



**Українська Католицька
Едмонтонська Єпархія**

**Ukrainian Catholic
Eparchy of Edmonton**

PASTORAL CENTRE - COMMUNICATOR

May 22, 2020

***Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава На Віки!
Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!***

As Alberta begins to relaunch the economy, businesses and services are reopening as of May 14. We are pleased that places of worship are included in the *Stage 1 Relaunch* and may reopen under certain strict protocols. This letter provides an update on these and other items related to COVID-19 and our parishes.

1. Reopening our churches to our parishioners

Bishop David, with input from our clergy, has issued the protocols for the reopening of our parishes to public worship. If a parish is able to meet the stated directives, celebration of the Divine Liturgy could begin as soon as Pentecost Sunday (Sunday, May 31, 2020), for all locations outside of Calgary. Calgary has a delayed opening for all businesses including churches. The need to be vigilant to all these directives is critical for keeping our parishioners and clergy safe. Included in these protocols:

- Follow all public health measures including the practice of physical distancing and good hygiene. The church will need to increase cleaning and disinfecting practices.
- Limit the number of people in the church to a maximum of 50, or one-third of normal worship space, whichever is smaller. Distance between people, who are not living in the same household, must be at least two (2) metres.
- All persons must register their attendance in advance (each parish will determine how this is best done considering the best manner of communication with their parishioners). This means that attendance may need to be staggered and that not everyone can attend weekly.
- Upon arrival at the church, all persons must be signed in and confirm that they are not sick, do not have a compromised medical condition, or were travelling within the last 14 days. A full self-assessment is available on myhealth.alberta.ca

- Liturgical services will be adapted as necessary. Some of the measures taken include:
 - no congregational singing (only a cantor may sing),
 - all pew books will be removed,
 - the Divine Eucharist will be distributed with single-use disposable wooden spoons (the spoons will be burnt and properly disposed of after use),
 - no social gatherings after the Liturgy, etc.

There are many more directives that must be followed, and your pastors will need help in coordinating them according to the final protocols. Please offer you service and abide by the guidelines communicated by you parish. Remember, your parish must meet all the requirements prior to reopening your church. The Province can levy a \$1000 fine to all individuals (and the parish) found to be in violation of gathering restrictions.

Let's meet this wonderful news with caution and care for each other.

2. Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

We received our first subsidy payment from the Federal Government under CEWS! The subsidies were received for all parishes who provided the financial information requested. The maximum subsidy received is based on the payroll for each parish for the first intake period (March 15 to April 11, 2020). The maximum amount received was 75% of the pastor's salary (or the maximum of \$3,388 for a full-time pastor on the payroll). Please note that parishes served by our Basilian clergy were not part of our application as they are managing subsidies separately. Our next submission is expected to be made in the next week or so. These are the next steps:

- 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 for the April intake, however we will be required to gather our revenues for both April and May to qualify for the final intake in May. Therefore, all parishes must submit their financial revenue results for April and May for 2019 and 2020 in the first two weeks of June. Please ensure your treasurers are ready to provide this information.
- Subsidies received will be distributed to the outstanding payroll. We will produce statements for every parish as of May 31 and apply the subsidy as follows:
 - For parishes who provided post dated cheques through to June 2020, we will contact the parish and ask if they would prefer us to (1) return the June cheque and have them reissue with the subsidized amount, (2) apply the subsidy against their June 2020 payroll OR (3) receive a reimbursement cheque.
 - For parishes who have not submitted post dated cheques, we will apply the subsidy to the earliest payroll that remains unpaid since March 15, 2020.
- There is some discussion that the subsidies may be extended through June and July. We are closely monitoring this possibility and will advise parishes when such announcements are confirmed.

Once again, thank you to all the pastoral councils for your cooperation and encouragement.

3. Online Donations through the Eparchial Website – an update

Parishioners continue to donate through the Eparchial Website, particularly where their parishes do not have this option. We will be forwarding cheques for donations made in May to the parishes in the first week of June. Please continue to encourage your parishioners to support our parishes.

God Bless. 3 Богом!

Iryna Laschuk

Chancellor and Director of Finance

email: accounting@edmontoneparchy.com