



St. Stephen Orthodox Catholic Cathedral  
8598 Verree Rd. Philadelphia, PA, 19111  
[www.ststephenscathedral.org](http://www.ststephenscathedral.org)



**St. Stephen  
Orthodox  
Cathedral**

**1974 - 2014**

**40th  
Anniversary**

**September 28, 2014**



# Then and Now



1974 — Before the Consecration



2014 — Enthronement of Bishop Mark

## A Look Back... 40 Years Ago

*The Priest and People of  
St. Stephen's Orthodox Catholic Church  
cordially invite you to attend the  
Consecration and Dedication*

*of their  
New Church Edifice*

*8598 Verree Road, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

*Saturday, the seventh of September*

*nineteen hundred and seventy-four*

*Laying of Cornerstone and Consecration*

*nine o'clock*

*Hierarchal Divine Liturgy*

*ten o'clock*

*His Eminence Archbishop Kiprian officiating*

*Dedication Banquet*

*six o'clock*

*The Hilton Inn*

*2450 Old Lincoln Highway at U. S. 1, Trevose, Pa.*

*Subscriptions*

*\$ 10.00 per person (adult over 16)*

*\$ 8.00 per person (youth 12 - 16)*

*\$ 5.00 per person (child under 12)*

*Cocktail Hour, five o'clock*

*R.s.v.p. (Banquet) by*

*August 17, 1974*

*To all parishioners, friends and volunteers  
of St. Stephen's...*

## **Thank You**

Founders and Benefactors  
Former and Current Pastors  
Readers and Altar Servers  
Parish Council Executive Boards and Trustees  
Committee Members  
Auditors  
Choir Directors  
Singers  
Sunday School Teachers  
Women's Society Members  
St. Stephen's O.C.F. Members  
Church Store Coordinators  
Workers  
Volunteers  
Parishioners and Friends

*"Let all that you do be done with love"*  
(I Corinthians 16:14)

## *Program*

<b>Guest Arrival / Registration</b>	<b>12:30pm</b>
<b>Cocktail Hour</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
<b>Procession</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	
<b>Thank You and Brief Welcome</b>	
<b>Dinner</b>	<b>2:15pm</b>
<b>Remarks</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
<b>Prizes</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	<b>3:55pm</b>
<b>Music and Dancing</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>

The Orthodox Church in America  
DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
The Right Rev. Mark, Bishop of Philadelphia

September 28, 2014

Rev. Victor Gorodenchuk  
St. Stephen's Orthodox Cathedral  
8598 Verree Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19111

Dear Father Victor and Faithful Parishioners,

Christ is in our midst!

I greet you with prayerful best wishes on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of St. Stephen's Orthodox Cathedral. It is truly fitting to offer hymns of thanksgiving to Almighty God for all the blessings of the past, and this is also a hopeful day as we look to the future opportunities for the flourishing of this community.

As we gather today in prayer and in fellowship, we remember those who, during the forty years, have labored and prayed for the building and sustaining of the Holy Orthodox Faith in Philadelphia. In this, they have continued the legacy of all the great Saints who sacrificially labored in America to plant Orthodoxy in this land and by their lives of virtue brought many people to Christ.

In the same way, the faithful of this community, united in the bond of love for Christ and love for one another, are called to continue to give of themselves for the further spiritual growth of this parish. Then, the labors of our forefathers will continue to bear fruit by the grace of God.

May the intercessions of our Holy St. Stephen inspire all of you to ascend to that heavenly life to which we are all called. May we preserve the joy that is in our hearts today and continue with courage on the difficult path of life so that with faith and hope we may attain the Heavenly Kingdom.

Assuring you of my blessings and prayers, I remain,

With love in Christ,

+ Mark

+MARK  
Bishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

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Telephone: 570.937.9331 \* Email: dioceseoepa@gmail.com  
Chancellor: Very Reverend John Kowalczyk \* Telephone: 570.876.1241 \* Mobile: 570.561.8696

## *A Special Thank You*

### **to Blake Florists**

who kindly donated all the beautiful centerpieces  
and floral arrangements for today's event.



### **BLAKE FLORISTS**

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*Greetings and Well Wishes  
from our Friends*

*Barbara Afanassiev  
Barbara and Karen Belsito  
Lois Brautigam  
Dorothy Crossan  
Dr. Laura Ann Fedoronko  
John Fedoronko  
Paul and Diane Fedoronko  
The Gorodenchuk Family  
Katherine Hargrave  
Natalie Hatrak  
Genie Horsky & Bob  
Timothy Horsky  
Sonia and James Kolzow  
Sonia and William Kraftician  
The Kuzmenchuk Family  
Danalisa Radu  
Peter & Heather Ren  
John, Denise and Michael Rowe  
Larry and Connie Skvir  
The Tapykoff Family  
Thatcher and Basil  
Archpriest David and Mariam Vernak*

**St. Stephen Orthodox Catholic Cathedral**

8598 Verree Rd.  
Philadelphia, PA 19111

Beloved in Lord brothers and sisters,

It is with great joy that we have assembled today to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and to share in fellowship with each other as we mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of consecration of our beloved temple. The founders of our Cathedral showed incredible dedication and faith in undertaking this effort of building the place of Orthodox worship for all those who live in this area. Their perseverance in the face of great challenges and their selfless efforts and generosity should forever remain for us an example of dedication to the Orthodox faith that we should follow.

As we gather now for a prayerful remembrance of the efforts of those who came before us, let us also look to the future of St. Stephen's. We have indeed a great challenge of living a true Orthodox life in today's world. Yet we should always be mindful that to live in a way that is pleasing to God, the way of love and Godliness, is only possible through our connection with the Lord that we receive from the Church in prayers and mysteries. It is exactly this opportunity that the founders of St. Stephen gave us and we should be both grateful for this wonderful gift and be inspired with the sense of responsibility for our Cathedral where we are able to work on our salvation.

Let us now take our part in preserving this great gift and in passing it to the next generation, to our children and to those who will turn to the practice of the Ancient Christian Faith in the years to come. Let us rededicate ourselves to the task of supporting St. Stephen's both financially as well as with various talents that the Lord granted to us. May our community be an example of love for God and for our neighbors so that through us the Lord can turn many to the path of Salvation and true life which is in Christ Jesus.

With Love in Christ our Lord,

Rev. Victor Gorodenchuk, Dean

# ST. STEPHEN ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

## *Historical Notes*

St. Stephen's traces its roots back to St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church, which was founded in 1909 and located in Northern Liberties at 4<sup>th</sup> and Fairmount Streets in Philadelphia. From 1964-1969 the parish was known as St. Michael's Orthodox Catholic Church of the Metropolia (now the Orthodox Church in America) and services were held at 4<sup>th</sup> and Fairmount and later at 5416 Rising Sun Avenue. In 1968, the parish purchased 2 ½ acres of ground on Verree Road from the Sisters of the House of the Good Shepherd (the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia) for \$42,500 and built a Rectory on the grounds in 1969 where Fr. Alexander, Matushka Mary, and family resided. This decision represented a commitment to expand the parish and move Orthodoxy to the Greater Northeast.

Due to unfortunate circumstances in 1970, the parish had neither a place to worship nor a full set of religious articles. Thanks to the vision of Fr. Alexander Fedoronko and Parish Councils, however, in 1970 the parish incorporated as The Committee of and for a Metropolia Church. Due to the sale of the Rectory/Chapel property on Rising Sun Avenue, the congregation did not have a place to worship. Thanks to the Christian love extended by St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church at Front and the Boulevard, services were held at that house of worship from April 1970 until August 1974.

During the period of worship at St. Gabriel's, the congregation chose St. Stephen The Protomartyr as its Patron Saint and began to formulate building plans and initiated a Building Fund. On July 27, 1971, the parish was incorporated as St. Stephen's Orthodox Catholic Church.

Two years later, in July 1973 the parish signed a contract with the Altemose Company to construct a house of worship at a

## *In Memoriam*

**Helen, Andrew and John Morinich**

*remembered by Mary Ellen, Helene, Mike, Stephanie & Michael Hopkins*

**Joe and Kerri O'Brick**

*remembered by Anonymus*

**Pron, Tripsha, Nichifor and Niculescu Families**

*remembered by Stephan and Margaret Pron*

**George J. Radu**

*remembered by Danalisa and George Radu*

**Radu, Mirsch, Bogdan, Von Essen, Piccinini and Siegle Families**

*remembered by Vivian Radu*

**Anne Becko Siegel**

*remembered by Harold Siegel*

**All the departed members of St. Stephen's**

*remembered by the Sisko Family*

**Deceased members of St. Stephen's Orthodox Church**

*remembered by Dr. George and Pauline Englesson*

**Family members in the Toconita, Maximo and Jones Families**

*remembered by Catherine and Leonard Jones*

**Irene and Joseph Zaroff**

*remembered by George Zaroff*

**All the departed members of St. Stephen's**

*remembered by Peter & Heather Ren*

**Anna Simpson and Mary Birkenbach**

*remembered by Joseph Simpson*

**Theodora and Michael Fedryck and Anna Hargrave**

*remembered by Gavula and Hargrave-Jensky Families*

**Departed members of St. Stephen's OCF and Alpha "R" Club**

*remembered by St. Stephen's OCF*

**All deceased St. Stephen's Women's Society Members**

*remembered by St. Stephen's Women's Society*

## *In Memoriam*

**Archpriest Alexander Atty**

*remembered by the Vernak Family*

**Archpriest Alexander, Vasily and John**

*remembered by Father Victor and Family*

**Lubie Dietrich**

*remembered by Willis Dietrich*

**Tiassa A. Drobish**

*remembered by Daniel, David, Damian and Alexander Drobish*

**Deceased members of Englesson and Franga Families**

*remembered by Dr. George and Pauline Englesson*

**Founders, Archpriest Alexander and Matushka Mary Fedoronko**

*remembered by Alexandra Fedoronko Vickers*

**Orest and Anne Fedoronko, and Andrew and Tatiana Bondira**

*remembered by Dan, Sonia, Stephen and Christine Bondira*

**Elisabeth Yarosh Gentieu**

*remembered by Mary, Peter and Eve Gentieu*

**Konstantin and Ekaterina Gorbatchevski**

*remembered by Bill and Nina Hartzell*

**Nicholas B. Horsky**

*remembered by Nina Horsky & Family*

**John Hubiak**

*remembered by Vera Hubiak*

**Thomas (Jeff) Jones**

*remembered by Mary Ellen, Helene, Mike, Stephanie & Michael Hopkins*

**Parents Nicholas and Sophia Kolea**

*remembered by Janice M. Kolea*

**The Zlatkowski and Kraczyna Families**

*remembered by Fr. Deacon George and Matushka Margarite Zlatkowski*

**John Burychka and Deborah Burychka Archie**

*remembered by Emma Burychka*

cost of \$406,000, a significant cost savings compared to other bids. Miraculously, through the professional connections of a parishioner, the parish was able to obtain a \$400,000 (!) construction loan and mortgage. In October 1973 ground was broken for construction by the late Archbishop Kiprian, the late Rt. Rev. Basil Horsky, and the late V. Rev. Alexander Fedoronko.

The first liturgy in the newly completed main church was held on August 17, 1974 and the consecration and dedication was held on September 7, 1974. The consecration and dedication of St. Michael's Chapel took place on November 10, 1974. In recognition of the dedication and zeal of the members of the parish, the Holy Synod of Bishops of The Orthodox Church in America elevated the parish to the status of Cathedral in October 1974

In June 1981, after twenty-six years of faithful and dedicated service to his spiritual flock, V. Rev. Alexander Fedoronko retired from his pastoral duties at St. Stephen's. With love and respect, the January 1982 Annual Parish Meeting bestowed on Fr. Alexander the title Pastor Emeritus. Sadly, Fr. Alexander fell asleep in the Lord on March 31, 1993 and Matushka Mary fell asleep on August 11, 2013. We pray at every Liturgy for the blessed repose of Fr. Alexander and Matushka Mary. May their Memory be Eternal.

In July 1981, V. Rev Daniel Geeza assumed the pastorship of St. Stephen's. At the time, the parish mortgage had been reduced to a balance of \$280,000. Eight short years later in September 1989, the parish celebrated its fifteenth anniversary concurrently with the burning of the mortgage, fully ten years ahead of schedule and at a significant savings in interest, thanks to the incredible generosity of the parishioners.

In June of 2005, Fr. Daniel retired from St. Stephen's after 24 years of faithful service to the parish. We continually pray for Fr. Daniel's and Matushka Mary's welfare. Our current pastor, Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk, and his family relocated to Philadelphia in July of 2005. Since that time a number of projects have been undertaken. As a result of one such project, St. Stephen's became a site of Diaconal Formation program of St. Tikhon's Seminary and one of our own parishioners, George Zlatkowski, was ordained a deacon in 2010.

Our parish has always believed in the importance of praying and preaching the Gospel in the language of our land, English. We continue this in most of our services as well as in our Sunday School and Adult education programs. At the same time we recognized a significant Russian speaking community in Northeast Philadelphia and have made specific efforts to address their spiritual needs and to make them part of the community here at St. Stephen's. We are grateful for the assistance of Fr. Nikolai Gulin for providing regular services in Slavonic to the Russian speaking people of our area.

In May of 2014 St. Stephen's Cathedral was the place of official installation of our ruling Hierarch, His Grace Bishop Mark. We are truly blessed to have His Grace as our shepherd and are praying that our Lord will grant him Many Years!

St. Stephen's owes a huge debt of gratitude to its former and current pastors, its readers and altar servers, founders and benefactors, Parish Council Executive Boards and Trustees, committee members, choir directors, singers, Sunday School teachers, Women's Society members, St. Stephen's O.C.F. members, Church Store coordinators, workers, volunteers, and anyone else who sacrifices their time, talent and resources to help our community.

Even though 40 years seems like a substantial period of time, we should always be mindful that our history is not only in the past, but continues to be made, day by day, week by week, month by month, and year by year. Thanks be to God for all the blessings we have received. Let us resolve not to bury our talents, but instead, to use them for the glory of God so that both the current parish members and the future generations of the faithful will be able to call this place their spiritual home where all of us can work on our salvation in the fear of God, in faith and in love.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Glory Forever!

## *With heartfelt gratitude towards our Community Benefactors*

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Darden/Fandango	Starbucks
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Drake's Tavern	Suburban Restaurant & Diner
Dunkin' Donuts	The Cheesecake Factory
Feeney's	Tiffany Diner Restaurant
Ferrari's Sunoco Station	Waltgreen's
Gearo's Grille	

Please support these businesses who have been so kind to St. Stephen's as we celebrate 40 years in the community