



ST MINA COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA

St Mina Coptic Church Newsletter November 2009 Edition

1st Coptic Church Built to Service the Calgary Area

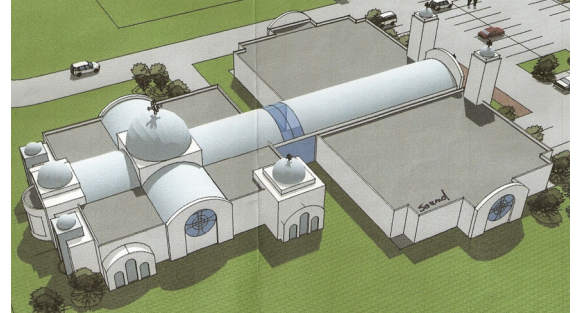
After much discussion hard work and collaboration we are proud to announce the purchase of the 4.83 Acre parcel of land in Balzac for \$2.425 M. This land is officially clear titled to St. Mina Coptic Orthodox Church.

We will be breaking ground spring 2010 and completion is dated for September 2011. In the meantime we will continue services at the Sandstone Church.

This new Church will be the first of its kind and will be home to over 250 families in the Calgary region.

Your concerns and opinions were crucial in establishing the principle of *sustainable development* and subsequent plans to move forward with construction. Thank you for your participation and continued support.

The new Church will have all the amenities including seating for 400, a commercial kitchen, cafeteria, Sunday School class rooms and a large foyer.



Conceptual Rendering of our new Church

Also included in Phase One of construction will be: Quorban room, crying room, food storage, baptistry, library, meeting room for the youth, an administrative office, an office for Fr. Agathon and much more!

Welcome to Sandstone

Sandstone Valley Ecumenical Centre welcomes you. This Church will be our temporary home for the next couple of years. Lets all thank God for the smooth transition.

All current services continue, all religious days are booked and all amenities are available. The only difference will be that liturgies are currently on Saturday's.

We've Moved

St Mina Coptic Orthodox Church on 17th Ave SW is no more. A special thanks goes out to volunteers who did everything from inventory to packing. We currently have all our belongings securely in storage. We hope to bring them out once the construction on our new Church is complete.

God's Blessings!

- We have received \$5.55 million dollars from The City of Calgary and we are expecting more in compensation from The City.
- We have purchased the larger parcel of land in Balzac and managed to get it for \$200,000 less than the selling price!
- We've lowered the mortgage payments on the Balzac land to save us money.
- We have secured Woods Parker as our architect for our new Church.

NOTE: We have officially retained Woods Parker Architects for \$400K, this firm has designed over 300 Churches in the Calgary area and has an outstanding reputation in Calgary.

For further information questions or comments please go to www.thedream.stmina.ab.ca there you will find more details and updates on the project.

Romans 12:11
Never be
lacking in zeal,
but keep your
spiritual fervor,
serving the
Lord.

But What About Transportation?

Did you know?

- 1) Balzac is exactly 1.5 km North of Calgary City Limits
- 2) 2.5 km to the future Stoney Trail ring road
- 3) 20 minutes from downtown Calgary

Shuttle Services

We will be starting a shuttle service that picks up and drops off members of the congregation - This will be run and operated by volunteers. Please contact Sherif Gemyal or George Mansi if you would like to volunteer.

CARTSS

CARTSS is a non-profit organization that provides transportation to other non-profit organizations. We can use CARTSS services as an alternative to shuttle services.

I've Never Heard of Balzac!

Did you know that the town of Balzac was named after a famous



Saint Honoré of Amiens

French novelist and play write, Honoré de Balzac? Balzac was influential to many notable writers including Charles Dickens and Henry James.

The French writer gets his first name from a famous Catholic Saint, Bishop Honoré of Amiens. Legend has it that the Saint resisted being elected believing himself unworthy, but through many miracles it was clear that

God had chosen the humble Honoré to become Bishop.

Following his death in 653 a generous French baker donated some land to build a chapel in honor of the saint. Through God's blessings the chapel has become one of the richest in Paris, and gave its name to "Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honore" which is one of the WORLD'S most famous streets.

Last Church Clean Up Project

Thanks to everyone who helped in the *Last Church Clean Up Project* that took place Saturday August 8th. The St. Mina youth came together to clean up the Church from top to bottom.



A special thanks to all volunteers who help St Mina's Coptic Church in Calgary flourish.



New Church Website Launch!

In order to engage our community and to foster greater transparency we've launched:

www.thedream.stmina.ab.ca this will be your information headquarters for anything concerning *New Church News*. We will be regularly updating this website with construction details and anything that has gone into previous presentations by the board of deacons.

Please help us build our Church by submitting your ideas and suggestions through the suggestion section.

Abouna's Corner

Where we are today has a lot to do with where we've been. Please help us take the right step forward to encourage one another with love as we move forward with changes in our Church.

We must remember the words of Christ "I in them, and you in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that you have sent me, and have loved them, as you have loved me." John 17:23