

HONOURING THE PAST...

MOVING FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE

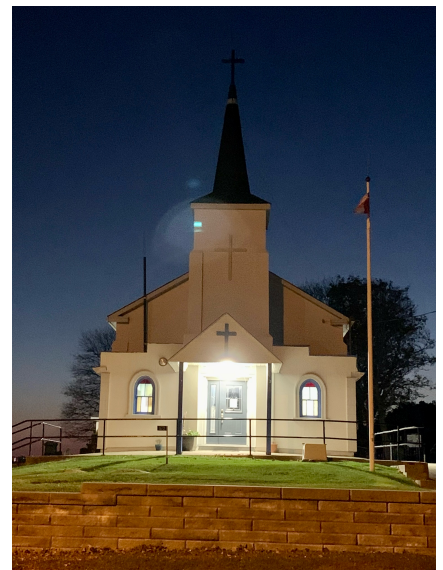
In late 1982, His Eminence Archbishop Sotirios (then Bishop), received a letter from a parishioner, the late Bertha Heliotis, stating her willingness to donate funds towards the establishment of a Greek Orthodox Church in the Barrie-Orillia area. His Eminence organized a meeting with the members of the local Greek-Canadian Associations and all of the Greek Orthodox families in the surrounding areas regarding the need of a Greek Orthodox Church in Simcoe County.



After holding services at St. James Anglican Church in Orillia twice a month, the founding committee and Fr. Stavros Moschos began investigating sites to either construct or rent a premise to conduct services. Eventually their search led them to our present Church (the old St. James Crown Hill Anglican Church & Cemetery) which was selected and secured at a reasonable rent. Though the location was ideal, the refurbishing of the long abandoned Church would be costly. Nevertheless, it was agreed that the proposed refurbishment would proceed and the committee would embark on a money raising effort. With the initial donation as a starting point, the Church (to be known as Holy Cross-St. Nektarios) was on its way. The property would later be purchased by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada in the 1990's.



In December of 1984 the inaugural service was conducted. Fr. Stavros would guide the community for the next 10 years. Fr. Konstantinos Tsagaris would lead our Parish for a short time, until Fr. Joseph Friej was assigned to pastor our community until his death in 2006. Fr. Anatoliy Bandura was our next Priest who served for a couple of years and was followed by Fr. George Papazoglou, who served until 2016.



In November 2016, we received our current Parish Priest, Fr. Theodoros Alamanos, who, under his guidance, has encouraged us to embark on new journeys. From its humble beginnings with only 2 services a month, we are now at 2-3 services a week! With continued yearly renovation projects, the 200 year Church structure, has served as our home and continues to do so as our parish has slowly grown with both Greek and non-Greek individuals and families, seeking the Orthodox faith and learning to live it to its fullest!

