

**St. Mary's Orthodox Church
Cornucopia, Wisconsin
Celebrates 100th Anniversary**

On July 26 of this year the parish of St. Mary's celebrated its Centennial Anniversary with a Divine Liturgy, a luncheon, presentation by Karen Varian of the Rusin Association, and entertainment by the Balalaika Orchestra from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Cornucopia is a small town in northern Wisconsin on the southern shore of Lake Superior. In the early 1900's a group of Rusins settled in the area and started St. Mary's.



A Brief History of St. Mary's Parish
Excerpted from the St. Mary's Parish
75th Anniversary program

The main promoter who induced the Rusins and other Slav speaking people to move into the Cornucopia area can be attributed to Samuel F. Snively of Duluth, Minnesota (President of the Duluth Land & Development Co.) who had extensive holdings of timber and cut-over timber lands in the area. Mr. Snively worked in association with Thomas J. Stevenson (the founder of Cornucopia) the chief or principle developer of the area.

Advertisements were placed in foreign language papers in the states of Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and the Chicago area; stating there was unlimited cheap land (\$10.00 an acre) for

sale and that there also were jobs available, in logging camps and saw-mills.

To the immigrant who had just a few years earlier arrived from Europe, this sounded like a fantastic opportunity! To think, that one could own his own land, and not have to work for the *pan* (the large land owner) as in the old country

Also that one would not have to continue working under-ground in the coal mines of Pennsylvania or Oklahoma; or in factories of the big cities. After all, these people were of agrarian stock and of the small villages.

Though these people began coming as early as 1905, St. Mary's parish was not organized until late 1909 and the building of the Church in 1910.

Mikita Leniak was the first parish president. He was also a local business man who did much in contributing financially and in promoting the Church. That can also be said of Alexander Keosky, of the Keosky/Cinker General Store, in his efforts.

With the passage of time, down through the years, a number of the original parishioners moved out with the closing of the lumber industry. Some stayed on, clearing out their lands into dairy, fruit, and berry farms, and managed to rear their families.

Many of the present day parish members are sons, daughters, or grandchildren of the early founders of the Parish. Among the founders and early settlers were:

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| N. Leniak | J. Argent | J. Sevda |
| A. Lipinsky | V. Pristash | J. Qualik |
| M. Stark | F. Haverick | M. Halesky |
| S. Evanow | Shugas | M. Yukas |
| J. Keosky | P. Celinsky | M. Cinker |
| J. Roman | N. Torbick | P. Andrews |

- From the Mellen area:
- | | | |
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| G. Lazorik | A. Popovich | A. Turonie |
| P. Kozup | A. Kaseno | M. Gregor |
| C. Kapusta | | |