



УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА В КАНАДІ
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA
L'ÉGLISE ORTHODOXE UKRAINIENNE DU CANADA

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Glory Jesus Christ!

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ!

I warmly greet all of you with love in Christ and pray to Him "trusting in the compassion of Thy mercy" for all of us now that the COVID pandemic is no longer threatening us as much as before and we are slowly beginning to return to ecclesiastical life as we all remember before the pandemic.

With this letter, I inform you that I gave the blessing to return to the participation in the Holy Mysteries of the Eucharist and Repentance by the faithful effective Sunday July 18, 2021.

I have already communicated with the priests of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada regarding the details of how the Holy Mysteries of the Eucharist and Repentance are to be carried out in our parishes. The parish priests will give you more details in the coming days. This return process begins by adhering to provincial guidelines which are constantly changing and it is important to always know and follow the current guidelines set by your provincial government.

Regarding the **Holy Mystery of Repentance**, I bless that each penitent be received individually, by appointment only. I strongly recommend that you make an appointment with your priest and prepare yourself to be present in the Church one or two hours before the Divine Liturgy at the time appointed to you by your priest (which may also be the day before the Divine Liturgy, if possible).

Beloved in Christ,

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said: "Do not fear, little flock; it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Lk 12:32). We can achieve the heavenly kingdom and become children of God by divine Grace only through the participation in the Holy Mysteries of the Church and especially through the Holy Eucharist. We should bear spiritual fruits and not to be dry branches in the vineyard of the Lord. The Lord invites us at every Divine Liturgy with the words: "Take, eat, this is My Body..." and "Drink from it, **all of you**, for this is My Blood..." (Matthew 26:26-28). How many of us who are present

КАНЦЕЛЯРІЯ МІСЦЕБЛЮСТИТЕЛЯ МИТРОПОЛІЧОЇ КАФЕДРИ
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in the temple listen to Him and obey Him? When God said to Adam and Eve: "but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you may not eat" (Genesis 2:17), our forefathers ignored God and ate from that tree. We also ignore God at every Divine Liturgy when He invites us to partake of His precious and Holy Body and Blood and we have thousands of excuses why we will not approach the Holy Chalice. When God says "do not eat", we eat; when God says "eat it", we do not eat it. We can achieve salvation only through the Holy Eucharist. Our Lord said: "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you" (John 6:53).

Our Metropolitan Ilarion Ohienko, of thrice blessed memory, said: "Our Orthodox faith demands frequent Confession and Communion, not just once a year. Where a greater number of faithful confess and commune, the community becomes stronger".

Beloved in Christ brothers and sisters,

I beseech God for our Holy UOCC and for all of you with the words: " Lord, Lord, look down from heaven and behold, and visit this vineyard which Your right hand has planted, and perfect it".

Through the return to the full life in Christ for us as a whole Church, I pray that our God may: "...encourage the faint-hearted, gather together the scattered, lead back those who wander astray, and unite them to Your Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church." (Anaphora of St. Basil the Great)

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

With archpastoral blessings,

+ Іларіон

+Ilarion

Bishop of Edmonton and the Western Eparchy,

Locum Tenens of the Metropolitan Cathedral UOCC

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