



# Lithuanian Churches in Cleveland

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

## Introduction

Cleveland's early Lithuanian population was predominantly Roman Catholic. Initially attending services provided within Polish and German parishes, Lithuanians established their first church, St. George's, in 1895. It was not until 1901 that it was formally incorporated into the Cleveland Catholic Diocese and moved into a permanent building. Among its early pastors were Fr. Joseph Jankus (1901-1905); Fr. Joseph Halaburda (1907-1919), who also established a school; and Rev. Vincent G. Vilkutaitus (1919-ca. 1959). In 1929, the St. George parish was divided and Our Lady of Perpetual Help was formed to serve Collinwood's and Euclid's Lithuanians. The church served as a center of the Lithuanian community, not only through providing religious guidance and instruction, but through celebrating Lithuanian heritage and supporting civic, social and cultural activities. In 2009, St. George's was closed and Our Lady of Perpetual Help was renamed to St. Casimir Parish.

## Important Dates

- 1895: Fr. Joseph Delinikaitis establishes St. George's, a mission congregation for Lithuanians in Cleveland.
- 1901: St. George's Lithuanian Church is formally established and a small church is built.
- 1921: St. George's moves to its Superior Avenue location.
- 1929: Our Lady of Perpetual Help is established on Neff Road.
- 1932-1970: Sisters of St. Francis of Providence staff St. George's School until its closing.
- 2009: St. George's is closed due to downsizing of the Cleveland Catholic Diocese.
- 2009: Our Lady of Perpetual Help becomes St. Casimir Lithuanian Parish. It provides services in both Lithuanian and English to this day.

## Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), proximity or as phrases: St. George's Church, Šv. Jurgio, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Vilkutaitus, bažnyčia/ bažnyčioje (church), Lietuvių (Lithuanian), katalikų (Catholic).
- Add street, city or state names to limit your results to Cleveland's Lithuanian churches.
- Some results may be about specific parishioners (births, deaths, marriages).
- Use an online translation service to translate search terms and articles between Lithuanian and English.

## Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- "[Jie Mirė Kankiniai](#)" *Dirva* (Cleveland, OH), April 2, 1943, Image 8, col. 1-2.
- "[Summer Festival](#)" *Dirva* (Cleveland, OH), August 20, 1943, Image 6, col. 6.
- "[What's New? \(In Cleveland\)](#)" *Dirva* (Cleveland, OH), January 31, 1947, Image 8, col. 6-7.
- "[Architektas St. Kudokas pasakoja](#)" *Dirva* (Cleveland, OH), August 10, 1950, Image 3, col. 3-5.
- "[Atsišaukimas](#)" *Dirva* (Cleveland, OH), December 14, 1950, Image 9, col. 1-3.