



# WESTERN EPARCHY NEWSLETTER

WESTERN EPARCHY  
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
OF CANADA

Issue 23: Spring, 2017

## PASCHAL GREETING FROM HIS GRACE BISHOP ILARION



### ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС!

Всечесні отці, дорогі браття і сестри!  
В ці дні світлого Христового Воскресіння молитовно бажаю,  
щоб Воскресший Господь дарував всім вам духовну радість і  
спокій, здоров'я тілесне і допомогу Божу в усіх добрих справах  
на многії літа.

### CHRIST IS RISEN!

Dear Fathers, Beloved Brothers and Sisters,  
In these joyful and glorious days of the Resurrection of our Lord  
and Saviour, Jesus Christ, I prayerfully greet you with the hope  
that His Resurrection gives us all spiritual joy and peace, strong  
physical health, and abundant strength from the Lord in all our  
good deeds for His Glory for many years.

With the blessing of His Grace  
Bishop Ilarion, Bishop of Edmonton,  
all youth of the Western Eparchy  
are invited to attend:

### UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA YOUTH RETREAT

**Banff, Alberta**  
**May 5 – 7**

All Ukrainian Orthodox youth, ages  
10 and up are welcome to register.

For further information contact:  
Fr. Timothy Chrapko  
Phone: 403-700-9947  
Email: [fr.t.chrapko@gmail.com](mailto:fr.t.chrapko@gmail.com)

To register, please visit:  
[www.uoccyouth.com](http://www.uoccyouth.com)

### HOME INVASION AT THE WESTERN EPARCHY MANSE

On Monday, March 6, at approximately 1:15 pm, an intruder  
broke in and entered the Western Eparchy Manse while His  
Grace Bishop Ilarion was at home. There was some damage to  
the property, but by the grace of God, His Grace Bishop Ilarion  
was not physically harmed. This home invasion was reported to  
the police and a report was filed but the intruder is yet to be  
apprehended. **Please pray for His Grace Bishop Ilarion.**

Thank you to all who expressed care and concern for His  
Grace Bishop Ilarion during this traumatic time. Your  
messages by phone, e-mail or in person, were very  
necessary and your thoughtfulness was helpful. We are  
upgrading the security system at the WE office and any  
financial help is appreciated.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

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**From: ENCOUNTERING THE MYSTERY**  
*Understanding Orthodox Christianity Today*

**by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew**

### PROFILE OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Orthodox Church numbers some 300 million people world-wide. Geographically, its primary area of distribution lies along the coast of the (northern) Mediterranean, in Eastern and Northern Europe, and in the Middle East. Composed of several self-governing or Patriarchal churches, it constitutes a form of international federation within which each local church retains its independence while remaining committed to unity in faith and worship.

The Orthodox Church does not have a centralized authority or leadership, instead comprising a constellation of independent and equal national churches, among which the Ecumenical Patriarchate is historically and traditionally honored as “first among equals.” In this regard, the Ecumenical Patriarchate bears a primacy of honor and service; its authority lies not in administration but in coordination. Therefore, it serves as the primary focal point of unity, fostering consensus among the various Orthodox churches. In addition to the responsibility of facilitating Orthodox unity, the Ecumenical Patriarch has immediate jurisdiction over the Greek, Ukrainian, Carpo-Russian, and Albanian Orthodox churches in the United States and Canada, as well as all Greek Orthodox churches in Europe, South America, Australasia, and the areas of Greece freed from Turkish occupation after the Balkan wars, including Crete and Macedonia.

Although it is certainly of Eastern origin, the Orthodox Church nonetheless regards itself as the “one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church” and may be found today throughout the world, in countries such as America, Australia, Western Europe, Japan, and Asia. It is defined not in relation or in contrast to Roman Catholicism or Protestantism, but rather as a seamless continuation and spiritual succession of the early Church and of the Apostles, martyrs, confessors, monastics, great teachers, and saints.

The term “Orthodox” was first adopted in the early-fourth-century Christian Church, by the Greek Fathers, namely by the great teachers and theologians of the early Church, in order to determine and distinguish the canonical faith from heterodox, or heretical, doctrines, and deviations. Today, the term forms part of the official title of the Eastern Christian Church and those in communion with it. Also included in the title are certain other Eastern churches that were separated in the fifth century as a result of the Monophysite controversy, a theological dispute over the question of interpreting Christ’s divine and human natures.

The title “Patriarch” is adopted for the head of various Orthodox churches. It was originally confined to the five ancient Churches of Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem—the “Pentarchy” or five ruling churches, officially, codified under the emperor Justinian (527-65). The title was later extended to the Metropolitan of Moscow in the sixteenth century, to the Archbishops of Serbia and Bulgaria in the early twentieth century, and to the head of the Romanian church in the middle of the twentieth century. The ancient Church of Georgia adopted the exceptional title “Catholikos” for their primate.

The hierarchy and administration of the Orthodox Church are based on the ancient orders of bishop, presbyter (or priest), and deacon. Each diocese has integrity as the full expression of the Church while maintaining full communion or unity of faith with every other diocese. Many people tend to think of the Church as a vast, worldwide institution. Nevertheless, the concept of universality, or catholicity, is understood as being expressed in the local community. This is a fundamental aspect of Orthodox theology and tradition, which recognize each local Eucharistic gathering as related on the principle of identity and as reflecting the fullness of the Body of Christ.

Such is the general vision of the Church, or the overall structure of what is called ecclesiology. Within this vision, one may refer interchangeably to the “Orthodox Church” (collectively) as well as to the “Orthodox churches” (individually). For the Church is the “one Body of Christ,” which comprises “many parts.”

*( This volume provides thorough and educational information about the Orthodox Church and is an excellent resource for anyone who wishes to learn more about Orthodoxy). Published by Doubleday Books, 2008.)*



## WESTERN EPARCHY WINTER MISSION TRIP TO UKRAINE, DECEMBER 2016

**“The rich man is not one who has much but one who gives much. For, what he gives away remains his forever” .....St. John Chrysostom**

His Grace Bishop Ilarion and youth from the Western Eparchy at the orphanage.  
December, 2016



The Western Eparchy is committed to providing consistent, ongoing assistance to the Korniylovichi Orphanage near Sambir, Ukraine. This means that we regularly financially support the orphans with whatever their needs are, whether it is basic needs like warmth or medical needs, including operations, we are reliable, steadfast, and generous. They know that our help will continue through the cold winter months, when we make sure they have wood for the heating system we installed last year; they receive the needed medical assistance; that we are reliable, and care for them like we care for our own children. In fact, they have become our children. Anyone who is a member of a family knows that care is needed all the time, not just once in a while. We constantly, regularly, meet their needs and we do this by insuring that they have the necessities of life all the time. They are our family and we treat them as such.



Wood for the wood heating system is regularly purchased so that the orphans are always warm.

**Many needed items were purchased in 2016. More assistance will be provided in 2017. Please make donations to the Western Eparchy UOC, and state: [orphans in Ukraine](#) in the memo line. [Tax Receipts for Revenue Canada](#) will be issued.**

**THANK YOU FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE ORPHANS IN UKRAINE**



Medical needs are provided for children; this boy received eye surgery to correct an eye injury in January, 2017



**WESTERN EPARCHY  
CLERGY RETREAT**  
March 27- 29, 2017



The Western Eparchy Clergy Retreat concluded with the Liturgy of Pre-sanctified Gifts. His Grace Bishop Ilarion celebrated, assisted by clergy, at the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Edmonton.

**Sunday of Orthodoxy**

His Grace Bishop Ilarion officiated the Sunday of Orthodoxy assisted by clergy of the Vegreville Deanery at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Demetrius, Luzan, Alberta



**THE 35<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF  
ORDINATION  
TO THE HOLY  
PRIESTHOOD**



Very Rev. Mitred  
Archpriest  
TARAS KROCHAK

Многая літа !

**PAN ORTHODOX LENTEN VESPERS**  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Vladimir  
Calgary, March 12, 2017



**WESTERN EPARCHY LEVIES 2017**

Levies for 2017 will remain at \$15.00 per member (based on membership as of December 31, 2016.)

**Levies are payable now.**

**SECOND PLATE COLLECTION**

All parishes are reminded to hold a second plate collection during the Paschal Season for funds for the Western Eparchy. We thank the parishes and districts that made donations for the Second Plate Nativity Appeal.