

EPARCHIAL NEWSLETTER



Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton
Українська Католицька Едмонтонська Єпархія

November 2023



UPCOMING EVENTS

The people of Ukraine need your help. A delegation from the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) recently visited the many humanitarian works carried out by the Ukrainian Catholic Church, supported by CNEWA and funded by countless donors across North America.

Thanks to the generosity and prayers of Canadian donors, the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA Canada) and its partners in the field continue to offer emergency services and humanitarian and pastoral support to Ukrainians of all horizons by providing the displaced, the elderly and the sick with care, medical supplies, food, clothing and shelter, as well as educational programs and support for local priests.

In June CNEWA visited Ukraine. The delegation included Mons. Peter Vaccari, Dr. Adriana Bara and Anna Dombrowska. Read about the highlights of [CNEWA's journey to Lviv](#). One of the emergency projects CNEWA visited was the **Food Boxes logistics centre in Lviv**. Also, since the [Kakhovka Dam explosion](#) disaster that happened during our trip, the Food Boxes project have been providing aid to people in the affected regions. More insights are provided in CNEWA's September edition of [Connections](#) with Mons. Peter livestreamed via YouTube.

May God bless you and your family for your generosity.

We pray for peace in Ukraine.

New! The **Alberta/NWT Catholic Bishops** shared a Pastoral Message to mark **Catholic Education Sunday**, celebrated on Sunday, **November 5**. The theme for this year's message is *Courage to Lead* – “*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go*” (Joshua 1:9).

Pope Francis blessed the decision of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in **appointing Very Rev. Michael Kwiatkowski as Bishop of the Eparchy of New Westminster.** Bishop-Elect currently serves as the Chancellor of the Archeparchy of Winnipeg and Pastor of Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God Parish, Winnipeg.

Bishop-Elect Michael will be **ordained to the episcopacy on November 8** at Saints Volodymyr and Olga Cathedral, **Winnipeg.** He will **be enthroned (installed) on November 18** at Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God Parish, **Vancouver,** followed by his First Solemn Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Holy Eucharist Cathedral, New Westminster, on November 19.

New! The **14th Annual Bishop's Gala** will take place on **Thursday, December 7,** supporting the new ***“Image to Likeness: Our Life in Christ” Ukrainian Catholic Religious Education Curriculum/Program*** for use in Ukrainian Bilingual Schools, parishes, the home and beyond! Chateau Louis Hotel and Conference Centre, cocktail reception and silent auction at 6:00 pm, dinner at 7:00 pm, followed by an exciting live auction.

Tickets \$200 each (\$1600 per table of eight) with tax receipt for \$100 per ticket. Contact the Pastoral Centre for tickets or to make a monetary or auction donation: 780 424 5496 or chancery@edmontoneparchy.com.

Go to www.eeparchy.com/gala for more information and to view on-line auction.

All proceeds of the Gala will support the development of *Image to Likeness: Our Life in Christ, Ukrainian Catholic Religious Education Program.*

Annual Clergy Retreat: May 6-10, 2024, Sanctum Retreat Centre, Caroline. Please note that the retreat will take place during Bright Week on the Julian Calendar. The dates were chosen based on availability at the Retreat Centre.

New! **Annual Clergy Study Days: September 9-12, 2024,** Providence Renewal Centre.

New! **Pope Francis declared 2025 as a Jubilee Year** designating its theme as **“Pilgrims of Hope.”**

In the words of the Holy Father, “Pilgrims of Hope” evokes “the movement of a Church that walks in pilgrimage to the light of hope that makes the future possible.... The Jubilee, with its focus on conversion, forgiveness, abundance, walk, and mercy, becomes a possibility for the future itself.

“Hope is the light that brightens the future, but not in a naively optimistic sense. We know it: hope is Jesus Christ dead and risen.... ‘The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on the inhabitants of a country in shadow dark as death light has blazed forth.’ (Isaiah 9:1). The light is that of the Son made Man, Jesus, who with the very Word, gathers every people and every nation.

“We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope.”

Follow the Vatican’s official Jubilee 2025 website (jubilaum2025.va) for the latest details on plans, news, initiatives and resources related to the Jubilee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New! At the conclusion of the **First Session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Papal Synod of Bishops** in Rome, the Apostolic See of Rome issued a **Pastoral Letter** to the faithful. The Pastoral letter begins,

“Dear sisters, dear brothers,

“As the proceedings of the first session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops draw to a close, we want to thank God with all of you for the beautiful and enriching experience we have lived. We lived this blessed time in profound communion with all of you. We were supported by your prayers, bearing with you your expectations, your questions, as well as your fears. As Pope Francis requested two years ago, a long process of listening and discernment was initiated, open to all the People of God, no one being excluded, to “journey together” under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, missionary disciples engaged in the following of Jesus Christ...” [[read more](#)].

New! The **2023 Synod of Bishops** of the Ukrainian Catholic Church issued a **Post-Synodal Pastoral Letter** entitled “I will never leave you or forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5) ([Ukrainian](#); English at [eeparchy.com](#)).

New! The **Office for Family and Life** – Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has released its **latest issue of [All Things News](#)** (Quarterly Publication • Fifth Edition • Fall 2023). This issue includes a welcome message, reflection, tools for parishes and families, and other helpful resources.

Several important upcoming dates celebrating Family and Life include:

December 3, 2023: International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 31, 2023: Feast of the Holy Family

February 4-10, 2024: National Catholic Health Care Week

February 11, 2024: World Day of the Sick

May 13-19, 2024: National Family & Life Week 2024

July 18, 2024: World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

New! **Bishop David** made the **following appointments** to the College of Consultors and Presbyteral Council, for a period of five years:

College of Consultors:

1. Rt Rev Stephen Wojcichowsky, Protosyncellus
2. Rev. Roman Planchak, Protopresbyter – Calgary
3. Rev. Slavko Dumec, Protopresbyter – Edmonton
4. Rev. Don Bodnar, Protopresbyter – Mundare
5. Rev. Janko Herbut, Pastor, Saint Josaphat Cathedral
6. Rev. Serafym Grygoruk, osbm, Superior, Saint Basil Parish, Edmonton

Presbyteral Council:

1. Rt. Rev Stephen Wojcichowsky, Protosyncellus
2. Rev. Roman Planchak, Protopresbyter – Calgary
3. Rev. Slavko Dumec, Protopresbyter – Edmonton
4. Rev. Don Bodnar, Protopresbyter – Mundare
5. Rev. Janko Herbut, Pastor, Saint Josaphat Cathedral, Edmonton Protopresbyterate

6. Rev. Serafym Grygoruk, osbm, Superior, Saint Basil Parish, Edmonton
7. Rev. Julian Bilyj, Rector, Holy Spirit Seminary
8. Rev. Michael Bombak – Calgary Protopresbyterate
9. Rev. Thomas Kobak, osbm, Pastor, Saint Basil Parish, Edmonton
10. Rev. Danylo Kuc, Pastor, St Geroge Parish, Edmonton
11. Rev. Andrij Nykyforuk, Mundare Protopresbyterate
12. Rev. Rendy Yackimec, Pastor, Saint Sophia Parish, Sherwood Park

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.”** After a summer recess, the **9th Reflection** in the series focuses on [The Eucharist and Baptism – From Rags to Riches](#). A new video reflection will be posted each month in the hopes that it may inspire us in our faith journey.

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Interested in learning more about God, your faith, and the Church? The Eparchy of Edmonton is pleased to announce Year I (of a two-year program) of our **Lay Leadership and Diaconate Formation Program** in collaboration with Newman Theological College starting in September 2023.

Each course consists of 10 online sessions, spanning 5 weeks, requiring some 4 hours of work per week (2 hours per lesson). No exams. Cost of registration per course \$90.00 plus the cost of books.

Sign up for an online course (or two or three) or even work towards a Certificate in Eastern Christian Traditions at Newman Theological College (Edmonton).

To register and for more information, visit Newman.edu/CCS, or contact Andrea Leader andrea.leader@eeparchy.com or Bernie Mandrusiak bernadette.mandrusiak@eeparchy.com or call the Pastoral Centre (780) 424-5496.

Certificate in Eastern Christian Traditions I

The Certificate in Eastern Christian Traditions I provides an introduction to the rich tradition of the Eastern Christian faith. Participants will explore their faith through the study of the Theology of Eastern Christianity, Worship and Spirituality of the Eastern Catholic Churches, and the Holy Mysteries, the terminology for what the West calls the Sacraments.

Courses

- **CCS-046 The Theology of Eastern Christianity Part I (Cycle 2 (Oct. 30 – Dec. 3, 2023) - CCS-046)**
- CCS-047 The Theology of Eastern Christianity Part II(Cycle 3 (Jan. 8 – Feb. 11, 2024) - CCS-047)
- CCS-048 Worship and Spirituality of Eastern Catholic Churches Part I(Cycle 4 (Feb. 19 – Mar. 24, 2024) - CCS-048)
- CCS-090 Worship and Spirituality of Eastern Catholic Churches Part II(Cycle 5 (Apr. 1 – May 5, 2024) - CCS-090)
- CCS-050 The Holy Mysteries: An Introduction (Cycle 6 (May 13 – June 16, 2024) - CCS-050)

Additional courses of interest:

- CCS-049 Praying with Icons - Cycle 6 (May 13 – June 16, 2024)