

ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

>>WE WELCOME ALL WHO JOIN US TODAY IN WORSHIP!<<

MARCH 6 - 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

ST. JOHN CLIMACUS; THE HOLY FORTY MARTYRS OF AMMORIUM (848)

Troparia and Kontakia

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 John, our God-bearing father, you were shown to be a citizen of the desert, an angel in bodily form, and a worker of miracles. Through fasting, prayers and vigils you received heavenly gifts to heal the sick and the souls of those who, in faith, run to you. Glory to Him who gives you strength. Glory to Him who crowned you. Glory to Him who works healing for all through you.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion: On the heights of true abstinence, the Lord established you as a reliable star, giving light for guidance to the ends of the earth, O father John, our teacher.

Prokeimenon

Pray and give thanks to the Lord our God. The venerable ones will exult in glory and they shall be joyful in their beds.

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

Pray and give thanks to the Lord our God. The venerable ones will exult in glory and they shall be joyful in their beds.

Epistle

Hebrews 6:13-20

Brothers and Sisters, when God made a promise to Abraham, because He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, "I will surely bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Human beings, of course, swear by someone greater

than themselves, and an oath given as confirmation puts an end to all dispute. In the same way, when God desired to show even more clearly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He guaranteed it by an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God would prove false, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

At the end of the Epistle parents may send their children to the back of the church to get candles for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

verse: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; let us acclaim God our Saviour. Let us come before His countenance with praise and acclaim Him with psalms.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

verse: They who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 9:17-31

At that time one of the crowd came to Jesus and bowed to Him saying: "Master, I have brought to you my son, who has a dumb spirit; and whenever it seizes him it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth; and he is wasting away. And I told your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." And He, answering him, said, "O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to me."



Address
4903 – 45th Street S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
Canada T3E 3W5

Office Hours & Telephone:
M-F: 10:30am - 1:00pm
2:00pm - 6:00pm
Closed Statutory Holidays
403-249-4818, press 0

Facsimile:
403 685-9001

For Pastoral Emergencies:
403-249-4818, press 9

Email:
<stephens_office@shaw.ca>

Parish Website:
<protomartyr.eeparchy.com>

Eparchy Website:
<www.edmontoneparchy.com>

DIVINE LITURGIES

Sundays:
8:30am – Ukrainian [chanted]
10:30am – English [choir]
1:00pm – Arabic / English [Melkite]
5:00pm – English [recited]

Weekdays:
8:00am – English
[9:00am – on Statutory Holidays]

Saturdays:
9:00am – English

Feast Days: (subject to change)
9:00am – English
7:00pm – English

HOLY MYSTERIES

Confession:

Sundays and Feast days one-half hour before Divine Liturgies, and by appointment.

Marriage: Arrangements with Fr. Mark.

Baptism-Chrismation-Eucharist:
Arrangements with Fr. Bo.

Anointing of the Sick: For emergencies call 403-249-4818, press 9.

Funeral: Arrangements with either Pastor: Fr. Mark or Fr. Bo.

CLERGY and RELIGIOUS

Pastor:

Fr. Mark A. Bayrock
403-249-4818, ext. 201
<frmarkbayrock@mac.com>
<www.sviaschenik.com>

Assistant Pastor:

Fr. Bo (Bohdan) Nahachewsky
403-249-4818, ext. 202
<fr.bo.nahachewsky@gmail.com>

Pastor, St. Basil's Melkite Catholic Church
Fr. Ephrem Kardouh

1-514-223-1664
403-249-4818, ext. 302
<emkardouh@gmail.com>
<www.facebook.com/St-Basils-Melkite-Greek-Catholic-Church-Calgary-1567658193459037/>

Deacons:

Deacon John Doll (retired)
Deacon Richard Nibogie (retired)

Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate:

Sr. Laura Prokop, SSMI
403-230-8171
<ssmicalgary@telus.net>

PARISH OFFICE

Parish Office Administrator
Teri deJonge
403-249-4818, ext. 0
<stephens_office@shaw.ca>

MAINTENANCE

John Kowal
403-249-4818, ext. 207
<stephens_maint@shaw.ca>

HALL RENTAL INQUIRIES

Brett Bernakevitch
Director, Parish Centre Management
403-615-9561
<blebernak@gmail.com>

HALL KITCHEN

403-249-4818, ext. 204

And they brought him to Him; and the spirit, when it saw Jesus, immediately threw the boy into convulsions, and he fell down on the ground and rolled about foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long is it since this has come upon him?" And he said, "From his infancy. Oftentimes it has thrown him into the fire and into the waters to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." But Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to the man of faith." At once the father of the boy cried out and said with tears, "I do believe; help my unbelief." Now when Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, go out of him and enter him no more." And crying out and violently convulsing him, it went out of him, and he became like one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand, and raised him and he stood up. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And He said to them, "This kind can be cast out in no way except by prayer and

fasting." And leaving that place, they were passing through Galilee, and He did not wish anyone to know it. For He was teaching his disciples, and saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and having been killed, He will rise again on the third day."

Hymn to the Mother of God

In You, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices: the angelic ranks and all the human race. Sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, virgins' pride and boast, from whom God is made flesh and became a little Child; and He who is our God before all ages, He made your womb a throne, and He made it wider that all the heavens. In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance; of evil hearsay he shall have no fear. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

A reflection by Fr. Bo

I am filled with joy, wonder and excitement, and other times I am... not, by the things I see in our parish.

As many of you know, I am quite excitable when it comes to our faith. God has shown His abundant love for me many times in my life, and I owe Him all I have and all I am. Because of His goodness I am willing to give my all to Him, and I believe that he has directed me to do so through His beloved Church. I want to share this incredibly Great God with everyone. So... here I am, a priest with just a couple days more than 13 years of service.

I see wonderful potential in every direction I look. The pews are often filled with both young and old (maybe not at every service, but there still are a lot of people who come). People are for the most part happy to spend an hour or more singing and praying each week. Kids draw me beautiful artwork that I hang up in my office. The First Solemn Communion class has a big full table of students (18 this year). Bible Study has a decent group of regulars who are interested in learning and growing, and they are supportive of me. M.A.F.I.A. (Mothers And Fathers In Action) are expanding and starting to include families with elementary aged children. Our Summer Children's Camp is always a buzz with activity and excitement. There is a group of young talented singers that are beautifying the 5pm Sunday Liturgy. Our UCWLC is venturing into great projects supporting immigrants and those in need. The Knights are busy doing good. Our parish mission went smoothly. World Day of Prayer went well. Lots of meetings happened this week. The building is always active. We have bonded and enabled another parish (St. Basil's Melkite Community.) Our parish is awesome.

Sometimes I see things that are still good, but less than perfect. We pray a beautiful Liturgy each week, but many don't quite understand what it is all about. Many people visit with their friends and families in their familiar pews, but sometimes guests wonder where they fit in. The beautiful Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate (our Nuns) who pray for us and visit our sick and

elderly, unfortunately are closing up their local convent because their numbers have dwindled too far. Lately some projects for teens and young adults have fallen apart due to lack of attendance. The other day I was talking to a committed and active parishioner within our parish and I asked her: "Do you feel spiritually fed here?" Her honest answer after a few seconds of thinking about it was: "Not for a long time." She still is happy to be here, but she desires more. As do I.

So, the question that I have been asking myself is: "Even though we are a good parish, how can we be a better, more relative parish?" How can better serve; Single parents / broken families (this week alone I was discussing this topic directly with 3 such families), young people especially young adults and teens, the sick & shut-ins, the unemployed, the average parishioner, ourselves?

Even though I often think of myself as "Super Priest" (I even have the T-shirt, hat and cape), I know that I / we can't do everything for everyone. I want to, but I know I can't. I often wake up in the middle of the night praying and/or worrying for our Church.

There is a story, which may be apocryphal, in which Saint Pope John-Paul II was asked one day, "How can you sleep at night with your enormous global responsibilities?" "Easy," said the pope, "I say to God, 'It is Your Church, You take care of it!'"

"Yes, God I trust that You will take care of Your Church. But help me to be the best priest, and us to be the best parish, that we can for You." Let us give it all (100%) to God.



I am asking you, my parish family, to reflect on these questions with me, and to write me your honest constructive thoughts via email (or paper if you don't email). My email address is: fr.bo.nahachewsky@gmail.com (note: I no longer am with telus email.)

- ♦ What are your personal spiritual needs? How can this parish serve you better?
- ♦ Who do you see are in most need of our attention in this parish?
- ♦ How should we present our relevant, exciting, beautiful faith to others?
- ♦ How can we make this parish a better one in which to encounter Christ?

I also invite you to join us in discussion at some of the upcoming meetings. All interested people are welcome.

- ♦ On Thursday, March 10th at 1pm we will be discussing Pastoral issues such as visiting the sick, & shut-ins, counseling the grieving, helping struggling marriages, helping those who are divorced, widowed, orphaned.
- ♦ On Wednesday, March 16th after the 6pm Presanctified (about 7-ish) we will be discussing how we learn and share our faith. This includes programs like Sunday School, and First Solemn Communion for kids. RCIA, Bible Study, and Sacramental Prep for adults, but also YouTube videos, bulletin boards, and other ideas too.
- ♦ On Friday, March 18th after the 6pm Presanctified (about 7-ish) we will be working with our Eparchial Youth Ministries Director, and possibly reps from the Calgary Catholic Schools, as to how we can make this parish more friendly to those aged 0-35 including young families. There is much to do at this "Town Hall" meeting.
- ♦ Soon we also hope to book a Liturgical Director's Meeting to discuss all things Liturgical, and a website meeting to discuss our presence, or lack there of, on the inter-web.

Liturgy Intentions for this week:

Sunday, March 6 – Fourth Sunday of Lent:

8:30am – for the intentions and needs of all parishioners

10:30am – for the repose of the soul of +Ed Filipowich

5:00pm – for the intentions and needs of all parishioners

Monday, March 7:

6:00pm – for the health and recovery of Ken Wawruch

Tuesday, March 8:

6:00pm – for the intentions and needs of all parishioners

Wednesday, March 9:

6:00pm – for the intentions and needs of all parishioners

Thursday, March 10:

No Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 11:

6:00pm – in memory for the repose of the soul of +Olga Rutko

Saturday, March 12:

9:00am – for the intentions and needs of all parishioners

Sunday, March 13 – Fifth Sunday of Lent:

8:30am – for the intentions and needs of all parishioners

10:30am – in memory for the repose of the soul of +Jeffery Sakundiak

5:00pm – for the intentions and needs of all parishioners

**ST. STEPHEN CHARITABLE
COMMITTEES, ACTIVITIES &
ORGANIZATIONS**

Charity Subcommittee: Coordinate and market the efforts of all parish charitable activity.

Contact: Eugene Woychyshyn
587-891-9898;

<eugene.woychyshyn@gmail.com>

Inn From The Cold: Monthly provides food & shelter for Calgary's homeless.

Contact: Ambrose Comchi
403-220-9624; <awc@shaw.ca>

Pass It On: Donates clothing to needy families in Calgary.

Contact: Theresa Lewchuk
403-208-0850; <lewchukt@hotmail.com>

Men's Dinner: Annual major church fundraiser for capital expenses plus Inn From the Cold endeavours.

Contact: Greg Bobyn
403-271-0011; <greg.bobyn@mnpc.ca>

The Helping Others Network:
Distributes used furnishings and clothing to the needy.

Contact: Des Peplinski
403-238-0804; <dlp238@shaw.ca>

Art Committee: discusses religious artwork for parish.

Contact: Jim Ochitwa
<jim.ochitwa@maryngroup.com>

UCWLC: Responds to parish and community needs through volunteerism, pastoral works, Ukrainian culture & aid.

Contact: Stacey Bobyn
403-860-2185
<sbobyn1@telusplanet.net>



Knights of Columbus: Provide financial aid & support for members and their families, and help the sick, needy and disabled in our parish, city and abroad.

Contact: David McMillan
<s.david.mcmillan@gmail.com>

Plus 50 Club: Provides social interaction for parish seniors, promotes Ukrainian cultural events, and raises funds for the parish.

Contact: Ed Tysowski
403-547-3226; <tysow@shaw.ca>

MARCH / APRIL 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast; St. John Climacus; The Holy Forty Martyrs of Ammorium (848)	The Holy Priest-Martyrs and Bishops of Cherson Basil, Ephrem, Capiton, Eugene, Etherius and Others (284-305)	Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophilactus, Bishop of Nicomedia (c. 845)	The Holy Martyrs of Sebasteia
06 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: Ukr. 9:00 am First Solemn Communion Class 10:00 am Elementary School Catechesis 10:30 am Divine Liturgy: Eng. 10:30 am Sunday School 1:00 pm Melkite Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy: Eng.	07 9:00 am Icon Open Studio ?:00 am Icon Mounting Workbee (for ARK & FSC) 6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Bible Study	08 6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Adult Beginner Language Class 7:15 pm Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	09 1:00 pm Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Adult Beginner Language Class 6:30 pm Divine Liturgy 7:15 pm Divine Liturgy 7:15 pm Divine Liturgy
13 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: Ukr. 9:00 am First Solemn Communion Class 10:00 am Elementary School Catechesis 10:30 am Divine Liturgy: Eng. 10:30 am Sunday School 1:00 pm Melkite Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy: Eng. ADULT LENTEN ICON WORKSHOP Noon - 9pm	14 9:00 am Icon Open Studio 10:00 am M.A.F.I.A. Play-date 6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Bible Study	15 6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Adult Beginner Language Class	16 1:00 pm Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Adult Beginner Language Class 6:30 pm Divine Liturgy 7:15 pm Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 7:15 pm Divine Liturgy 7:15 pm Divine Liturgy
20 WILLOW/PALM SUNDAY 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: Ukr. 10:00 am Elementary School Catechesis 10:30 am Divine Liturgy: Eng. with First Solemn Communion 1:00 pm Melkite Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy: Eng. EASTER BAKE SALE	21  6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	22  6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Adult Beginner Language Class	23 HOLY WEDNESDAY 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy 7:30 pm Divine Liturgy
27 HOLY PASCHA /EASTER SUNDAY 8:00 am Resurrectional Matins & Divine Liturgy: Eng./Ukr. 10:30 am Divine Liturgy: Eng.	28 BRIGHT MONDAY 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	29 BRIGHT TUESDAY 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 11:00 am Plus 50 Lunch & Meeting 1:00 pm Pass it On Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Adult Beginner Language Class	30 BRIGHT WEDNESDAY 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:00 pm Divine Liturgy 6:30 pm Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Holy Forty Martyrs of the 321-23)	The Holy Martyr Codratus and Those with Him (249-51)	Our Holy Father Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem (638)	Fifth Saturday of the Great Fast: Akathist Saturday; Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophanes of Sigriana (817); Our Holy Father Gregory the Dialogist, Pope of Rome (604)
 LightWeigh Program Pre-Sanctified Liturgy Adult Language Class Choir Practice Newcomer Committee Meeting	10 9:00 am Babka Workbee 1:00 pm Pastoral Director's Meeting No Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 Confessions at Assumption Parish 7:00 pm KofC 4th Degree	11  10:00 am Divine Liturgy at Westview 6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy ADULT LENTEN ICON WORKSHOP 6pm - 9pm	12 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am M.A.F.I.A. Executive Meeting & Play 5:00 pm Vespers ADULT LENTEN ICON WORKSHOP 9am - 9pm
 LightWeigh Program Pre-Sanct. Lit. Adult Language Class Religious Ed. Director's Meeting Choir Practice Property Management Committee Meeting	17 10:30 am Calgary Deanery Meeting 6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	18  10:00 am Divine Liturgy at Westview 6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:15 pm Youth Director's "Town Hall" Meeting	19 LAZARUS SATURDAY 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 9:00 am First Solemn Confessions 10:00 am UCWLC Easter Bag Preparation 11:30 am FSC Luncheon 5:00 pm Vespers SET-UP FOR EASTER BAKE SALE
 HOLY WEDNESDAY Pre-Sanctified Liturgy and Anointing of the Sick Choir Practice	 24 HOLY THURSDAY 9:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 6:00 pm Confessions 7:00 pm Twelve Gospels of the Passion of Christ 8:30 pm Confessions	 25 GOOD FRIDAY & FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION 9:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy: Annunciation 1:00 pm Veneration of the Holy Shroud 7:00 pm Jerusalem Matins 8:00 pm Vigil at the Tomb	 26 HOLY SATURDAY 2:00 pm Paska Blessing in Hall 3:00 pm Vespers w/Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 5:30 pm Paska Blessing in Hall 6:00 pm Nadhrobne Service by the Tomb
BRIGHT WEDNESDAY Divine Liturgy LightWeigh Program Adult Language Class Choir Practice	31 BRIGHT THURSDAY 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	01 BRIGHT FRIDAY 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Parish Games Night	02 BRIGHT SATURDAY 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm Vespers

Prayer & Support Group: Accepts prayer requests for the confidential needs and intentions of parishioners.
Contact: Marilyn Comchi
403-220-9624;
<marilyncomchi@shaw.ca>

Support Network: Provides support, encouragement & help for parishioners facing various difficulties/situations with referrals to services or help they need.
Contact: Marilyn Comchi
403-220-9624
<marilyncomchi@shaw.ca>

International Trust Fund: Solicits & invests donations and disburses earned income to international charities in 2nd and 3rd world countries.
Contact: Steve Groch
403-239-4699; <swgctc@aol.com>

Family Support Trust Fund: Solicits & invests donations and disburses earned income to parishioners in need.
Contact: Eugene Woychyshyn
587-891-9898;
<eugene.woychyshyn@gmail.com>

Calgary Pro-Life Association: Raises funds for educational awareness programs.
Contact: John Siroishka
403-271-2128;
<johnsiroishka@shaw.ca>

Snowflakes for Zambia: Raises funds to build schools for orphaned/at risk children in developing countries.
Contact: Jeanette O'Reilly
403-826-5481
<jhendrickson689@gmail.com>

Parish Library: A great place to borrow great books about our faith.
Contact: Olga Kizlyk-Scarpari
<ststephens.library@gmail.com>

ARK Store: Looking for the perfect religious item? Check it out at the entrance to our hall. Open most Sunday mornings after Liturgy.
Contact: Donna Chelack
403-764-0811 <dchelack@shaw.ca>

Mothers and Fathers in Action

(M.A.F.I.A.): A group for parents and little ones from 'in utero' to Preschool.

Contact: Zenon Berg

<zenonberg@gmail.com>

Sunday School: A program run on most Sundays during the 10:30am Divine Liturgy for preschoolers age 4 through grade 2 children.

Contact: Lynsey Lowey

<lklowey@hotmail.com>

First Solemn Communion (FSC):

Sacramental Classes for children around GRADE 2 who are ready to approach for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist on their own.

Contact: Kathrine Strashok

<kathrine@strashok.com>

Children of Mary & Altar Servers:

Elementary school children who have completed their FSC, are encouraged to get involved by serving at the Altar, learning, playing and growing together.

Contact: Dan Oryschak

<Daniel.Oryschak@gmail.com>

Junior Youth & Senior Youth: This is an active group of Jr. & Sr. High School students who work, play and grow together in Christ.

Contact: Dan Oryschak

<Daniel.Oryschak@gmail.com>

Young Adults: Those aged 18 - 35 are encouraged to gather as a community and learn, embrace and celebrate their faith.

Contact: Dan Oryschak

<Daniel.Oryschak@gmail.com>

Adult Catechism (RCIA): This program is open to Adults and Teens who want to receive the sacraments or just understand the faith.

Contact: Fr. Bo Nahachewsky

<fr.bo.nahachewsky@gmail.com>

Bible Study: On many Mondays we study our faith through Sacred Scripture. Join us.

Contact: Fr. Bo Nahachewsky

<fr.bo.nahachewsky@gmail.com>

LITURGICAL HELP

EPISTLE READERS

8:30am - K of C 4th Degree

10:30am - K of C 4th Degree

5:00pm - K of C 4th Degree

HOSTS/USHERS

8:30am - K of C 4th Degree

10:30am - K of C 4th Degree

ROSARY (10:00am): K of C 4th Degree

ARK STORE - OPEN: Ritchie Family

PRAYER & CATECHESIS

LITURGY OF THE PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS:

NOTE: there is no Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Thursday, Mar. 10th this week.

FIRST SOLEMN COMMUNION: classes today, at 9:00am. Please meet in the Knights room.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: at 10:30am in the classrooms.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CATECHESIS CLASS: from 10:00am - 10:25am in the classroom.

BIBLE STUDY: next session on Monday, Mar. 7 at 7:00pm in the hall. Everyone is welcome!

GREAT VESPERS: next on Saturday, Mar. 19 at 5:00pm. We invite all to join in these beautiful evening prayers.

HOLY WEEK AND HOLY PASCHA LITURGICAL SCHEDULE: Please check the calendar for this year's services as some have changed from previous years.

PARISH MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

ADULT BEGINNER LANGUAGE CLASS: on Tuesday, Mar. 8 at 7:00pm in the boardroom.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: on Tuesday, Mar. 8 at 7:15pm in the Knights room (following Pre-Sanctified Liturgy).

LIGHTWEIGH PROGRAM: on Wednesday, Mar. 9 at 1:00pm in the boardroom.

CHOIR PRACTICE: on Wednesday, Mar. 9 at 7:15pm (following Pre-Sanctified Liturgy).

NEWCOMER WELCOME COMMITTEE MEETING: on Wednesday, Mar. 9 at 7:15pm in the Knights room (following Pre-Sanctified Liturgy).

BABKA-MAKING WORKBEE: on Thursday, Mar. 10 at 9:00am in the kitchen/hall. Come help make this delicious bread for Easter.

PASTORAL COMMITTEE MEETING: on Thursday, Mar. 10 at 1:00pm in the boardroom.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 4th DEGREE MEETING: on Thursday, Mar. 10 at 7:00pm in the Knights room.

M.A.F.I.A. EXECUTIVE MEETING & PLAYDATE: on Saturday, Mar. 12 at 10:00am in the Knights room.

PARISH NOTICES

NEW SECURITY SYSTEM: is being installed for our church facilities. Effective this week, all active access cards will cease to work. A review of current holders is underway and those currently authorised will be advised if they may qualify to receive a new card. For further information, please contact: Facilities Director Pierre Loczy, Fr. Mark or Fr. Bo.

REMINDER: all bulletin announcement requests should be emailed to the parish office by Wednesday noon latest for review and approval for the next Sunday publication.

PARISH EVENTS

LENTEN ADULT ICON WRITING WORKSHOP: DEADLINE TO REGISTER is Tuesday, Mar. 8. Contact the parish office at 403-249-4818 or email <stephens_office@shaw.ca>.

UCWLC EASTER BAKE SALE: will take place on Sunday, Mar. 20. There are limited vendor tables available to rent. Call Margaret Mandryk at 403-242-5780 to book.

Fasting is an important Lenten practice, but it is also commonly misunderstood. I invite you to check out healthy and positive attitudes towards fasting by checking out the bulletin board in the entrance of the church, and also by taking a "Lenten Fasting 101" booklet for yourself.



2016 - 2017 PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Every year parishioners have questions about what our Parish Pastoral Council does and how its members contribute to the parish community. Often good people who have gifts and skills that could benefit our parish miss the opportunity to use these talents in this forum of pastoral ministry because of a lack of knowledge and understanding of what is involved.



So, check out the descriptions of the PPC positions and roles that are posted on the board in the atrium and see how diverse and all-encompassing the PPC ministries serve the parish: all of the catechetical programs, social and cultural activities for all ages, financial planning and investments, charitable undertakings, facilities infrastructure, rentals, liturgical seasons, and so much more.

Talk to the current PPC members to get a fuller sense of what makes this parish work, as well as challenges that we face. Mark Ewanchyna (Chair) and Jay Lalach (Vice-Chair) can offer great insights on current and future plans.

A vibrant parish comes from vibrant people. All of us - not just a small group - make this a healthy, spiritual, caring, welcoming and fun community of God's people. There's always a place for you to share your gifts as God intended. Let's get involved!

PETITION: STOP PLANS TO FORCE CANADIAN CHRISTIAN HOSPITALS TO EUTHANIZE PATIENTS <https://www.lifesitenews.com/petitions>

The federal committee released on February 25 its recommendations to govern the practice of doctors helping to kill their patients. The recommendations will provide the foundation for the Liberal government's forthcoming law that will be voted on in June.

The criteria established for who is eligible to be euthanized are so open ended that practically anyone feeling pressure to die — including those with non-terminal illnesses, those with mental illnesses, and even minors — will not be protected. The so-called "safeguards" are so loosely worded as to practically protect no one. In fact, Recommendation 1 states that the terms "relating to medical assistance in dying" should NOT be specifically defined, adding that there was a "strong consensus in the testimony and briefs that there should be no list of included conditions" that would have to be fulfilled to make someone eligible for death.

Extremely concerning is Recommendation 11, which states that the government must ensure that "all publicly funded health care institutions," including Catholic and Christian ones, "provide medical assistance in dying." Christians believe that assisted suicide is contrary to the 5th Commandment against murder. For the government to force Catholic and Christian hospitals to act directly against one of the laws of God is simply outrageous

Equally as concerning for Catholic and non-Catholic Christian doctors is Recommendation 10, which states that an "objecting practitioner must provide an effective referral for the patient." This means that if a Christian doctor will not actually help to kill a patient because of moral reasons, then he must refer that patient to someone who will. Christian doctors were unanimous before the committee that "effective referral" amounted to participating in the death of a patient, and wanted no part in it. It is simply tyrannical to demand doctors violate their consciences by forcing them to engage in an immoral procedure such as killing a patient.

*To the parents of our young children
may we suggest...*

*Relax! God put the wiggle in children;
don't feel you have to suppress it in
God's house. But do prevent them from
kicking people in the pews.*

*Sit towards the front where it is easier to
see and hear.*

*Quietly explain the parts of the Liturgy
to your children.*

*Sing the hymns, pray and voice the re-
sponses. Children learn liturgical
behaviours by copying you.*

*If you need to leave Liturgy with your
child, please feel free to do so, but
please come back. You can also take
advantage of the "cry room".*

*Remember that the way we welcome
children in church directly affects the
way they respond to Church, to God and
to Christ. Let them know that they are
at home in this sacred space.*

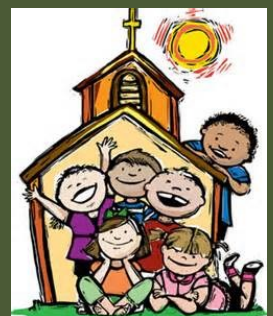
*We love pew art! Please use the blank
papers and colouring sheets provided in
the "cry room" (not pew envelopes) for
your child to draw us some
beautiful art. We can hang them on our
parish bulletin boards for all to enjoy.*

Do your best to attend Liturgy on time.

*In fact we'd love it if you would come up
to the priests before service and give
them a "high five". When kids know the
priest they feel more
comfortable.*

To the members of our parish...

*A smile of encouragement is always
welcome to parents with small, active
children.*



At St. Stephen Protomartyr we know that we are not perfect, but we strive to grow closer to God in all that we do.

Our faith is Christ-Centered, saturated with sacred scripture, holy Tradition, authentic, profound, and ancient - yet completely relevant.

As a community we understand that we must know, love and serve God and all people in order to become balanced and complete. This call to profound personal intimacy is beautiful and real; both solemn and joyful at the same time.

What's a Byzantine - Ukrainian Catholic Church?

Byzantine Christians are those whose traditions, theology and spirituality flow from the early Church in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Most Eastern Christians are commonly called Orthodox.

Byzantine Catholics are those who proudly maintain their rich Eastern (Orthodox) liturgical, spiritual and theological ways, and yet are in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. We recognize the leadership of the Pope of Rome, but are not ourselves Roman Catholic.

Our liturgical life is rich with meaning and actions, that speak to our whole beings. Much of our worship remains unchanged from that of our Fathers and Mothers of the early centuries of Christianity.

At St. Stephen Protomartyr, ALL PEOPLE ARE WELCOME who wish to live a Christian and Catholic way of life, regardless of their ethnic, economic, history or any other backgrounds. We are part of God's Holy Church, here to joyfully lead the life taught by the Risen Christ, reaching out with love and proclaiming His word to all people for the glory of God.

If you are spiritually hungry, and if you are looking for a vibrant community to grow with, we welcome you to check us out at <protomartyr.ca> or visit us in person. We look forward to getting to know you.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

Glory Be to Jesus Christ! We are in the season of Lent and encourage all of you to encounter Jesus and yourself in a personal way by spending time learning about your faith and reflecting upon it. Whether you are an adult or child any moment we give in thought, activity or prayer will help nourish us spiritually during this journey to be closer to God. On behalf of the Eparchial Pastoral Council we would like to offer you a few options.

- ♦ A great website link - <http://www.orthodoxabc.com/>.
- ♦ Have a look at our Eparchial Website <http://www.edmontoneparchy.com/> under the resources tab you will find some Lenten activity sheets. Your parish may have already printed some too! Look for them in the atrium.

God Bless,
Eparchial Pastoral Council

