

PASTORAL CENTRE - COMMUNICATOR



Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton
Українська Католицька Едмонтонська Єпархія

January 10, 2024



Христос Раждається! Славимо Його! Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Bishop David and our whole Pastoral Centre Staff send warmest greetings and happy new year wishes to our pastors, clergy, religious and parishioners. This is our first *Communicator* of 2024 that includes important information for you and your pastoral councils to review and consider in your parish ministry.

1) Clergy payroll and mileage rates

The updated payroll invoices for 2024 were mailed on Wednesday, January 10. An increase of 3.5% was recommended by the Eparchial Finance Council and approved by Bishop David.

Mileage rates have increased by 2 cents per kilometre, which follows the increase posted by Canada Revenue Agency. As is our practice, a travel advance is included on the payroll invoices which is used to pay the mileage submitted by your pastors. If the mileage is less than the advance, a refund is issued to the parish/district on a quarterly basis (if the pastor submits mileage at this interval). If the mileage is more, then a subsequent invoice is sent to the parish/district. Allowable mileage relates to travel on behalf of the parish and parishioners, or as requested by Bishop David (i.e. to attend Study Days or the Clergy Retreat). Your pastor may request additional mileage for his outreach ministry. Please support him where possible.

2) Cathedraic and other eparchial collections

We ask all parishes/districts to kindly submit their 2023 cathedraic and any 2023 donations received for eparchial collections as well as any humanitarian aid donations to the Pastoral Centre by Monday January 29, 2024. As a reminder these include:

- **Cathedraticum** – supports the needs/pastoral care of our parishes, clergy and parishioners within the Eparchy. As per Canon Law, cathedraticum is calculated at 10% of collections received at the weekly Divine Liturgy.
- **Eparchial collection: Church in Canada (collected during Great Lent)** – supports the needs of our Ukrainian Catholic Church in Alberta, Catholic Missions in Canada and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and is a freewill donation by parishioners.
- **Eparchial collection: Church in the World (collected on Pentecost Sunday)** – supports our Church in Ukraine, Christian communities in the Holy Land and Peter's Pence, and is a freewill donation by parishioners.
- **Vocations (collected in September)** – Each September, parishes receive an assessment, based on the number of parishioners, in support of our seminary operations. The Eparchy of Edmonton is blessed to have six seminarians (two of which are now on their pastoral internships).
- **Bishop's Appeal (coincides with the Feast of St. Nicholas)** – supports Bishop David and our eparchial ministries/offices (Family & life ministries, Liturgy, Ecumenism, Vocations, Social Outreach and Marriage Tribunal) in spreading the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- **Humanitarian aid for Ukraine** – As the war in Ukraine persists into its second year, our parishioners and friends continue to support the needs of our sisters and brothers in Ukraine. Currently, are collecting funds to provide food packages to families in Ukraine. These are being coordinated through our partnership with CNEWA. Please send in any donations collected so that we can ensure they reach families in need during the winter.

Please remember, when sending in monies from donations and collections, ensure that you identify your parish and the collection(s) which you are forwarding. If you need envelopes for the specific collections, we have them at the Pastoral Centre. Your generosity is a blessing.

3) Parish loans and outstanding amounts

For parishes with loans that are held with the Eparchy, year end loan statements will be send by January 15. Sheila has also contacted parishes who are in arrears with certain payments. We do understand the financial challenges some of our parishes are experiencing, and we will help to make arrangements for repayment that will be manageable and reasonable.

4) Planning for the new year ... yes, budgets

The new year always brings new opportunities and new ideas. This is a good time for councils to prepare for their annual general meetings and of course a budget for 2024. Budgets are an important tool that provides not only financial guidelines for the year but for parish planning as well. Budgets reveal any financial challenges that the parish may have and will allow for good stewardship and decision-making in order to maintain the financial health of the parish.

Attached is a sample of a simple budget spreadsheet. The spreadsheet has three tabs:

- Sample budget (simple account structure)
- Sample variance analysis (comparing your budget to your actual revenue and expenditures six months into the year)

- Cash flow worksheet – good tool to build your budget based on the monthly cash and expenditure cycle for the parish.

If you have any questions, feel free to call our Pastoral Centre and speak with Iryna.

5) Humanitarian Aid Settlement Grants - Alberta

Thank you to all our parishes who have applied, received, and most importantly helped families that have been forced to flee from Ukraine due to the ongoing war. Bishop David allocated \$200,000 to help support Ukrainian nationals fleeing the war and settling in Alberta. Also, several generous families and organizations have donated another \$26,550 for this cause. To date our Eparchy has distributed over \$215,447.47 in grants/aid. Our parishes support newcomers by helping with basic needs (food, clothing, medical care), accommodation, registrations, education, childcare, children's camps, fellowship and in many other ways. We ask parishes who have not yet submitted their final reports and accounting of the grant expenditures to do so by the end of January if the project(s) are complete. Shortly, we will publish a list of the many initiatives undertaken to help newcomers.

As always, our pastoral staff are here to help parishes with questions and support in their important pastoral ministry. Please do not hesitate to call on us when needed. May God grant you good health, rewarding ministry and a joyous 2024!

Please keep the people of Ukraine in your prayers and pray for peace throughout the world.

З БОГОМ! Yours in Christ,

Iryna Laschuk

Chancellor and Director of Finance

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