



**May 21, 2017  
Church  
Anniversary:**

**68 years  
since the  
founding of our  
Parish**

**45 years  
since the  
Consecration of  
the Church**

*"Seeing the sign of Thy cross in the heavens and, like Paul receiving the call that is not from men, Thy apostle among rulers, O Lord, delivered the imperial city into Thy hand; which Thou save from danger and maintain the prayers of the Mother of God, Thou lover of mankind."*

(Troparium to Sts.  
Constantine and Helen)





# The Romanian Orthodox Church of Edmonton 45th Anniversary

In the beginning, the Living Church was created...

- **1947** - Leduc Oilfields were discovered and many people, including Romanians of the Boian district came to find better fortunes in Edmonton.
- **1948** - “**Saints Constantine and Elena**” **Romanian Orthodox Congregation of Edmonton** was organized by few romanians who made a pledge that the Orthodox Faith, which sustained them in times in difficulties, must and will be defended.

## Some of the founders of the Church (1998 - 50th founding Anniversary)



Their motto:

“Getting together is a beginning.  
Staying together is progress.  
Working together in success.  
United we’ll stand!  
Divided we’d fall!”



## The Romanian Orthodox Church of Edmonton 45th Anniversary

- **1952** – The Romanian Orthodox **Congregation** of Edmonton, “Saints Constantine and Elena”, was registered.
- People met for services from time to time, in the basements of the people’s homes, whenever they had a priest coming from Boian, Regina or elsewhere.
- Since the beginning, they wished to have a **church** and decided to collect money and start building a church, so it will be easier to get a priest to serve them.

**1962** - after Bingo was held and collections were made, the land for the church was purchased.

**1965** - decision to build a hall, so it could be rented and more money could be made for the new church.

The Romanian Centre came into life.

**1969** – His Grace Bishop Victorin, sent **Rev. Fr. Mircea Panciuk** in reply to the parish's request for a priest.



HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP VICTORIN URSACHE  
OF THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX  
ARCHDIOCESE IN AMERICA AND CANADA  
1966-2001





# **The Romanian Orthodox Church of Edmonton 45th Anniversary**

- each Saturday night the hall was cleaned after it was rented out and set up the chairs and all icons, and the make-shift altar for the Sunday Holy Liturgy.
- each Sunday evening, work to get it ready to be rented to the playschool on Monday.
- the Church of Romanians in Edmonton started a new era:
  - partaking in services with other Orthodox Churches in Edmonton and Western Canada.
  - organizing summer camp for children at Boian.
  - opening Sunday School program.
  - forming a choir with regular practice.
  - forming a Youth Group and a Social Club.
  - having a hard working Ladies Auxiliary group.



**1970** - the parish in AGM decided to begin preparing the site for the new church.

**1970** - after much deliberation, it was decided to build the church alongside the hall, as in the blueprints for the building of the hall from 1963.

The **Moldavian architectural** style was chosen, the style developed during Stephen the Great's time - a 500 years old architectural style added to a modern city in Canada.



# The Romanian Orthodox Church of Edmonton 45th Anniversary


- Project committee: William Lipon, Nick Hutseal, Nick Daniel, Steve Axani, Mike Perozni, Fr. Panciuk.
- Few others took charge during the year of construction - 1970: Steve Iftody, Alex Russ, Mike Toma, Nick Kachuk, John Chopp.
- The Executives of the Ladies' Auxiliary at the time of construction were: Anne Toma, Tes Daniel, Dorothy Markowski, Lena Cazacu.



# The Romanian Orthodox Church of Edmonton 45th Anniversary

- **March 14, 1971 - blessing of the land** was made by **His Grace Bishop Victorin** and a **sobor of five priests**, from other Orthodox Churches in Edmonton ("St. Barbara" Russian Church, "St. George" Greek Church, "Sts. Peter and Paul" Romanian Church of Kayville, Saskatchewan), and local representatives.
- It was a pan-orthodox service, held in four languages.
- Each present priest took a shovelful of ground from the spot where the Holy Table of Oblation would be, and a plane wood cross was planted - the first Romanian Orthodox Church of Edmonton was started!

**Sts. Constantin si Ilena Romanian  
Orthodox Congregation**



**A PROCLAMATION**

*Whereas* the Civic Bodies and Religious Cults of our community and the departments of the Government recognize the social and spiritual service rendered by The Sts. Constantin si Ilena Romanian Orthodox Congregation of Edmonton and



*Whereas* The Sts. Constantin si Ilena Romanian Orthodox Congregation of Edmonton has set aside the day of Sunday, May 24, 1970 as Romanian Day.

*Whereas* the congregation of Romanian Canadians of Edmonton has contributed to the betterment of Orthodoxy in this community and in the world at large, bringing good citizenship and social upbringing to millions of Christians on all continents of the world.

*Therefore* I, Dr. Ivor Dent, Mayor of the City of Edmonton do hereby proclaim Sunday, May 24, 1970 as ROMANIAN DAY and urge all of our citizens to give full consideration to the past and future services of The Sts. Constantin si Ilena Romanian Orthodox Congregation of Edmonton.

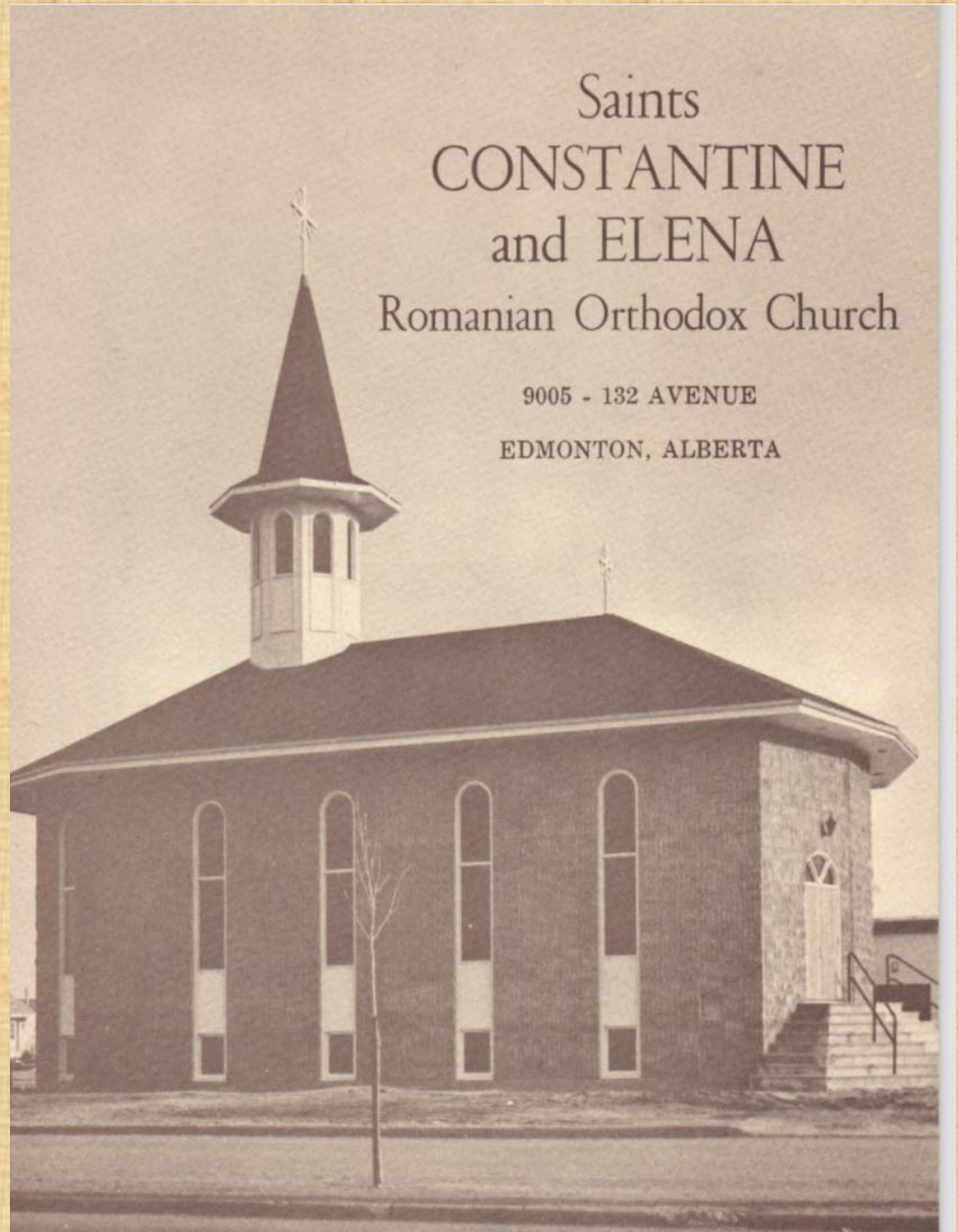
Name Ivor Dent

Date May 24, 1970



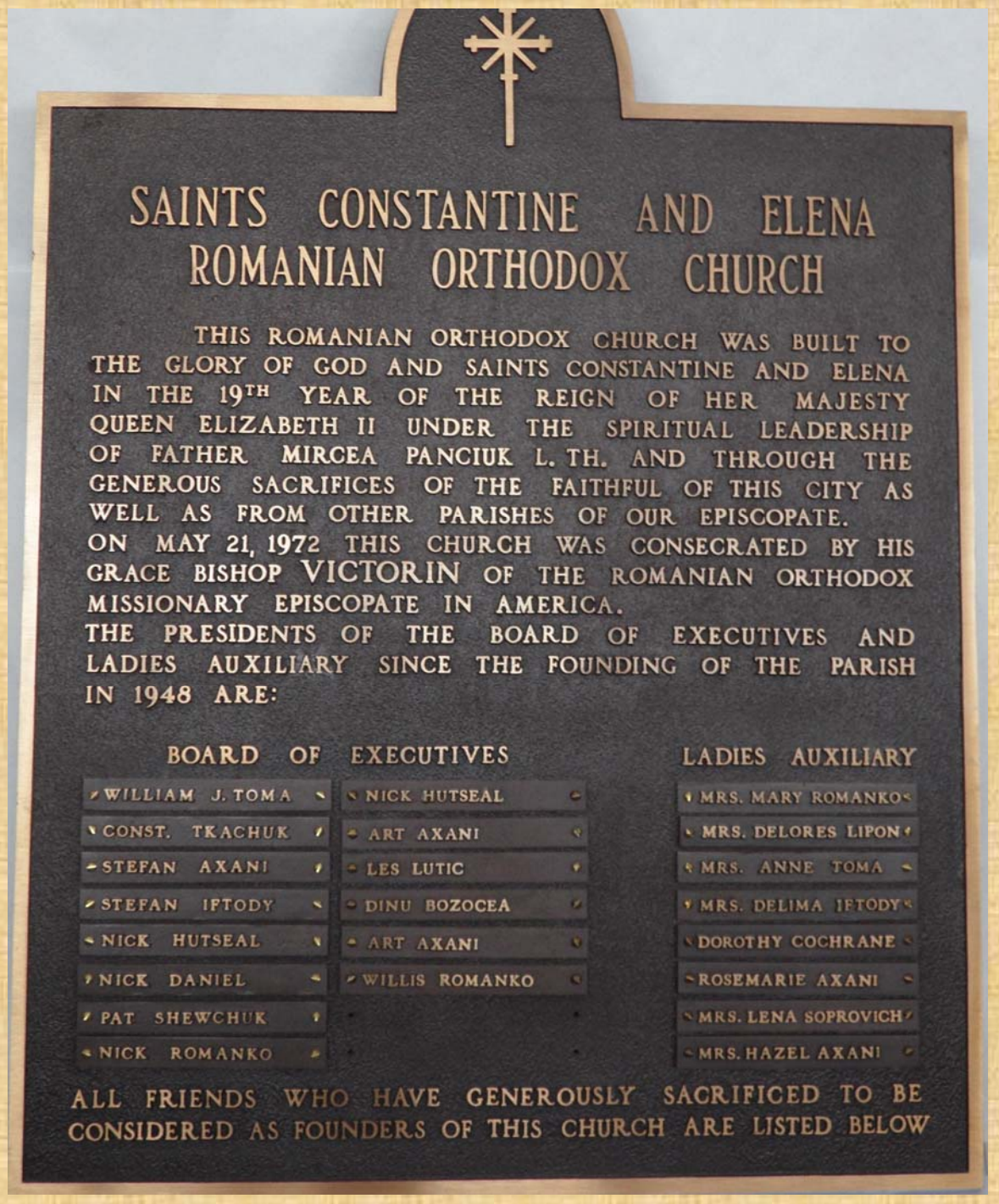


- **May, 1971** - at the 23rd Church Anniversary, the basement had been almost finished and the sub-floor had been put on.
- After **five months** of construction, the church was crowned with **the nine foot steel cross - replica of the one that stands today atop of the Voronetz church in Romania** - was placed at the top of the tower.
- The interior finishing of the church was done by the hard work of many parishioners: interior painting, 4000 sq. ft. of tile, solid oak pews, Bohemian Crystal Chandelier.





- **Nov. 14, 1971** - the first Divine Liturgy celebrated, with the blessing of His Grace Bishop Victorin.
- **May 21, 1972** - consecration of the church, on the feast day of Saint Constantine and his mother Saint Elena, who gave liberty to Christians to organize and worship Holy Trinity in 313 A.D.









## The Romanian Orthodox Church of Edmonton 45th Anniversary

- Shortly after the consecration of the church, the **first wave of immigrants from Romania** arrived in Edmonton, a process that reached its **peak in 80's**, and **still continues today**.
- The new immigrants understood they have a role to play in the **never-ending effort of upgrading and maintaining this place of spirituality and culture**.
- And so, began a **not always easy process of coexistence between the “old Romanians” and the “new Romanians”**.



- an addition was built, which constitutes of the stage for the main Hall, with the office area above it, and the spacious entrance to the church (the foyer), guarded by the bell tower.

- the roof of the Main Hall was replaced.





- **1977 - the 66th Congress of the Romanian Diocese in the Americas.**



- **Visit to City Hall with Mayor Bill Smith.**





**1987 - Rev. Fr. George Bazgan** comes as the new parish priest, having the difficult task of building upon the solid foundation laid by the founders of our church and by the Boian pioneers.





Under his supervision, the Romanian Church grew larger and there were many **improvements** done to the Cultural Centre.





“Miorița” Romanian children dance group was established



- Bishops' throne and cantors' strana made by Ilie Mieila





- 1996 - Church anniversary



- 1997 - Church anniversary



## 1997 - Church Anniversary





## 1998 - Men's Singing Group





**2001 - Florin Vlad**, an iconographer and church artist from Romania, newly established in Edmonton, was awarded the contract to paint the entire ceiling of the church in the Byzantine style, the acrylic technique.





**Newly painted  
church ceiling**













**May 19, 2002** - on  
the occasion of the  
30th Church  
Anniversary,  
His Eminence  
**Metropolitan  
Joseph of Paris**,  
blessed the newly  
painted church  
ceiling.







- **2003 - the entire Altar was painted by the same iconographer.**







**2004** - the three archways between the vestibule and the church itself were built.

**2005** - the archways were adorned with the beautiful Byzantine painting.







- 2005 - Rev. Fr. Ioan Tunaru (His Grace Ioan Casian) in Edmonton, at the Archdiocese's Congress.





**April 1978** - The cooperation with newly created **Canadian-Romanian Society of Alberta** was started.

**2010** - The statue of **Mihai Eminescu** was built by members and donors of the **Parish** and a substantial donation from the **Canadian-Romanian Society**.





**1998 - 2012** - the quarterly magazine **"The Word of Truth"**, containing articles of Orthodox spirituality and Romanian culture was published, having the closest collaborator in **prof. Constantin Clisu.**



CUVÂNTUL ADEVĂRULUI



THE WORD OF TRUTH

BISERICA ORTODOXĂ ROMÂNĂ  
STS. CONSTANTINE AND ELENA  
ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA  
VOL. I, NO. 1 JANUARY- MARCH 1998



- 2009 - church renovation and new fence around the church made by the voluntary contribution of members and donors of the Church.



**2011  
Complete  
renovation of  
the Main Hall.**







**2016 -painting of the choir loft banister**



**2016**  
**Complete kitchen**  
**renovation was**  
**accomplished,**  
**mainly from**  
**money raised by**  
**Ladies' Auxiliary**  
**through years of**  
**hard work.**





## Church members - 2009







**Church members - 2014**





**The Parish continues to grow,  
by 2016 reaching a number of 300 members.**





Choir continuity -  
**Emanuela Iorga**  
took the lead in  
**2015** from the long-  
standing leader,  
**Delima Iftody.**



## Easter 2017





## Current Parish Board (2017 - 2019)





## **The Romanian Orthodox Church of Edmonton 45th Anniversary**

Long tradition of the **Sunday School program:**

- first teacher - **Mr. Glen Jensen, 1970;**
- later, **Darlene Romanko, Darline Shelemey, Mariana Diaconu, Veronica Gavrilă, Corina-Elena Sasu, Costel Babos;**
- currently, **Ileana Gavris, Gabriela Luca-Damian and Veronica Ciocan,** assisted by parents and volunteers.



## Sunday School children - September 2016







**Participation at the  
Religious Olympics**



Regular lessons every Sunday, in accordance with the Metropolia's Curriculum.

Sunday School program has all the necessary materials and IT facilities thanks to **Church's Board, parents of the children and Mr. Stefan Mocanu.**







**Caroling at the  
parishioners'  
houses**





## 2016 - Christmas celebration







## 2016 - Christmas celebration





**Sunday School at  
Boian,  
celebrating  
school year end -  
2016**





## 2017 - Easter Eggs painting workshop and Palm Sunday charitable tombola







**Hard working  
and dedicated  
members of the  
Church.**











**Ladies' Auxiliary  
work continuing  
over the years.**







**Ladies' Auxiliary  
raise money to help  
cover for the Church's  
expenses through a  
variety of activities:**

- **Annual garage sale.**
- **Perogy supper  
(twice a year).**
- **Baking sales.**
- **Catering services.**
- **Donations.**



**AROLA Canada West Women's Retreat in Edmonton  
March 2017**

**"The Icon - window toward the Heaven"  
- with the blessing of His Grace Bishop Ioan Casian -**





# AROLA Women's Retreat March 2017

speaker:  
Gabriela Luca-Damian







**AROLA Women's  
Retreat  
March 2017**









# Church's Website - created and timely updated by Mr. Stefan Mocanu





# Parish Bulletin, both in English and Romanian, sent weekly on Thursday night to 500 current subscribers



**Romanian Orthodox Church**  
Saints Constantine and Elena  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada



**News Bulletin May 21, 2017**

**The Sixth Sunday after Easter (Healing the man born blind)**

[Click here](#) for the News Bulletin.

[Click here](#) for the website page with previous news bulletins.

## **Altar boys for this Sunday**

- Peter Stoleru
- Radu Nicholas Almășanu.

## **The events of this week**

- Friday, 19 May at 7:00 PM: Sacrament of the Holy Unction.
- Saturday, 20 May at 11:00 AM: Meeting with **H. G. Bishop Ioan Casian**.
- Saturday, 20 May at 6:00PM: CHURCH ANNIVERSARY VESPERS.

## **CHURCH ANNIVERSARY**



On 21 May we celebrate our 45th Church Anniversary:

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy,

with the participation of **H. G. Bishop Ioan Casian**.

11:45 AM: Memorial service for church founders.

12:30 PM: ANNIVERSARY BANQUET.

Tickets: \$25/adults and \$10/children (7-14).

Contact Mariana Diaconu at 780-473-6711 for tickets.

**SEE YOU THEN!**



**Biserica Ortodoxă Română**  
Sfinții Constantin și Elena  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada



**Buletin Parohial 21 Mai 2017**

**Duminica a VI-a după Paști (a Orbului din naștere)**

[Apăsați aici](#) pentru buletinul parohial.

[Apăsați aici](#) pentru buletine parohiale anterioare.

## **Copiii de Altar pentru această duminică**

- Peter Stoleru
- Radu Nicholas Almășanu.

## **Evenimentele acestei săptămâni**

- Vineri, 19 mai, la ora 19:00: Taina Sfântului Maslu.
- Sâmbătă, 20 mai, la ora 11:00: Întâlnire cu **P. S. Episcop Ioan Casian**.
- Sâmbătă, 20 mai, la ora 18:00: Vecernia Hramului bisericii.

## **HRAMUL BISERICII**



Duminică, 21 mai, sărbătorim Hramul parohiei noastre (45 de ani de la sfințirea bisericii).

În program:

10:00 AM: SF. LITURGHIE ARHIEREASCĂ,

cu participarea **P. S. Episcop Ioan Casian**.

11:45 AM: Parastasul pentru ctitorii bisericii.

12:30 PM: MASA FESTIVĂ.

Biletele: \$25/adulți și \$10/copii (7-14).

Contactați pe Mariana Diaconu la 780-473-6711 pentru bilete.

**VĂ AȘTEPTĂM CU DRAG!**



# Friday, 19 May 2017 - Sacrament of the Holy Unction





## Friday, 19 May 2017 - Sacrament of the Holy Unction





**Welcome to our midst!  
Many Years!**

**Bine ați venit în mijlocul nostru!  
Să ne trăiți întru mulți ani!**



The Romanian Orthodox Church of Edmonton  
45th Anniversary (May 21, 1972 - May 21, 2017)