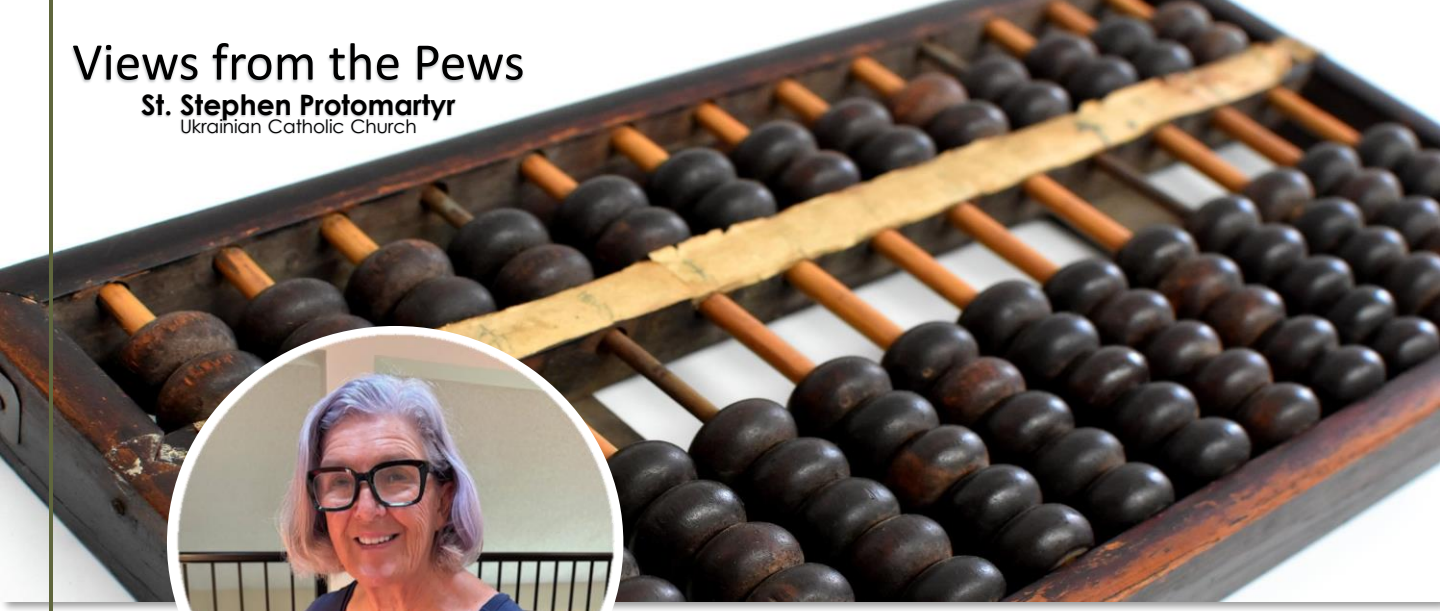
Views from the Pews

St. Stephen Protomartyr
Ukrainian Catholic Church



Laurie

I met Laurie Yuzwa soon after joining St. Stephen's Parish, where her warmth and hospitality made me feel immediately welcome. Our relationship strengthened when I participated in the planning committee for St. Stephen's 50th Anniversary, during which Laurie exhibited exceptional leadership and organizational skills. During our collaboration, her insightful feedback to both me and other committee members was greatly appreciated and played a significant role in enhancing the committee's overall effectiveness. Laurie's unwavering dedication ensured that the history of St. Stephen's was commemorated with excellence. Her ongoing commitment and significant contributions to our parish have earned my enduring respect.

Laurie and Greg were married in 1973 and both graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1974. Laurie earned a degree in Home Economics. After moving to Edmonton, Laurie began working in the Management Training Program at the Hotel McDonald. After six months, she left the hotel position and was accepted into the Chartered Accountant program, where she was *one of eight women* enrolled in Alberta at the time. Laurie and Greg joined St. Stephens Parish when they moved to Calgary in 1987. They are parents to two sons and have three granddaughters and two grandsons, all of whom fill their hearts with great joy.

Laurie has served in a variety of capacities at St. Stephens, including multiple terms as PPC Treasurer and as PPC Chair. Her ongoing contributions extend to the Finance Committee, Religious Art Committee, and the Choir. Laurie has also participated in many financial activities with the Eparchy of Edmonton. She has acted as the accounting consultant for St. Stephens for 35 years, overseeing financial statements and managing responsibilities related to the CRA and other regulatory requirements.

Laurie has a precise work ethic with an uncanny ability to know what needs to be done. She starts her day early and goes late beyond the call of duty. She is always there for those in need and is very present. She is a unique, caring friend and for those (many) who have had the privilege of knowing her, we know we are blessed to have her in our lives. Behind every amazing woman is a special man. Supporting Laurie is Greg, whose collaborative approach and dependable assistance contribute significantly to their effective partnership. He consistently supports Laurie's endeavours with grace, warmth, and a smile.

Laurie, thank you for giving your inspiration, dedication, support and love to St. Stephen's Parish over the last almost 40 years. Although you have transitioned out of the accountant role, we know where to find you! You have quietly led by example with no need for accolades, although you deserve many!

A tribute to Laurie for her service as parish accountant, by Linda Dudar:

"You have the patience of a saint, you keep the books so neat and quaint! Every dollar, dime and cent, your time is truly heaven-sent!

Divine intervention keeping numbers just right, checking each budget morning and night! Every cent all accounted right – your miracle math is shining bright!

Numbers they sing very true, when you dance them like you do! The Lord has blessed you from above, He knows that numbers is your love!

Donations, offerings, cheques and change, you kept it all within range! No missing coins, no funds astray, you guide the church in a holy way!

Your time and your work has been divine, making sure each number aligns! Faith and figures, side by side - thank you for being our holy guide!"

A Heartfelt Thank You …

Laurie, thank you for your authenticity. Your genuine nature and sincerity are deeply appreciated by all who have the pleasure of knowing you. The positive energy you bring brightens our days, creating a welcoming and uplifting atmosphere within our community. Your generous heart brings much joy to those around you, making a meaningful difference. Your insightful thinking is truly treasured, offering wisdom and thoughtful perspectives that enrich our parish. Mnohaya Lita!