



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE DORMITION

OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

ΠΑΡΑΦΙΛΑ ΥΣΠΙΝΝΙΑ ΠΡΕΣΒ. ΒΟΓΟΡΟΔΗΝΤΙ

A PARISH OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF EDMONTON

Address:

15608 -104 Avenue, Edmonton, AB
T5P 4G5

Services:

**ALL SERVICES TEMPORARILY
CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19**

Normally Though:

Sunday Divine Liturgy
(Ukr & Eng) at 10 am
& Melkite (Arabic) D.L. at 2 pm

Parish Website:

<http://dormition.eeparchy.com>

Twitter:

@dormitionparish

<https://twitter.com/dormitionparish>

Eparchial Website:

www.eeparchy.com

Pastor:

Fr. Bo Nahachewsky

Fr. Bo's cell phone:

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Easter & Bright Week

Special COVID Bulletin #2. April 12, 2020

Christ is Risen! Χρυστος Βοσκησ!



It is with great joy that I proclaim to you all, that our God loves us so much that he chose to empty Himself, not only to be with us, but to enter the depths of our brokenness to heal us and bring us fullness of life. He calls us to retake our Divine Nature by following Him in His humility and selflessness. He calls us into the glorious life of love and joy. Let us transform ourselves and each other with His energy. Let us bind ourselves completely with our God who has concurred evil and death by his love for us all. Christ is Risen!

I must admit that I miss seeing you all, and I will miss hearing everyone sing "Χρυστος Βοσκησ!" (Christ is Risen!) together. But the good news is: He still is Risen! And we still can all celebrate together because we are still connected. Perhaps instead of hugging each other we will have to use our computers and phones to "poke" each other. But we can still sing, and our bells can still ring. And we will love each other by keeping ourselves and each other healthy by staying physically distant.

This pandemic is only temporary. Our love is forever in Christ!

Rejoice, for our God is Risen from the dead!

In glory Christ has conquered death by His own death!

He does this to give us life with Him forever!

Let's all bow down with joy and reverence to His glorious Resurrection!

Paschal Pastoral Letter of the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of Canada 2020

ON THE OCCASION

OF THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

To the Very Reverend Clergy, Monastics and Religious Sisters and Brothers, Seminarians and Laity of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord – **Christ is Risen! Христос Воскрес!**

How difficult it is during the darkness of the COVID 19 pandemic, with closed churches and empty streets, to respond with enthusiasm to this greeting of joy – **Indeed, He is Risen! Воістину Воскрес!** Rather, we might feel urged to chant the words from the psalm the Church sings on the Sundays preceding Great Lent: **“By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion. ... How could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil?” [Ps. 136:1]**

This period of turmoil, however, is not new to the followers of Jesus Christ. Throughout its history the Church has known times of natural disasters, severe restrictions and persecutions. Many members of our Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church today still recall the years of underground existence during the Soviet period in Ukraine. Especially during the years from 1945 through to 1989 churches were locked and the faithful were forbidden to practice their faith and sing: **Christ is Risen!**

For many in Ukraine during those years the main source of spiritual life came from the Vatican Radio broadcasts where the Divine Liturgy was celebrated every Sunday and religious programs were transmitted daily from Rome. In homes throughout Ukraine a radio was placed on the kitchen table and the family gathered around to pray and sing quietly, united with those in the free world. Many of the clergy, religious sisters and seminarians living in Rome during those years took part in these broadcasts, doing what they could to uphold the faith of the people throughout Ukraine, including as well those in far off Siberia.

One of the central prayers of the Resurrection Matins celebrated on Easter Sunday is entitled: **Plottiu** – literally, “In the flesh”. The solemn melody begins low and slowly rises. It accompanies the following words: **“You have fallen asleep in the flesh as a mortal man, O King and Lord, but on the third day You arose again.”** The melody continues to rise with the words: **“You have raised Adam from his corruption and made Death powerless.”** Then the melody reaches its culmination with high notes proclaiming: **“You are the Pasch of incorruption. You are the salvation of the world.”**

This troparion has been sung for centuries every year at Easter: during times of persecution, during times of natural disasters, and during times of peace and harmony. Our brothers and

sisters in Ukraine sang it over and over again during the years of underground church life.

And we too can sing this hymn during this time of pandemic, even when our spirits may be weak and fragile.

The hymn **Plottiu** speaks to us of the human nature of Jesus Christ, by which he was subject to death – his tragic death on the cross. He was buried and some mourned his passing. In solidarity with humanity Jesus took upon himself the human body to share the hardships and trials that we must endure, even to the point of death.

The narrative of Jesus would be a sad story indeed, if it were not for the power of the Father’s love for him, raising Jesus from the depths of the kingdom of Death. This is the truth of the Resurrection. This is the true joy of Easter. This is what we are called upon to celebrate in whatever way we can during this time of darkness and gloom. COVID-19 is a material evil of this finite world. Its time will pass. It is no match to the power of the love of our eternal God, revealed in the Resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ!

Dear Beloved!

Whether we pray in glorious churches or in our humble homes – **Christ is Risen!** Whether we hear beautiful choirs or a voice crying in the wilderness – **Christ is Risen!** Whether we partake of a sumptuous Easter basket overflowing with food, or a simple sandwich and a glass of water – **Christ is Risen!**

We share the Good News of spiritual hope and joy that the Resurrection of the Lord offers to all humanity: with the lonely and the shut-ins, with the discouraged and depressed, with those without employment and with those having inadequate housing. We share the Good News of spiritual hope and joy in the Resurrection especially with all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic: with those afflicted by the virus, with the health care workers who endanger their lives helping others, with those providing essential community services, with those who have passed on to eternal life and with all those who mourn their passing.

May you find hope and support in the Resurrection of the Lord, and the spiritual strength to proclaim: **Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen! Христос Воскрес! Воістину Воскрес!**

Sincerely Yours in the Risen Lord!

+ Lawrence Huculak, OSBM, Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg

+ David Motiuk, Eparchial Bishop of Edmonton, Administrator of New Westminster

+ Bryan Bayda, CSsR, Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon, Administrator of Toronto

+ Michael Wiwchar, CSsR, Bishop Emeritus of Saskatoon

+ Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, Bishop Emeritus of New Westminster

+ Stephen Chmilar, Bishop Emeritus of Toronto

His Beatitude Patriarch Sviatoslav' Paschal Message 2020

**Most Reverend Archbishops and Bishops,
Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers,
Venerable Brothers and Sisters in Monastic and Religious Life,
Dearly Beloved Laity in Christ of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic
Church**

Christ is Risen!

*When those bound by chains in the realm of Hades
Saw Your boundless mercy,
They hastened to the light with joy, O Christ,
Praising the eternal Pascha.
(Ode 5, Paschal Canon)*

Beloved in Christ!

This year we are celebrating Christ's Pascha in particular circumstances. Many of us spent the season of Great Lent at home, isolated from others, physically distant from our churches and parish communities. Yet even in such challenging conditions, no one has the power to prevent the joyful movement of people everywhere towards the Light, in order that, with faith in Christ's resurrection, with hope in God's victory and with the love of the community of God's children, we might greet one another with a jubilant and resounding "Christ is risen!"

Over three thousand years ago the Lord heard and received the cry and lament of the sons and daughters of Israel, languishing in captivity in Egypt. On the night of Passover, by the blood of the Paschal lamb, the Lord protected his people from the angel of death and led them from the house of slavery. Subsequently, the escape from Egypt under the leadership of Moses brought another danger at the shore of the sea—deep waters ahead, the pharaoh with horses and chariots behind. And the sea parted before them! Thus, for the people of God, the Passover came to be associated with salvation from death. Every Israelite, having lived through the liberation from Egypt, experienced his God as a Deliverer: I escaped death! All those who were saved came to see themselves as one people: we were together in slavery, together we survived death, we share one and the same God—a Saviour and Liberator. We are the People of God!

In the risen Christ the passage from death to life transcends all boundaries of human history. The Pascha-Passover of the Old Testament was limited to the salvation of a limited circle of people from a danger that was limited in time. Our Pascha, the Pascha of our Lord, the Eternal Pascha, as we sing in our Paschal Matins, is not only salvation from the temporary danger of a physical illness and mere bodily death. Today Christ grants salvation from the very cause of death—to all people, of all times and nations. We aren't speaking here merely of salvation from an emerging sickness or protection from the sword, even an angelic one, as it was in the case of the Israelites in Egypt. Having gone from suffering and death to the resurrection, Christ, in the words



of the Apostle Paul, destroyed deadly sin and crucified it on the cross along with its hellish power to enslave.

The Eternal Pascha is a victory and a mockery over the very sting of death, as the Apostle proclaims today: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 15:54-57). In his resurrection, Christ removed our enslaving chains of fear before death, and transformed that fear, by granting us paschal entrance into a new life. With the resurrection, we have opened before us a door that leads us from that which passes away to that which lasts forever. The Pascha of our Lord opens for us the door to joyful eternity. We were together in the chains of death—today, as the united People of God of the New Testament, we share in the common experience of joy in the resurrection.

When those bound by chains in the realm of Hades saw Your boundless mercy...

In the face of the global pandemic, we suddenly recognized that as humans we are weak and mortal. The coronavirus brought a deadly danger to the rich and poor, to all people, with no regard for place of residence around the globe, for race or religious persuasion. Possibly, for the first time, we came to understand that we are all equally vulnerable and in need, but we have also come to see ourselves as one human family: that, which affected people in one corner of the planet—carried over to and impacted people on the other side of the world—it personally affected each one of us.

The entire world has found itself as if bound together by the chains of Hades. The fear of becoming ill and dying, the pain of losing family members, friends and acquaintances, the darkness of loneliness and despair in circumstances of enforced isolation, the ruin of new methods of communication and the collapse of world economic systems have become our common universal chains. As shackles restrict a slave, so have the strict rules of quarantine—the only possible way to fight this deadly disease—suddenly restricted all humanity: airports have ceased to

His Beatitude Patriarch Sviatoslav' Paschal Message 2020 Continued

operate, trains have stopped running, borders between nations, having almost receded from our consciousness, once again have been reasserted as impenetrable iron gates.

In the midst of this darkness of fear and captivity for contemporary humankind, we have a unique opportunity to grasp anew what it means to be a Christian. As Christians, we are those, who in the Mystery of Baptism, have already died to this world and have risen together with our Saviour! We are the heirs of the apostles, who saw the Risen One with their own eyes and with their own hands touched his glorified Body, the Body that went from death on the cross to eternal life. In these circumstances, which temporarily deprived us of the possibility of fully participating in the liturgical life of our churches and communities, we rediscovered the importance of spiritual life in our Christian families, traditionally called domestic churches. Unintentionally, many of us have found ourselves thinking of the time when we celebrated Easter in the underground, how we, not having the possibility of coming together in church, were joined with the Eucharistic Christ at Divine Liturgy being broadcasted on the Vatican, and we held our Easter baskets before our radio receivers to be blessed. No one and nothing can deprive Christians of the joy of Christ's Resurrection! Families, in which Christians consciously and maturely confront today's challenges, in a special way, demonstrate their character as domestic churches, becoming for its members homes of profoundly intense prayer, blessing, sacrifice and spiritual growth, places of encounter with the living Christ. At the same time, we are discovering new methods of spiritual unity, over which no restrictive measures have any power, for that which unites us is the one spiritual body of the Church, that is, one hope that belongs to our call—"one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (see [Eph. 4:4-5](#)). It is, indeed, in this spirit of hope that today we celebrate Pascha and pray for its fulfilment in the restoration and renewal of ecclesial and spiritual life.

In response to the darkness of separation and the fear one has of the other, as a possible carrier of the virus of death, on this night we encounter the living risen Christ, who passes through all closed quarantine doors, in order to encounter us, his disciples: "On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!'" ([John 20:19](#)). Fear before all that might be touched by a person's hand in a time of epidemic, gives way to the hand of the living God—the risen Christ, which carrying the wounds of the nails reaches out to us and reveals to us God's limitless mercy! All of our sins and illnesses, pandemics and fears are conquered by God's love. The physical chains of the present time have no power before the spiritual freedom of faith and spirit, before eternal life, given to us in Christ Jesus. In good time He will break down the doors of quarantine, take away the fear that lies ready to pounce on us behind these doors, and He will call on us to

proclaim to the world, as once did the apostles, "Christ is risen!"

They hastened to the light with joy, O Christ, praising the eternal Pascha.

In celebrating Pascha, we believe and already see that the present pandemic will surely end, and humanity will emerge the better for it, with a sense of solidarity and unity among us, with a deeper understanding of the meaning and calling of human life. On this feast, Christ gives us the Light of hope, open to all people without exception. No quarantine, no social distancing, can block our path to him. On the contrary, all of us together, those alive today, and those who have departed into eternity, as one People of God, celebrate the joy of victory over death. In our affliction and pain, we receive hope and comfort. We have been given eternal liberation from our spiritual chains. Therefore, let us praise the eternal Pascha!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ! On this bright, joyful day I hasten to each of your homes, in order to share with you the joy of deliverance given us in the Resurrection. To all of you, in Ukraine and throughout the world, I send you my sincere prayers and heartfelt greeting. I bless you all: the well and the sick, the strong and the weak, the young and the old, parents and children.

I hasten also to all hospitals and care centres, in order to share with you the joyful and life-giving news and to encourage you to carry your suffering in faith, with a spirit of self-sacrifice. I especially greet and bless our doctors and medical staff—all who heroically care for the sick and those needing assistance in these extraordinary circumstances. I unite myself spiritually to all the soldiers at the front lines and their families, to the wounded, to all refugees and to those who remain in the occupied territories, to all captives and prisoners for the sake of their conscience. All of you who are alone or far from your loved ones, I embrace you with fatherly love.

May the risen Christ transform this moment of weeping and pain, universally experienced by all humankind, into the paschal joy of victory over illness and death, just as this morning he transformed the weeping of the Myrrh-bearing women into joy! May he grant us in every moment the gift of victory over sin, and a rebirth of love and hope through an increase in our lives of the divine gift of eternal life, which we all received in Baptism! I sincerely wish each of you a blessed Easter feast, a tasty sharing of our traditional blessed egg, and a Paschal joy that is full of light.

The grace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Christ is risen! – Truly, He is risen!

+ SVIATOSLAV

Given in Kyiv

at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ,
on the day of Saint Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem,

CCCB: 2020 Easter Message

CCCB = Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops



"So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell the disciples."

(Matthew 28:8)

Dear friends,

The Gospel for this year's Easter Vigil underscores both the fear and the joy that was present among the first witnesses of the resurrection and continues to be our feelings today when we seek to witness to Christ who is among us. Jesus reassures us with the words "Do not be afraid".

At the conclusion of each Eucharistic celebration, when we are dismissed with the words *Go and proclaim the Gospel of the Lord*, we are, in a certain sense, re-enacting what happened at the empty tomb on Easter Sunday, over 2000 years ago with Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. These women encountered Christ and were sent forth, with fear and joy, to tell others. They went forth as witnesses, as disciples on mission – missionary disciples.

What is this source of fear that the women experienced? Perhaps it is the fear that their credibility will be questioned and that the message will be rejected by those who receive it? Perhaps they wonder if what they have heard and seen isn't true and was only imagined? Perhaps they fear that they will be harmed by the forces that brought about the death of Jesus? Perhaps it was simply the fear of the unknown. There were no doubt a myriad of reasons for their fears that Easter morning.

Yet, at the same time, their fear was tempered by an immense joy. Suddenly, in the midst of their profound grief, they encounter Christ who tells them, *"Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."* (Matthew 28:10). The joy that springs from this encounter compels them to go and proclaim the Good News. It is a joy that cannot possibly be contained and so they run to find the Apostles, who had taken shelter in fear for their lives, to tell them *"He is risen!"* It was a joy rooted in hope. A joy steeped in the awareness that God's love knows no bounds.

Like the women who encounter the risen Christ, we too are often filled with fear. We fear that our proclamation will be rejected and not considered credible especially in times of prosperity when people feel that they do not need God or in times of desperation and suffering as we are experiencing today with the COVID-19 crisis. With this surprising pandemic, many are fearful of the long-term job loss and are worried about how they will pay their rent, feed their children and meet their responsibilities with diminished financial resources. For some, such as those who are in hospital and long-term care facilities, their fear of isolation is particularly increased when they are told that they cannot receive visitors. Parents are struggling to find ways to explain the crisis of the Coronavirus to their children whose daily routines have been radically changed. For the Christian community, faced with the prospect of not being able to gather together in parishes to celebrate Easter, *"the heart of the entire liturgical year"*, questions arise about how to mark the Easter Triduum in our families in meaningful ways. How can we live as a truly domestic church at home during this time of crisis?

How do we address our fears? How do we console one another during these times? We, like the women who encountered Christ at the tomb, must respond by going forth in joy, confident that it is the Risen Christ who sends us, accompanies us and reassures us. As we experience physical distancing, self-isolation, quarantine and economic uncertainty, we are compelled to find new ways to proclaim the Good News that Christ is Risen. As Peter tells us *"always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you."* (1 Peter 3:15). Now more than ever, we must be Easter people who proclaim that Christ is Risen, He has saved us from our sins and He is with us always!

As people of faith, our fear gives way to joy in our daily encounter with Christ in the Eucharist, in Spiritual Communion, in the Scriptures, in our prayer, in devotions such as the Rosary, and in compassionate and loving service to one another. These encounters, even if by social media, provide us with the courage and conviction of our faith so that, even in these most challenging times, we can boldly proclaim the death and resurrection of Christ through our words and actions. He has set us free from sin and death and we share with Him the same mission prophesized by Isaiah:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to captives and of recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. (Isaiah 61: 1-2)

When we address our fears through the eyes of faith, we are freed to bring about authentic and lasting spiritual and social transformation by addressing the injustices around us, but also by discerning the signs of the times, for God's presence is active and saving at each moment of our daily lives.

As we celebrate Easter, we are reminded of the Paschal Candle from which the candle given to us at our baptism was lit, making us bearers of Christ's light sent forth as missionary disciples to bring His light to the world. As Easter people, we have encountered the risen Christ. We acknowledge Him and we proclaim Him. He has called us and we are free to follow Him. Let us do so, ever more faithfully, keeping our eyes fixed on His light which shines on our path. Let us go forth to tell the Lord's brothers and sisters that the Kingdom is near, that He himself is the Kingdom risen and alive for all eternity.

Wishing you and all your loved ones a blessed and happy Easter.

+Richard Gagnon

Archbishop of Winnipeg and
President of the Canadian
Conference of Catholic Bishops
Easter 2020



How to Donate to our Parish during the Covid crisis and beyond

With the closure of our churches, we recognize that parishioners who normally donate through Sunday collections may wonder how they can continue to support their parishes financially. The Eparchial Pastoral Centre is suggesting three options for parishioners to donate to their parishes if online options are not available to them directly:

1. Mail a donation by cheque;

Please do not send cash in the mail. Mail it to the (Ukrainian Catholic) Pastoral Centre and we will forward all donations to the parish. Our address is:

Eparchy of Edmonton Pastoral Centre

9645 108 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T5H 1A3 .

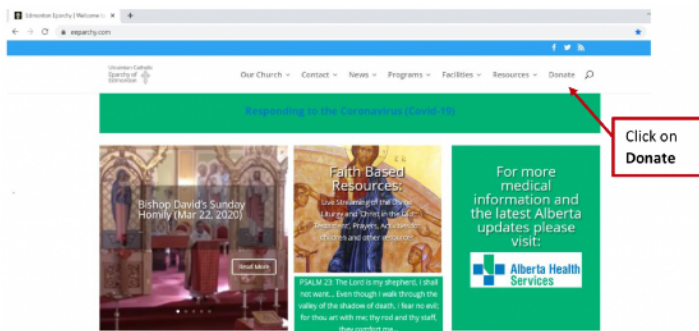
(Please do not mail things to Dormition Parish directly as our mailbox is not sufficiently secure.... It's good enough for bills, but not incoming funds.)

2. Donate using the Eparchial Website.

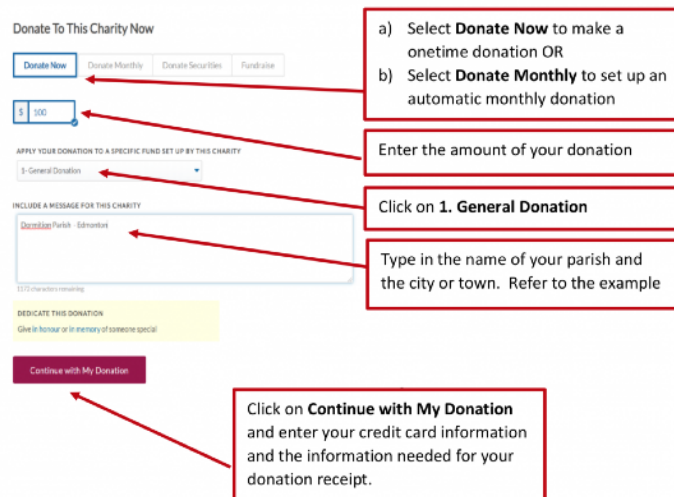
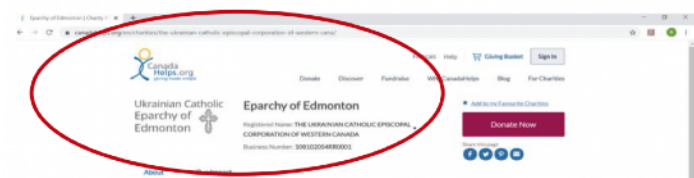
Our Eparchy accepts online donations through Canada Helps. You will receive a donation receipt directly from Canada Helps and the Eparchy will receive notification of the donation with all of the details and will allocate the funds to your parish. The following steps will help first time users with the online process:

Steps for making an online donation to your parish

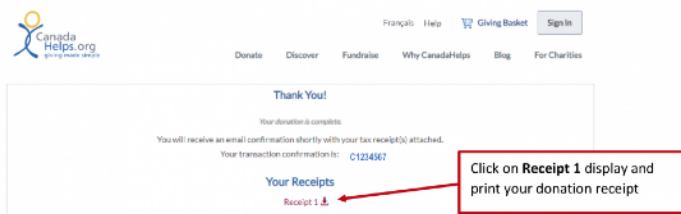
A. Access the Eparchy website at www.eeparchy.com and click on the Donate button.



B. You are automatically transferred to the Canada Helps site for the Eparchy of Edmonton. Scroll to the Donate to this Charity Now area and complete the required fields:



C. Once you have typed in the required information, click on the Complete Donation button. A message will appear thanking you for your donation and providing a confirmation number. You will also be able to directly print your charitable receipt.



D. Your donation is complete. The Eparchy will receive notification of the donation and will allocate the donation for your parish. You may close your browser.

3. Donate by credit card

Please call our Pastoral Centre at 780-424-5496 during office hours (hours may be limited but you can leave a message and we will call you back). You will be asked for your name, credit card number, name of your parish and the city/town. A donation receipt will be issued from the Eparchy of Edmonton and proceeds allocated to your parish.

Thank you for your continued support of our Church through these unprecedented times. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions please call our Pastoral Centre at 780-424-5496

Parish & Eparchial News:

- We **pray for the health and well-being** of all the servants and handmaidens of God who need our prayers: **Miranda Mayko, Jean Miskew, Sarah Komar, Marge Woitas, Katie Bunio, John Puto, Ann Horsman, Louis Pewar & Rosa Maria Santos.** (If you know any other people who should be on this list: please email me.)
- We wish God's blessings and **happy birthday** to our parishioner: **Paul Sharek, Theodore Nahachewsky & Catherine Bawol** who all celebrate their birthdays this week. May God grant you all many years!
- If we don't have **your birthday**, or if we have your birthday info wrong... please send an email or text with your corrected birthdate and name. (or call by phone)
- **Parish Pastoral Council Meeting** this Tuesday at 5pm. Fr. Bo will send all the Parish Council Members an email instructing them how to join this "Zoom" Meeting. If you have an issue you would like to put forward to the PPC for us to discuss, send Fr. Bo an email by Tuesday Morning.
- I've been working on the parish list, and learning "Mail Chimp" in order to email these bulletins to everyone. If you did not get this email... ummm... ..never mind. **Well, if you know of anyone else who wants this bulletin, pass their email to me somehow (email or text is best),** or get them to fill in the new popup on our parish's website.
- Check out CampOselia.com for information about our wonderful programs. We have not cancelled them (yet) in hopes that we will be free to hold them in July. You can reserve a spot without payment for your children on the website.
 - **Teen Camp:** July 2-4
 - **Elementary Camp:** July 12-17
 - **Mixed Camp:** July 19-24
 - **Jr. High Camp:** July 26-31
 - **Family Camp:** August 27-30
- Pretty much everything else has been either postponed or cancelled due to Covid-19.
- **Pope Francis** issued a [Message for the 35th World Youth Day \(WYD\)](#) on the theme: "Young man, I say to you, arise!". Click on this link to see it.
- *His Excellency Bishop David and the entire Chancery staff and volunteers extend to the clergy, religious, monastic, and faithful of the Eparchy of Edmonton a blessed and holy celebration of the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord.*

• **[Click here to see Bishop David's Easter Message Video in both Ukrainian and English](#)**

