



**Українська Католицька
Едмонтонська Єпархія**

**Ukrainian Catholic
Eparchy of Edmonton**

PASTORAL CENTRE - COMMUNICATOR

April 30, 2020

***Христос Воскрес! Воістину Воскрес!
Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!***

These last few weeks have been very busy indeed. This issue of our newsletter will provide updates on various topics related to the COVID-19 situation and other items for your attention.

1. Reopening our Churches to our parishioners

The Eparchy is closely following the recommendations and guidelines presented by our provincial leaders. We are aware that Alberta is looking to reopen selected businesses and health centres but still maintaining strict public-health measures for our protection. Bishop David and his advisors are planning for the eventual partial opening of our churches and developing protocols to ensure our parishioners are safe. Your priests will notify you when this time comes and will implement safe-practice procedures. From the current news, we may see some movement by mid June.

2. Our Pastors serving us

With the COVID-19 virus still an imminent danger, little did we know that our Great Fast (Lent) as regards the Eucharist would continue so long. Many of God's people around the world are still unable to gather in their churches to receive the Bread of Life. Instead we are learning to live by "every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4 and Deuteronomy 8:3). This means we turn to the nourishment of the Scriptures more frequently. Even more so, we turn our spiritual ears to hearing God's Word that is spoken in the midst of the sufferings and hardships of this pandemic. Our pastors have continued to do just that by offering the Divine Liturgy and other liturgical services, praying for us and with us (sometimes via electronic means), sending emails with weekly reflections and updates, calling us, visiting those in dire need and doing all they can to stay in touch. They too have been unsung heroes and we are grateful to them.

3. Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) - submitted

Thank you to the clergy and pastoral executive members who provided their financial information for the required submission for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. The Eparchy, on a consolidated basis with all parish and eparchy operational revenues, met the threshold of the 15%

decrease in revenues (comparative between March 2019 and March 2020). The application was submitted April 30, 2020 for the salary period of March 15, 2020 to April 11, 2020. Our application will be processed within 2 weeks and any subsidy confirmed at that time. Most of all, we appreciate the cooperation from all parishes in submitting the required information and attesting that the financial data submitted was complete and accurate.

What are the next steps for CEWS for parishes?

- Parishes are responsible for clergy stipends and housing during the COVID-19 restrictions. We require parishes to submit their May 2020 stipends as per revised invoice (emailed earlier this week), to be received at the office by May 15.
- The Canada Revenue Agency indicates that payment of the first subsidy will arrive in the second or third week of May 2020 (although delays may occur). The subsidy for each clergy stipend, once received, will be allocated to the parish(es) participating in the submission. The subsidy is expected to be between \$3200 and \$3400 per month.
- For the June 2020 stipend, we will prepare statements of account for each parish displaying the outstanding clergy stipend and reduce the balance by the subsidies received. The balance will be payable for the June stipend. We will do the same for the July stipend.
- Submission for the subsequent periods (April 12 to May 9 and May 10 to June 6, 2020) will also be made by the Eparchy. We do not need to requalify for the revenue reduction in April, however we will be required to gather our revenues to qualify for the final intake in May. Therefore, we will contact all parishes again to submit their financial revenue results for April and May for 2019 and 2020 in the first few weeks of June.

We appreciate your patience as we work through the process. Be assured that the Eparchy has the best interest of all parishes in mind and we will work to the best of our ability to support you during this time.

4. Online Donations through the Eparchy Website – an update

The first cheques to the parishes for donations made through the Eparchy's online donation portal (Canada Helps) were sent this week. Since we offered this option, parishioners have donated over \$3,200 to their parishes. We will continue to offer this option for as long as it benefits our parishes. Please note that donation receipts for donations received through the Eparchy website will automatically be issued to the donors. Therefore, please **DO NOT** issue a donation receipt from the parish, as these donation amounts **MUST NOT** be duplicated by the parishes involved.

5. Insurance coverage for vacant premises

Please continue to practice reasonable risk management to reduce the chance of claims during these closures, by inspecting the church periodically (daily if possible) and paying particular attention to areas with plumbing and electrical equipment.

It is always a pleasure to speak with our parishioners, so if you have any questions, please call or email us at the Pastoral Centre.

May our Most Holy Mother of God continue to protect us, keep us safe and guide us today and always, especially as we look forward to the time when can gather once again in our churches to celebrate together as the community of God's faithful people.

God Bless. 3 Богом!

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