

EPARCHIAL NEWSLETTER



Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton
Українська Католицька Едмонтонська Єпархія

January 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.

New! 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.

New! Pope Francis issued a message to mark the 56th World Day of Peace, which will take place on January 1, 2023. The theme of the said message is [“No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace”](#).

New! The annual **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** will take place from **January 18-25, 2024**. The theme for this year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is based on a text from the Gospel of Saint Luke, **“You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself”** (Luke 10:27).

This year’s prayer resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were prepared by an ecumenical team in Burkina Faso, where the political and social situation is unstable with threats to peace and social cohesion. The ecumenical team was motivated by the love that unites all Christians and is stronger than their divisions.

The resources – available at the Canadian Council of Churches’ website [weekofprayer.ca](#) – include an introduction to the theme, an ecumenical worship service, a selection of readings and reflections for the eight days of the Week of Prayer octave.

Subdeacon John Lukey will be **ordained** to the **Diaconate** by Bishop David on **January 27** (10:00 am Divine Liturgy) at Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Edmonton.

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.

Bishop-Elect Michael Smolinski will be ordained on Saturday, January 20, at Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Saskatoon, and enthroned on Sunday, January 21, at Saint George Cathedral, Saskatoon. The Rite of Nomination will take place on Friday, January 19, at Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God Parish, Saskatoon. The Principal Celebrant will be His Beatitude, Patriarch Sviatoslav.

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:

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

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)

Bishop David, the entire Pastoral Centre staff and volunteers extend to the clergy, religious, monastic, and faithful of the Eparchy of Edmonton a joyous celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and prayerful best wishes for the New Year