

CHURCH HISTORY
1916- ---196

The Russian people of Willimantic, Connecticut met on August 16, 1916 and under the supervision of Rev. **Constantine Suketoff** formed a church organization in the name of the Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church. The first officers elected were: Charles Lucas, president; Thomas Lucas, secretary; Joseph Klapik, treasurer; and trustees, Joseph Klapik, Joseph Devonchik, Thomas Lucas and Stephan Smerek. A two-story building and property were purchased at 226 Valley Street and was converted to a place of worship and living quarters for the pastor. The first pastor to service us was Rev. Joseph Kurila.

After many changes of parishioners and pastors, it was during V. Rev. Prokopy Radiuk's tenure that the idea of a new church was envisioned. Then property ~~was~~ at Valley Street and Mansfield Avenue was purchased on November 1948. Building and construction was slow due to lack of finances, but gradually the building took form. First the foundation was built; then the frame work went up; next the brick veneer. Finally, under the supervision of V. Rev. Elias Adamoff the ~~interior~~ interior was completed. After several years of saving, fund raising, and assistance through contribution from business organizations, friends and parishioners, the edifice was ready for worship.

On September 7, 1958, after the last Divine Liturgy was held in the old church building, parishioners, led by V. Rev. Adamoff ~~was~~ in a solemn procession carried all religious articles to the new church building. The blessing and dedication was then held on September 13, 1958 with His Eminence Metropolitan Leonty officiating.

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A rectory, conforming with the church building, was completed on February 1966 (or this year in February). We would be remiss if we did not mention the following surviving members,

who have remained steadfast parishioners throughout the

struggle and they are Mr. & Mrs. Pafnuty Juzak, Mr. & Mrs.

Andrew Chupik and Mr. & Mrs. John Wachnicz. *mrs. Mary Lucas*

Today, September 10, 1966, we are very happy and proud to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the church's founding.