



St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church

views from the pews

How it all began . . .

May 27, 2018

Sub-Deacons Ordained at St. Stephen's

When we arrive at church and look towards the Holy Altar we're accustomed to see Priests and Deacons, Lectors and Acolytes (*Altar-boys*), and at times even a Bishop or two praying and processing from place to place. So what's with the new guys with the X's on their backs? Well, quite simply the order of Sub-deaconate has arrived in Calgary.

In order to understand what a Sub-deacon does we first have to take a step back and reflect on the roles of all levels of orders that serve in the Sanctuary here at St. Stephen's. Theoretically, everyone who approaches the Holy Altar during a time of prayer is to have received an ordination from the local Bishop to carry out a specific role (*Note: to be considered ordained one must have received a special grace, conferred by the Bishop through the laying on of hands, to carry out a set of duties. See Acts 13:3*). These are further divided into major and minor orders.



The major orders include the Diaconate (*deaconia = Greek term meaning "helper"*), Priesthood (*derived from Greek via the Latin word "presbyter", which means "elder"*) and the Episcopacy (*read – Bishop. From the Greek word "Episkopos", meaning "overseer."* Well, actually a Bishop is consecrated but that's a matter for another article). The major orders are strictly administered by Canon Law without exception.

The minor orders in ascending rank include Acolytes (*candle-bearers better known as Altar-boys here in North America. Yes this is actually a minor order but in the west we usually allow volunteers to hold this role*), Cantors (*Specifically trained to lead all of the special melodies and prayers of the Church - truly the lead voice of the people*); Lectors (*readers who, in the Eparchy of Edmonton, have been given a special dispensation to distribute the Holy Eucharist*), and Sub-deacons. The minor orders are guided by Canon Law but to a much lesser degree than the major orders.

If the term "*deacon*" means "*helper*", then a "*sub-deacon*" means "*below the helper.*" In practice a Sub-deacon has the role of organizer so that all needs of the Bishop, Priest, or Deacon during the Divine Services are met so that the service may run smoothly. Their role is most obvious when the Bishop is present, acting as his pages and preparing him for the consecration by cleansing his hands. But Sub-deacons can also be assigned particular responsibilities by the local pastor.

Here at St. Stephen's our Sub-deacons will prepare the Altar and preparation table (*proskomedija*) before the 8:30am and 10:30am Sunday Divine Liturgies while Fr. Greg hears confessions from the top of the hour to 10 minutes before the start of the service. They will also assist Fr. Greg organize the distribution of the Eucharist. This will become more necessary with the introduction of Eucharistic Ministers (*well, technically extraordinary*

ministers of the Eucharist) in the near future. Our Lectors will continue to carry out the role they currently have but will also help the new ministers when the time comes. This, again, is a topic for another article so keep an eye out for more info. *Thank you Father Greg for explaining to all the Sub-deaconate!*

Sub-deacon Allan Oryschak

Sharon and I arrived with our children from Regina in the summer of 1986. We chose to live close to The Rockyview Hospital where I would be working and this was also close to the university where Sharon would complete her masters in nursing. When I went out to scout for the closest Ukrainian Catholic church I found myself at St. Stephen's. There in the parking lot was Father Bill Hupalo, he invited us to join the parish and the rest is history. Our boys, Matthew, Jon and Daniel served as altar boys and our older daughter Breanne was one of the first teen volunteers to assist with the Sunday school program. Sharon joined the UCWLC. Our youngest daughter Sarah went on to answer a vocational call to become a consecrated woman and joined the consecrated women of Regnum Christi based in Atlanta Georgia where she is a catechist in a large private Catholic school.



Bill Lewchuck, Allan Oryschak
and Dave Shewchuk

I have been very involved in the parish; teaching Ukrainian in the Cultural program with Michael Lozinsky; parish council president in 1996 (2 terms) and again in 2007 (2 terms); a member of the K of C for the past 25 years. Growing up in Saskatoon at St. George's parish I became an altar boy and remember serving at the installation of Bishop Andrew as the first Eparch of Saskatoon. Altar service has been a long term connection for me. In 2005 I was ordained a Lector by then Bishop Lawrence and served in that capacity until the current ordination to Sub-deacon.

The idea of sub-deaconate came from Patriarch Sviatoslav during his visit to Calgary. Several of us had spoken with him when he noted that we were doing the work of a Sub-deacon. After a period of discernment and Fr. Greg's encouragement and guidance, Bill (Lewchuk), Dave (Shewchuk) and I decided to petition Bishop David for ordination. He promptly approved and ordination ensued. I look forward to continuing service to the parishioners of St. Stephen's and pray for our parish to fulfil its mission.

Sub-deacon Bill Lewchuk

Bill and Theresa moved to Calgary in late 1989 and became parishioners of St. Stephen's in 1992. They have been married for 43 years and have two daughters, Krista and Lisa - both are married. Bill and Theresa have two grandsons. Bill has served on parish council in many positions which include vice president, president and was instrumental in establishing the Ark Store. He became a Grand Knight in 1995 and has worked with the Knights of Columbus as a Fraternal Financial Advisor since 1996. Bill was one of the initial members and still serves the Bishop today on the Eparchial Pastoral Council. Bill was ordained as a Lector in 1993.



"I believe that the Holy Spirit sometimes whispers to us. On occasion the whispers are louder than at other times. Within the last several months I had the opportunity to discuss vocations with Fr. Stephen Wojcichowsky during his presentation at a parish mission. He asked if I had considered vocations considering what I currently do in the parish. Then at the recent ordination of Fr. Andij Nykyforuk last year I was able to spend some time with Fr. Michael Winn, Rector of the Holy Spirit Seminary, where the topic of personal vocations came up. Finally, at the recent One Rock Concert in Calgary last year, I "bumped into" newly ordained Fr. Adrian Martens whom I have known for some time. His question to me was the same as those uttered by Fr. Stephen and Fr Michael, "Why don't you take a more serious step towards vocations?" Three times in less than one year is too much to ignore. It is more than a quiet whisper."



Sub-deacon Dave Shewchuk

Dave was born in Toronto and raised in Edmonton attending St. Josaphat's Cathedral. He assisted on the altar from ages 6-18. He moved to Calgary in 1971 and joined St. Stephen's parish which was celebrating Divine Liturgies in the Knights of Columbus Hall with Father Martin Greschuk. Dave and Judy were married in 1972 and were the 10th couple to be married in St. Stephen's Parish. Dave and Judy's two children Robb and Carol were both baptized and then carried on their parents tradition by being married in St. Stephen's. Dave and Judy are blessed with three grandchildren, Michael, Benjamin and Chloe.

Dave has served on the various parish council directorates many times with the exception of secretary, vice president and president. He became a charter member of the Knights of Columbus St. Nicholas Council #7659 in 1980. "With St. Stephen's becoming a growing parish in the early 1990's, Father Rendy suggested I become a Lector to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion. I was ordained a Lector November 21, 1993. I feel the call to dedicate myself to the worship of God and the service of the church and will continue to do this in the capacity of a Sub-deacon at St. Stephen's."





A Special Thank You to Stan for these amazing photos!

Please join us for the entire 50th Anniversary weekend festivities:

Friday, June 1:

Ain't Your Baba's Zabava—Back to the 80's - Join the young adults as they step into the 80's with their version of the good old fashioned Zabava! Checkout their Facebook Events page for details and tickets.

Saturday, June 2:

11:00 am - Divine Liturgy

1:00 pm - Champagne Reception—a time to gather to reminisce with old friends and meet new ones as we give thanks and acknowledge our blessings while enjoying delicious food and refreshments.

Tickets available until Sunday, May 27th in the atrium after liturgies, the parish office 403-249-4818, Don Bobyn 403-830-3215, Andy Sakundiak 403-923-6344 or Ambrose Comchi 403-862-3269.

Sunday, June 3:

11:00 am - Trilingual Divine Liturgy- St. Stephen's and St. Basil's join together for a single Divine Liturgy of the day celebrating in English, Ukrainian and Arabic.

12:30 pm - Farewell to Fr. Bo—St. Basil's will be providing a simple picnic style lunch after liturgy either inside or out, weather permitting, as we gather together in thanksgiving. Proceeds from the lunch will go to St. Basil's as a fundraiser.

We hope to see you all weekend long!



We all love these stories about our history, whether past or present. Please continue to send them and I will continue to publish them. Contact Laurie Kindrachuk, laurie.kindrachuk@shaw.ca Cell: 403-614-5581