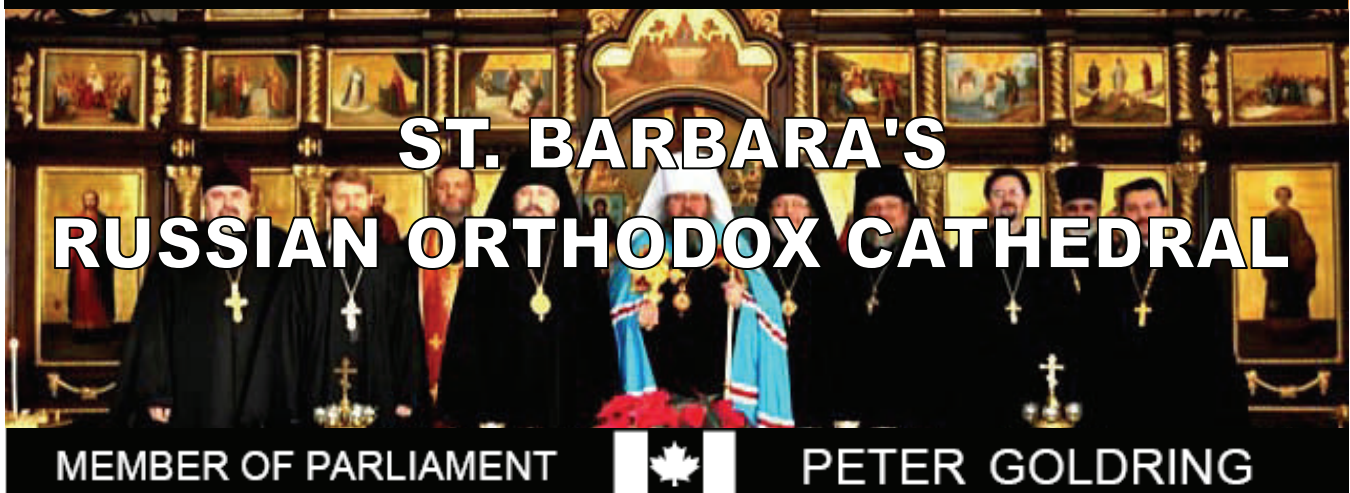




On July 25, 2010, Edmonton's St. Barbara's Russian Orthodox Cathedral celebrated the 50th anniversary of its consecration. Peter Goldring was one of the guest speakers, as he had been at the church's 100th anniversary celebrations in 2002. Here are his reflections.

St. Barbara's Russian Orthodox Cathedral, has been an important gathering place, not just for the Orthodox faith community but for Edmonton as a whole. A chapel at the 96th Street location was started by Father Jacob Korchinsky in 1902, followed by a simple wooden church that was replaced in 1960 years ago by the present house of worship.

It was Father John Margitich who had the vision for this beautiful ecclesiastical edifice that stands today. Father John was the parish priest of St. Barbara's for more than 35 years until his death in 1991. The church building is his legacy.

This building was designed by architect Nicholas Flak. The picturesque dome, crowned by a triple bar cross symbolic of Orthodox churches around the world, is known by all in Edmonton, not just by those of this faith community.

It is worth repeating a few words from "A Century of Faith – The History of St. Barbara's."

"There are several shapes that can be used for the construction of a new Orthodox church including that of a ship, a star, a circle or even an octagon. Each of these shapes has its own Christian symbolism associated with it. The most common shape however is that which was adopted for St. Barbara's Cathedral: the shape of the Holy Cross. This shape signifies that our church is a building,

which was sacred to our Lord Jesus Christ, who was crucified for us and delivered us from the snares and tyranny of the devil.



St. Barbara's Cathedral building has been a major Edmonton landmark for more than 50 years, and the congregation has served the community for more than a century.



The cupolas (or domes) on the roof of St. Barbara's Cathedral are reminders that Christ is the head of the Church, and the curves of the cupolas are symbols of heaven above. Each of our domes is covered with a cross as an emblem of victory for Christianity. Finally, the number of domes on top of St. Barbara's also has significance. The large dome in the centre represents Christ, and the four smaller ones represent the Evangelists.

In Orthodox churches the Altar and the Nave are separated by the Iconostas, which is a specially constructed wall or screen upon which sacred icons are hung. Icons placed on the Iconostas are arranged in a prescribed order.

The main double doors of the Iconostas are called the Royal Doors, because the priest carries the Communion Chalice through these doors with Christ Himself the Host. Only consecrated or ordained clergy may pass through these doors, and only at specified times during the Divine Liturgy.

The Iconostas presents a great pictorial summary of the founders and builders of the Christian Church. With its deep religious significance, the Iconostas is intended to lift the

minds of worshippers and help contribute to a deep and sincere spirit of worship."

St. Barbara's Cathedral and the congregation have always exhibited a vision for the future, whether by this very remarkable edifice, the community complex adjacent or the belfry tower in Father John's memory.

Peter Goldring was introduced to St. Barbara's by Lorraine Taschuk, who became his wife in a ceremony there. The church is a place he has returned to regularly during the more than 35 years of their marriage. Their children, Corinna and Kristina, were Christened there, their daughter was married there and their three granddaughters Katelin, Alexandra and Eleanor were Christened



The annual feast of St. Barbara is a major event in the church year. Many guest clergy come to join the church in its celebrations.

there.

As the Ukrainian Canadian community celebrated 120 years of Ukrainians in Canada in 2011, it is worth taking a look at the religions of the first immigrants. They quite naturally brought with them the form of Christian worship they were accustomed to. That meant the introduction of Orthodox Christianity and Ukrainian Catholicism to a country more accustomed to the Roman Catholic



and Protestant expressions of the faith of England and France.

Despite its Russian Orthodox name, St. Barbara's roots are Ukrainian. In the late 1800s, the Moscow-based Russian Orthodox Church sent missionaries that developed parishes in both Alaska and northern Alberta.

For many of the newly arrived Orthodox in the late 19th and early 20th centuries the only choice of church was the Russian Orthodox Church, with its mission churches in Western Canada. When a new Ukrainian (Greek) Orthodox church was formed around the end of the First World War not all Ukrainians who had been worshipping in those Russian Orthodox parishes chose to join the new church. Some stayed, especially in the rural communities where the congregants saw no need to switch. Their descendants still attend those now century-old churches, like St. Barbara's, which are Russian in name but Ukrainian in character.

Today the Very Reverend Sergey Kipriyanovich is the parish priest at St. Barbara's, the latest in a long tradition of holy men who have given guidance to this church. The

clergy of St. Barbara's have always had the respect not only of this congregation but also of the wider Edmonton community.

On the 50th anniversary of St. Barbara's Cathedral's consecration Peter Goldring presented church Board Chairman Roman Lopushinsky with a plaque to commemorate the occasion. The words ascribed on the plaque were:



The congregation of St. Barbara's enthusiastically participates in the worship on Sunday mornings.

Congratulations to the clergy and congregation of St. Barbara's Orthodox Cathedral on the 50th anniversary of the consecration of this Cathedral.

To the devotion and commitment of the Clergy and Congregation, past and present, for upholding the visions of the Right Reverend John Margitich (Father

John), architect Nicholas Flak and the Board Building Committee for this remarkable ecclesial edifice.

St. Barbara's Cathedral has served as the gathering place for Ministering to the spiritual needs of thousands, for celebrating christenings, marriages and the solemn remembrance of those who have passed on into eternity.

May this consecrated landmark continue to serve the Orthodox faith community for many years to come.

Многая літа!

St. Barbara's has served not only the Orthodox and those of Ukrainian descent but also the larger Edmonton community. The churches of Edmonton are vital to the health of our community.

Update: St. Barbara's is planning on refurbishing the iconostas and adding new icons to the cathedral.

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This brochure series is intended to highlight special issues that Member of Parliament, Peter Goldring, has been involved in. If you wish to comment, please take a moment to fill out the survey below, write or call to the address above.

Your Opinion Matters...

Do you think it is important to celebrate our religious heritage?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Did you know that St. Barbara's church started as a chapel at this location in 1902?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Comments: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
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