

Address:

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

Office Hours:

Mon—Thurs: 8:30am - 4:00pm
Friday: Closed
Saturday: 8:30 am—4:00pm
Sunday: Open btwn Liturgies
Closed Statutory Holidays

Telephone:

403-249-4818, press 0

Facsimile:

403 685-9001

For Pastoral Emergencies:

403-249-4818, press 9

Email:

Office@Protomartyr.ca

Parish Website:

www.saintstephencalgary.ca

Eparchy Website:

www.edmontoneparchy.com

DIVINE LITURGIES

Sundays:

8:30am – Ukrainian [chanted]

10:30am – English [choir]

35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Our Venerable Fathers Paul of Thebes (312-37) and John the Hut-Dweller (465-74)

Troparia and Kontakia

Troparion: When You went down to death, O Life Immortal,* You struck Hades dead with the blazing light of Your divinity.* When You raised the dead from the nether world,* all the powers of heaven cried out:* “O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory be to You!”

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

Kontakion: You rose from the tomb, O almighty Saviour;* and Hades, seeing this wonder, was stricken with fear; and the dead arose.* Creation saw and rejoices with You, and Adam exults.* And the world, my Saviour, sings Your praises for ever.

Theotokion: The tomb and death could not hold the Mother of God,* unceasing in her intercession and an unfailing hope of patronage,* for as the Mother of Life she was transferred to life* by Him Who had dwelt in her ever-virgin womb.

Prokeimenon

The Lord is my strength and my song of praise, and He has become my salvation.

verse: The Lord has indeed chastised me, but He has not delivered me to death.

Epistle

Colossians 3:12-16

Brothers and Sisters, As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to

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: The Lord will hear you in the day of tribulation; the name of the God of Jacob will shield you.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

verse: Lord, grant victory to the king and hear us in the day that we shall call upon You. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 18:18-27

At that time, a certain ruler asked Jesus, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honour your father and mother.’” He replied, “I have kept all these since my youth.” When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich. Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” He replied, “What is impossible for mortals is possible for God.”

Marriage: Arrangements with Fr. Bo.

Baptism-Chrismation-Eucharist:

Arrangements with Fr. Bo.

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

Funeral: Arrangements with Fr. Bo.

CLERGY and RELIGIOUS

Priest and Administrator:

Fr. Bo (Bohdan) Nahachewsky

403-249-4818, ext. 202

<FatherBo@Protomartyr.ca>

Deacon and Intern:

Dcn. Andrij Nykyforuk

403-249-4818, ext 203

<DeaconAndrij@Protomartyr.ca>

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/>

Pastor (on sabbatical):

Fr. Mark A. Bayrock

1-403-973-4120

<mabayrock.iphone@gmail.com>

PARISH OFFICE

Office Administrator: Linda Buck

Sacramental Coordinator: Violet Bird

403-249-4818, ext. 0

<office@Protomartyr.ca>

MAINTENANCE

John Kowal

403-249-4818, ext. 207

<maintenance@Protomartyr.ca>

HALL RENTAL INQUIRIES

Brett Bernakevitch



Venerable Paul of Thebes, <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2012/01/15/100196-venerable-paul-of-thebes>

many things from a greedy relative over his inheritance. During the persecution against Christians under the emperor Decius (249-251), Saint Paul learned of his brother-in-law's insidious plan to deliver him into the hands of the persecutors, and so he fled the city and fled into the wilderness.

Settling into a mountain cave, Saint Paul dwelt there for ninety-one years, praying incessantly to God both day and night. He sustained himself on dates and bread, which a raven brought him, and he clothed himself with palm leaves....

...Saint Paul of Thebes died in the year 341, when he was 113 years old. He did not establish a single monastery, but soon after his end there were many imitators of his life, and they filled the desert with monasteries. Saint Paul is honored as the first desert-dweller and hermit."

What a wonderful Theophany season!
Congratulations to our three newly
Baptized children of God; Thomas Lou,
James Gardiner and Twyla Dan. Blessings
on you and your families. Christ is baptized in the Jordan!



Making Our Parish Bloom

Knowing our Mission / Defining our Vision / Developing our
Action Plan / Becoming a More Vibrant Parish

**Jan 16th, 2017 6:30pm
Supper and Program**

For PPC Members. 50th Anniversary Committee. Invited guests. and any





In 2015, St. Stephen's started hosting St. Basil's parish, an Eastern Catholic Melkite parish, which holds services in Arabic. At the same time, millions of Syrians were being displaced due to conflict in their home country. Against this backdrop, Parish Council decided to sponsor a Syrian family in late 2015.

In Calgary, private sponsorship is handled through Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS). We notified CCIS that we were prepared to make a one-year sponsorship commitment, and soon our adopted family was identified. This was the Oubed family: father Samer, mother Katrin, and two boys George and Hanna. On December 20, 2015 they arrived in Canada, and a day later they arrived in Calgary.

Two parish families volunteered to host the Oubeds until their permanent accommodations were ready, and in the end the Oubeds stayed with Bill and Marilyn Kennedy. The Kennedys were excellent hosts and opened their doors to this new family over the

modation, furnishings, food and clothing and in January 2016 the Oubeds moved into their new home, and the boys started school. Katrin had no English proficiency, but soon started English classes at CCIS and over the past year has improved tremendously.

Samer started looking for work immediately to further his career in Accounting. Unfortunately he found it very difficult to find

something in his area of expertise primarily because of the poor state of Calgary's economy. He did manage to find minimum wage jobs at Superstore and at Lowe's, and he did complete his Canadian Accounting Certification. In December he finally landed a suitable accounting position at Core-Mark.

CCIS handled 534 refugees in 2015 and 900 in 2016 (of which St. Stephens sponsored 4). Not all were Syrians; about half were Africans from Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan. In 2013 two churches had a sponsorship program and that grew to 27 in 2016. St. Stephen's has now ended its financial support for the Oubed family, however ongoing social support and friendly visits are always welcome.

The picture shows the family on the day they arrived in Calgary along with Father Ephram and Bill and Marilyn Kennedy. The family is very grateful for the all of the support provided by St. Stephen's Parish.

Mark Ewanchyna

8:30am – in memory of the repose of the souls of +Denis and +Walter Gardzilewich

10:30am- for the repose of the soul of +David Puls

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

Monday, January 16:

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

Tuesday, January 17:

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

Wednesday, January 18:

No Divine Liturgy

Thursday, January 19:

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

Friday, January 20:

10:00am (Westview) - for the intentions and needs of all parishioners

Saturday, January 21:

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

Sunday, January 22:

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

10:30am- for the repose of the souls of +Elsie Boyko and +Adele Hilkewich

and market the efforts of all parish charitable activity.

Contact: Eugene Woychyshyn
587-891-9898;
<eugene.woychyshyn@gmail.com>

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: Earle Kowalewich at
403-831-5503, <earlekoko@shaw.ca>

Plus 50 Club: Provides social interaction for parish seniors, promotes

15

35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- ♦ 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: Ukr.
- ♦ 9:00 am First Solemn Communion Class
- ♦ 10:30 am Divine Liturgy: Eng. With Sunday School
- ♦ 1:00 pm Melkite Divine Liturgy
- ♦ 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy: Eng.
- ♦ 6:30 Faith Friday Meeting

SANDWICHES FOR THE DROP IN CENTRE

16

- ♦ 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- ♦ 10:00 am Open Iconography Studio
- ♦ 6:30 pm Parish Visioning



17

- ♦ 7:00 am Perogy Workbee
- ♦ 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- ♦ 1:00 pm Newman College Course
- ♦ 6:00 pm Possible Art Committee Meeting
- ♦ 6:30 pm Ukrainian Language Class
- ♦ 7:45 pm Ukrainian Language Class

18

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22

36TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- ♦ 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: Ukr.
- ♦ 9:00 am First Solemn Communion Class
- ♦ 10:30 am Divine Liturgy: Eng. With Sunday School
- ♦ 1:00 pm Melkite Divine Liturgy
- ♦ 4:00 pm CHRISMATION
- ♦ 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy: Eng.

23

- ♦ 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- ♦ 10:00 am Open Iconography Studio
- ♦ 6:00 pm Newman College Course
- ♦ 7:00 pm Bible Study

24

- ♦ 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- ♦ 1:00 pm Newman College Course
- ♦ 6:30 pm Ukrainian Language Class
- ♦ 7:45 pm Ukrainian Language Class

25

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29

ZACHAUS SUNDAY

- ♦ 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: Ukr.
- ♦ 10:30 am Divine Liturgy: Eng. **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- ♦ **NO FIRST SOLEMN COMMUNION CLASS before liturgy**
- ♦ **FSC BOOK OF LIFE CEREMONY**
- ♦ 1:00 pm Melkite Divine Liturgy
- ♦ 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy: Eng.

30 Pre-lent begins

- ♦ 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- ♦ 10:00 am Open Iconography Studio
- ♦ 6:00 pm Newman College Course
- ♦ 7:00 pm Bible Study

31

- ♦ 9:00 am Prayers
- ♦ 10:00 am St. Matthew's
- ♦ 11:00 am Plus 50 Meeting
- ♦ 1:00 pm Newman College Course
- ♦ 1:00 Regnum Christi
- ♦ 6:30 pm Ukrainian Language Class
- ♦ 7:45 Ukrainian Language Class

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5

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE

GUEST PRIEST: FATHER GARY

- ♦ 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: Ukr.
- ♦ 9:00 am First Solemn Communion Class
- ♦ 10:30 am Divine Liturgy: Eng. With Sunday School
- ♦ 1:00 pm Melkite Divine Liturgy
- ♦ 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy: Eng.

6



- ♦ 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- ♦ 10:00 am Open Iconography Studio
- ♦ 6:00 pm Newman College Course
- ♦ 7:00 pm Bible Study

7

- ♦ 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- ♦ 1:00 pm Newman College Course
- ♦ 6:30 pm Ukrainian Language Class
- ♦ 7:45 Ukrainian Language Class

8

- ♦ 1
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No Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Perogy Workbee 7:00 pm Property Management Meeting 7:00 pm Ukrainian Language Class	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Knights of Columbus 3rd Degree meeting (at Assumption Parish) 	20  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 am Divine Liturgy at West View Lodge <p>FAITH FRIDAY 6:00PM WITH POTLUCK DINNER</p>	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am BAPTISMAL PREP COURSE 4:00 pm Confessions 5:00 pm Vespers
No Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Men's Dinner Meeting 7:00 pm Ukrainian Language Class	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 	27  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 am Divine Liturgy at West View Lodge 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am FISRT SOLEMN COMMUNION RETREAT 4:00 pm Confessions 5:00 pm Vespers
31 No Divine Liturgy 7:00 am Cabbage Roll Workbee 7:00 pm Men's Dinner Meeting 7:00 pm Ukrainian Language Class	2 FEAST OF THE ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy 9:00 Prep for Men's Dinner 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy 	3  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 am Divine Liturgy at West View Lodge 9:00 am Prep for Men's Dinner <p>MEN'S DINNER FUNDRAISER</p> <p>ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOP IN LETHBRIDGE</p>	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Baptism 5:00 pm Vespers
No Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Ukrainian Language Class	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm K of C 3rd Degree Meeting 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 am Divine Liturgy at West View Lodge 12:00 pm Marriage Prep Course 9:00 am Prep for Men's Dinner 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:00 pm Marriage Prep Course 4:00pm Confessions 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: provides temporary financial support to parishioners in need. Donations to this fund are always welcome.

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>

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>

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: Karen McMillan
<s.david.mcmillan@gmail.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: Fr. Bo Nahachewsky
<fr.bo.nahachewsky@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: Philip Bird
<philipbird@gmail.com>

Young Adults: Those aged 18 - 35 are encouraged to gather as a community and learn, embrace and celebrate their faith.
Contact: Philip Bird
<philipbird@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

8:30 am—Sam Bulych
10:30am - Annette Kozicki
5:00pm - Jay Lalach

HOSTS/USHERS
8:30am - Sam Bulych
10:30—Harry & Annette Kozicki

ROSARY (10:00am): Donna Korchinski

ARK STORE - Lewchuk family

PRAYER & CATECHESIS

**** SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY ****

CONFESSIONS at 4:00pm every Saturday.
Please see schedule for any changes.

GREAT VESPERS at 5:00pm every Saturday.
Please join us in this lovely hour of prayer.

BAPTISMAL PREP COURSE: Next session is on Saturday, January 21 from 10:00am—4:00pm. Please call the office to sign up.

FIRST SOLEMN COMMUNION:
****Reminder**** Sunday 9:00am classes have begun, first retreat Sat. January 28th 10:00am-3:00pm There will also be a short seminar and fellowship for parents in the Board Room during Sunday classes.

WEDDING PREP COURSE WEEKEND: Next session runs Friday, Feb. 10th to Monday February 12th, times to be determined.
Please call the office to sign up.

REGNUM CHRISTI HOLY HOURS: Tuesday January 31st from 1:00-3:00pm

CARDS AND DIVINE LITURGIES: If you know of someone in our Parish Family who the Love & Care Committee should be attending to, please contact Anne Lozinski at 403-241-8905.

PARISH MEETINGS & EVENTS

****REMINDER** PARISH VISIONING** Monday January 16th 6:30pm. There is still time to RSVP!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 3rd degree MEETING: on Thursday, Feb. 9th at 7:00pm.

8:30 am—Vince Letwin
10:30am - MAFIA
5:00pm - Patricia Harasym

HOSTS/USHERS
8:30 am—Vince Letwin
10:30—MAFIA

ROSARY (10:00am): Bill Lewchuk

ARK STORE - Boby family

MEN'S DINNER SILENT AUCTION

MEN'S DINNER SILENT AUCTION – are you interested in helping but not sure how? A very popular silent auction item is bidding for someone's time or expertise. Are you able to offer your services in a unique way? Perhaps you are an accountant, artist, IT expert, photographer, chef, personal trainer or other expert. Contact us and we can work on crafting a very unique silent auction item: Mike Siroishka (403-990-8299) or Dave Ewanchyna (403-560-4003).

For the upcoming Men's Dinner on February 3rd, we are looking for volunteers! Sign up sheets are posted in the atrium. This is an important fundraising event for your church. We need your help to make this event a success! Please contact Jo-Anne Hueser at (403-238-1939)

****ATTN UCWLC**** membership dues can be renewed today Jan. 15th also on the 22nd and 29th after all 3 Divine Liturgies. Fees are \$25.00. The *Nasha Doroha* magazines can be picked up. Thank you to all members for your support.

HOUSE BLESSINGS Please email Violet Bird at coordinator@protomartyr.ca or call the Parish office to schedule your house blessing for 2017.

thing, we exorcize it and reclaim it from the evil powers that are present in this fallen world and restore it as a means of communion with God. God created all that exists for man. Man was created by God to offer creation back to God—to constantly ask Him to transform it into a means of communion. Nothing was created to be used as an end in itself. Every created thing only has true value when it is used in reference to God.

The world is fallen because it has fallen away from the awareness that God is all and in all—that God fills all things with Himself including even the smallest particles of material existence. Water is used as a vehicle for this reclamation because it is a basic natural element that has been created by God as a means of life and not death. (This

what it naturally was created to be—a means of life. So when the priest comes to your home to bless it, he sprinkles the blessed water on the walls in order that the dwelling may be restored to its correct purpose. The house is a sanctified dwelling as long as we use our free will to want it to be sanctified. We should continually offer our homes (and our lives) back to God so that He can transform the home as a means of communion with Him.

Blessing our homes is not magic, but rather the grace of God awaiting a movement of our heart rushing to meet it. It is for this reason that all members of the household should pray along with the priest. We should pray that God will fill us and our house with His presence.



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Goodbye Bishop Fred Henry.
Welcome Bishop William McGrattan.
Mnohaya Lita!

God Grand you Many Years!



—ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP FREDERICK TENDERS RESIGNATION— WELCOME MOST REVEREND WILLIAM MCGRATTAN

(CCCB – Ottawa)... His Holiness Pope Francis accepted the resignation of the Most Reverend Frederick B. Henry as Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary and has appointed today as his successor the Most Reverend William Terrence McGrattan.

At the time of his appointment, Bishop McGrattan was Bishop of the Diocese of Peterborough. Bishop Henry has been Bishop of Calgary for the past 19 years.

Born in London, Ontario on 19 September 1956, Bishop William Terrence McGrattan studied at St. Peter's Seminary, London, Ontario, where he obtained a Master's of Divinity in conjunction with the University of Western Ontario. Following his ordination to the priesthood on 2 May 1987, he pursued studies in theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, receiving a licentiate in 1992.

Following several pastoral appointments within the Diocese of London, in 1997 he was appointed Rector of St. Peter's Seminary, London, a position he was holding when appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto on 6 November 2009. He was appointed Bishop of Peterborough on 8 April 2014. As a member of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), Bishop McGrattan serves on the Episcopal Commission for Doctrine, in addition to being

later the latin, french then english word "baptism" literally means "to immerse". From old testament times jews would ritually immerse themselves into water to cleanse themselves from spiritual impurities. John the Baptist, by picking a particularly deep part of the river Jordan, would have people come into the river to be baptized for the repentance of their sins. The ark of the covenant, the Old Testament object which showed the presence of God and a "type" for Christ, stood still in the middle of this same river, at the same place within the river when it allowed the nation of Israel cross into the promised land. In New Testament times baptistries in churches were normally built large enough completely immerse an adult. All of this clearly points to the fact that baptisms traditionally were done by immersion.

Due to convenience in the Western parts of the church, and eventually into the Eastern parts, water was simply poured on the head of the person being baptized. This is still a valid and licit method of baptism. It's simplicity makes this option attractive for many clergy, particularly celibate clergy who are not normally familiar with, and therefore sometimes afraid of, holding newborns. This being taught in the Roman Catholic Seminaries as the more convenient way of baptizing, eventually moved into the Eastern Catholic churches due to the fact that many of our clergy were trained by the Roman Catholic Church.

Although not a bad way to baptize, pouring of water does not as clearly convey the reality that the whole person dies (like those drowned in the floods of Noah, or the Red Sea at the time of Moses), and are Resurrected with Christ (coming fully out of the tomb and death).

Since Vatican 2 our Eastern Catholic Churches have been told to restore their traditions, and remove Latinizations (such as this one) in order to safeguard the Theology and Spirituality that our church has, and to strengthen relationships with the other Eastern (Orthodox) Churches. Saint John Paul the Second in his famous document "Orientale Lumen" reinforced this need for our Churches to be authentic to our own ways, showing that it is not only healthy for the East to be Eastern, but it is necessary for the whole Church to "breathe with two lungs" (Eastern & Western). Today our Synod of Bishops, lead by the Patriarch reinforce this. Our own bishop has instructed his clergy to restore the celebrating of baptisms by immersion during the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and feasts when the whole congregation is present.

Here is the actual directions from Bishop David which he promulgated in his document "Evangelization; A New Springtime: 25 Year Pastoral Plan" for the Eparchy of Ed-

ments of baptism, chrismation with holy myron, and Holy Communion, in conjunction with or at least one not long after another, will be restored.

Christian Initiation, the beginning of our lifelong journey into the life of Christ, is an apprenticeship into an existing christian community. As such the administration of the three sacraments... should ordinarily take place on a Sunday for Feast Day, in the presence of the greater worshipping community.

The tradition of the Christian East is for baptism to take place throughout the rite of triple immersion. This meaningful and highly expressive rite is to be restored.

Under the influence of the Roman Catholic Church, first Communion was often postponed until school age. The administration of the Divine Eucharist to infant neophytes is to be restored. The frequent reception of the Eucharist, the Bread of Life, nourishes infants and helps them grow spiritually.

Having said this... we are slowly re-introducing the practice into our parish of St. Stephen's. With time we expect it to move more fully towards bishop's norms. Many parishes across our Eparchy (Province of Alberta), across our Metropolia (Canada), and across the globe are actually further ahead of our parish in this regard. We currently offer parents the option of immersion as well as the option of pouring water, and we also give the option of baptisms on Saturdays as well as baptisms during a Sunday Liturgy. Both have been normal since I have arrived at the parish 3.5 years ago. One thing that has been instituted before I have arrived, is the regular reception of the third of the three Sacraments (Eucharist) publicly within the Divine Liturgy. In order to facilitate baptisms by immersion in a more appropriate vessel, I have asked our parish to build a baptismal font. This was lovingly and beautifully done by Nestor & John of our maintenance team. (Good job gentlemen.) This is a great improvement over our "rubbermaid" baptismal font of previous years.

—Father Bo

