



## Українська Католицька Едмонтонська Єпархія

## Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton

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### PASTORAL CENTRE - COMMUNICATOR

June 1, 2021

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### *Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава На Віки! Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!*

It is with great anticipation that we await the full reopening of our churches and the re-engagement of our parish communities. Over these last several months, we have received calls, particularly from our smaller rural parishes, explaining the significant financial strain they are under. Bishop David continues to acknowledge the needs of all parishes. He has and will continue to support them in the following ways:

#### **1. Financial Support for Parishes to Date**

In the early months of the COVID pandemic (April, May and June 2020), the following financial relief was provided for parishes:

- Suspension of 10% cathedraticum collection by parishes for 3 months
- Waiving of substitution levy (\$100 per month) for 3 months
- Revision of the travel allowance added to clergy payroll to actual mileage reimbursement.
- Suspension of interest on any outstanding loan payments for 3 months
- Providing parishes access to *Canada Helps* via the Eparchy's website so parishioners can donate to their parishes online
- Applying for Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy on behalf of all parishes

Financial support continues to be available to parishes during this time including:

#### **a. COVID Relief for District Parishes**

All districts will receive a one time \$10,000 payment to help offset monthly expenses related to pastor housing expenses. The district councils will ensure the funds are applied appropriately to all parishes in the districts. Currently there are six districts in the Eparchy.

#### **b. Church Maintenance and Improvement Grant**

This grant provides financial support to parishes who require major repairs or improvements in their churches. Every parish must practice good stewardship and maintain their church buildings to ensure parishioners have a safe and accessible place in which to worship. The grant is for a maximum of \$10,000.00 per parish and may only be applied for once every five years. Priority will be given to requests of an urgent nature or

where financial support is most needed in a growing community. The Eparchy budgets \$40,000 annually for this grant program. Parishes must complete and submit an application.

**c. Evangelization Youth Grant**

This grant provides monetary resources to develop innovative programming within the parish or district in support of children, youth, young adults, and young families. All parishes are encouraged to apply.

**d. Parish low interest loans for major renovations**

From time to time, the Eparchy provides parishes with low interest loans for major renovations or short-term operational support. Such undertakings require approval of the parishioners, and confirmation of the parish's commitment and ability to repay the loan in full. An application process is in place with a formal loan application form to be accessed on Parish Hub.

More details about these funding supports is available on **Parish Hub** (refer to Item#3).

**2. Parish Revenue Submissions for CEWS 2021**

We are still waiting for several parishes to submit their revenue summaries from January onwards so that we can apply for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) for January to April of 2021. With the new calculation of revenue loss, and our consolidated application, we may not qualify each month, or if we qualify the subsidy may be lower than in previous months. All parishes must participate and report their revenue, even if they did not have collections during these months. CEWS will likely be available until September 2021.

**3. Launch of Parish Hub**

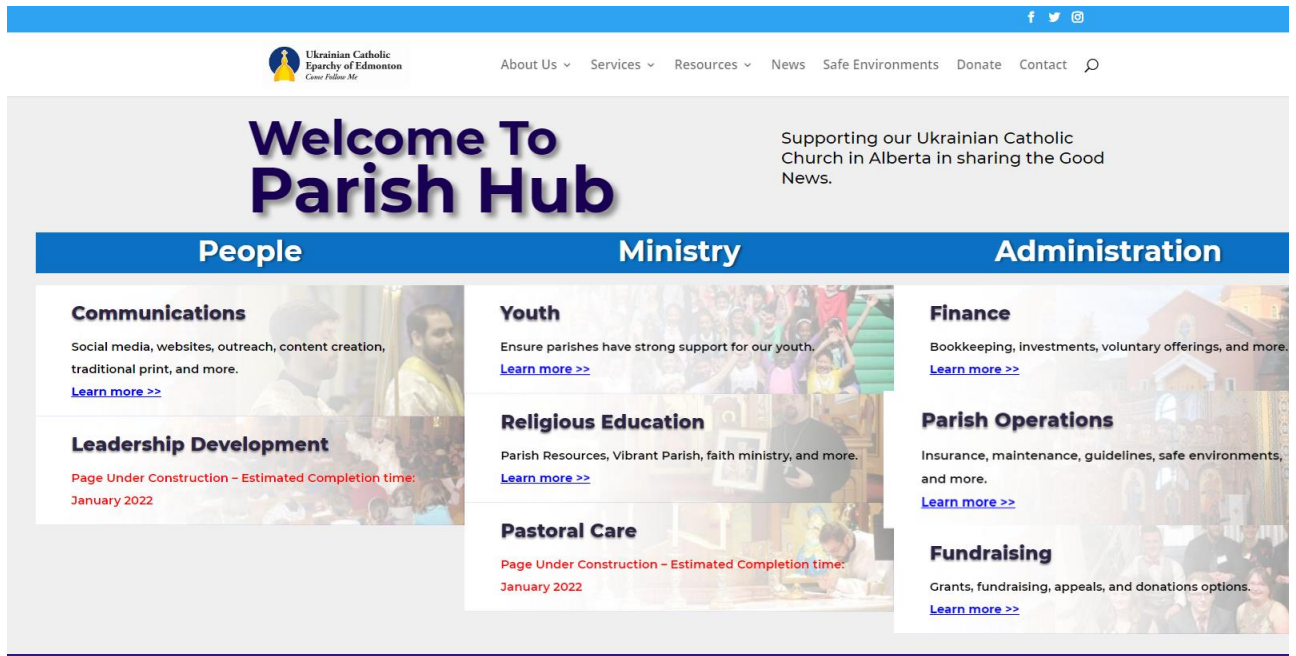
The “soft launch” of Parish Hub, our central repository of information for all things *parish*, will be available for your review and feedback starting Thursday June 3, 2021. Parish Hub will be hosted on our eparchial website and focus on our people, our ministries and parish administration.

Thank you to all the pastoral council members who responded to our survey. We received over 20 responses, each providing valuable information on what parishes are looking for.

From your feedback, we created eight sections and are populating them with articles, documents, templates, and videos as follows:

- **People** (Communications; Leadership Development)
- **Ministry** (Youth, Religious Education, Pastoral Care)
- **Administration** (Finance, Parish Operations, Fundraising)

The Parish Hub homepage will be accessible from the eparchial website. See the snapshot below:



All priests, pastoral council chairs and treasurers will receive a link to Parish Hub. We ask for your comments on the content presented, what additional materials you would like to see and any other input that may be helpful to develop this site into a valuable tool for parishes.

Over the next three weeks, we will continue to develop content and look forward to an official launch of Parish Hub by the end of June.

**4. Parish Reopenings**

Bishop David has scheduled a clergy conference in mid-June to discuss the easing of restrictions and the gradual return to “normalcy” in the life of our church and how best to serve our faithful going forward. The following is an overview of the Government of Alberta directives as they relate to places of worship:

**Stage 1:** Two weeks after 50% of Albertans 12+ (born in 2009 or earlier) have received at least one vaccine dose and hospitalizations are below 800 and declining. Effective June 1 unless stated otherwise.

- Places of worship - 15% of fire code occupancy (effective May 28)
- Funeral services - up to 20 people, not including facility staff, funeral clergy or organizers not considered guests (receptions remain prohibited)
- Wedding ceremonies - up to 10 people, including officiant, bride/groom, witnesses (receptions remain prohibited)
- Distancing and masking requirements remain in effect.

**Stage 2:** Two weeks after 60% of Albertans 12+ (born in 2009 or earlier) have received at least one vaccine dose and hospitalizations are below 500 and declining. Expected to be in effect mid-June.

- Outdoor social gatherings - up to 20 people with distancing (indoor social gatherings still not permitted)

- Funeral services - up to 20 people, indoors and outdoors (receptions permitted outdoors only)
- Wedding ceremonies - up to 20 people, indoors and outdoors (receptions permitted outdoors only)
- Places of worship - 1/3 of fire code occupancy
- Distancing and masking requirements remain in effect.

**Stage 3:** Two weeks after 70% of Albertans 12+ (born in 2009 or earlier) have received at least one vaccine dose. Expected to be effective in late June or early July.

- All restrictions lifted, including ban on indoor social gatherings,
- Isolation requirements for confirmed cases of COVID-19 and some protective measures in continuing care settings remain,

We all look forward to a joy-filled summer, where we give glory to God for his loving protection!

З Богом! Yours in Christ,

*Iryna Laschuk*

Chancellor and Director of Finance

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