

EPARCHIAL NEWSLETTER



Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton
Українська Католицька Едмонтонська Єпархія

May 2023



UPCOMING EVENTS

The people of Ukraine need your help. As we mark the one-year anniversary of the war in Ukraine, millions of the country's inhabitants are in dire straits. Constant bombardment, frigid temperatures, fluctuating power, lack of food, shelter and other basic necessities. As part of personal sacrifice, kindly consider making a donation towards providing emergency services and humanitarian and pastoral support to Ukrainians by offering care, medical supplies, food, clothing and shelter to displaced persons, the elderly and the sick, as well as educational programs and support to local priests. For example, for only \$25, an emergency food package can provide much needed relief. \$100 can buy four packages. Each package will feed 2 persons for 1 week.

Donations may be made through your local parish, the Eparchy of Edmonton (www.eeparchy.com), or directly to Catholic Near East Welfare Association - Canada (cnewa.ca).

For information on how your donation is making a difference, see Catholic Near East Welfare Association's [2022 Campaign Report: Ukraine Emergency Relief](#).

May God bless you and your family for your generosity.

We pray for peace in Ukraine.

The **Standing Committee for Family and Life** – Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops have prepared a **Pastoral Toolkit** to support parishes in promoting **National Family and Life Week (NFLW) from May 7-14, 2023**.

The theme chosen for this year's NFLW is Jesus' words, ***“Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another”*** (John 13:34).

Inspired by this theme, the Pastoral Toolkit developed for NFLW 2023 emphasizes the joy and beauty of family and life by highlighting various lived experiences of those in our local communities. The toolkit includes a message from the CCCB President, an official logo, daily prayer intentions and

activities for families and parishes, catechesis, a daily social media campaign based on related saints, and pastoral suggestions for a family and life Mass.

- [NFLW 2023 - Resource page on the CCCB website](#)
- [Pastoral Toolkit via Google Drive](#)

New! This year's **Catholic Education Week** is celebrated in Canada from **May 15-19**, with World Catholic Education Day on May 18.

This year's theme is *"Walking Together in Catholic Education: As for us, we will walk in the name of the Lord Our God forever and ever"* (Mikah 4:5).

The Alberta/NWT Catholic Bishops issued a message to mark the celebration, which reads in part, "This occasion affords us the welcome opportunity to reflect on the crucial role Catholic schools play in educating our children and young people, by creating formative communities of love and care that witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

We are grateful to God for the gift of Catholic Education!

Annual Clergy Retreat: June 5-9, 2023, Sanctum Retreat Centre, Caroline. Retreat Master, Rev. Bo Nahachewsky – icon-writing prayer and workshop.

World Youth Day at Home will take place from **June 30-July 2** at Camp Oselia (Friday evening to Sunday lunch). World Youth Day at Home is a weekend for youth aged 16-35 with prayer, meals, guest speakers, groups discussions, social time (bonfires, fireworks, maybe even a zabava), and a concluding Divine Liturgy with Bishop David.

WYD at home offers youth a vibrant and joyful experience of their faith; a chance to learn more about the Church and to talk about their unique experience, struggles, and hopes; and an opportunity to make new friendships and rekindle old ones.

Ukrainian newcomers are especially welcome.

Youth are invited to fill out the form at <https://eeparchy.com/2023/01/10/why-join-world-youth-day/>.

Camp Oselia Eparchial Children's Camp will take place from **July 2-8 and July 9-15** for children 7-14 years old. This year's theme is "Kingdom Quest: The Seven Holy Mysteries."

Each week is filled with Eastern Catholic catechesis and a variety of camp activities (swimming, archery, sports, canoeing, campfires, arts-and-crafts, etc.).

Catechetical programing in both English and Ukrainian. Campers may attend one or both weeks.

For more information and to register, visit <https://camposelia.eeparchy.com/>.

Camp Oselia organizers are looking for adult staff (paid) and volunteers: clergy, catechists, program facilitators (arts-and-crafts, sports, etc.), cook, kitchen volunteers, nurse, life-guards, night watch, etc.

Pastors are requested to announce Camp Oselia in parish bulletins and contact Deacon Cyril about possible staff/volunteers, including Ukrainian-speaking catechists.

Annual Clergy Study Days: September 19-21, 2023, Providence Renewal Centre. Deacon Daniel Galadza, Special Topics in Liturgy and the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New! The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) have issued the *North American Final Document for the Continental Stage of the 2021-2024 Synod: For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission*.

Begun in October 2021, the “Synod on Synodality” was recently extended by Pope Francis through October 2024, to allow for more time for reflection and discernment from both the local and universal Church. The Universal Phase of the Synod will be held in two parts, the first in October 2023 and the second a year later in October 2024.

The *North American Final Document for the Continental Stage* is available in [English](#).

New! Initially at the request of the Knights of Columbus – Alberta/NWT as part of their Faith Formation Program, Bishop David, who serves as State Chaplain, produced a monthly series of reflections on **“We are People of the Eucharist: towards a renewed love for Holy Communion.”** The **fifth reflection in the series** focuses on [Jesus’ new command, “love one another.”](#) A new video reflection will be posted each month in the hopes that it may inspire us in our faith journey.

New! Initially information gathered for the **2022 Annual General Statistical Questionnaire** on behalf of the Vatican Secretariat of State, as of **December 31, 2022** the Eparchy of Edmonton has (by way of comparison, 2020 numbers are included in brackets): **NUMBERS IN BRACKETS ARE 2021 DATA**

- Ukrainian Catholic population of 25,000, with 3,118 in regular Sunday attendance (2021: 24,000, with 2,815 in regular Sunday attendance)
- 81 parishes and missions (2021: 81)
- 30 eparchial priests (31)
- 10 religious priests (10)
- 5 deacons (4)
- 2 eparchial seminarians (4); 0 religious seminarian (0)
- 9 women religious (9)
- 2 men religious (2)
- 192 baptisms (208)
- 123 First Communions (102)
- 37 marriages (46)
- 206 funerals (245)
- 262 children in catechism (211)
- 43 catechists (40)