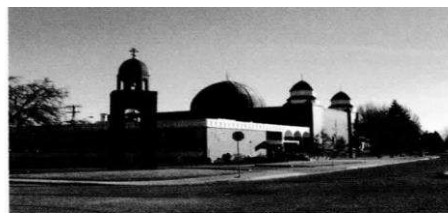


ST. ANDREW'S UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX SOBOR PARISH

9831 - 75 STREET
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
CANADA T6A 2Y8



Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава навіки! Glory to Jesus Christ! His glory forever!

Слава Україні! Героям Слава! Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the heros!

July 30, 2024

Dear Honorary Members, Members, Associate Members, and Friends of the Parish,

On behalf of the Board of Management, I greet you with this first letter since the Parish's Annual General Meeting and the election of the new Board of Management. It remains a privilege to share with you this update of our Parish. I hope and pray that you remain in reasonable health since my last communication with you.

His Eminence +Ilarion, Archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Eparchy, Metropolitan of Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada and our parish priest Fr. Yuriy Suchevan continue to pray for the safety, health, and well-being of you and your families. It is asked that you pray not only for the safety, health, and well-being of them and their families, but also may God grant them strength and wisdom to guide our UOCC and our Parish.

In this letter we provide information regarding:

1. **Sacrament of Holy Unction Service on August 11**
2. **List of Worship Services at our Parish for August 2024**
3. **Pastoral Care from Fr. Yuriy**
4. **Casino appreciation letter from St. Andrew's Men's Club**
5. **Results of our Parish's Annual General Meeting on March 17, 2024**
6. **Looking for a Vice President and a Secretary**
7. **Introduction to our volunteer Office Administrator – Ms. Norine Murrell**
8. **Please volunteer to be part of the for APC Pictorial Directory Committee**
9. **Update to UCC-APC Support Group – until Oct 31, 2024**
10. **Announcement of UCC-APC English Language classes – until September 11, 2024**
11. **Letters from the President now sent to Friends of the Parish, too**
12. **Audited UOCC Financial Statement as of September 30, 2023 now available**
13. **St. Andrew's Men's Club bingo schedule – please consider volunteering**
14. **Mark your calendar – Annual Parish Salmon Supper on September 16, 2024**
15. **Request for Greeters – an appeal**

Sacrament of Holy Unction Service on August 11

We are honored that His Eminence Metropolitan Ilarion gave his blessing for our Parish to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Unction service on August 11 at 5pm. Please consider attending this service where all Edmonton Parishes have been invited to attend. I understand that the Sacrament of Holy

Unction is offered for the healing of our soul and for our body. We are anointed with Holy oil in an extraordinary fashion at the conclusion of the service so that we may be blessed with our healing by the grace of God.

List of Worship Services at our Parish for August 2024

Please see the attached list of worship services for the month of August. If you have any questions, please call Fr. Yuriy directly on his mobile – 780-885-8143.

Pastoral Care from Fr. Yuriy

In the past number of months I have found out about some of our members being hospitalized or some falling asleep in the Lord. My sincere condolences to those experiencing these types of situations.

Unfortunately, Fr. Yuriy does not always get notification of the need to provide Pastoral care in these circumstances. As a result of the unfortunate isolation of COVID, I think society may have forgotten how and when to speak of sensitive, emotional, and difficult topics, especially of those expressing the need of help. As a result, I do not think we are communicating enough about our own and each other's Pastoral Care needs.

I encourage each and everyone of you to call Fr. Yuriy and request this Pastoral Care if it is needed by you, or by a friend, or by a Parish member. Simply ask families of your friends and acquaintances if they would like to receive a call from Fr. Yuriy to come and visit and say a prayer with the hospitalized or with the family of the deceased. You will never know if Pastoral Care is desired or needed unless you ask.

Fr. Yuriy's mobile is 780-885-8143. He will welcome your call.

Casino appreciation letter from St. Andrew's Men's Club

Every two years or so, St. Andrew's Men's Club is given the opportunity to staff an Alberta Gaming and Liquor Control Board (AGLC) casino with volunteer workers, with the proceeds of the casino given to the Men's Club – it is a fund-raising activity. The most recent casino occurred in February 2024 and was successful. Please see the attached letter of appreciation from the Casino Chairperson – Mr. Lawrence Dary, thanking those that volunteered.

Results of our Parish's Annual General Meeting on March 17, 2024

Our parish's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on March 17, 2024 in the Tillie Kurysh Hall. The usual agenda items were completed. For those interested in reviewing a copy of the AGM minutes, please contact Michael Zukiwsky directly – contact information listed at the end of this letter.

The results of the election for the upcoming year's Board of Management:

President: Michael Zukiwsky
Past President: Dr. Ernest Skakun
Vice President: **VACANT**
Secretary: **VACANT**
Treasurer: Phyllis Kozak

Assistant Treasurer: Marshall Boratynec
Membership Committee Chairperson: Michael Gilyshyn
Hospodar (Facilities Manager): Evan Zukiwsky
Ladies' Auxiliary Member (appointed by Ladies' Auxiliary): Kathy Buchanan
Men's Club Member (appointed by Men's Club): Peter Melnychuk

I'd like to thank all of the Board members who volunteered to hold a position on the Board of Management. It is with your time and efforts toward the work of our Parish that helps the entire UOCC..

However, the membership should recognize most of the names on this list (unfortunately), because 6 of the individuals have served in the same or different positions on the Board for the past 4-5 years. In my opinion, it is not healthy for any organization to rely on the same individuals to manage the organization without the infusion of fresh ideas from new minds and fresh energy to complete things.

You will also notice that the positions of Vice President and the Secretary are vacant.

Please consider volunteering next year to be on the Board of Management.

Looking for a Vice President and a Secretary

The fact that we do not have a full Board of Management is of concern to me and, in my opinion, it should be of concern to you, too.

Without a Vice President:

This void indicates to me a lack of willingness to: acquaint oneself with the practice of the Board as it administrates the Parish; to get used to how the Board functions; to develop a sense of history of Board issues; and to allow one to see how the role of the President manages every day aspects of the Board.

It is an expectation that the Vice President will take on the role of the President. So, perhaps the void also indicates a hesitation to step into the role of President in the next year or two. I suspect that people may think that the role of President is a fair amount of work – and it is. But, it is extremely rewarding, also. To know that you've helped your Parish in a leading fashion and being the lead of people (the Board and the entire membership) assisting the Parish Priest in the entire functioning of the Parish is extremely rewarding! So, the role of Vice President is indirectly rewarding also.

Without a Secretary:

This void indicates to me that people do not know what the role of the Secretary is – it is one of the easiest roles on the Board, in my opinion. The Secretary keeps record of all decisions made at each of the meetings and prepares the resulting meeting minutes. Being acquainted with Microsoft Word is certainly an asset (and Adobe Acrobat or equivalent also helps) as the agenda and minutes are typed in Word.

There are 11-12 monthly Board meeting a year, about 3 Special General Meetings, the Annual General meeting, and maybe 3 special and specific Board meetings. Each meeting is on average 2-

3 hours long. Minutes are required for approximately 15 meetings per year; not typically required for the Specific Board meetings.

If you are interested in finding out more about these individual positions, coming to a Board meeting to see how it functions, and to see how the acting Secretary (Dr. Ernest Skakun) completes the tasks of the Secretary, please contact Michael Zukiwsky either by email or by mobile – contact information is below or any other Board member for more information.

I encourage you to consider volunteering to help our Parish become better and volunteer to be on the Board of Management. Is there work and personal sacrifice involved? Absolutely, but you will have helped!

Introduction to our volunteer Office Administrator – Ms. Norine Murrell

As of May 6, 2024, the Board is extremely pleased to report that Ms. Norine Murrell is fulfilling the role of volunteer Office Administrator. She volunteers 2 half days per week, typically Monday and Thursday mornings.

The Board and Norine have negotiated a set of roles and responsibilities that she is willing to complete and has those responsibilities have slowly increased as she becomes more aware of the goings on in the Office and we (the Board) become more in tune with someone being the Office Administrator. Norine had to learn the Office Administrator position, and the Board had to learn what the Office Administrator's role looked like.

She reports solely to the President at this time, who requests assistance of Norine as different needs arise which are not included in the agreed upon roles and responsibilities.

I feel very lucky that St. Andrew's has Norine fulfilling this role and am thankful for her assisting Fr. Yuriy and the entire Board complete office work. I encourage you to thank Norine, too.

Please volunteer to be part of the for APC pictorial directory committee

Every 5 years or so, the company APC has published a pictorial directory of the Parish membership. Published years include: 1998, 2003, 2008, 2014, and 2019 – what a wonderful history. We will be asking APC to publish the directory again this year.

As in the past, APC will set up their photographic equipment in one of the Cultural Hall classrooms and members are scheduled to come to the Hall and have their portraits taken – typically in the weekday evenings or afternoons of the weekend days. The portraits are offered for sale to all those who participate, and then APC publishes all portraits in booklet form for the members to have free of charge.

We are looking for volunteers to form the Photo Directory Committee that manages all aspects of this project. Please consider volunteering to fill a position on this Committee. To volunteer, please contact Michael Zukiwsky – contact information is listed at the end of this letter.

Update to UCC-APC Support Group – until October 31, 2024

For some time now, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council (UCC-APC) has been providing confidential support group sessions to newly arrived Ukrainians at the Parish. We

are pleased to indicate that the sessions will continue until October 31, 2024. These sessions are held up to three times per week at the Parish.

For more information or if you are interested in attending these sessions, please contact Nataliia Khmelova (mobile 780-887-1478) directly. Emails sent to either miz@telus.net or info@uocc-standrew.ca will be forwarded to the Nataliia.

Announcement of UCC-APC English Language classes – until September 11, 2024

We are pleased to announce that the UCC-APC are offering English Language Classes to Newly Arrived Ukrainians held at our Parish in the Tillie Kurysh Hall on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6-8pm. Classes began on July 15 and continue until September 11, 2024. The instructor is Vitalia Godylo and there are 27 students enrolled in the class.

For more information, please contact the Parish office – 780-469-1463 or info@uocc-standrew.ca or refer to the Parish webpage <https://uocc-standrew.ca/>.

Letters from the President now sent to Friends of the Parish, too

At a recent monthly Board of Management meeting, a motion was passed to send all general information to not only members of the Parish (the practice of the past number of years), but now to all Friends of the Parish. This letter is an example of the type of general information referred to. In doing so, we hope that the increased communication will grow a greater community within and around our Parish.

We will be soliciting email addresses, phone numbers, and mailing addresses for those Friends that attend our Parish who wish to receive these general information communications.

Audited UOCC Financial Statement as of September 30, 2023 now available

The Parish recently received the audited financial statement of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada for the year ending September 30, 2023. The statement together with a cover letter was sent from the Chancellor of the UOCC – Fr. Charles Baxter.

If honorary members, members, or associate members wish to view or receive a copy of the statement, please send an email to Michael Zukiwsky – contact information shown near the end of this letter.

St. Andrew's Mens Club bingo schedule – please consider volunteering

On behalf of the St. Andrew's Men's Club, Gordon Ostapchuk requests assistance from Parish members or their friends or family by volunteering to work at bingos for this 2024-25 season. Proceeds from the bingos are earned by the volunteers and are given to the Men's Club. It's from those monies that the Men's Club donates to our Parish. And, the Men's Club has been a significant donor to our Parish in the past. The volunteer work is easy, will be explained to you, and quickly comprehended. You will not be given hard tasks!

The schedule of Bingo dates is shown on the attached sheet.

Please consider volunteering – please contact Gordon Ostapchuk @ 780-463-0454. Your assistance is appreciated, and your efforts go toward our Parish.

Mark your calendar – Annual Parish Salmon Supper on September 16, 2024

The Annual Parish Salmon Supper, organized by the St. Andrew's Men's Club, will be held on Monday, September 16, 2024. Social hour from 5:30 - 6:30 pm, followed by supper at 6:30. Invitation and poster will be sent out mid-August. Please plan on attending.

Request for Greeters – an appeal

An appeal from Past President, Dr. Ernest Skakun:

The New Church Year begins in September, and we should strive to be an even more welcoming Parish. There are many things that can be done; one of these is having Greeters for every Sunday Divine Liturgy. This has slipped off the radar in spite of numerous requests for volunteers. It is essential that the practice of having greeters at Divine Liturgies served on Sundays be restored, especially now that Newly Arrived Ukrainians are attending services. The goal is to create a roster of greeters and to have two greeters for each Sunday, one of the greeters to be fluent in Ukrainian. If you are able to serve as a greeter, please contact either Vivian or Ernie Skakun by telephone at 780-434-0543 or by email at BLUEMALVA@shaw.ca. Vivian and Ernie will follow-up on this request by telephone.

The purpose of the Greeters is to meet and greet the worshippers when they come in, have them sign the guest book if they are newcomers or attending the service for the first time, and ask for their mailing address, telephone, and email, which the Parish will use to inform them of services and events happening in the Parish. If they are not willing to share this information, do not insist on it. Help them to a pew, introduce them to other Parish members, and invite them to join fellowship after the Divine Liturgy.

If you have any questions regarding this update or otherwise, please call me on my cell (780) 660-0789 or email me at mjz@telus.net.

Yours truly,

Board of Management President, St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish

Michael Zukiwsky