

# St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Church

VIEWS FROM THE PEWS | January 5, 2020

## SERVING GOD BY SERVING OTHERS

### SERVING OTHERS AS JESUS DID



*"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."*  
John 13:15

God designed every person with unique talents and gifts specifically so we would use them to serve Him by serving others. Serving is at the heart of the gospel. In John 13:15, Jesus sets an example for us to follow. After washing His disciples' feet — an act of love, humility and service — He encourages us to follow His lead and serve one another. *"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you,"* Jesus says. Jesus also emphasized the same message in Mark 10:45 *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for man."* However, we make all sorts of excuses for not serving: I don't have any special skills to contribute, I am not good enough, I don't know what I would do etc. As a result, we do not serve at all. We all have fears and doubts but

Jesus doesn't call the "equipped," Jesus equips the called. Throughout the Bible you will find that ordinary and unlikely people, with similar doubts and fears, have been called to serve God. God worked through ordinary people to change the course of history. Moses, David and Paul all had fears and doubts. However, all changed the course of history by surrendering and trusting God.

**In addition to our excuses, we lack time and energy to serve others because we're preoccupied with our own agendas, dreams, and pleasures (of the modern world).** However, Jesus has clearly told us that *"... my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love"* (Galatians 5:13). Furthermore, Jesus has warned us that *"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it."* (Mark 8:35). Therefore, do not get distracted by cares of this world but spend your life serving others. Not only will you be serving God but your needs will be met also - *"My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:19)

St. Stephen's Parish has variety of groups and programs for all ages, talents, and interests. As you join one of St. Stephen's groups and connect with new people you'll become part of a close-knit community – a place where you can truly belong, grow and serve with others. You'll learn how to be part of something bigger than yourself and find a safe place to grow in your love for God. We believe that church isn't just a service to attend, it's a place to belong. Join today and see what God can do through you!

Please refer to page 2 for a short description of our groups.

For a **full** list of programs, groups and events please visit :

<https://www.saintstephencalgary.ca>



## Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Directorate responds to the pastoral needs of the parish. There are four branches:

1. **The Pastoral Care Team** : Eucharistic Ministers take Holy Communion to parishioners unable to attend Divine Liturgy. There are phone calls, visits, emails, cards provided to those in need of support. Also, support is provided for Fr. Greg and the residents at Westview Manor. Westview Manor is an assisted living place and Divine Liturgy is celebrated every Friday. At Easter, with the UCWLC we prepare Easter baskets for the shut ins, or ones who are ill or perhaps have experienced a difficult time.
2. **Prayer Group**: The group receives about fifty or more requests for prayer intentions each month.
3. **Prayer Shawls & Squares**: These are blessed on the 4th Sunday of every month. These are given to ones who are ill or perhaps have lost a spouse, child, parent. The squares are usually given to boys/men as the squares easily fit in a pocket.
4. **St. Stephen's Support Network**: Emails are sent out as requests are made for furniture, scooters, walkers etc. Or someone might have items that they are wanting to donate. There is no monetary exchange. The contact for those wishing to be on the email list for the prayer group and or the network support system is Marilyn Comchi.

Email: [marilyncomchi@shaw.ca](mailto:marilyncomchi@shaw.ca)

Phone: 403-220-9624

The contact for those who wish to join/have questions for the care team and or prayer shawls & squares (wish to knit) is Bernadette Lukey.

Email: [corolla2007@shaw.ca](mailto:corolla2007@shaw.ca)

Phone: 403-251-7738.

## Plus 50 Club

St. Stephen Plus 50 Club, which was founded in 1996, provides retired people in our Parish, and other Parishes an opportunity to meet and interact socially. The Club meets on the last Tuesday of every month except December, July and August. Members meet at 11:00 am. and enjoy card games. A luncheon is at noon, followed by a short meeting. Often there are speakers or videos which are of general interest to seniors. The socials are advertised in the Church Bulletin. There is a minimal membership fee of \$5.00.

The socials are held in the Parish Hall. Contact person is Club President Ed Tysowski.

Phone: 403-547-3226.

E-mail: [tysow@shaw.ca](mailto:tysow@shaw.ca)

## UCWLC

Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada (UCWLC) is a national organization with branches in most Ukrainian Catholic parishes in Canada. The fundamental aims of the UCWLC are:

1. **Catholic faith**: to develop and enrich the religious and spiritual life of each member and each parish, thereby strengthening the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada.
2. **Ukrainian culture**: to preserve and develop Ukrainian culture in Canada.
3. **Canadian citizenship**: to become fully aware to the needs of family, community and country. To strengthen the spiritual dimensions and moral values of Canadian life.
4. **Charitable activities**: to initiate and support programs of charitable action.

UCWLC is an active part of our parish, taking care of many spiritual and physical needs for our community, and is involved in charitable endeavors locally, nationally and globally. UCWLC is open to all women of the parish 18 years and older. We meet monthly, September to June, on the first Thursday of the month, at 7:00 pm.

For more information contact Nettie Kost at [nettiekost@gmail.com](mailto:nettiekost@gmail.com)

