



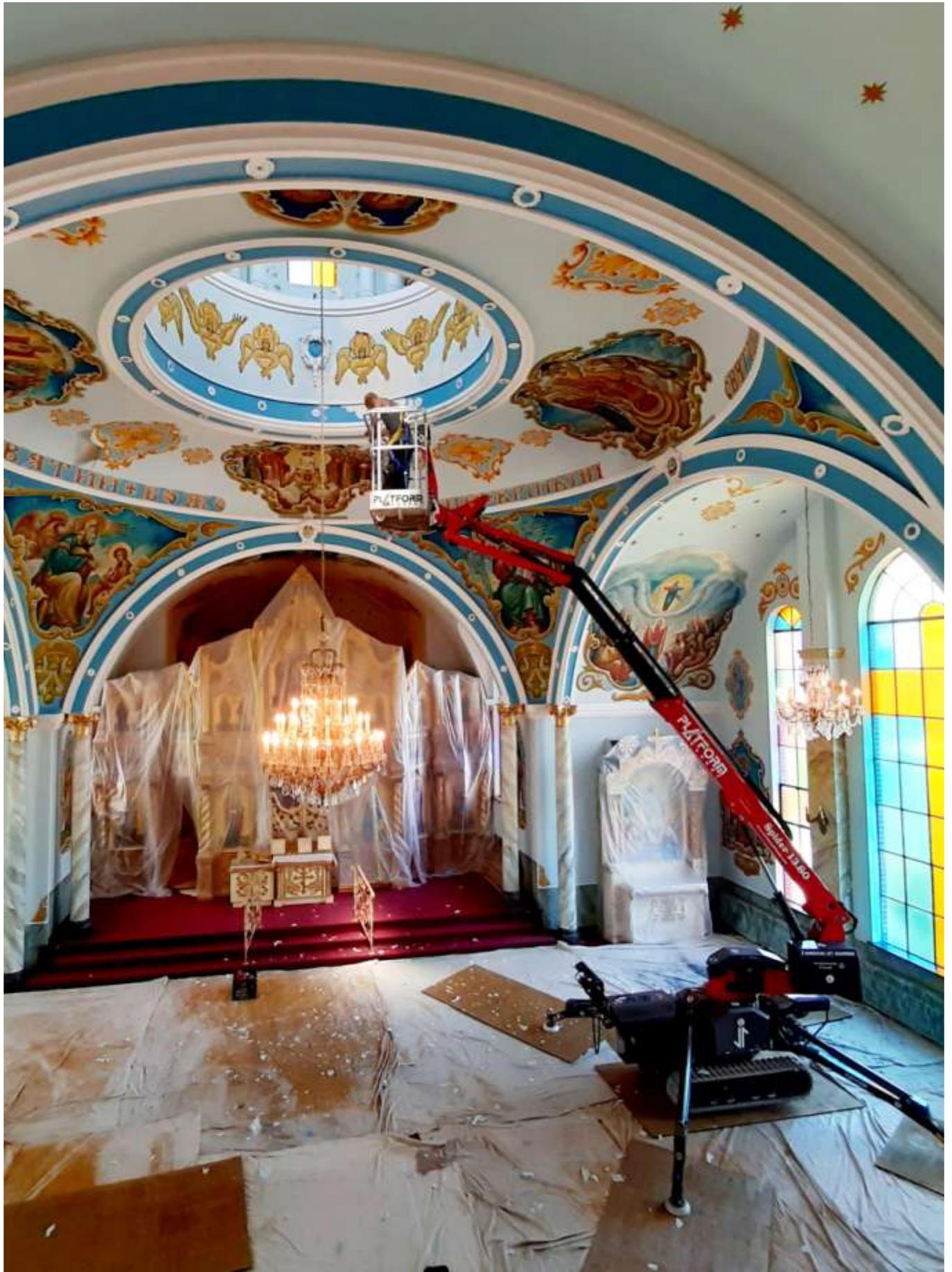
RESTORATION PROJECT



NEWSLETTER 2

August 30, 2020





Dear parishioners, friends and supporters of St. George's,

Work Continues! Progress is happening! The painting contractors have started and are pushing forward!

The first step was investigating, repairing and preparing all the damaged areas from peeling paint and water damage to accept new paint. This included scraping, patching, filling, sanding all those areas and priming with a special primer paint.

Before we undertook this work, we consulted with a number of paint experts from various paint manufacturers. They took some of the paint chips which had previously come down, and made their conclusions. Their initial conclusions were further supported by the paint contractor when they started work and independently came to the same conclusions.

Much of the peeling paint was due to 3 major factors:

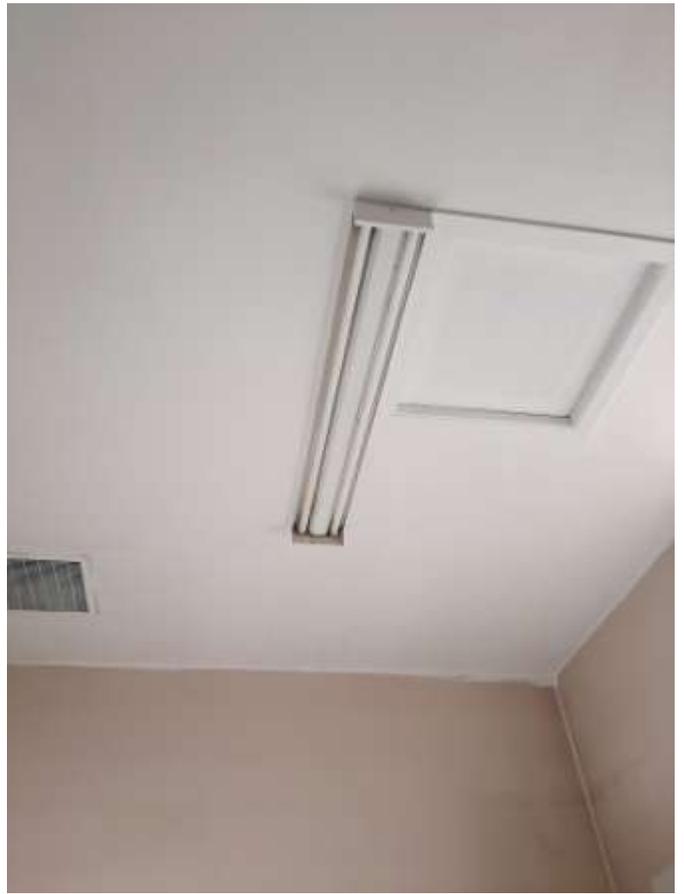
1. The use of dissimilar paints fighting against one another. The Church was originally painted using an oil based paint which was the standard back then. A subsequent painting was done at some point using latex paint which is the standard of today. The two types of paints breath, flex, move, expand and contract differently from one another. With the two paints in constant conflict with one another, the paint failed over time. Almost all of the peeling paint came off leaving only the bare plaster.
2. Major fluctuations in interior temperature of the church. Previously it was customary to bring the temperature inside of the church to a comfortable level only when a service was being held and then reducing the temperature when services were not being held. Besides the strain on our heating and air conditioning from this practice, the rapid and drastic temperature changes aided in the paint failing. This has been rectified with keeping a constant temperature in the church every day, regardless if there is a service scheduled or not.
3. Moisture is also a factor to the damage inside the church. This is more isolated to a few specific areas from old leaks in the roofing and flashing, leaking dome(s) and failing bricks, which have been fixed and addressed. This damage is isolated and very minimal at this time.

The restoration plan is extensive and systematic:

1. Scrape all loose paint. Often times this meant chasing the loose paint. There was more loose paint than we could see. Going over every inch of the walls and ceiling checking for loose paint which was not yet detectable with the human eye.
2. The peeling frescoes and ornaments which are on canvas were cleaned, the edges and back cleaned of paint. The wall behind the peeling frescoes were primed and will be glued back to the walls.
3. Every place that was scraped was then addressed either by, sanding the adjoining areas to create a smooth surface or filling in with plaster to bring the irregular surfaces flush with one another.
4. The scraped and prepared areas were then primed with a special primer.
5. The walls will be painted with two (2) or more coats of paint as needed.



Ceiling and wall damage in the Sachristy (Pamalarka): Before and after





One of the painters spent more than a **week on the “cherry picker” just inside the center dome** scraping, plastering, and priming. From the floor to the ceiling in the center dome is a height of 42 feet.

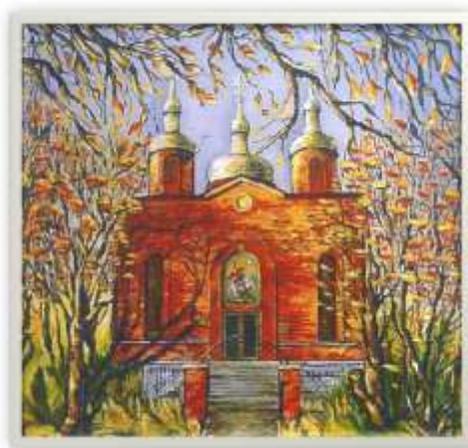
The Old Testament Saints on the walls of the center dome along with the Pantocrator (Christ) on the ceiling of the dome, had their lettering painted by hand directly onto the walls. Due to damage, that lettering is lost. Due to the safety regulations when working at heights, no local iconographer has that particular certification for working at heights to be able to reapply the lettering. The areas and remaining lettering were photographed and measured, and were reproduced electronically by Subdeacon Yakiv. From there, stencils will be made and the lettering restored by the painters themselves. Likewise all the stars will painted over and restored back in place.





To date, the Narthex (vestibule), vestry and sacristy have been finished. In the coming weeks the remainder of the work will be completed. We thank each and everyone of you that have already donated towards this project and ask if you **haven't donated yet to consider doing so. Please donate regularly towards this** much needed work. This work can only happen because of not only your monetary support but by your prayers.





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