

Celebrating 108 Years at St. Michael Church in Aurora, IL

By Cristian Gingu, December 15th 2014

In the early spring of 1906, Romanian immigrants living in Aurora, IL considered a need for their own church [1]. At that time, a very energetic pioneer, Father Epaminonda Lucaciu, gathered the people across the tracks at St. Nicholas in order to give a formal and definitive start to the establishment of the parish and the building of a church. A quote from the parish council minute of January 17th, 1909 reads: "the foundation of this parish was placed in 1906 when the missionary priest Dr. Epaminonda Lucaciu, going from house to house, made registration of all faithful Christians and urged them to organize". Eventually, on July 4th 1909, Bishop Muldoon, D.D. of Rockford, blessed the new completed church.

If you are interested and want to read more about the history of the church, please visit our web site at

<http://www.stmichaelromanianchurch.org/Pages/aboutus.aspx>

Our Bishop John Michael Botean (who served at St. Michael from 1986 to 1990) was also with us this year for a few days. On Saturday November 22nd a Special Liturgy was dedicated to celebrating the 108th Anniversary of St. Michael Church by Bishop John Michael Botean, General Vicar Iuliu Munteanu, Very Rev. Aurel Pater and Theologian Marcel Podar.

The Church Committee with help from parishioners took care of the dinner and party preparations: invitations were sent to parishioners, food was prepared under careful supervision of Florica Pater and the room and tables were decorated by Viola Moldovan. As in other occasions, Nelu Naghi was in charge with the music. The dinner was sponsored by Mihai Cosman. Darlin Ardelean donated a tasty and beautifully ornate cake. More than 100 parishioners participated to this event, some of them in traditional Romanian costumes.

An album with photos can be seen online at

<http://www.stmichaelromanianchurch.org/Pages/Photos.aspx>

We are all proud to be part of this great parish and we wish our loved St. Michael Church “Happy Anniversary” for many years to come: “La Multi Ani, St. Michael!”

[1]. St. Michael Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church, 100 Years, 1906-2006 Anniversary Book. Citations from articles written by Most Reverend John Michael Botean and by Very Rev. Fr. Aurel Pater.





