



Welcome



St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Vernon, BC

2210 – 40th Avenue, Vernon, BC V1T 8Z9

Liturgies: Tuesday to Friday – 9:00 a.m.
Holy Days - 10:00 a.m.



Sundays – 9:30 a.m. – Rosary
10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Grindrod, BC



Carlín Street and 3rd Avenue,
Grindrod, BC

Sundays Divine Liturgy:

Feb. 7th – 2:00 p.m.
Feb. 21st – 3:00 p.m.

Feb. 14th – 2:00 p.m.
Feb. 28th – 2:00 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Volodymyr Dmyterko
P.O. Box 20064 Vernon, BC V1T 9L4
Phone: 250-549-1327;

Email: o.volodymyr@yahoo.ca

Parish website: <http://vernon.nweparchy.ca/bulletins/>
Eparchy: www.nweparchy.ca



*“The Vibrant Parish – a place to
encounter the living Christ”*

Patriarch Sviatoslav

Welcome! BimaeMo!

We extend a warm welcome to our parishioners, your families and friends. We are glad that you have come to worship with us today and pray that your participation in our parish will be enriching to you. Following every Sunday Divine Liturgy, Fellowship Coffee is served! We invite everyone to join us.

PASTORAL MINISTRY AND SACRAMENTS:

SACRAMENT of CONFESSIONS: on Sundays and Holy Days: 30 min before Divine Liturgy and other days, by appointment.

HOLY COMMUNION: for the sick, by appointment, any time.

BAPTISMS - by appointment.

MARRIAGES - by appointment, at least 6 month in advance.

FUNERALS - by appointment.

ANOINTING of the sick, hospital visits - by appointment, any time

Please note: parish members requesting the celebration of a Divine Liturgy for a special intention (such as: Thanksgiving, the Infirm, General Intentions, the Deceased, Help of the Holy Spirit, for the Travelers, etc.), please see Fr. Volodymyr to arrange for it.

✙ON

FORGIVENESS
IS THE FINAL
FORM OF
LOVE.



Our parish community extends a welcome to visitors who wish to pray and worship with us and who would like to participate in the life of our parish in all aspects. We assure you that visitors to St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Vernon meet with the warmest hospitality. Although we are a small community, we pride ourselves in being a family which centers itself on faith, prayer and a shared love of our Traditions. Although we are proud to belong to the Ukrainian Catholic Church, a number of ethnic backgrounds are represented in our parish community.

Divine Services are celebrated according to the Byzantine Catholic Rite of Ukrainian usage. Whether you are familiar with our Liturgy and Traditions from your own faith formation or would like to learn more about them, we extend a heartfelt welcome to you to join us for Divine Liturgy. Whether you are Roman Catholic or a member of another Church or Religious Tradition, you are most welcome to join us for worship. The Liturgy is celebrated using a mix of English and Ukrainian. The readings from the Holy Gospel and Epistles, as well as homilies are in English.



SUNDAY of CHEESEFARE / FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

The Holy Apostle Onesimus

Troparion (Tone 4): When the disciples of the Lord learned from the angel* the glorious news of the resurrection* and cast off the ancestral condemnation,* they proudly told the apostles:* “Death has been plundered!* Christ our God is risen,* granting to the world great mercy.”

+Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Kontakion (Tone 6): O Master, Guide to Wisdom,* Bestower of prudent counsel,* Instructor of the foolish and Defender of the poor ones;* make firm my heart and give it understanding.* Give me a word, O Word of the Father:* Behold, I shall not stop my lips from crying out to You:* In Your mercy, have mercy on me who am fallen.

Now and forever... Kontakion (4): My Savior and Deliverer from the grave,* as God, has raised out of bondage the children of earth * and shattered the gates of Hades;* and as Master, He rose on the third day.

Prokimenon (8): Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them.

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



Epistle (Rom. 13:11-14:4): **A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

Brethren, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Alleluia (8) It is good to give praise to the Lord, and to sing to Your name, O most High.

verse: To announce Your mercy in the morning and Your truth every night (Ps 91:3).

Gospel: (Matthew 6:14-21): The Lord said: If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. ‘And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Communion : Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest (Ps 148:1). Alleluia! (3x).

The Forgiveness Service

(The priest then turns towards the people and says:)

Priest: My brothers and sisters, at this time let us try to remember all of our sins which we have committed throughout the course of our life, and with which we have offended God.

All: Lord, we have sinned against You in thought, word and action. We have been wrong and we have done wrong. Forgive us.

Priest: Let us try to remember if we harbor any ill-feelings towards God for anything that happened in our life.

All: Lord, help us to accept your will in our lives, to try to understand your ways, and not to feel angry with You or blame You for anything that might happen to us or go wrong for us in our lives.

Priest: Let us try to remember all of those people who have offended us, hurt us, angered us; all those people against whom, for whatever reason, we bear grudges, feel hatred, and whom we find hard to forgive.

All: From the bottom of my heart, I truly and sincerely forgive those who hate me, who have offended, or hurt me, and against whom I carry a grudge or nourish ill-feelings.

Priest: Let us try to remember all of those people whom we ourselves have hurt or offended, knowingly or unknowingly, in word or in deed; and all those whom we, for whatever reason, hate and who bear grudges against us.

All: From the bottom of my heart, I truly and sincerely ask forgiveness and pardon of all those whom I hate, whom I have offended and hurt, and who hold a grudge against me because of this.

Priest: My brothers and sisters, if I have sinned against you, hurt you, or offended you in thought, word or action, knowingly or unknowingly, in any possible way, please forgive me, a sinner, and pray to God for me. **(bows to all the faithful)**

All: May God Himself forgive you and pardon your sins and transgressions, and we also forgive and pardon you. Father, bless us and forgive us our sins and offenses and transgressions, committed voluntarily or perhaps unwittingly, against you. **(bows to the Priest)**

Priest: May the Lord God, through His grace and loving kindness, forgive you. And I also pardon and forgive you.

Prayer for a Vibrant Parish Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, as you once gathered lost sheep that they might hear Your voice and be your flock, so also today graciously look down from heaven upon our parish community, and send down on it your Holy Spirit, that it might be a place to receive the joy of Your Good News. Strengthen us with your presence, and always gather us together in prayer. Grant us the spirit of serving others, so that in our parish all might encounter You, the merciful God. Bless our spiritual leaders with Your wisdom, and inspire us to generously give of our time, talents and treasure for the building up of Your Kingdom. Unite us in peace and harmony, as befits Your community of love. Instill in us a missionary spirit, and let our parish community shine with the light of the Gospel, with prayer and good works, inviting all to share in the divine life, so that Your Name, O Savior, may be praised, together with Your eternal Father, and your most-holy, good and life-giving Spirit. Amen.

SPECIAL PETITION DURING THE DIVINE LITURGY: — We also pray to be blessed with generous hearts to contribute to our Bishop's initiatives and programmes, such as: the support of parishes, the education of parishioners, and the formation of seminarians, Lord hear us and have mercy.

Please Continue our Prayer for Ukraine:

Heavenly Father, Your Son taught us "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called Children of God." At this hour, we fervently pray that Your Holy Spirit may inspire men and women in Ukraine to become Peacemakers. May they seek reconciliation and dialogue and end the violent confrontation and killing. May they restore tranquility to their nation and restore human rights, democratic principles and religious liberty to their troubled land. God, our Father, we beseech you to comfort the suffering, heal the wounded and accept the souls of the departed into Your Heavenly

Kingdom. And may the Most Holy Mother of God, extend her Blessed Mantle of Protection over Ukraine. May each of us always live our lives as instruments of Your Peace. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THANKS: Many thanks to all the parishioners who work to keep our parishes together. No matter what your contribution is in helping, whether large or small, it is greatly appreciated. May we all continue to work for the betterment of the Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Josaphat's Parishes and have the faith to do so. God's blessing on all those who served so faithfully!

Very much appreciation for 2016 our Parishes Council Members. May God bless you abundantly with good health and all the necessary graces that you may continue your work for God!

A Message from Fr. Volodymyr: I wish to express my sincere thanks to those Parishioners who have honored tradition and invited me to Bless their homes with the customary Epiphany prayers which are meant to bring God's grace and blessing upon them and all who dwell in them. It gives me priestly consolation to provide for the spiritual needs of my parishioners, to give guidance, to renew friendships and to meet new families of the parish. May the Divine Child Jesus give you His love and blessing, now and for all eternity, and may you always praise Him, and the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

COFFEE HOUR: A gentle reminder concerning Coffee Hour after each Sunday Divine Liturgy: UCWLC members and Individuals who would like to cover the weekly Coffee Hour please contact Joanne Kosick or you may write your commitment on the list located downstairs in the church hall. Please take note that every parishioner appreciates this weekly social gathering. Remember all proceeds are given to our church. A Hearty Thank You in Advance for everyone effort!

First Day of the Great Fast – Feb.8th A day of abstinence from both meat & dairy products.

Memorial Divine Liturgy and Sorokousty for the deceased of Individual Family members will be celebrated every Saturday during Great Lent at 9:00am beginning on February 13, 2016. Arrange to have the deceased members of your family remembered during these Services. Please hand your Memorial service envelopes filled with the names of ours deceased loved ones over to Father Volodymyr for the prayers.

Sunday collection January 31st - Vernon \$ 851 .75 Grindrod \$ 175.00

“Save-on- Foods” gift cards – are available for sale. Anyone wishing to buy the cards, please contact Miss. Teresa Huculak or Fr. Volodymyr.

Grace. If for any of these or other reasons you cannot receive Holy Communion, you are welcome to come for a blessing. Please indicate to the priest that you would like to receive his blessing.

Parishioner's news section: As a Parish, it would be wonderful if we could share in our fellow brothers and sisters journey- their joys and sorrows. If you have an upcoming event (birth announcement, big anniversary, graduation, etc) or updates such as medical news, prayer requests, etc., please send us an email or tell to the priest, so it can be included in the newsletter. As well, if you wish to celebrate a special occasion with us, you are more than welcome to bring a contribution to add to the coffee social.

Happy Birthday – May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation in Many Happy and Blessed Years of Life to those who celebrated their birthday in month of February: Mrs. Gloria Szadiak (Feb. 3); Mrs. Patricia Sawadsky (Feb. 16); Mrs. Eva Gosselin (Feb. 28) **Many happy healthy years! Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!**

Please Pray for health of ... Dorothy Chura, Ann Yaremchuk, Tatianna O'Donnell, Rose Shawchuk, Anthony Mulik, John Maiwka, Yanko Anna, Szadiak Victor and Gloria, Sophie Caskey, Walter Kociuba, Nick Roman, Kalyna Kociuba, Terry Konopada, Jesse Kosick, Marion McAreavy, Mary Ferguson, Nicholas Adam Laniel Cryss O'Donnell, Rose Ostopowich, Beverly Brodoway and her husband Harry and all other parishioners and family members who need our support and God's healing at the present time. Let us also remember our sisters and brothers in Ukraine in our prayers!

Please let Fr. Volodymyr know if you would like to add new names to the prayer list and also notify him about any sick and/or hospitalized parishioners and family members.


Meetings Church Councils and Organizations:

Knights of Columbus Executive Meeting will take place on Tuesday, **February 9th at 7:00 pm.** at **OLOV RC church.**

Next UCWLC meeting will take place on Tuesday, **February 9th** - After the Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m.

St. Josaphat's Parish Council Meeting will take place, **Feb. 21st**- After the Div. Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

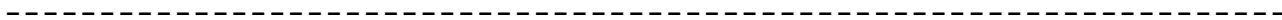
Knights of Columbus Executive Meeting will take place on Tuesday, **February 23rd at 7:00 pm.** at **OLOV RC church.**

 **EMAIL BULLETIN** - If you would like to have the Bulletin emailed to you please send your request to: o.volodymyr@yahoo.ca

PARISH WEBSITE - <http://vernon.nweparchy.ca/bulletins/>

Please realize how truly blessed we are, and help others less fortunate than us. God will reward us, for He is Good and loves mankind. "

...For I was an hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (St Math. 25:35-40)



New Westminster Eparchy: 2016 Great Fast Donation for the Church in Ukraine

Name: & Address:

Name of Organization or Fund	Amount enclosed
Ukrainian Catholic University	
Caritas Ukraine	
Holy Resurrection Sobor Building Fund	
Andrew's Pence	
Synod Administration Fund	
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	

Please make the cheque payable to your local parish, which will issue the tax receipt.

Great Fast/Lenten Regulations - The Great Lent begins tomorrow.

Mandatory Regulations are:

- No meat or dairy on Monday, the First Day and on Good Friday.
- No meat on all Fridays during Lent and on great Saturday.
- Those from ages 14 through 59 are bound to follow these rules. Excused are

the seriously ill, pregnant women, and nursing mothers, those who depend upon others for their sustenance, those who find themselves in a circumstance where abstinence is impossible, and those who are engaged in heavy manual labor.

However, all must fast on Good Friday. Increased prayer, good works, almsgiving and the reading of Holy Scripture should be performed each day to help us "Come closer to the Risen Christ."



Service of Forgiveness – will be celebrated on **Sunday, February 7th**

following the Divine Liturgy. This beautiful service is traditionally celebrated on the Sunday before Lent. Our journey to the Resurrection starts with asking for forgiveness and forgiving another. At the end of this service, each person asks for forgiveness of each other by saying "Father (Brother, Sister) forgive me" and the answer is "May God forgive you! I am forgiving you." I encourage all parishioners to participate in this service of forgiveness & love. Please also invite your family and friends!

Presanctified Gift Liturgy - During Lent, the Presanctified Gift Liturgy will be offered on Wednesday. Please make all efforts to come.

The Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian.

O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust for power and for idle talk.

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Thy servant, Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my Brother; for Blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen.



CHEESEFARE SUNDAY. SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS.

Introduction The Sunday of Forgiveness is the last Sunday prior to the commencement of Great Lent. During the pre-Lenten period, the services of the Church include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. On the Sunday of Forgiveness focus is placed on the exile of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, an event that shows us how far we have fallen in sin and separated ourselves from God. At the onset of Great Lent and a period of intense fasting, this Sunday reminds us of our need for God's forgiveness and guides our hearts, minds, and spiritual efforts on returning to Him in repentance.

Biblical Story

The Sunday of Forgiveness, the last of the preparatory Sundays before Great Lent, has two themes: it commemorates Adam's expulsion from Paradise, and it accentuates our need for forgiveness. There are obvious reasons why these two things should be brought to our attention as we stand on the threshold of Great Lent. One of the primary images in the Triodion is that of the return to Paradise. Lent is a time when we weep with Adam and Eve before the closed gate of Eden, repenting with them for the sins that have deprived us of our free communion with God. But Lent is also a time when we are preparing to celebrate the saving event of Christ's death and rising, which has reopened Paradise to us once more (Luke 23:43). So sorrow for our exile in sin is tempered by hope of our re-entry into Paradise.

The second theme, that of forgiveness, is emphasized in the Gospel reading for this Sunday and in the special ceremony of mutual forgiveness at the end of the Vespers on Sunday evening. Before we enter the Lenten fast, we are reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another. A fast without mutual love is the fast of demons. We do not travel the road of Lent as isolated individuals but as members of a family. Our asceticism and fasting should not separate us from others, but should link us to them with ever-stronger bonds.

The Sunday of Forgiveness also directs us to see that Great Lent is a journey of liberation from our enslavement to sin. The Gospel lesson sets the conditions for this liberation. The first one is fasting—the refusal to accept the desires and urges of our fallen nature as normal, the effort to free ourselves from the dictatorship of the flesh and matter over the spirit. To be effective, however, our fast must not be hypocritical, a “showing off.” We must “appear not unto men to fast but to our Father who is in secret”.

The second condition is forgiveness—“If you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you”. The triumph of sin, the main sign of its rule over the world, is division, opposition, separation, hatred. Therefore, the first break through this fortress of sin is forgiveness—the return to unity, solidarity and love. To forgive is to put between me and my “enemy” the radiant forgiveness of God Himself. To forgive is to reject the hopeless “dead ends” of human relations and to refer them to Christ. Forgiveness is truly a “breakthrough” of the Kingdom into this sinful and fallen world.

THE SEASON OF GREAT LENT - is the time of preparation for the feast of the Resurrection of Christ, it is the living symbol of man's entire life which is to be fulfilled in his own resurrection from the dead with Christ. It is time of renewed devotion: of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a time of repentance, a real renewal of our minds, hearts and deeds in conformity with Christ and his teachings. It is the time, most of all, of our return to the great commandments of loving God and our neighbors.

In observing the forty days of prayer, fasting, and good works, we imitate our Divine Master's period of fasting and prayer in the desert. As we enter this Sacred Season of Great Lent, we, as children of God, once again renew our efforts to become more Christ-like. We wish to live in Him; enter Jerusalem with Him; die with Him; be buried with Him; and rise with Him. By our sincere efforts of prayer, fasting, and good works we shed ourselves of our sinful past, and "put on the new man."

At the onset of Great Lent and a period of intense fasting, this Sunday reminds us of our need for God's forgiveness and guides our hearts, minds, and spiritual efforts on returning to Him in repentance.

PRAYER FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

O Lord Jesus Christ, my God, hope of all bounds of the earth and of those far away at sea, You have established these holy days of fasting by Your law and the prophets, as a way of my mortification and repentance. In the fullness of time, You manifested Yourself in the flesh on this earth, and by Your fast of forty days and nights, You sanctified the practice of fasting and commanded me to follow Your example. As a merciful and gracious God, enable me to begin these holy days of Great Fast with perfect repentance, with humility rather than hypocrisy, with diligent prayer, with hunger and thirst, with frequent prostrations, and with contrite heart. Enable me also to complete this time of the Great Fast, without fault and with a pure conscience, keeping my faith intact and achieving victory over sin. Send me an angel of peace to watch over my life to protect me from all snares of my enemies, and to assist me in the performance of good deeds. Strengthen me by Your power



so that I may accomplish the ascetic works of the Great Fast. Then, with my passion bridled and my soul and body cleansed, I will be worthy to partake, without condemnation, of Your Most Pure Body and Your Most Precious and Life-giving Blood. For you are the merciful and gracious lover of mankind Who has come to save all, and to You I render glory, together with Your Eternal Father, and Your All Holy, Good, and Life-Giving Spirit, now and ever, and forever. . . Amen.

Dearly Beloved,

Let me adapt for you a little story that I heard recently. It could easily be the story of some of our brothers and sisters, maybe you, yourself. It should, however, be a lesson for all. A churchgoer told a fellow parishioner, "It's too bad, but in a way, it's a waste of time." He said he couldn't remember a single sermon, even though he had heard a couple thousand of them over the decades, so going to services, listening to sermons, etc. was of no benefit to him. He hadn't gotten anything "out of" church. And so he stopped. Staying home or doing something else on Sunday mornings got easier, and he soon faded away from his parish family. Another parishioner, thinking about his friend who "used to" participate, saw things differently. He said that in a similar way he couldn't remember the exact menu of the 30,000 meals his wife had cooked over their 30 years of marriage! But he knew perfectly well that each one nourished him and gave him the strength to work, to raise his family well, to LIVE. He said that if it wasn't for her food he'd be physically dead, And, in the same way, if it wasn't for going to church, listening to and taking in the Scripture readings and sermons, praying and singing with the choirs of people, saints and angels, receiving Holy Communion, etc. he'd be spiritually dead... for lack of nourishment! Beloved, the Lord promised to nourish us with the good things of heaven and earth. All He asks is that we sit at His table, open our mind, heart, and mouth in order to be fed. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner."

Liturgical celebrations during week:

Monday, February 8th - 9:00 a.m. - Lenten Service (*Beginning of the Great Fast/Lent* - abstain from all meat and all dairy products) . You are encouraged to begin Great Lent by asking our Lord for the graces needed to live a life more in-tune with God's Word. The church also encourages us to fast and pray more during this time.

Mon. Feb. 8 th	9:00 a.m.	Div. Lit. God's blessings for the generosity anonymous donors
Tue. Feb. 9 th	9:00 a.m.	Div. Lit. God's blessings for the generosity anonymous donors
Wed. Feb. 10 th	9:00 a.m.	Presanctified Gifts Liturgy
Thu. Feb. 11 th	9:00 a.m.	Div. Lit. God's blessings for the Salesian Order requested by Mss. Leah Blain
Fri. Feb. 12 th	9:00 a.m.	Div. Lit. God's blessings for the Order of the Visitation req. by Mss. Leah Blain
Fri. Feb. 12 th	4:00 p.m.	Station of the cross – Make it a priority this Lent.
Sat. Feb. 13 th	9:00 a.m.	Memorial Divine Liturgy / <u>Sorokousty</u> – for the deceased.
Sun. Feb. 14 th	9:30 a.m.	Rosary (Vernon)
Sun. Feb. 14 th	10:00 a.m.	God's blessings for all parishioners of St. Josaphat Church (Eng./Ukr.)
Sun. Feb. 14 th	1:45 p.m.	1st Hour Service (Grindrod)
Sun. Feb. 14 th	2:00 p.m.	God's blessings for all parishioners of Sts. Peter and Paul Church (Eng.)

In Your Prayers: Please remember to pray for the sick and the infirm of our Parish.

Please note: parish members requesting the celebration of a Divine Liturgy for a special intention (Thanksgiving, the Infirm, General Intentions, the Deceased, Help of the Holy Spirit, for the Travelers, etc) intentions, please see Fr. Volodymyr to arrange for it.



**Chancery Office
Eparchy of New Westminster**

To the Faithful of the Eparchy of New Westminster

3 February 2016

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Friends,

I wanted to write to you and let you know how our Eparchial Fund Raising Campaign “Share Your Heart” is coming along. We launched this initiative just a little more than two months ago. I have some wonderful news to share with you. Through your generosity, we have passed \$41,000 of dedication and love! I want to thank those of you who have already contributed and I want to encourage our Faithful to make your donation as soon as possible. Jesus taught us in several of his parables that sharing our time, talent and treasure are at the very core of being his disciples.

In my letter to you dated 25 November 2016 I appealed to you for your support to continue the pastoral care of our faithful and to reach out to those in our communities and let them know about the Good News that our Church proclaims – the news of Salvation through personal relationship with Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! We set as our financial goal a sum of \$500,000. I realize that that seems like a large amount. In this letter to you, I want to highlight in this letter how we use our funds in the eparchy through three examples.

We need funds to continue to support our seminary, especially our own seminarian Mykhailo Ozorovych, whom many of you know. I am very proud of his academic accomplishments since he became a seminarian in our Eparchy. He has almost consistently achieved “A” in his academic grades at the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute at Saint Paul University in Ottawa. His formators and professors have advised me many times how dedicated he is to preparing himself for ordained pastoral ministry in our Eparchy and Mykhailo has often expressed to me his profound gratitude for your prayers, love and support. By our support of his formation today we are ensuring high quality pastoral care for years to come in our Eparchy.

Over the last year we have brought two wonderful priests into our Eparchy from Ukraine. This is primarily because the young men of our Eparchy have not felt God’s call to serve our communities as priests. This is not a criticism of our faithful, just a statement of the fact that there has not been an abundance of priestly vocations coming from Canada.

At the beginning of 2015 Fr. Iurii Tychenok and his wife Maria and their two sons arrived from Lviv and have been assigned to our parish in Prince George. Fr. Iurii has been a priest for several years, serving in a large parish in the city of Lviv. When he heard about our pastoral needs in our most Northern parish, he came out to visit us and see our Eparchy and discern with me if he had a vocation to serve in our Eparchy.

We spent several weeks together, in our Eparchy traveling to Prince George and meeting with our parishioners there and talking with our Eparchial clergy and their families both about the challenges and yes rewards of living in British Columbia. Fr. Iurii went home to Lviv and soon afterwards I received word that his wife and two sons were eager to join our pastoral team. On 1 January 2015 he was installed as our priest in Prince George. I know that our faithful have been very enthusiastic about him and we have seen our little parish grow in the short time he has been there.

Our second priest that came to us last year, is Fr. Stepan Dovhoshyia. In May of 2015, I met with Stepan and his wife Yulyia when I was in Ukraine for meetings and we talked about the pastoral needs in our Eparchy. Stepan, who is from the city of Ternopil and had just completed his studies and formation for the priesthood at Holy Spirit Seminary in Lviv agreed to come to British Columbia for a few weeks in the summer and like Fr. Tychenok, discern with me if he had a vocation to serve as a priest in our Eparchy. Stepan had an opportunity to meet many of our faithful and visit several of our parishes. He worked with our seminarian Mykhailo with our children's day camp in Surrey, our Altar server day camp at Holy Eucharist Cathedral and also participated in our summer Bible Study program for teens and young adults. He was ordained a subdeacon at our parish in Richmond and a deacon in our Cathedral in New Westminster and at the end of July returned to Ternopil. He and his wife with their little son Lucas began to prepare themselves to join us in Canada, and I was privileged to participate in that preparation when I ordained him to the priesthood on August 28th, in his home parish in Ternopil where his father is the pastor. He and his family arrived just before Thanksgiving to New Westminster. Fr. Stepan began a rather intense period of pastoral internship under the guidance of Fr. Yuriy Vyshnevskyy, Fr. Richard Soo, sj, and Fr. Chornenkyy to prepare him to become the parish priest at our Cathedral in mid January of this year after the transfer of Fr. Yuriy to our parish in Victoria.

To ensure that we have good and holy qualified clergy to serve our Eparchy we need to support them, and when we recruit them from abroad we have to assist them with their travel and relocation costs. I also believe that it is proper to reimburse some of their education costs since we are the beneficiaries of their seminary studies. Our Eparchy is committed to providing effective and good pastoral care.

Please help me as your bishop through our clergy to evangelize and provide you with great pastoral care. If you have already contributed, please consider adding to your donation again this year, if you have not yet donated, please be generous.

I look forward to writing to you soon with more good news about our Eparchial Fundraising Campaign.

With prayerful best wishes and assurance of my Episcopal blessings, I remain,

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

+Ken