosius, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America. His Grace Seraphim concelebrated. Parish members prepared and performed a Jubilee concert. A festive banquet was held. We received greetings from the mayor of Vancouver.

Mercy and Compassion group sent several containers full of medical supplies and other goods to the Moscow Children's hospital and to the town of Elektrostal near Moscow.

2001

Many parishioners attended the first Lenten Retreat. Bishop Seraphim led the patronal feast celebration on September 23. Subdeacon Konstantin Somow continued his work in Project Mexico.

2002

Bishop Seraphim visited in February, September and November. New analoys were purchased in Russia. A dough rolling machine donated to the parish for making prosforas. Saturday evening Bible classes were taught by Fr. Michael and m. Elena in 2002.



Paschal procession 2014

## 2003

In February the Constitution Committee was formed, and the new Parish Constitution finished by year-end. A Lenten retreat was held on April 5.



## 2004

On January 12, 2004 nine Parish Council members signed the Declaration of the re-establishment of the Parish. At the September 12, 2004 extraordinary General Meeting at the insistence of the ruling Bishop, the Rector and a number of parishioners the Russian Orthodox Society was dissolved, and the Holy Resurrection parish was created as part of the Archdiocese of Canada.

The new Constitution and By-Laws were adopted and registered. The selection of Church Council members became the prerogative of the Rector. Sandra Ellis accepted her appointment as Starosta.

The 80th anniversary of the parish was celebrated on September 12, 2004. Vladyka Seraphim bestowed Bishop's awards on prominent long-time workers of the parish.

The prominent Orthodox theologian Fr Thomas Hopko visited British Columbia. His October 15 lecture was attended by many members of our parish.

## 2005

In April the parish was registered as a charity, and the transfer of property to the trustees became effective on July 29. Sandra Ellis was made a member of the Bishop's Council.

New gilded crosses were bought in Russia and installed on domes during the summer. In November the parish was one of the places of worship hosting the Vancouver Sacred Sites tour organized by the Heritage Foundation. Many residents and guests of Vancouver were introduced to Orthodox Christian worship as Fr. Stephen showed them around the church, lectured and answered questions.

In April 15 the Archdiocesan council was held at Holy Resurrection Sobor in Vancouver and St Herman of Alaska church in Langley.

## 2006

Bishop Seraphim attended the AGM on April 17. He also led the services at the patronal feast held on September 11.

In May an agreement was signed with Montessori World kindergarten and pre-school. Classes started in September. First the upper hall, then the lower hall was rented out. Concerts ceased, except for Sunday School performances on Christmas. Food fairs and rummage sales discontinued due to the new rent revenue.

On February 22 Fr. Christopher Rigden-Briscall was temporarily attached to the altar of Holy Resurrection. Fr Stephen started serving the Obednitsa in English.

Fundraising was started in 2005 for purchasing a new grand piano. A Russian-Serbian concert at the Serbian St. Michael centre on May 20 raised a large sum for the Piano Fund.

The wonderworking Port Artur icon of the Theotokos toured eight cities in Canada with its keeper hegumen Roman. On Oct 17-19 the icon stayed at Holy Resurrection Sobor. A copy of the icon was made and installed in our church.

The Eritrean Christian community held its services at our church in late 2006.

## 2007

In 2007 at the parishioners request the switch back to the Julian calendar was effected with the Archbishop's blessing.

On November 4 a large pilgrimage from our parish went to Transfiguration Skete in Gibsons, BC.

In December 2007, the Council nominated Ministry Committees.

## 2008

New church doors installed in January 2008 (funds donated by Gassan Amirov). North side breeze-way doors were installed during the summer. A grand piano was purchased for \$16,800.

Fr. Michael and Alexander Ovodov attended the All-American Council in Pittsburgh on November 10-13, 2008.

**We venerate the wonderworking Pochaev icon of the Theotokos on October 3, 2009 with bishop Varlaam and other BC clergy**





## 2009

His Grace Ireneé (Rochon), Bishop of Quebec City and auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese since 2009, became the Administrator of the Archdiocese in October 2010 and has since made several archpastoral visits to Vancouver and British Columbia. The Patronal feast was celebrated on September 20 with the Archdiocesan secretary proto-deacon Nazary Polataiko serving.

The wonder-working Pochayev Icon of the Theotokos visited our parish Oct 2-4 and drew many visitors. A copy of the icon was made and installed in our church.

## 2010

Irene Rozvaliaeff, parish member since 1926, celebrated her 100 birthday on April 13.

A retaining wall for the garden built during the summer.

In 2010 annual ceremonies for blessing the waters of English Bay were started. After the blessing, the braver parishioners take a swim in the frigid Pacific waters, which is followed by tea and companionship.

Several members of the parish went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

In July 26-30, 2010 the archdiocesan Assembly was held in Victoria, hosted by the All Saints of Alaska parish; the events took place, and the participants were housed at the University of Victoria. Fr. Michael

and several members of the parish attended. At the Assembly, Fr. Lawrence Farley resigned as Dean of BC and Yukon, as Fr. Michael was appointed in his place. His Beatitude Jonah, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, led the Assembly.

Victoria Popovich became choir director.

### Blessing of paschas and kulichi on 43rd Ave at 11 pm on April 19, 2014



## 2011

The Church expansion project was begun after consultations with concerned parishioners in 2010. Victoria Paschalides drew up a project. Architects were retained and collection started.

Mikhail Popovich-Kaseres published the Liturgy brochure.

## 2012

Dmitry Chafir obtain a pilot's license and gave skyrides to parishioners. Fr. Michael blessed Vancouver from the sky.

Fr. Michael performed his first service in the Okanagan, in Penticton in April 2011. As Dean of BC, Fr. Michael also traveled to Whitehorse and Cranbrook.

The Holy Iveron icon of the Theotokos from Honolulu visited our church in August.

Bishop Irinee visited in July and attended the Deanery meeting at Holy Resurrection on October 29. The Patronal feast was celebrated on October 30.

In May the nun Fotinia from Belarus was selling church merchandise.

## 2013

Bishop Ireneé visited on Jan 6-7.

The wonder-working Kurskaya Korennaya icon of the Theotokos visited our parish on May 24.

On October 12 the Deanery meeting was held at our parish, with the Bishop presiding.

On March 29, 2012 Fr. Andrew of blessed memory reposed in the Lord. The funeral service was held in the St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church and attended by hundreds of mourners from all ethnic backgrounds.

Fr. Panteleimon Belko has been assisting at the divine liturgy in recent years. Following a stroke in Feb 2013 he is no longer able to stand or sing, but continues to attend the Sunday Liturgy.

Fr. John Kaleeg Hainsworth served in our parish as second priest in 2012.

## 2014

The church expansion project put to rest at the annual general meeting. Jubilee Committee formed to prepare our anniversary celebration.

### Blessing of the waters of English Bay in Vancouver on January 19, 2014



# OUR LEADERS



## CURRENT CHURCH COUNCIL

**Fr. Michael** – Rector  
**Arthur-Nicholas Kostiha** – Starosta  
**Mikhail Popovich-Kaseres** – Asst. Starosta  
**Jason-Alexander Morley** – Secretary  
**Pavel Sorokin** – Treasurer  
**George Povoroznyuk** – Member at large

## CHURCH PROPERTY TRUSTEES

**Jason-Alexander Morley**  
**Dimitry Ouchmarov**  
**Gennady Ovdak**

## CHURCH CHOIR

Chormasters: **Kirill Bolshakov** 2000 – 2010;  
**Victoria Popovich** 2010 - present.

The CD “Singers of Holy Resurrection” was released in 2002, featuring **Kirill Bolshakov, Tamara Klymko, Stephen Mitianin, Irina Naverniuk, Marina Osmolovskaya.** The recording contains eleven hymns by Russian composers.

The Choir has been led since 2010 by Victoria Popovich. Regular choir practices are held on Friday nights, led by Victoria Popovich, and new hymns are constantly added to the repertoire.

Our choir, August 10, 2014



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

In our parish, we value spiritual education for our children. They provide us with joy and honesty in our everyday lives. Teaching children brings us great pleasure, and they truly teach us more about purity and integrity than we can ever teach them.

Our parish is glad to offer Sunday School to three different age groups. The youngest group is for children aged 3-7 years. The lessons are presented in an accessible and playful format where we discuss our core beliefs and practices as Orthodox Christians. Lessons consist of videos, games and crafts. **Natalia Sudakova** and **Ksenia Hallonquist** lead the youngest group. The middle group is for 8-15 year olds. These lessons offer a deeper understanding of our faith presented in an open discussion format. **Jason Morley** and **George Povorozniouk** lead this group. The oldest group is for individuals ages 16 and up. These lessons systematically and thoroughly examine the word of God. They are led by **Alexander Grountsev.**

Two times a year for Easter and Christmas, our children perform in a seasonal

concert. This is always a joyful and heart-warming event for our parish. **Oxana Petrova-McKenzie** choreographs and teaches wonderful dances to the students, and costumes are designed and assembled by **Marina Gretskaya.**

Since 2004, for a week every year in July, several children from our parish go to All Saints Orthodox Youth Camp at Seven Springs Ranch near Parksville on Vancouver Island, organized by All Saints of Alaska parish in Victoria. Fr. Michael and matushka Yelena attended the camp several times. Also in recent years, field trips for children were held in nature parks in the Lower Mainland.

Past Teachers and organizers include: **Sandra Leclerc** (until 2000), **m. Elena Fourik, m. Mary Slipko, m. Henrietta Somow, Irina Nevolsky, Olga Lashkova, Natalia Shulzhenko, Irina Gruntzeva, Tamara Tsukalova** and others.

Sunday school class, 2011





Easter concert on April 27, 2014

## ARTS AND CULTURE

Russian School was started by **m. Elena** and **Nina Dobriansky** in 1999. **Elena Bolshakova** and **Maria Alexandrova** also taught there.

The stage was used for concerts – parish shows, recitals and visiting performing artists. A children’s show was performed in 2002 by **Alexander Kalugin** His theatrical group also produced the Yolka show for children in January 2000 and 2001.

On January 15, 2002 the musical Bremen Musicians was performed by parish members to much acclaim. Drama class was started in 2002 by **Irene Naverniuk**.

Lenten concerts were staged in 2000 – 2005, as well as concerts on some other occasions, performed by parish members and invited performing artists.

## MILOSERDIE

(Mercy and Compassion) group, led by **Raisa Kolesnikov**, continued to be active in the 2000s. In December of 2000, \$2,000 and 70 boxes of clothes were sent to House of Mercy orphanage in Saraktash in the Southern Urals region of Russia. In January of 2001, medical supplies and other aid were sent to Russian Children’s Hospital in Moscow. In the summer of 2001, 25 boxes of clothes and other supplies were sent to Ukraine, and more material aid and funds were sent in 2004. The dedicated Mercy fund continues to be used for charitable donations to people who find themselves in need.

## WEBSITE

**Alexander Ovodov** has been developer and webmaster of the parish and Archdiocesan websites since 2000. On these wonderful websites, you will find a wealth of information and photos dealing with all aspects of parish and archdiocesan life.

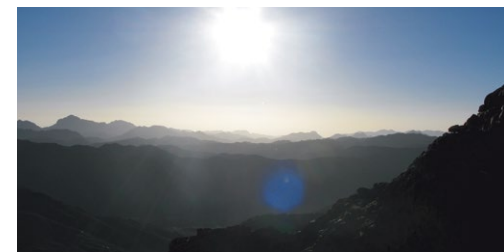
## HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2010

The Pilgrimage to the Holy Land was organized by Orthodox Tours company with the blessing by His Eminence, Archbishop Seraphim.

Six parishioners from our church took place in this amazing and unforgettable trip: Alexander Grountsev, Olena Korolska, Galina Ovodova, Anastasia Ovodova, Alexander Ovodov. The group also contained people from Canada and the US including five priests.

During the trip we visited three countries: Egypt (Grountsev only), Israel, and Jordan with more than 50 places of interest where we could listen to the guide and pray. The members of the Pilgrimage team are very grateful to God for this Spiritual Tour of Life. From that time any church service reminds us the real places and the Biblical events in the Holy Land.

The details on the trip can be found at <http://www.holyres.org/en/?p=1595>



## CONGRATULATIONS FROM STAROSTA

This year, Holy Resurrection Russian Orthodox Sobor, the first Orthodox Church established in Vancouver in 1924, “Mother Church” of our Diocese, is celebrating its 90th anniversary. This is a big event in the life and history of the parish.

I wish to express my congratulations and

best wishes to our rector, the Very Reverend Michael Fourik, Matushka Elena, their family, Church Council; Choir and Choir Director and all Members/Parishioners.

The church has experienced many changes over the years. The church itself was relocated to its present location as new construction in 1954, and is an enduring, well known landmark, with its cupolas, bell tower and bells.

One of the biggest changes I have observed over nearly 40 years has been in how

the congregations has changed so much, from mostly an older group of parishioners to the very active, vibrant and younger congregations we have today.

Sadly, most of the children and grandchildren of the original parishioners has drifted away. For years, there was little real growth, and we slowly lost our older members. Now almost all are gone. Real growth did not come until immigration increased, especially after circumstances allowed and promoted this. Slowly, more and more peo-

## GREETINGS FROM THE TREASURER

I first entered the Holy Resurrection Church in the spring of 1993 when I was a student at SFU, and was strongly impressed by Fr. Andrew. I enjoyed the friendship of the Russian theatre troupe who formed the Assistance to Immigrants group in the parish. Under their influence and the influence of Fr. Andrew I was baptised here in 1994.

When I immigrated to Canada on Christmas eve in 1996, I walked to church the next day through the snowdrifts. A short while later, I rented a basement suite from one of the parishioners and helped as best I could, serving as altar helper for a while, working with the archives.

After I embarked on the accounting career path, I was appointed Treasurer in 2004 and have been performing that obedience ever since. It has been wonderful to see so many families join our parish, and sad to see some of them to move to other cities.

We have accomplished a lot in the last 15 years under Fr. Michael’s leadership and pastoral guidance. Thanks to the Montessori Pre-School, the parish is now on a very solid financial footing, but still I urge all parishioners to donate on a regular basis, and also to support the Archdiocese of Canada through the St. Tikhon Orthodox Stewards program. We need to support the central administration, the planting of new missions and the training of new priests and deacons for Canada. It is sad that to this day our parish produced no seminarians; I hope to see the

ple started attending, many have stayed.

The congregation has steadily grown in recent years and is mostly of a younger age as opposed to the fewer older people now. It is wonderful to see so many young families and adults regularly attending and supporting the church and bringing life back to the Parish.

The future now looks very promising!

With love in Christ to all,  
ARTHUR KOSTIHA, Starosta

day when some of our young men will hear the calling.

We have made many improvements in the building. We have a very efficient Church Council, acting as one. We have a group of dedicated helpers who sacrifice a lot of their time to cook and wash dishes, tend the garden, clean up and perform maintenance, decorate the church... God bless you all! Congratulations and best wishes!

With love in Christ,  
PAVEL SOROKIN, Treasurer



# HOLY RESURRECTION RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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[WWW.HOLYRES.ORG](http://WWW.HOLYRES.ORG)

