



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE
DORMITION

OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

ПАРАФІЯ УСПІННІА ПРЕСВ. БОГОРОДНИЦІ

A PARISH OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF EDMONTON

Address:

15608 -104 Avenue,
Edmonton, AB
T5P 4G5

Services:

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

Akathist or Molebyn
Most Wednesdays at 6 pm
(see calendar)

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:

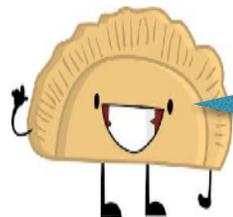
780-340-FR.BO (3726)

Fr. Bo's Email:

fr.bo.nahachewsky
@gmail.com

Sunday, October 6

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 8; The Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas



Our Perogy Supper will be held on Saturday, November 2. Tickets are \$17 each (for adults). Tell your friends and family to join us.

Also, if you are able, please sign up to help. The volunteer sheets are found in the Narthex (Church Entrance).



THANK YOU to our UCWLC, and all those who helped by making donations towards our food drive for Our Lady of Peace Catholic School.

One of the ongoing charitable projects which our UCWLC (Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada) is regularly supporting OLOP school by providing food for the children. Due to the nature of our neighbourhood many of these children do not come to school having eaten breakfast nor bringing any lunches. For some of them, the food that the school gives out is the only food they will eat that day.

The last few Sundays I was polling the parish to figure out what would be the best times for us to put on parish programs. It seems that no matter what we choose we will never be able to satisfy everyone, but, I will do my best to serve as many people as I can. Starting now:

- All Major Church Feasts will have a Divine Liturgy celebrated on the actual feast day at 7pm. (unless that is not possible, which will be noted in bulletins in advance)
- I am also planning to put together a 4-6 session "Understanding the Divine Liturgy" series that I hope to start on Wednesday nights starting in November.
- During fasts (Pre-Christmas & Lent) and at other times of the year, we will also have regular special services announced, likely on Wednesdays.
- These "Understanding the Divine Liturgy" sessions will also be available in some form to people online.
- Other programs will be done in the new year.

Also, so far, we have at least five people from our parish who told me that they plan to participate in the Eparchial Cantoring course on Oct. 25. YOU can still register, and our parish will pay your fee.

ALL interested (even those 5 who mentioned it) MUST REGISTER THEMSELVES. Information on how to register are in the "News" section of this bulletin.



Saints of the Day (taken from OCA.org)



Holy, Glorious Apostle Thomas

The Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas was born in the Galilean city of Pansada and was a fisherman. Hearing the good tidings of Jesus Christ, he left all and followed after Him. The Apostle Thomas is included in the number of the holy Twelve Apostles of the Saviour.

According to Holy Scripture, the holy Apostle Thomas did not believe the reports of the other disciples about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ: “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe” (John 20:25).

On the eighth day after the Resurrection, the Lord appeared to the Apostle Thomas and showed him His wounds. “My Lord and my God,” the Apostle cried out (John 20:28). “Thomas, being once weaker in faith than the other apostles,” says Saint John Chrysostom, “toiled through the grace of God more bravely, more zealously and tirelessly than them all, so that he went preaching over nearly all the earth, not fearing to proclaim the Word of God to savage nations.”

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed “The Doubting Thomas.” This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, “The Touching of Thomas.” In Slavonic, it says, “The Belief of Thomas.” When Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

According to Church Tradition, the holy Apostle Thomas founded Christian churches in Palestine, Mesopotamia, Parthia, Ethiopia and India. Preaching the Gospel earned him a martyr’s death. For having converted the wife and son of the prefect of the Indian city of Meliapur [Melipur], the holy apostle was locked up in prison, suffered torture, and finally, pierced with five spears, he departed to the Lord. Part of the relics of the holy Apostle Thomas are in India, in Hungary and on Mt. Athos. The name of the Apostle Thomas is associated with the Arabian (or Arapet) Icon of the Mother of God (September 6).



TRUE LIGHT – A Podcast by the Sheptytsky Institute

The Sheptytsky Institute launches a second season of *True Light* with its new host, Landon Coleman.

Following the liturgical calendar, this episode delves into the feast of the Protection of the Mother of God — a feast dear to those of Slavic tradition. Is this just another feast of the Theotokos?

Grab your own chocolate and brandy, have a listen, and judge for yourself!

www.sheptytskyinstitute.ca/podcast

TRUE LIGHT is also available on iTunes.



National Catholic Health Care Week

October 6 - 12, 2019



Revealing the courageous gift of Catholic health care.

From October 6 to 12, we will celebrate the very first National Catholic Health Care Week in Canada. This week organized by the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada provides the opportunity to highlight the inspiring work of Catholic health care organizations—such as Covenant Health, Covenant Care, Covenant Living and other organizations that support health and wellbeing—both in our diocese and across Canada. At the heart of Catholic health care is a deep respect for the intrinsic value and dignity of every human being and an unwavering commitment to serving all people, from all backgrounds and faiths – especially society’s most vulnerable.

During National Catholic Health Care Week, we give thanks for the courageous gift of Catholic health care. Whether it be in hospitals, community health centers, or seniors care homes, Catholic health care provides purpose-driven care with compassion and innovation. Each year, Catholic health care providers serve more than five million people in need in Canada. Every person who contributes to working in Catholic health care is living out the healing ministry of Jesus Christ by helping those who are most marginalized by society. We give thanks for the thousands of physicians, nurses, employees, and volunteers who give of themselves to care for all in need.

For more information about Catholic health care in Canada or the week, please visit www.chac.ca or www.passiontoheal.ca.



The Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation (UCEF)

cordially invite you to a

Banquet Celebration

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019

In support of the Ukrainian Catholic University

St. Josaphat Cathedral – Parish Hall
9637 – 108th Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta

5:30 pm Reception / Cash Bar

6:30 pm Banquet Dinner and Program

Presentation: The New Sheptytsky Centre at UCU

Special Guests: Father Bohdan Prach – UCU Rector

Olha Zarichinska – UCU Director of Development



View of Sheptytsky Centre at UCU



Guest Speaker:
Ivanka Diman

UCU Graduate,

Head "Building Ukraine Together" Project

Tickets and Information: 780-422-3181 or visit ucef.ca



Holy Spirit
Ukrainian Catholic Seminary
Українська Католицька Семінарія
Святого Духа

Pray for our Seminarians!

Blessed are You, O Christ our God who revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending them the Holy Spirit; through them you caught the entire world. Loving Master, glory to you!

Благословен єси, Христе Боже наш, що премудрими рибаків явив, зіславши їм Духа Святого, і ними уловив вселенну. Чоловіколюбче, слава Тобі!



Ivas Babick
Winnipeg



Jonathan Lashyn
Saskatoon



Matthew Lashyn
Saskatoon



Julian Savaryn
Edmonton



Ivan Simko
Saskatoon



Alex Pankiw
Winnipeg



Orion Wiebe
Edmonton



Glory be to Jesus Christ!

“PASS IT ON”

Dear Catechists,

I greet all of you as we begin a new Catechetical Year! And I express my gratitude to you on behalf of all the pastors of the Church for your beautiful ministry!

Imagine, Jesus' last words as he returns to the Father are addressed directly to catechists. Following his Resurrection, he says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age”(Matthew 28: 18-20).

With this, Jesus commissions his disciples, and not only his disciples, but all of us, to be catechists.

To be a catechist means to “pass it on.”

Let me explain.

My Grade 3 teacher was Mrs. James. Among the many lessons she taught us was how important is listening. She did so through a game known as the Telephone Game. In this popular children's game, the players stand in a circle, and the first player thinks up a short phrase and whispers it into the ear of the next player. The second player repeats the phrase into the ear of the next player, and so on. The last player says the phrase out loud. The fun in the game is to see whether or not the last phrase resembles the first, which can be quite funny when it doesn't (either through poor listening skills or when one of the players deliberately changes the phrase half-way through the game!)

Some common phrases in playing the game today are: “When I grow up, I want to be an elevator;” or “The best chips are chocolate chips;” or “Wouldn't the Minions look funny in contact lenses.”

If we play the game using Bible phrases, some popular phrases might be: “God is love;” or “Without Jesus, we can do nothing;” or, for the more adventurous, “For God so

Lviv, September 23, 2016 No 063 / 2019

loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (which is the very first “big” Bible verse that I learned as a youth!).

Our faith is intended to be passed on, from one generation to the next. Indeed, we can judge what makes a parish successful (or a family for that matter, which is the domestic Church) is its ability to pass on the faith from one generation of parishioners to the next, that is from parents to their children, and then to their grandchildren.

Catechists, as begin a new Catechetical Year, I pray that the Holy Spirit blesses you and your ministry in passing on our faith in Jesus Christ – who loves and cares for us – to our children, youth, and adults whom you teach, but also to your own children, family, and friends.

God bless you!

In Christ,

Bishop David Motiuk Chair, Patriarchal Catechetical
Commission

Eparchy of Edmonton



**METROPOLITAN ANDREY SHEPTYTSKY INSTITUTE OF
EASTERN CHRISTIAN STUDIES
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE**

The Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies (MASI) is a very important academic institution that teaches people, across North America, about our Eastern understanding of the Christian Faith. If you wish to learn more about them, you can look at our bulletin board, or see their website at www.sheptytskyinstitute.ca



*All families of the Ukrainian Catholic
Eparchy of Edmonton
are invited to*

A Celebration of Bishop David's Name Day

Sunday, November 3, 2019

2:00 p.m.

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish

9507 Austin O'Brien Road,
Edmonton

*Hosted by Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary
and St. Nicholas UCWLC Branches*

Little Friends of Jesus (LFJ) Calendar Dates 2019-2020

CIX! We are excited for the new LFJ season. Please take note of our upcoming LFJ lessons and sign up for your child to bring a snack to share.

We recognize that parents are the child's first teacher. We will provide notes on each lesson and encourage you to do the enrichment activity with your children during the week.

✓September 15 (done)

✓September 29 (done)

✓October 6 (today)

• October 20

• November 3

• November 24

• December 1

• December 8 - St. Nicholas
Celebration

• January 12



Called to be Holy: Men's Retreat Nov. 1, 6:30 pm - Nov. 2, 4:30 pm, 2019

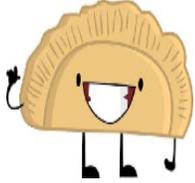
LOCATION: Providence Renewal Centre 3005 - 119 St NW, Edmonton

COST: After Oct 5 - \$70.00 - commute, \$120.00 - live in. Includes Saturday breakfast, lunch and all snacks. Optional Friday supper - \$20.00

REGISTER ONLINE on the Eparchy of Edmonton Website.

MORE INFORMATION: call: 780-424-5496 or email: education@edmontoneparchy.com.

Deadline for registrations is Oct 25, 2019. No late registrations will be accepted.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy with Little Friends of Jesus</p> <p>2 pm Melkite Liturgy</p> <p>Protection of the BVM Parish's Praznyk</p> <p>2 pm Burial</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>4 pm Camp Oselia Visioning Followup Meeting at the Eparchial Pastoral Centre</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 🍷🍷*</p> <p>Melkite Youth Bible Study in Parish Hall</p> <p>Women's Retreat at Camp Oselia. Fr. Bo celebrating Liturgy for them.</p>	<p>12 🍷🍷</p> <p>Women's Retreat at Camp Oselia.</p>
<p>13</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>2 pm Melkite Liturgy</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7 pm Parish Pastoral Council Meeting in the Church</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Fr. Bo @ course for Theosis Studios</p> <p>Joseph Paziuk's Birthday</p>	<p>17</p> <p>St. Nicholas (Ukr) Parish's FFF</p>	<p>18 🍷🍷*</p>  <p>Eparchial Convention</p> <p>Damen Hundt's Birthday</p>	<p>19 🍷🍷</p>  <p>Eparchial Convention</p> <p>1 pm Melkite Divine Liturgy (40 day memorial)</p> <p>St. Sophia Parish's Octoberfest</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Eparchial Convention</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy with Little Friends of Jesus</p> <p>2 pm Melkite Liturgy</p> <p>Sera Nahachewsky's and Victor Lirette's Birthdays</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Election Day</p> <p>Helen Sirman's Birthday</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Ihor Genyk's Birthday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Anne Tymko's Birthday</p> <p>Knights of Columbus Padre Night</p>	<p>25 🍷</p> <p>Eparchial Cantoring Course</p> <p>Melkite Youth Bible Study in Parish Hall</p> <p>Jack Bawol's Birthday</p>	<p>26 🍷🍷🍷*</p>
<p>27</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy UCWLC Meeting after Liturgy</p> <p>2 pm Melkite Liturgy</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Clergy Study Days</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Clergy Study Days</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Clergy Study Days</p> <p>Katie Bunio's and Josie Zeleny's Birthdays</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Halloween</p> <p>Clergy Study Days</p>	<p>1 🍷</p> <p>Clergy Study Days & Conference</p>	<p>2 🍷🍷🍷*</p> <p>Our Perogy Supper</p>  <p>Redwater District's Puschenya</p>
<p>3</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy with Little Friends of Jesus</p> <p>2 pm Melkite Liturgy</p>  <p>All families of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton are invited to</p> <p>A Celebration of Bishop David's Name Day Sunday, November 12, 2017 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish 10075 Avenue 10 West, Redwat, Edmonton</p> <p>Hosted by Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Nicholas Ukrainian Eparchy</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7pm Anticipated first session of the "Divine Liturgy Explanation Sessions"</p>	<p>7</p> <p>St. Nicholas (Ukr) Parish's FFF</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>

Parish & Eparchial & Beyond News:

- We **pray for the health and well-being** of all the servants and handmaidens of God who need our prayers: **Mary** Orysiuk, **Jean** Miskiw, **Sarah** Komar, **Marge** Woitas, **Katie** Bunio, **Stella** Dronyk, **John** Puto, **Ann** Horsman, **Annie** Polack, **Louis** Pekar & **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 parishioners: (nobody this week that we know of) who celebrates their birthday this week. God grant you many years!~~
- If we don't have your birthday, or if we have your birthday info wrong... please send an email (or at least a piece of paper) with your corrected birthdate and name.
- **FREE FOR PARISHIONERS OF DORMITION. ALL ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND:** The Eparchy of Edmonton invites you to participate in a Cantoring Course on Friday, October 25 (6:00-9:00 pm); and Saturday, October 26 (9:00 am to 4:00 pm), concluding with Great Vespers at 4:00 pm., at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, 10825 - 97th Street, Edmonton. Topics include: the Divine Liturgy, the Eight Resurrectional Tones (Troparia, Kontakia, Prokeimena, Alleluia with verses), and various changeable parts for Major Feasts, including the festal Irmos. Everything will be covered in English and Ukrainian (including transliteration). Cost: \$40 includes course materials, lunch and snacks. To register contact the Pastoral Centre (chancery@edmontoneparchy.com) or (780) 424-5496. Questions can also be directed to Dr. Melanie Turgeon (melanie.turgeon@kingsu.ca)."
- Ukrainian Catholic **Youth Convention** October 19th and 20th, to grow together in our Faith – Church Encountering Jesus. This is for youth and young adults Grade 8 and up. Our Convention starts Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Eparchial Pastoral Centre 9645 – 108 Avenue, Edmonton. We start off the day with games and discussion, afternoon at "Launchpad Trampoline Park" We will join the Women's League and Men's group for a banquet in the evening. For the youth that choose to sleep over, we will grab our sleeping bags to overnight in the Pastoral Centre, ending with the Divine Liturgy at the cathedral on Sunday morning. Just \$45 covers all your expenses including all meals and banquet, thanks to generous support from the UCWLC and Knights. Contact Millie by October 10th. Our (Dormition) UCWLC Branch would like to take a photo of the current members of our branch with our current pastor, after the September 29th Sunday Liturgy. Branch members are encouraged to wear black or navy with a white blouse or Ukrainian blouse for the photo. Also, UCWLC pins should be worn.
- St. Sophia Parish invites you to their Octoberfest event on Saturday, October 19. Call Marge at 780-416-0989 for info/tickets.
- Redwater & District parishes invite you to their Puschenia event on Saturday, November 2. Call Jacob at 780-292-0057 or Lawrence at 780-446-0415 for info/tickets.
- **Our parish is sending in 2 representatives from our Parish Council (as well as some from our UCWLC) for the 39th Biannual Conference** of the Ukrainian Catholic Council (Centralia) – Eparchy of Edmonton will take place October 18-20, 2019, at Saint Josaphat Cathedral/Chateau Louis Conference Centre, Edmonton. This year's special guest is Bishop Ken Nowakowski, Eparchy of New Westminster, who will speak to the convention theme of "The Vibrant Parish..... the Next Steps – My Response." The Ukrainian Catholic Council comprises the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada, the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Canada, the Ukrainian Catholic Youth of Canada, and the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy Chapter Knights of Columbus. Given that the Convention celebrates the contribution of our lay organizations in the life of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Alberta, for the very first time, representatives of our Parish Pastoral Councils throughout the Eparchy of Edmonton will be invited to participate.
- Pope Francis proclaimed an **Extraordinary Missionary Month** to be celebrated this **October: Baptized and Sent, the Church of Christ on Mission in the World** (see below for more details).
To mark the Extraordinary Missionary Month, parishes/parish districts within the Eparchy of Edmonton are invited to celebrate the role families play in passing on the Gospel message to their children and grandchildren. In particular, parishes/parish districts are invited to organize during the month of October a **special Divine Liturgy** – one of the regularly scheduled Sunday Divine Liturgies, or another day – to **honour and bless couples who are celebrating their 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversaries** (and other significant years). Children and grandchildren are invited to be present on this jubilee occasion with their parents and grandparents. Pastors are asked to include a special petition in the Divine Liturgy for the couples' intention, and to invite the couples together with their families to come forward at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy for a special blessing. Families are indeed missionaries, sharing the Good News of the Gospel with their children. May Christ bless them abundantly with his love!
- **Roman Kobyletsky**, Seminarian-Pastoral Intern, will receive the Laying-on of Hands (Ordination) to the **Minor Orders and Subdiaconate**, by Bishop David, on Saturday, **October 12**, at the 5:00 pm, Divine Liturgy, Saint Josaphat Cathedral. and the Laying-on of Hands (Ordination) to the **Diaconate**, by Bishop David, on Sunday, **November 17**, at the 10:00 am, Divine Liturgy and Praznyk (Parish Feast Day), Saint Josaphat Cathedral.

Family, Faith, Friends!



Check out this parent's group offered through the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton!



Start your fall off right! Join us as we grow in our own faith, and share parenting ideas and friendship over a cup of coffee.

Childcare is provided.

Registration is \$25.00 per family for the year.

1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month
9:00-11:30 am Sept. 19, 2019 - May 2020
St. Nicholas Church, 9507 Austin O'Brien Rd.
Call or text Christina - 780-914-9093,



Tentative Schedule for 2019-2020 year. This is subject to change. Contact Christina 780-914-9093, for more information.

October 3	Creating a Sensory Bin Session
October 17	Healthy snacks/mom hacks
Nov 7	Sensory Bin Trade Day, Book sharing
Nov 21	Healthy Snack/ Mom hacks
Dec 5	Keeping Christ in Christmas
Dec 19	Didukh Making
Jan 16	Social Justice - presentation
Feb 6	Bringing Up Boys - presentation
Feb 20	Marriage Presentation
March 5	The Great Fast as a Family
March 19	Petrykivka painting project
April 2	Petrykivka continued
April 16	Visit to the Eparchy Pastoral Centre
May 7	Learning about the Summer Feast days (Pentecost/ Transfiguration/ Dormition/)
May 21	Service Project

In this year we will be reading and discussing the book: *The Tech Talk, Strategies for Families in a Digital World* from Our Sunday Visitor Publishing.

Ukrainian Catholic Youth Convention



If you are between the ages of Grade 8 to Young Adult, come JOIN US for the UCY Convention in Edmonton!

Events include sessions:

- Icebreakers
- Meeting youth from other parishes
- Launchpad Trampoline Park
- Banquet * Stay Overnight

Lots of fun!

Cost:

Just \$45 for the entire weekend (includes meals and overnight stay!)
Sponsored by UCWLC, UCBC and the Knights of Columbus

Register:

Email Millie before October 10
youth@edmontoneparchy.com
or call or text Millie at 780-446-1061



What do you say when you have a deer with no eyes?



I've got no eye deer.

Parish & Eparchial & Beyond News continued:

- The **annual Synod of Bishops** of the Ukrainian Catholic Church took place from **September 1-10** in **Rome**. This year's theme was "**Soprychastia (communion) in the Life and Witness of the Ukrainian Catholic Church,**" which builds upon Vision 2020 and the Vibrant Parish Spiritual Renewal Program. Pope Francis received the entire Synod of Bishops, an historic moment, in a special papal audience. The **Decisions** and **Communiqué** of the 2019 Synod of Bishops, as well as the **Post-Synodal Pastoral Letter** are available on our eparchial website.
- **Bishop David**, in his capacity as Chair of the Patriarchal Catechetical Commission, issued a **Pastoral Letter addressed to Catechists** on the occasion of the New Liturgical/ Catechetical Year. (which you can read in full on page 5)
- The **Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue** and the **World Council of Churches** published a joint document entitled "**Education for Peace in a Multi-Religious World: A Christian Perspective.**" (go to the Eparchial Website for links)
- The Ukrainian Catholic Bishops in Canada appointed **Rev. Ephrem Kardouh, bso, Spiritual Director of Holy Spirit Seminary**, Edmonton, effective October 1, 2019. Father Ephrem is a Melkite Greek-Catholic priest of the Basilian Salvatorian Order. He holds a Master of Divinity from Saint Pope John XXIII Seminary, Weston, Massachusetts, as well as professional training in Clinical Pastoral Education. Since 2015, Father Ephrem has served as Pastoral Administrator (Melkite Greek-Catholic) of Saint Basil Parish, Calgary, and Saint Nicholas Parish, Edmonton. At the same time he was Chaplain at Foothills Hospital, Calgary.



VOTING AS CATHOLICS

2019 Federal Election Guide

Voting: A Right and Responsibility

Canadian Catholics are being called upon as citizens to exercise their right to vote. The Church encourages and reasserts its belief in “the political freedom and responsibility of citizens.”¹ By exercising their right to vote, citizens fulfill their duty of choosing a government and at the same time send a clear signal to the candidates being presented by their political parties for election. The important time leading up to an election also provides Canadians with the opportunity to interact with fellow voters, one’s neighbours, and the candidates themselves (particularly during their visits to neighbourhoods), raising awareness about the values, views, and concerns shared by Catholics across the country.

Political candidates are citizens, too. In addition, they assume responsibility for the well-being of the public. Their commitment and dedication are a generous contribution to society’s common good. Indeed, the purpose of the political community is itself the common good, namely, “the sum of those conditions of [...] social life whereby people, families and associations more adequately and readily may attain their own perfection.”²

Working to Build a Better Society

While Christian beliefs do not constitute a political platform, they can be seen as a prism through which to analyze and evaluate government policies, laws, and programs. The principles of respect for life from conception to natural death and of the dignity of the human person should influence how Christians assess a party’s position on key moral issues. Choosing life also means being always concerned for the weakest among us – physically, economically, and socially. It likewise implies the protection of the most fundamental human rights, including the right to religious freedom and freedom of conscience.

A more just society is also built when we live in solidarity and dialogue with different social partners, including Indigenous Peoples, as well as by supporting families and ensuring adequate funding for education, healthcare, housing, and the prevention and treatment of addictions.

Working with fellow citizens to address social concerns is fundamentally built on a view of the person inherently belonging to a community. To ensure our communities are truly welcoming and humane, we must also combat all forms of poverty, which inevitably result in the segregation and isolation of individuals.

Canada in the World: Providing Leadership for Justice and Peace

Believing in justice and peace includes daring to take a stand against the arms trade and against human trafficking, which exploits young people and workers. It means entering into

international treaties that respect the planet, our common home, as well as tirelessly working for the expansion of peace everywhere.

Voting Means Using Your Judgment

Exercising the right to vote means making informed and discerning judgments about the options available. There are times, however, when making a decision about who to vote for may prove very difficult. The Church reminds us that “in this context, it must be noted also that a well-formed Christian conscience does not permit one to vote for a political program or an individual law in which the fundamental content of faith and morals is replaced by the introduction of proposals differing from this content or opposing it.”³

It is a sign of a healthy democratic community when informed and responsible citizens engage in an ongoing dialogue on major social issues with their political leaders. This is precisely the kind of community we should strive to support and develop. No less is expected of us, since all are called to take an active part in morally shaping the societies we inhabit and, Christians in particular, to defend the rights of those who are most vulnerable.

1. Second Vatican Council, *The Church in the Modern World*, n. 76.3.
2. Second Vatican Council, *The Church in the Modern World*, n. 74.1.
3. Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Doctrinal Note: On Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life*,
4. See also the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 2242.

September 2019 | Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops | Permanent Council

After the Plenary Assembly of Bishops itself, as the second highest instance of authority within the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), the Permanent Council, acting on behalf of (and reporting to) the former, is authorized to speak on behalf of the entire membership of the CCCB between plenary meetings, among its other responsibilities. Elected for a two-year term by the members present at the Plenary Assembly, the Council is composed of a minimum of 12 Bishops, equally represented by English and French speaking parts of the country.

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Changeable Parts for Today's Divine Liturgy

Troparion: You came down from on high, O Merciful One,* and accepted three days of burial* to free us from our sufferings.* O Lord, our life and our resurrection,* glory be to You.

Troparion: O disciple of Christ and member of the apostolic council,* your lack of faith proclaimed Christ's resurrection,* and your touch confirmed His holy passion.* O Thomas, worthy of all praise,* pray even now that He grant us peace and great mercy.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion: When You rose from the tomb,* You also raised the dead and resurrected Adam.* Eve exults in Your resurrection,* and the ends of the world celebrate Your rising from the dead,* O most merciful One.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion: Filled with the grace of wisdom,* Your apostle and genuine servant, O Christ,* cried out to You in his change of heart:* You are my God and Lord.

Prokeimenon:

Pray and give thanks to the Lord our God.

verse: In Judea God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Prokeimenon:

Their utterance has gone forth into all the earth, and their word unto the ends of the world.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be your father, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and of spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God.

(the other possible reading for Thomas is : I Corinthians 4:9-16)

Alleluia:

verse: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; let us acclaim God our Saviour.

verse: Let us come before His countenance with praise and acclaim Him with psalms.

verse: The heavens shall confess our wonders, O Lord, and Your truth in the church of the saints.

verse: God is glorified in the assembly of the saints.

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

(the other possible reading for the Feast of St. Thomas is: John 20:19-31)

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest.* Their utterance has gone forth into all the earth,* and their word unto the ends of the world.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

