

EPARCHIAL NEWSLETTER



Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton
Українська Католицька Едмонтонська Єпархія

December 2023



UPCOMING EVENTS

The people of Ukraine need your help. As the war continues in Ukraine, millions of the country's inhabitants are in dire straits often lacking the basic necessities of life. As part of your 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 just \$25, an emergency food package can provide much needed relief. With a donation of \$100, you can help purchase four food packages. Each package will feed two people for a 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).

May God bless you and your family for your generosity.

We pray for peace in Ukraine.

New! **John Lukey** will be **ordained** to the **Subdiaconate** by Bishop David on **December 6** (9:00 am Divine Liturgy, Feast of Saint Nicholas) and to the **Diaconate** on **January 27, 2024** (10:00 am Divine Liturgy), both at Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Edmonton.

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*.

New! The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) each year marks the **National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples** on **December 12**, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas (Roman Catholic liturgical calendar).

This year's Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples is taken from the Holy Father's Penitential Pilgrimage to Canada in July 2022, in particular, his words of prayer offered at Lac Ste. Anne:

“Lord, as the people on the shores of the Sea of Galilee were not afraid to cry out to you with their needs, so we come to you, Lord ... with whatever pain we bear within us. We bring to you our weariness and our struggles, the wounds of the violence suffered by Indigenous brothers and sisters. In this blessed place, where harmony and peace reign, we present to you the disharmony of our experiences, the terrible effects of colonization, the indelible pain of so many families, grandparents and children. Lord, help us to be healed of our wounds. We know, Lord, that this requires effort, care and concrete actions on our part; but we also know that we cannot do this alone. We rely on you and on the intercession of your mother and your grandmother. Yes, Lord, we entrust ourselves to the intercession of your mother and your grandmother, because mothers and grandmothers help to heal the wounds of our hearts.”

The text of Pope Francis' prayer is also available on the CCCB's website:

[National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples 12 December 2023 - Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops \(ccb.ca\)](http://www.cccb.ca)

New! **Eparchial Clergy, Clergy Families, Seminarians, and Women and Men Religious – Saint Nicholas Gathering**, Wednesday, **December 27**, 10:30 am Divine Liturgy at **Saint Josaphat Cathedral** (all clergy invited to concelebrate), followed by a Christmas dinner and visit by Saint Nicholas for the children.

Join Bishop David in a relaxing and casual day as the eparchial clergy, their families, seminarians, and women and men religious come together in fellowship to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and exchange best wishes of peace, hope and joy for the New Year.

New! **Annual Clergy Retreat: May 6-9, 2024**, Sanctum Retreat Centre, Caroline (**ending at noon on Thursday, May 9, to accommodate evening Divine Liturgies on the Feast of the Ascension**). 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.

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

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 (jubilaecum2025.va) for the latest details on plans, news, initiatives and resources related to the Jubilee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



New! **Pope Francis** blessed the decision of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in **appointing Rev. Michael Smolinski, CSsR, as Bishop of the Eparchy of Saskatoon.**

Bishop-Elect currently serves as the Provincial Superior of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, Province of Canada.

Born and raised in Saskatoon, Bishop-Elect Michael served in pastoral ministry in Saskatchewan, as well as in Manitoba. For many years he directed *The Welcome Home* project for inner city residents in Winnipeg. Since January 2023, he was Provincial Superior for the combined English-Speaking, French-Speaking and Ukrainian Catholic Province for the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer – the Redemptorists.

Following the transfer of Bishop Bryan Bayda from Saskatoon to the Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada in 2022, the Eparchy of Saskatoon was administered by Metropolitan Archbishop Lawrence Huculak of Winnipeg.

New! The **Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops** issued a [Statement on the Non-Permissibility of Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide within Catholic Health Organizations with a Catholic Identity](#).

The Statement reads in part: “[We], the members of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, unanimously and unequivocally oppose the performance of either euthanasia or assisted suicide (MAiD) within health organizations with a Catholic identity. We oppose any efforts by governments or others to compel such facilities to perform MAiD in violation of Catholic teachings. Anything to the contrary would deeply betray the identity of these institutions as Catholic and would not be in keeping with the Church’s moral teachings on the sanctity of life and the dignity of the human person.”

New! The **Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops** released a new document, entitled [Template for Pastors on the Evangelization of Young People in Canada Today](#).

This document was developed by the Episcopal Commission for Doctrine and is intended as a resource for pastors and others in the Church who work in the evangelization of young people in the light of the Canadian context today.

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! 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 **10th and final reflection** in the series focuses on [The Eucharist and the Family](#).

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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@ceparchy.com or Bernie Mandrusiak bernadette.mandrusiak@ceparchy.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-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)