

EPARCHIAL NEWSLETTER



Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton
Українська Католицька Едмонтонська Єпархія

February 2024



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.eeparthy.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.

Pastors are kindly requested to forward to the Pastoral Centre **by January 31** (or shortly after their annual general parish meeting) the following documents for each parish or mission in their pastoral care:

- A current list of the **Parish Council Members**, including position, name, address, telephone and e-mail.
- **2023 Financial Statements**, as well as a copy of the **annual T3010A Registered Charity Information Return** (for parishes who issue income tax receipts).
- A photocopy of the **Baptismal, Marriage and Death Registers** entries for the year 2023.

The **28th World Day for Consecrated Life** will be celebrated on **February 2**, the Feast of the Encounter (Presentation) of Our Lord in the Temple.

The World Day for Consecrated Life was instituted by Pope John Paul II in 1997, a day of prayer for those women and men who have devoted their lives to God in consecrated life.

This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Encounter (Presentation) of the Lord. On this Feast, candles are traditionally blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

On this day, we honour and celebrate those in consecrated life, in particular, the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, the Order of Saint Basil the Great, and the Skete of the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-creating Cross.

Please pray for all those who have made commitments in consecrated life and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

New! The **32nd World Day of the Sick** will be celebrated on **February 11**, the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes (according to the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar). The annual World Day of the Sick is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in healthcare institutions and within families and communities.

In his annual World Day of the Sick Message, **Pope Francis** chose the theme: ["It is not good that man should be alone—Healing the Sick by Healing Relationships."](#) The Holy Father invites us to reflect on the fundamental importance of human relationships in the process of healing and comforting the sick.

The Office for Family and Life (Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops) has compiled and developed a [Pastoral Toolkit - World Day of the Sick](#) to help promote World Day of the Sick 2024. The folder includes the CCCB press release, the Pope's message, a video, social media assets, a prayer card and pastoral suggestions for families and parishes.

New! **Presbyteral Council Meeting – April 8** (2:00 – 4:00 pm, Pastoral Centre).

New! **Clergy Conference – April 9** (10:00 am – 3:00 pm, location to be determined).

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**). **Retreat Master: Bishop Michael Kwiatkowski**, Eparchy of New Westminster. 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 (starting 2:00 pm Tuesday; ending 3:00 pm Thursday)**, Providence Renewal Centre. Deacon Daniel Galadza, Special Topics in Liturgy and the Ukrainian Catholic Church – Part II).

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! In January 2022, the Canadian Catholic Bishops of Canada announced the creation of an **Indigenous Reconciliation Fund** to support Indigenous-led projects in the areas of: Healing and Reconciliation for Communities and Families; Culture and Language Revitalization; Education and Community Building; and Dialogues for Promoting Indigenous Spirituality and Culture.

The Fund represents a Catholic Commitment to Healing and Reconciliation.

The **Eparchy of Edmonton** was pleased to provide a **\$10,000 grant** towards an [Indigenous Beadwork Project at Catholic Parish of Sacred Heart, Edmonton – Indigenous Reconciliation Fund \(irfund.ca\)](http://irfund.ca). “The Indigenous Beadwork project is a transformative initiative that celebrates the art form of beading, holding deep cultural significance for Indigenous, Inuit, and Métis peoples. Guided by a resilient Dene woman who survived residential schools, these workshops focus on healing, using traditional materials, fostering connection and reviving cultural practices.”

Click here to read the [2023 Annual Indigenous Reconciliation Fund](#), which showcases some 57 projects funded to date.

New! The **Canadian Catholic Bishops of Canada**, through its Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace, issued a **Pastoral Letter** on the use of social media titled: [Let Your Speech Always Be Gracious](#).

The Pastoral Letter reflects upon the benefits and dangers of social media from the perspective of Catholic Social Teaching. It provides tools for moral reflection and self-examination, and suggests seven commitments by which to be guided for a more ethical use of social media:

- check for accuracy,
- seek greater perspective,
- value human dignity,
- bring curiosity into the conversation,
- distinguish between intention and impact, and
- privilege “in real life” encounters.

New! The **Eparchy of Edmonton** launched a **new liturgical app** called [iPraises](#), available in Android and Apple platforms. The app is free and hosts the liturgical propers in English for the Divine Liturgy each day during the year, including the troparion, kondak, Epistle, Gospel, and everything else you need to follow along during the Divine Liturgy. The app can also be used at home, school, or work to take a few moments in prayer with the Lord each day.

Bishop David introduces the app in an [iPraises short video](#).

The [iPraises Website](#) version of the app is now available, making it easy to cut and paste the propers into parish bulletins and the like.

New! Bishop David renewed the membership of the Eparchial Sacred Orders and Ministries Commission as follows. The Commission advises the Bishop on suitability of candidates studying for the diaconate and priesthood.

Rev. Julian Bilyj, Rector, Holy Spirit Seminary (Ex-officio)

Dr. Linda Dudar, Retired Dean of Education, St. Mary's University College, Calgary (1 year, 2024)

Rev. Janko Herbut, Pastor, Saint Josaphat Cathedral (2 years, 2024-2026)

Rev. Bo Nahachewsky, Eparchial Vocation Director (Ex-officio)

Barb Shipman, Architect (3 years, 2024-2027)

Rt. Rev. Stephen Wojcichowsky, Protosyncellus (Vicar General) (2 years, 2024-2026)

Dr. Theresa Zolner, R. Psych, Psychologist, Edmonton (3 years, 2024-2027)

New! Last year, in a series of monthly reflections on the Eucharist, Bishop David invited us to rediscover and renew our love for Holy Communion, Jesus's body and blood. This year, Bishop David invites you to join him in another series of monthly reflections on the theme of Praying with Icons, Windows into Heaven, as we strive to grow in our friendship with Christ.

The 1st and 2nd reflections in the series focus on [Our Lord's Baptism and Life in the Trinity](#) (January) and [Playing Hide and Seek with God](#) (February).

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-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)