Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Elia

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Hospodars: Igor Stebli, Vasyl Pavliuk, Ihor Popovych,

October 2026 Newsletter

This is the Day
That the Lord has made,
Let us rejoice
And be glad in it.
Psalm 118.24

Worship Hours
Confessions: 9:00 – 9:30
Hours: 9:30 Divine Liturgy: 10:00

Next Mission Outreach Potluck is October 25

'Then the righteous will answer Him [Christ], saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? . . . And the King [Christ] will answer and say to them, Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to Me.' (Matthew 25: 37,40)

We need your help! Next cleaning bee **Saturday October 17 at 9:30 AM**

There will be cleaning inside the church and weather permitting some yard work outside. Lunch provided.

FR.SLAWOMIR'S CORNER

Second Month at St. Elia Parish
Glory to Jesus Christ.

August 24 was a special day for our Ukrainian nation, as we celebrated the 35th Anniversary of the Independence of Ukraine. On August 30, after the Divine Liturgy, we gathered to pray for Ukraine and briefly commemorated those who have died during the war with Russia.

The motto for September was "God with Us in Every Class." This motto is very appropriate because September is the month when our students return to school. On Sunday, September 6, we prayed for out students and blessed them with holy water, wishing them all the best for the 2026/2027 school year.

On Tuesday, September 8, we celebrated the Nativity of the Theotokos. On Monday evening at 6 pm we served Great Vespers with the blessing of bread, wheat, wine, and oil, which were shared among the parishioners after the service.

Following the directions from our last monthly meeting, five parishioners gathered in the church auditorium to select framed photos that were in storage and are now on the walls of the church auditorium.

As usual, second Sunday of the month I have a mission service at St Nicholas Parish in Red Deer. After the Divine Liturgy at Red Deer, together with Dobrodiyka Irena, we visited members in Camrose, who organized a farewell for us.

On Sunday, September 13, before the beginning of the Holy Liturgy on the Sunday before the Orthodox Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, we carried the decorated Altar Cross to the tetrapod for veneration by the Faithfull.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dobrodiyka Irena for the flowers and for the time taken to decorate this Holy Cross. Following liturgy a Memorial Service was held for the soul of our late brother in Christ, Orest, grandfather of Kateryna Ferfetska. Our sympathy to Kateryna's family.

The next day, on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, at 6 pm we served an Akathist to our Lord Jesus Christ.

On Wednesday, September 17, I vested Nicole Backus's mother Michelle at Westlock and had the privilege to Baptize and Chrismate her.

The next day, September 18, at Evergreen Funeral Home, we performed the funeral service for our late sister in Christ, Helen Markevich. That same day evening, from 7 pm to 9 pm, for the first time, twelve members and catechumens who wanted to learn more about our Orthodox faith and tradition gathered in the meeting room for our "101 Orthodox Worship" program. I hope that this evening was fruitful and that everyone who attended was satisfied and received something helpful from our time together.

Thank you to all the young boys and men for doing all kinds of Readings in the church, to everyone serving in the Altar, to those who sing in the choir, and to those who

prepare fellowship and help with many other parish activities and all my parishioners for their attendants and prayers for all who are in need.
A special thanks to Sisters Myrna and Betty for completing and sharing the church bulletin.

Finally, I would like to share with you a special event that has brought our family much joy. On September 4, the Lord blessed our family with a little girl, granddaughter Mina. We are incredibly happy and thankful to God for this new blessing and addition to our family (son Michal/daughter-in-law Miranda).

May God bless everyone who contributes, in big or small ways, to the life of our parish.

Spiritual Reflection

How does Paul say, "Rejoice in the Lord always"?
The joy he is speaking of springs from tears of mourning, for just as worldly joy comes with sorrow, godly tears produce never ending, unfading joy. The harlot, who obtained more honour than virgins, experienced joy when seized by this fire. Thoroughly warmed by repentance, she was moved by her longing desire for Christ. She loosened her hair, drenched His holy feet with her tears, wiped them with her tresses, and poured out all the ointment. But these were only outward expressions. Those emotions were in her mind, where much more fervent things only God could see. Therefore, everyone who hears of this woman rejoices with her, delights in her good works, and acquits her of every sin. If we, who are evil, judge her this way, imagine what sentence she obtained from God, who loves mankind. Consider how much, even before she received God's gifts, she was blessed by her repentance. "For I seek those tears shed, not for display, but in repentance: I want those that trickle down secretly and in closets, out of sight, softly and noiselessly. I desire those that rise from depth of mind, those shed in anguish and sorrow, those which are for God alone."
St. John Chrysostom

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
Matthew 5:6

Parish Priest's Message

WELCOME TO THE ST. ELIA PARISH! Your presence has brought us much joy! We hope your visit is memorable and meaningful in every way. Our doors and hearts are always open to you. Please join us for fellowship following the Divine Liturgy and visit with Fr. Slawomir and with members of the Parish Council. They will answer questions and provide you with information regarding parish life.

COMMUNION GUIDELINES: To partake of Holy Communion, one must be a Baptized/Chrismated Orthodox Christian and be in good standing with the church. Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and regular participation in Holy Confession are welcome to receive communion. One should also be present at the Liturgy before the Scripture readings. Please follow the directions of the ushers during Holy Communion, and please allow children to commune first.

COMMEMORATION OF YOUR LOVED ONES & ACQUAINTENCES: Should you wish to have names of your family and friends commemorated at Proskomedia or by special petition in the Liturgy, please take advantage of the Commemoration Lists in the entrance to the Church.

PASTORAL NEEDS, HOSPITAL CALLS, NURSING/REHAB AND HOME-BOUND PARISHIONERS:
If you have a pastoral need or emergency and would like to speak to Fr. Slawomir, or know of someone who would like to schedule a pastoral visit, please contact Father by phoning the office at 306 737 4697 or Email: *fr.slawomir@yahoo.ca*

Українська Православна Церква в Канаді - Західна Єпархія
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada - Western Eparchy

Dear Reverend Fathers and Parish Presidents;

By now you should have received notification of the Western Eparchy Assembly to be held October 31st, 2026, at the St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church and November 1st, 2026, at Cathedral of St, John the Baptist, Edmonton, Alberta.

With the Blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Ilarion, a Youth Appreciation Banquet will be held on Saturday, October 31st, 2026, during which time youth will have an opportunity to interact and receive the Blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Ilarion.

The Youth Appreciation Banquet on October 31st is extending an invitation for youth and their parents to attend the Banquet.

At the Banquet, Altar Servers in the Western eparchy will be recognized. Again, with the Blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Ilarion, the Order of St. Andrew, Edmonton Chapter, will acknowledge the Altar Servers and Myrrh Bearers with pins and certificates for their years of service to the parishes.

October Greeting from Parish President

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be!
With the fall months upon us, let us continue to pray for one another and for our beloved St. Elia parish.

We welcome Father Slawomir and Dobr. Irena's newest addition to their family, a precious little girl Mina.

We were also very happy to see our sister Myrna Kostash able to be at the service last Sunday and we continue to keep her in our prayers for a speedy recovery. We were also very happy to see our oldest member Anne Empsky (102) in church last Sunday as well.

I would like to thank Vasyl, Igor and Igor's friend Raul for fixing the South East corner fence. Vasyl donated the supplies, Igor and Raul donated their time. I would also like to thank Jory Buck for tightening up all the cupboard doors in the kitchen downstairs and I would also like to thank Norm and Marie Davies, Father Slawomir, Dobr. Irena and Jory for going through the pictures that were on the table downstairs and hanging up the appropriate ones around the hall and fellowship areas.

I would also like to thank everyone who came out to help with the cleaning bee, the altar servers, the cantors, the hospodars, and everyone who helps keep our beloved church clean, functioning and growing.

October 18th Project Lubov is having a fundraising event in our church basement in honor of their 25th anniversary. That day all that are attending the service are welcome to come downstairs for a meal. There will not be a regular fellowship that day because of this event.

Your Sister-in Christ,
President,
Tammy Ewanec

Feast Days for October



October 1: Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos The Feast of the Protection commemorates the appearance of the most holy Theotokos in the Church of Blachernae in Constantinople in the tenth century, as recorded in the life of Saint Andrew the Fool for Christ's sake. While the multitudes of the faithful were gathered in church, Epiphanius, the friend of Saint Andrew, through the Saint's prayers, beheld the Virgin Mary above the faithful and spreading out her veil over them, signifying her unceasing protection of all Christians. Because of this we keep a yearly feast of gratitude, imploring our Lady never to cease sheltering us in her mighty prayers.

Kondak Let us the faithful hasten to the Theotokos now and venerate her sacred veil, as we chant unto her, singing hymns to praise and honour her, as is fitting; for she shelters with her shelter and all her faithful flock and preserves them unharmed from all calamities, as they cry to her: Rejoice, Protection most radiant.

October 12: St Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours



Our father among the saints **Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours** (Latin: Martinus), was a bishop of Tours in the fourth century; he is called the Merciful because of his generosity and care for the poor. The saint showed interest in Christianity at an early age. After service in the Roman army, he was baptized and became a disciple of St. Hilary of Poitiers who was prominent in the trinitarian disputes with the Arians. He was acclaimed bishop of Tours in 371. He founded the monastery Marmoutier where he led a austere life in community with cave-dwelling cenobites. Veneration of Martin was very popular in western Europe during the middle ages. After his death he was buried in Tours where, in time, a large basilica was built as the shrine of St. Martin of Tours.

October 24: St Demetrius Soul Saturday



The feast of St. Demetrius, celebrated on October 26th, is a significant event in the Orthodox Christian tradition, commemorating St. Demetrius of Thessaloniki, a martyr and military saint. In connection with this feast, the "Saturday of Souls," is observed on the Saturday before or after the feast, dedicated to prayer for the departed. The faithful gather in churches to offer prayers and commemorate the souls of their loved ones, emphasizing the importance of remembrance, community, and the hope of resurrection in the Christian faith. This tradition underscores the unity of the Church, both living and departed, in Christ.

October 26: Great Martyr Demetrius



The holy, glorious and right-victorious Great-martyr **Demetrius of Thessaloniki** the Myrrh-streamer, is one of the most popular saints in the Orthodox world. He was martyred around the year 306 in Thessalonica, and his cult rapidly grew during the Middle Ages, when he was regarded as the first recognized patron and protector of the city, militarily as well as spiritually.

Kondak *God, who gave you invincible power and with care kept your city invulnerable, royally clothed the Church in purple with the streams of your blood, for you are her strength, O Demetrios.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, October 3: Holy Trinity Parish in Redwater 100th Anniversary Liturgy and Luncheon. Parish priest is Fr. Michael Maranchuk 780-267-6227. Call for details or see Fr. Slawomir.

Saturday, October 17, 9:30 am: Church cleaning. The more hands, the faster the chore gets done!

Sunday, October 18, 12:30 pm St Michael's UWAC celebrating 100 years, in conjunction with Parish Patron Saint Day, with lunch and a program.

Sunday October 18: No parish fellowship. Project Lubov are holding an event in our hall and all those in church are invited to come down for lunch after Divine Liturgy.

Sunday, October 25: Mission Outreach Pot-luck Lunch

Saturday, October 31, Western Eparchy Assembly. UOC of St. Michael, 12104 – 129 Avenue. Youth Acknowledgement Banquet – supper time. No charge for those being acknowledged; extra banquet tickets $30. See Fr. Slawomir to book your spot.

Sunday, November 1, Divine Liturgy at UO Cathedral of St. John the Baptist for all the faithful in Edmonton. No services at individual parishes.

UWAC: **Free Pyrohy Making Lessons! Join us and learn how!** We are looking for individuals, besides "pinchers" who would like to learn how to make the fillings and

dough. We hope to have at least two sessions in November. Hilda Ewanec has been coordinating these for many years and as she approaches a significant birthday, we need to see if we can fill her big shoes. Please approach her, Tammy, Betty or anyone on council if you are interested in taking part. Scheduling would be Friday to prepare fillings and Saturday to make the dough, roll and pinch. Lunch is always provided and it is a fun day!! Don't miss out.

Winter is Coming! We need to hire a Snow Removal Company to clear the snow at the church. Not the parking lot – we have someone for that. Steps, walks, and front city sidewalk. If you know of a business we could engage, please ask them to send an email to our email address with a proposal and fee schedule. uocc.stelia@gmail.com

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Orthodox Quiz

Here is a fun, interactive quiz to test and refresh your knowledge of the various aspects of the Orthodox Faith. Test your knowledge of Orthodox Christianity fundamentals in this comprehensive quiz. Please answer all questions to the best of your ability.

Which of the following is NOT one of the traditional Four Gospels in Orthodox Christianity?

a) *Matthew b)Mark c)Luke d)Thomas*

Select all the following that are recognized as Ecumenical Councils by the Orthodox Church.

a) *First Council of Nicaea 325 b) Council of Trent c) 2 Council of Constantinople d) Fourth Lateran Council*

What is the central act of worship in Orthodox Christianity?

a) *The Divine Liturgy b) The Rosary c) Confession d) Stations of the Cross*

Which event is commemorated on Pascha (Easter) in Orthodox Christianity?

a) *Birth of the Christ b) Crucifixion of Christ c) Resurrection of Christ d) Ascension of Christ*

Which of the following best describes the Orthodox understanding of the Holy Trinity?

a) *One God in three persons: Father, Son and the Holy Spirit b) Three Gods working together c) One God with three modes d) God and two angels*