



April 2026

a Letter from *our Bishop*

**Христос воскрес! Воістину воскрес!
Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!**

Dear Friends in Christ,

“Give us this day our daily bread” *Matthew 6:11*

I’ve seen a certain picture in the dining room of many rectories and monasteries. Maybe you have seen it too. A humble man is sitting down for a simple meal. On the table is bread and a bowl, probably of soup. A large bible is also on the table with some reading glasses on top. The man’s body is bent forward in prayer, offering thanks for this modest meal. When I see this picture, it reminds me to give thanks for every good gift, no matter how humble.

In the middle of the Lord’s prayer is the petition, “Give us this day our daily bread.” We pray the Lord’s prayer at every Divine Liturgy and every other church service. We begin meetings with it. It’s part of our daily prayers. The petition, “Give us this day our daily bread,” speaks of God’s generosity and goodness. It calls us both to receive and to share our material goods, because God’s bounty is too rich for us to keep to ourselves. We are called to share not by force but out of love, so that the abundance of some may remedy the needs of others.

The prayer for daily bread recalls the story of the Israelites in the wilderness. The people longed to be back in Egypt where they thought things were better, so they asked God for bread. God rained bread down from above - manna. All they had to do was gather it. Anyone who tried to gather more than a day’s worth found that the bread would rot. One day’s worth (or two before the Sabbath) was all you received, and you would have to trust God for tomorrow’s portion.

Jesus was always eating in the Gospels. If there wasn’t enough food, He made more. He compared Himself to bread: “I am the bread of life.” Bread is a biblical image for the Word of God and for the Holy Eucharist. And that’s why we as followers of Jesus have been feeding people ever since with community meals, outreach, and education.

Since the fall of 2025, a group of priests and deacons has been journeying with five men who are candidates in our Eparchial Diaconate Program. The candidates take courses online, but they also gather throughout the year to learn and share. So far, they have learned about liturgical singing, the role of deacons, and have had some practice preaching. They also gather for shared meals, prayer, and social time. Through education and food, these candidates are being fed so that they might feed the faithful of our Eparchy as deacons in the future.

Please support this year’s Annual Eparchial Appeal so that the Eparchial Diaconate Program and all other initiatives can feed our faithful and that they in turn can feed others daily bread.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Michael Smolinski, C.Ss.R., Eparch of Saskatoon

Meeting the needs of the Faithful

Each year the Eparchy of Saskatoon assesses the financial resources at its disposal and its ability to respond to the needs of the Eparchy and our Church Community. The work of the Eparchy is vital to the sustainability of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and Faith in Saskatchewan. Donations to the Annual Eparchial Appeal are one way for the Faithful of the Eparchy to help the Eparchy fund initiatives and programing.

In the 2025 Annual Eparchial Appeal about 22% of the Faithful of the Eparchy supported the Appeal. We are prayerfully hopeful that this percentage will increase in 2026. The Foundation is not soliciting a huge contribution of support from each Parish Family. We humbly and graciously ask those Parish Families who are able to do so to please make a gift of \$150 on behalf of your family. We also recognize that not everyone is able to provide

support at the \$150 level. So, if you are able to do so, please consider another gift or two of \$150 on behalf of families who may not be in a financial position to donate to the Appeal. Of course, the Foundation would be most grateful for a gift of any amount.

For more detailed information on the above programs, please refer to the Eparchial website, www.skeparchy.org under the "Organizations".

2025 Annual Eparchial Appeal statistics

\$ 129,243

was total amount raised

\$ 8,914

was distributed to the Bishop Roborecki Foundation

\$ 86,896

was distributed to the Eparchy of Saskatoon

\$ 8,433

was rebated to Parishes exceeding their Appeal Goal

\$ 276

was the average donation per parish family to the Appeal

Number of Parishes/Missions Participating in the Appeal in 2025

70 parishes/missions are in the Eparchy

50 parishes/missions participated

72% of parishes/missions participated

Number of Families Participating in the Appeal in 2025

2,098 parish families in the Eparchy

468 parish family units participated

22% of parish families participated

Parishes/Missions have also benefited from other Foundation fundraising initiatives and grant programs, including **\$190,356** rebated back to the Parishes/Missions through the Annual Eparchial Appeal Rebate Program. In addition, Parishes/Missions/Eparchial Organizations have also received **\$370,795** from the Ukrainian Catholic Foundation through the Grant Fund Program and another **\$103,215** from the "Share the Spirit" 50/50 Lottery Designated Beneficiary Program. In total, we are pleased to be able to share **\$664,366** with Parishes/Missions and Eparchial Organizations.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generous support from our Parish Families. The Foundation extends a very heartfelt **THANK YOU** for your support and prayers. We entreat and ask you to **PLEASE** continue to support the Foundation and the Eparchy through the **2026 Annual Eparchial Appeal**.

If you wish to donate online through the Foundation's website, please scan the QR code with your mobile device to link you directly to our website.

Bishop Michael Smolinski, C.Ss.R.
Eparch of Saskatoon

