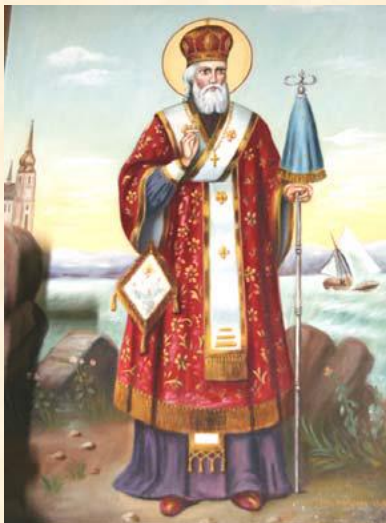




1913 – 2013

*St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church
Poplarfield, Manitoba*



Patron Saint



Pioneer Monument

ST.NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND PARISH

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church was built in 1913 in the original village of Poplarfield, Manitoba. A group of Ukrainian immigrants from the villages of Dehowa and Myzehrtsi in Stanislava, Ukraine, began to settle in the area in 1906. It was the first church built here. Later, when the population and businesses were attracted to a new highway (#68), the original settlement became known as "Old Town" or "Old Poplarfield". (The cover photo is of St. Nicholas Church in its new location.)

The principal founders of the parish were DanyloTorbiak, Howrylo Klowak, Mikhailo Klowak, Danylo Haliuk, and Stephan Didyk

The church was located on a one acre lot donated by Danylo Torbiak. Many of the pioneer settlers of the area donated materials but, primarily, they donated unpaid labour to the construction of the church. 1913 was a busy time in their lives. They had just completed negotiations with the government to set up a school for their 65 or so children. This priority was followed by the building of the church to address the spiritual needs of the community.

A document of the hours, articles, and monies donated to the church building by the parishioners was framed and was hanging in the sacristy of the church. Grandfather, Danylo, seemed to have kept a good account of all that took place at the time of the construction. The figure below is a reproduction of the document that was originally written in Ukrainian.

Free Will Donations for the Greek Catholic Church of St. Nicholas in Poplarfield, Manitoba – 1913

Donations and effort by									
Father L. Tosky									
cash and collections									
from other churches		25.00							
"		40.00							
Priestly Vestments valued at		35.00							
Epitrachelion (Stole)		15.00							
for the processional cross		5.00							
Icon of Blessed Virgin Mary		5.00							
Icon of Jesus Christ		5.00							
Icon of St. Nicholas		8.00							
Candle holders		2.00							
Relic (Reliquary)		10.00							
Antimensium (Altar / Relic Cloth)		10.00							
Censor (Incense Burner)		3.00							
Extinguisher, spoon and star		13.00							
Total		176.00							
Donations of D. Torbiak family									
Euchologian (Book of Rituals)		6.00							
Resurrection Statue		26.50							
for the church bell		10.00							
for church benches		26.00							
2 statues angels for the altar		25.00							
2 - 26 - 28 Book of Gospels		110.00							
Ceiling and paint for the Altar		30.00							
Sacristy - Material and Labour		96.00							
for the church hall		100.00							
for painting in the church		50.00							
Church building - initial costs		50.00							
Church Building - labour		14.95							
Total		544.45							
Gabriel Klowak -church building		24.00							
Labour - building of the church		22.70							
for the church bell		5.00							
for church benches		6.00							
Total		57.70							
Daniel Haliuk for church building		26.00							
Labour - building of the church		22.15							
for the church bell		5.00							
for church benches		6.00							
Total		59.15							
Simeon Sawchuk - Chandelier		43.50							
Wm. Dorosh (Tabernacle 25, bldg 23.60, Lab. 4.)		52.60							
Mary Werbeniuk - 2 banners		63.15							
Simeon Besaschuk - armchair, etc.		13.50							
Young Men for Christ (collection)		4.00							
Young Girls of Mary (Icon and robes)		24.82							
Ladies' Organization		39.50							
Gregory Beley - for the church bell		5.00							
- for the church building		25.00							
Church members - Shroud		35.00							
Sofran Leochko - cash 31.00, Labour 4.00)		35.00							
- (House reduction for church hall)		20.00							
Mary Zasitko - donation 37/4/2		10.00							
Just. Mareniuk (Torbiak) - donation 37/3/18)		65.00							
Various Other Donors									
Peter Pawliuk (Icon, Anointing Vessel)		8.00							
Mike Grywinski (Icon)		5.00							
George Klowak (Icon)		10.00							
Nick Haliuk (Icon, etc.)		12.00							
Joseph Klowak (Icon)		8.00							
O. Chabaniuk		10.00	1.00						
Onysko Sawchuk		11.00	1.00						
Mike Klowak		5.00	12.00						
Stefan Didyk		14.55	11.25						
Bill Werstiuk		5.00	8.25						
Nick Kucy		4.25	5.75						
Konstantin Marykuca		20.00	1.75						
Bill Didyk		10.00	6.00						
Various Other Donors									
Various Other Donors									
Martin Lezupski	7.00	5.75							
Stefan Kwaschuk		6.00							
Michael Yarema	10.20	4.25							
Maman Horodecki	3.00	1.75							
Ananiy Melnyk		2.00							
Matthew Melnyk	1.00	0.50							
Kuzma Kartushyn		2.00							
Michael Werbeniuk	20.00								
Michael Sokulski	10.00								
Hryn Marykuca	11.00								
Stefan Torbiak	10.00								
Michael Swarychewski	10.00								
Joseph Werstiuk		2.50							
Joseph Dudar		5.70							
Sawka Haliuk		4.95							
Frank Pawlowski		5.00							
Bill Ozarko	2.00	8.50							
Onysko Troschuk		10.00							
Sydor Leochko		5.00							
Harry Porcina		5.00							
Alex Kydyk	5.00	4.00							
George Poloway		1.00							
Paul Ozarko		8.00							
Luke Shpikula		3.00							
John Kudyk		5.00							

God bless all of the founders and benefactors of this Holy Church.

The church and hall cost about \$4000, unpaid labour not included.

Why was it a considered a Greek Catholic Church?

The "Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church" developed slowly over many years. As early as 50 AD, the apostle St. Andrew, established several Christian communities in Greece and Ukraine.

In 988 AD, Prince Vladimir (Volodymyr) of Kyiv, accepted and was baptized into Christianity, after consulting with his advisors who travelled to several countries and were impressed by the Christian practices of Byzantium. He was also influenced by his grandmother, Queen Olha of Constantinople, who had become a Christian earlier.

In 1597, two Greek brother missionaries, St. Cyril and St. Methodius, evangelized the Slavs in Moravia in what is today known as Czechoslovakia and the western Ukraine. They developed what is now known as the "Cyrillic" alphabet and the Old Slavonic church language was used in the churches in Ukraine and all Slavonic nations. With these influences from Greece, the church became known as the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church for many years. In due course, the language of the people, Ukrainian, was introduced into the liturgical services.

In 1963, Bishop Josef Slipji of Ukraine officially changed the name to "Ukrainian Catholic Church".

ARCHITECTURE / DESIGN OF THE CHURCH

The master carpenter for the construction of the church was Konstantin (Kost) Marykuca, who had arrived in Canada in 1913 from the village of Dehowa in Stanislava, Ukraine. The church, including its distinguishing cupola, was built in the style of a church which Kost had built in the village of Dehowa, Ukraine, prior to his departure for Canada.

The original exterior of the church was of wooden shiplap construction. Over time, it was upgraded to a stucco finish. The building is designed in the shape of a crucifix at the ground level, topped by the cupola. An illuminated cross sits atop the cupola, painted silver on the outside. There are four windows in the drum of the dome. Originally, entrance to the church was through double doors directly into the body of the church where a long log-burning stove heated the church in winter. Years later, an entrance porch was added to the front of the church and the log-burning stove was replaced by an oil-fired furnace in the right side of the entrance area.

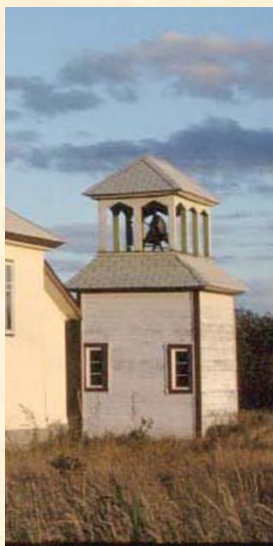
In 1997, the Rural Municipality of Fisher Branch designated the building a protected municipal heritage site under the Heritage Resources Act with assistance from the Provincial Government and the Thomas Sill Foundation. The roof was repaired and restored to wood shingles from the newer asphalt ones to keep in tune with the heritage portion of the designation.

The interior of the church is finished in painted narrow wood siding. Four rectangular windows bring light into the forward section of the nave. An ornate brass chandelier that held vigil candles was replaced by an electric chandelier hanging from the center of the dome. The ceilings on both sides of the nave and the stem are flat and lower. The choir loft is accessed by stairs to the left at the entrance of the nave. The sacristy and the area where confessions are taken are both located at the back of the church, behind the altar. There is also a doorway to the church grounds from the sacristy. The original floor of the church was constructed of painted narrow boards, later replaced by tiles with a carpet down the center aisle leading to the sanctuary and the altar.

On either side of the aisle are pews of varying sizes. There are 12 pews that fit four to six people for a total capacity of 58 worshipers.

In 1962, the original church was moved to a new location, on land donated by Mike Beley, on the outskirts of New Town or, New Poplarfield, on Hwy #68, where the parish hall had been moved several years earlier.

The wooden belfry with one bell was also relocated and enclosed on this lot. The Ozarko brothers, Peter, George and Billy, erected a metal cross that sits in front of the church. The wooden cross brought over from the old site was relocated to the St. Nicholas cemetery.



DÉCOR, ICONS AND PAINTINGS

The walls of the church are adorned by many beautiful paintings and icons.

THE EYE OF GOD



Above the altar, at the highest point, is the painting of the 'Eye of God'.

THE MURAL

Above the altar and across the entire wall is the most impressive of all the paintings. Above is “Christ the King”, flanked by a cherub on each side and below are the Apostles. This life-sized depiction is painted on canvas.



Simon, Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, Simon, James and Thaddeus. Judas Iscariot is not in the painting.

Some of the apostles are identifiable in this depiction by the items they are holding: Peter (key), Simon (saw), John (Evangelist with a book), Matthew (Evangelist with a book).

On this mural are inscriptions, in Ukrainian, identifying the donors. On the bottom left, “Donated by the family of Danylo Torbiak and his sister Justyna” and, on the bottom on the right, the artist – “Painted in 1938, J. Maydanyk”.

THE FOUR EVANGELISTS

The four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wrote the gospels that appear in the New Testament of the Bible. Jacob Maydanyk chose to paint each Evangelist on the four sloped walls (penditives) above the nave. These depictions have their basis in the Old Testament wherein Ezekiel, the prophet in Babylon, describes a vision that showed a human form with wings and the face of a cherub, a lion, an ox and an eagle, which are attributed to each evangelist.

ST. LUKE



ST. LUKE, with a winged ox in the background is shown above the altar to the left. Written in about 75 AD, the gospel of St. Luke was the third gospel, after those of Matthew and Mark. St. Luke, the physician, emphasizes that Jesus of Nazareth was both human and God. His teachings form the basis for Christianity. Luke relied on the gospel of Mark for his work.

(Painting funded by Mykhailo Grywinski, a St. Nicholas parishioner.)

ST. MATTHEW



ST. MATTHEW, above the altar to the right, is shown with a winged cherub (a divine man) behind him. The gospel of Matthew, the second of the gospels by the evangelists, was written after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD and the ensuing political situation in Jerusalem. Scholars believe it was likely composed between 80 and 100 AD. It centered around the concept that Jesus is the expected Messiah-king of Israel, unacceptable to his Jewish people but accepted by many Gentiles.

(Painting funded by Petro Pawliuk, a St.Nicholas parishioner.)

ST. JOHN



ST. JOHN, with a rising eagle behind him, was the reputed author of the fourth gospel, published in Ephesus in the last years of his life, probably between 90 AD and 100 AD.

St. John was the disciple who was present as Jesus lived and talked to his followers.

ST. MARK



ST. MARK, with a winged lion behind him, wrote the first gospel, about 70 AD in Rome. Data in the gospel indicate that it was intended for Gentile Christians to learn about Jesus' ministry, that Jesus is the redeemer and Son of God.

Both paintings funded by St. Nicholas parishioners.

OTHER PAINTINGS

The lower walls have beautiful and interesting paintings. Directly behind the altar is an ornately framed painting of St. Nicholas, the Patron Saint of the parish. St. Nicholas, 270-343 AD of Greek descent, became a bishop in a country that is now called Turkey. His secret gift-giving formed the model for Santa Claus.





St. Michael the Archangel, donated by parishioner George Klowak.



Daniel in his cell with the Lions.



A depiction of Christ among the children.



A depiction of the Holy Family.

NOTE ON JACOB MAYDANYK (Artist)

Jacob Maydanyk was born in Chortkiv, Ukraine in 1891. After grade school he worked with an artist who painted church interiors. He immigrated to Canada in 1911. He hoped to earn enough money to attend art school in France. After working as a labourer on the railway and on farms, he enrolled in the Ruthenian Training School for Teachers in Brandon, Manitoba. It is here that he developed the satirical cartoon serials on the life of the Ukrainian immigrant worker called Vooiko Shteeff (Uncle Steve) Tabachniuk. Jacob also became involved with secular and religious art work, and story writing about cultural and religious activities of Ukrainians in Manitoba.

In 1914, with the outbreak of the World War I, Jacob postponed his hopes of studying in France, and bought a religious articles store in Winnipeg. He distributed church artifacts, icons and other items. In the 1920's and 30's, he arranged and painted church interiors with the help of budding apprentices. Some of these artists, such as Olga Moroz, Leo Mol, and Theodore Baran went on to be recognized for their own work. Jacob continued to paint and adorn prairie churches taking inspiration from holy pictures.

He was a man known for his humour and intelligence and, until his death in 1984, a ready listener and companion for many in the Ukrainian community. (Monuments to Faith, Ukrainian Churches in Manitoba)

A FULL VIEW OF THE CHURCH AROUND THE ALTAR



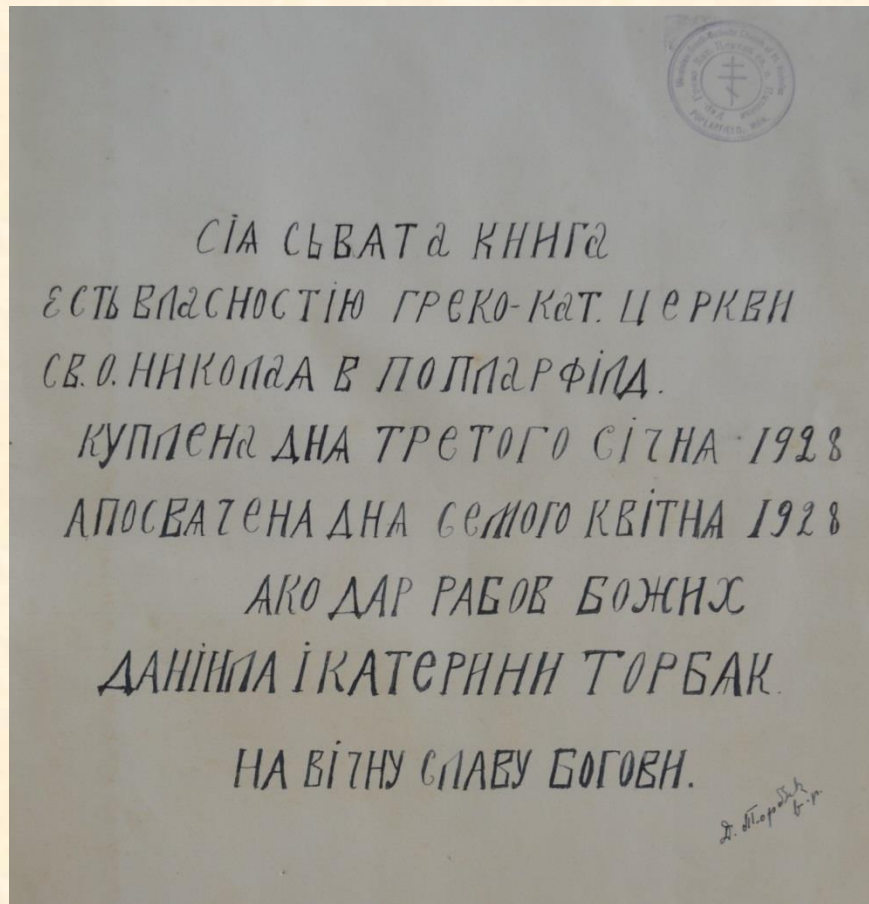
Donated by the children of Anne and Walter Ledohowski in honour of the 100th Anniversary (2013).

THE BOOK OF GOSPELS (EVANHELIA)

Printed in 1891 in Old Slavonic language, adorned with brass, on the main altar is a gift from Danylo and Kateryna Torbiak in 1928.



With inscription:



Translation:

**THIS HOLY BOOK BELONGS TO THE ST. NICHOLAS GREEK-
CATHOLIC CHURCH IN POPLARFIELD
PURCHASED ON THE THIRD DAY OF JANUARY, 1928,
BLESSED ON THE SEVENTH DAY OF APRIL, 1928
AS A GIFT FROM SERVANTS OF GOD
DANYLO AND KATERYNA TORBIAK
FOR THE ETERNAL GLORY OF GOD.**

RECTORIES

In the early years, a small rectory (one room) was built to provide housing overnight for the privacy of the visiting priest. Deeper into the lot there was a barn to shelter the teams of horses that brought in the faithful for the liturgies, especially in the cold winter. The house was sold and moved to Mr. Bereznicki's (near Nosal's place) in the late 1940's, and the barn was dismantled in the 1950's.

A new rectory was built in the early 50's. It had several bedrooms and a small chapel that accommodated services during the winter. The rectory was not used by many priests since they were centered out of Fisher Branch to facilitate the serving of parishes as far as Dallas and Red Rose, Manitoba in the area north of Hodgson. Possibly, Fr. Lehky was the first priest to live in this house. The family of Peter Torbiak rented it for the better part of a year while they wound down their affairs in the area after their General Store burned down on January 19, 1954. This house was also eventually sold and moved off the property.

ORGANIZATIONS: PARISH EXECUTIVE

Minutes that are available, of a meeting on August 12, 1945, show that 31 members of the parish of St. Nicholas met and elected an executive for one year:

First trustee - A. Klowak, Second trustee - H. Marykuca, Third Trustee - M. Yarema,
Financial Secretary - P. Torbiak, Secretary - G. Klowak

Auditors – P. Pawliuk, G. Haliuk, Starczay Broty (Elder Servers at the Altar) - P. Pawliuk & H. Marykuca, Chairman - L. Michalchuk, Secretary - G. Klowak

Minutes also show that an annual meeting was held every year with new executives elected for the year until August 25, 1996.

“The executives continue to have their yearly meetings addressing the needs of the parish: need a deacon, a library, better candles, a rectory, every household should have a Catholic gazeta ”Shlax”, rent of the hall, fuel costs, care of the cemetery, insurance on the buildings, Bingo evenings, concerns about closing the parish (1996), and historical site designation.”

With the dwindling of members in the parish, Sharon Nosal, Harry Leochko and Helen Horodecki managed the affairs of the parish to organize a Divine Liturgy & Praznyk (feast) once a year in the summer. The church remains closed the rest of the year.

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

In August, 1945, the women of the parish organized themselves under the name of "The Ladies Aid of St. Anne", and officially established themselves with The Royal Bank of Canada in St. Boniface, Manitoba. Rev. Fr. Hulowaty, Pearl Bailley/Beley, and Catherine M. Torbiak were signing authorities.

On September 8, 1946, the Ladies Aid of St. Anne, voted to belong to the League of Ukrainian Catholic Women (now known as the Ukrainian Catholic Women of Canada). Fees – 50 cents per year.

Officers were: President - Katherine Klowak Vice president - Stodoska Klowak
Recording secretary – Mary Klowak Financial secretary - Albina Torbiak

This group organized praznyks, bingos, summer catechism, care of linens and the Church. Unfortunately, the last available minutes of the League are recorded on December 10, 1959, nonetheless on a happy note, that they would honour Nick Ozarko on the feast of St. Nicholas Praznyk with a draping of a ribbon across his chest, "Vijezaty yeho na Nykolaya".

There are no records showing more specific action by the women of St. Nicholas. They functioned in harmony with the parish executive till the necessary slowdown of the church services.

From the records of Minutes of Meetings

1947, September, 08

На 8-моро Вечења Кигдыча Меминд
б Патоциронин Лачу Шобарича Сб
Анна и Сиду Камаруз Кор Шинаман
б энпоби уад Шобарича Сб. Анна
бемпууро б ревену го Сиду
Камаруз Кор Шинаман
сму аген запсы.
Бер. Омеу Точрава
an n.l.

Change from the Sisterhood of St. Anne to
League of Ukrainian Catholic women

Кригори нани зрочуру муркы
б крэгы на горапоби:

K. M. Torbick

B Skinski

L. Bailley

J. Sokubski

Pearl Bailley

Mary Yanicki

Mary Kartushyn

S. Uruski

M. H. Koschko

1958, February, 08

Members of
the League
\$1.00

На 2-кинереа Омосе Девурук

Therefore on February 20th, 1996 in the Poplar Villa Lounge
the members in attendance of the St. Nicholas Parish. etc
with acclamation, the following officers to the newly form
committee.

- President - Harry Koocko
- Vice President - Helen Waredocki
- Secretary - Stella Koschuk
- Treasurer - Sharon Nosal.

Likely the last Executive

PRIESTS THAT SERVED IN ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH IN POPLARFIELD

1928-33	Apolonarij Aluznacky
1933-36	Kyrylo Lotocky
1937-38	Stephan Borys
1939-40	Vasyl Charney
1941-42	John Perejma
1943-44	Theodore Kocaba
1943-50	Jaroslav Holowaty
1950-51	V. Chymynec
1951-52	Ljutoslav Kussey
1952-56	John Lehky
1956-60	Evhen Olynyk
1961-78	Emilian Pilkiw
1978-85	Gregory Oliynyk
1985-87	Ernest Hafichuk
1987-96	Bohdan Borowec
1996-98	Mark Gnutel
200?-present	Harry Chuckry



... over the years



See photo year and names below...

- 1 1946 First Communion- Rev. Holowaty, Elizabeth Bailley, Nettie Nosal, Elsie Torbiak, Gloria Firman,
- 2 1944 First Communion Johnny Torbiak
- 3 1950's Rudachek brothers are ordained (as Deacons?) in an outdoor celebration.
- 4 1930's Mrs. Lezubski Funeral
- 5 1950's Mother's Day Concert - Helen, John and Lilian Torbiak
- 6 1960's Peter and Sonia Genik wearing Marriage Crowns
- 7 1930's Large Catechism Class with Sisters, Priest, and Kateryna and Danylo Torbiak
- 8 1950's Elaine Grywinski, Elsie Torbiak, Tina Leochko, Elizabeth Bailley, Marilyn Sokulski
- 9 1961 25th Anniversary for Catherine and Michael Torbiak in parish hall.
- 10 1950's New rectory
- 11 Torbiak Family (Pat, Peter, Dan, Helen, Helen, Dodie, Elsie, Mike, Marianne Kostiuk, Catherine, Mary Poloway)

PIONEER MONUMENT



In 1951, on the 60th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada and the 45th year of settlement in Poplarfield, the parish erected a monument to honour the early pioneers of the parish. It was built on the first site of the church in Old Town. It was glorious day with dignitaries from Government and Clergy present. A special choir was invited to assist the local choir in this special Divine Liturgy.

The inscription on the monument:

“To illustrate our respect, our love and to acknowledge their great and difficult tasks and to immortalize the names of:

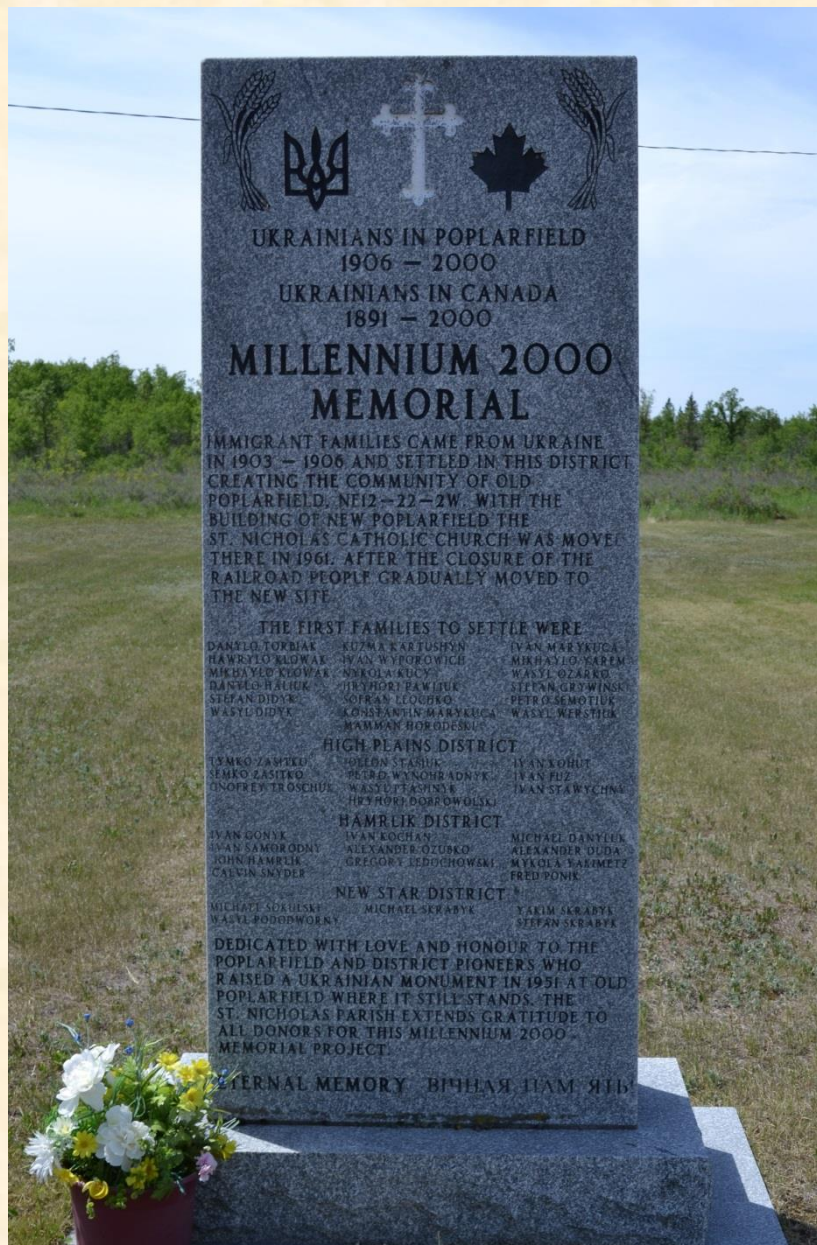
DANYLO TORBIAK	HOWRYLO KLOWAK	MYKHALO KLOWAK
DANYLO HALIUK	STEFAN DIDYK	WILLIAM DIDYK
JOHN MARYKUCA	MYKHALO JAREMA	VASYL OZARKO
STEPHAN GRYWINSKI	PETRO SEMOTIUK	VASYL WERSTIUK
KUZMA KARTUSHYN	IVAN WEPEROWICH	NICKOLA KUCY
GREGORY PAWLIUK	SOFRON LEOCHKO.”	

The inscription on the rear of the monument speaks to their steadfastness in their resolve to live in the new world:

“They expected no glory nor to be remembered for their suffering and toil in building the way. Then will people walk this road when the land is broken, the way made straight, and their bodies buried beneath.”

Ivan Franko
Ukrainian Poet

MILLENNIUM 2000 MEMORIAL



In 2000, in celebration of the millennium, the community of Poplarfield erected a monument to honour the Ukrainian pioneers who came to the area in 1906. It was also to memorialize the earliest immigration of Ukrainians to (Alberta) Canada in 1891. This monument is located in front of the church at its new site. It includes the names of the Ukrainian pioneers who settled in the Poplarfield area, including those in the districts of High Plains, Hamrlik and New Star.

The unveiling and blessing of the monument was celebrated by a liturgy officiated by His Grace Archbishop Michael Bzdel.

Former parishioners of the four parishes: Bill Grywinski, Jenny Pawlychka, Joseph Mazur, Norman Klowak, Kathy Bailley, and Helen Horodecki contributed reflections, toasts and tributes at the banquet that was emceed by Dan Torbiak. Harry Leochko laid a wreath in memory of the pioneer settlers.



Bishop Bzdel unveils monument (2000)

100th ANNIVERSARY (1913-2013)

The 100TH Anniversary celebration of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Poplarfield was held on Saturday, August 3, 2013.

A Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Reverend Harry Chuckry followed by a dinner at the Poplarfield Community Hall.

Father Chuckry, Bill Grywinski, Elaine Grzenda, Marilyn Daulat, Ed Ledohowski, Pat Babick, Brian Bailey and Elsie Marykuca met in committee to plan this event. Many past parishioners attended the event that was emcee'd by Elsie Marykuca.

Especially of note was the attendance of Benny Klowak and his family from the United States. Benny and his wife, Olia, and their children made this journey to Poplarfield where Benny grew up. They chose the 100th Anniversary event to celebrate this event as the last time that Benny would return to Poplarfield because of his age and declining health.

Pioneers converge on Poplarfield for church centenary

August 7, 2013 7



The 100-year celebration began at 11 a.m. with a liturgy delivered by Father Harry Chuckry.

The church service was broadcast to those outside in the overflow crowd. An estimated 100 people attended the service and the dinner that followed at Poplarfield Community Hall.

"We are here today to pay our respect to our pioneers," emcee Elsie Marykuca said before dinner was served. Marykuca and her husband, Marvin, served as co-chairs of planning committee. The couple also had their hands full as they planned their fiftieth wedding anniversary.



"A milestone of their own, they maintained dedication to today's celebration," planning team member Bill Grywinski said appreciatively.

The church centenary also coincided with a reunion of the Kólowak family, Grywinski noted. "Today these two events share parallel and intertwined histories stemming from a century ago when Benny Kólowak's grandfather was one of the founding members of the St. Nicholas Church 100 years ago," Grywinski said.

Father Chuckry said past parishioners of St. Nicholas have spread out across the continent but remain tied to the pioneer church. "They have spread like seeds all over the field," Fr. Chuckry said. "Now we all come together to make this sharing that we have now. We celebrate and remember the pioneers."

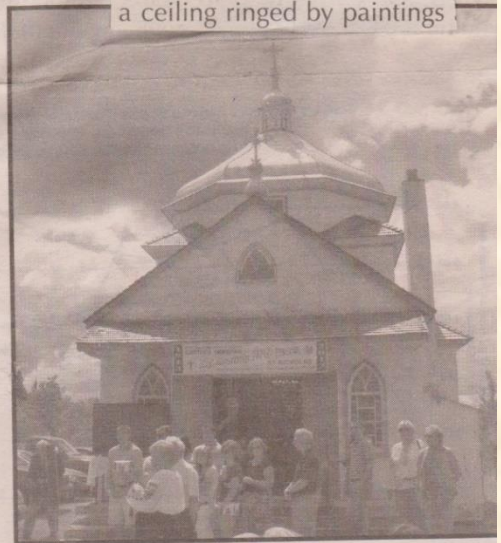
The Interlake Choral Singers, led by Joan Chuckry, performed outside during the church component of the celebration.

Serving on the anniversary planning team were Elsie and Marvin Marykuca, Patricia Babick, Marilyn Daulat, Elaine Grzenia, Ed Ledohowski, Brian Bailey and Bill Grywinski.

A host of volunteers worked to pull off an enjoyable day that appeared to go seamlessly. Long-time church president Helen Hordecki, for instance, led the kitchen team, members of which cooked and set out the early-afternoon repast. Sally Stogrin donated table decorations for the early dinner and assisted Hordecki. Other parishioners helped set up tables and chairs.

The Torbiak family donated the anniversary cake while the Grywinski family provided the anniversary banner displayed outside the church. As well, the Ledohowski family donated a wood carving to St Nicholas Church in memory of Walter and Ann Ledohowski.

Atop the main part of the church is an ornate metal cross made by John Fuz. The interior of the small pioneer church features richly-coloured tapestries, an ornate altar, a ceiling ringed by paintings





PRAZNYKS

In the late 1980's and 1990's, as the population in the area decreased, the attendance at regular Sunday liturgies became very low because, over time, many people had moved away. Services have been reduced to the practical norm of a yearly praznyk on a summer day, instead of the usual December date. This annual praznyk, which features a liturgy followed by a feast-like dinner to honor St. Nicholas, the patron saint, also includes the blessing of water (as at the feast of Jordan) and the visitation and blessing of graves (as on Green Holidays/Pentecost) in the St. Nicholas, High Plains and Poplarfield Community cemeteries.

Current and former parishioners of St. Nicholas, the other good folks of Poplarfield and many others all helped Helen Horodecki and Stella Roschuk to clean the church in preparation for the event and to cook the lovely meal for the feast. Over the last several years, the planning committee has contracted with a local caterer to assist with this as time, age and infirmity has had its effects on the many former supporters of this much-anticipated and well-attended event, which has taken on the status of being almost a "re-union" affair.

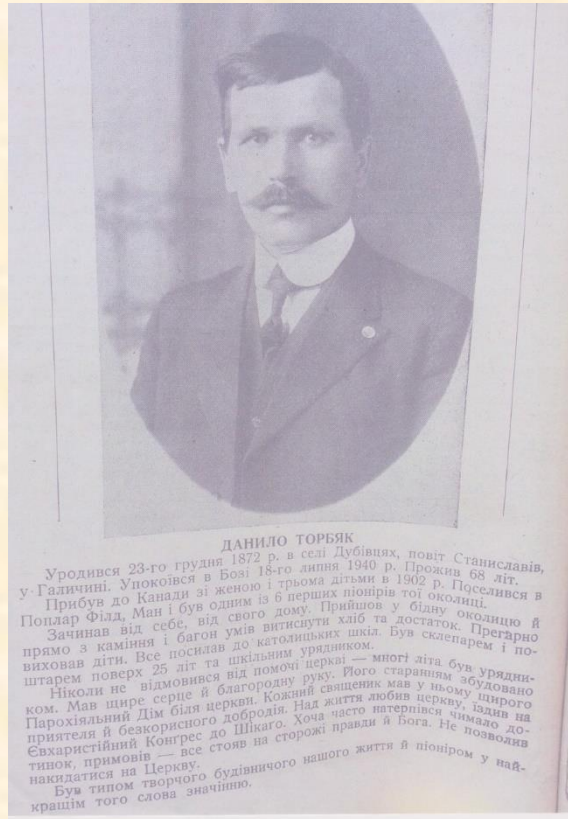
In 2019, Bill Grywinski, Elaine Grzenda (Grywinski), Elsie and Marvin Marykuca volunteered to help in planning the praznyks and managing the affairs of the parish and the St. Nicholas Cemetery.

Praznyk



DANYLO TORBIAK

Obituary



Danylo Torbiak was born December 23, 1872, in the village of Dubivtsi, district of Stanislava, Halchyna region of western Ukraine. In the grace of God, he passed away July 18, 1940, in Poplarfield, Manitoba, Canada, at the age of 68.

Danylo arrived in Canada in 1906 with his wife and three children. (*Original obituary shows their arrival in Canada as 1902, but ship's log and homestead documentation and family records confirm that to have been 1906.*) He settled in Poplarfield, Manitoba, one of the first six pioneers in the area.

He left village life to homestead in an undeveloped, stony, swampy new land, eking out a livelihood which enabled him to successfully raise his children, ensuring they received a Catholic education. He became a general goods merchant, serving on the local school board and as postmaster for the community for over twenty-five years.

He charitably supported the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Poplarfield which he served for many years in an advisory and administrative/organizational capacity, with a generous heart and a gentle, caring hand. He directed the building of the Parish Center near the church, and every priest who had a hand in providing spiritual service in the community regarded him as a loyal and selfless friend and gentleman. As a proactive man of faith, he travelled to Chicago to attend the Eucharistic Congress. He loved and served his church, tolerating its criticisms with grace and dignity, while staunchly defending the faith and the truth.

In the very finest sense of those words, he was the embodiment of the creative, empathetic progress demanded by pioneer life.

This short book has been compiled for those in our family who remember attending St. Nicholas church in Poplarfield, Manitoba. All of the Torbiak children were baptized in this church. Our parents, aunts and uncles were married in this church and even some cousins were married here. As we moved on to other places, we returned only on special occasions. The church itself contains items of family history, especially those of our grandfather and grandmother, Danylo and Kateryna (Grywinski)Torbiak who played a great role in the building of the church and the donations of a Book of Gospels and commissioning of the murals by Jacob Maydanyk from Winnipeg. Families of our uncles and aunts also donated items to beautify the church. We have tried to capture the highly interesting and valuable paintings that adorn the inside of the church.

Included in this book, also, are events that took place in the parish throughout the years that were significant and worthy of mentioning.

Acknowledgements:

To: Marvin for editing the entire book, and moving the photos from our files to the text
Alice Grywinski for sending us her photos of Praznyk 2019
George Torbiak and Ed Led for their photo contributions.
Marie Chomokovski (Torbiak) for the list of priests
DonnaMarie Ouellette (Marykuca) for review and formatting.

Thank you all.



Elsie Marykuca (Torbiak)