



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

(Montréal, 26-27 September 2026) His Eminence Metropolitan Ilarion Visits the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of Ste. Sophie for 100th Anniversary Celebration

His Eminence Metropolitan Ilarion of Winnipeg, Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, at the invitation of cathedral Dean, Archpriest Fr. Volodymyr Kouchnir, and the parish's anniversary committee, visited and attended the celebration of **the 100th anniversary of the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of Ste. Sophie in Montréal, Québec**. Metropolitan Ilarion was accompanied to the joyous and historical event by His Grace Bishop Andriy of Toronto and the Eastern Eparchy, and Mitred Archpriest Cornell Zubritsky, Chair of the Presidium of the Consistory Board and UOCC Chancellor.

The weekend events began with Great Vespers on Saturday evening, presided over by His Grace Bishop Andriy and served by the cathedral Dean, Fr. Volodymyr, who was joined by Montréal area clergy. His Grace presided over a Memorial Litiya at the conclusion of Great Vespers, honouring departed UOCC Metropolitans and Eastern Eparchy hierarchs, parish clergy, and parish members. Following the Memorial Litiya, clergy and faithful attended a light reception in the cathedral hall, during which they were entertained by performers from the parish, highlighted by a very heart-warming presentation from the children of the cathedral's Church School (under the direction of Dobr. Ludmila Popovich).

Sunday began with His Eminence presiding over the Divine Liturgy in the Hierarchical Rite. His Eminence was warmly greeted to the cathedral by parish youth, the President of the Parish Council, Oleh Kamizerko, and the cathedral Dean. Concelebrating with His Eminence were His Grace Bishop Andriy of Toronto; Mitred Archpriest Cornell Zubritsky, UOCC Chancellor; Archpriest Fr. Volodymyr Kouchnir, Cathedral Dean; and guest clergy from the Montréal area. The cathedral choir, under the direction of Halyna Waverchak, were well prepared and sang beautifully. Before the start of the Divine Liturgy, His Grace Bishop Andriy tonsured Serhiy Tunin into the Office of Reader. At the Small Entrance, His Eminence Metropolitan Ilarion awarded Fr. Volodymyr Kouchnir with the dignity of wearing the Mitre during divine services, recognizing his many years of faithful and dedicated service to the Body of Christ as a presbyter in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. Metropolitan Ilarion delivered the homily, focusing on Christ's desire for all to come to Him willingly and with authentic desire – as did the Canaanite women who came to Him, begging healing for her daughter (mentioned in the day's Gospel reading). A great number of faithful in attendance approached the Holy Chalice to participate in the Holy Mystery of Communion.

The 100th anniversary celebrations concluded with a gala banquet, which featured an anniversary address by James Temerty (C.M.), respected Ukrainian-Canadian businessman, philanthropist, and well-known supporter of community projects and initiatives. Mr. Temerty reflected on his family's challenging – and at times, dangerous – road from the Donbas to Canada, where the parish of Ste. Sophie became their spiritual home and Camp Ste. Sophie offered recreation, comradeship and an enduring connection to the Ukrainian roots of the parish's youth. The afternoon's programme included greetings from His Eminence Metropolitan Ilarion and His Grace Bishop Andriy, Ukrainian folk dance, folk and contemporary singing, and greetings from representatives from various Ukrainian community organizations – including the Honorary Consul of Ukraine in Canada, Mr. Eugene Czolij. Finally, His Eminence Metropolitan Ilarion

award *Metropolitan's Hramotas* to deserving members of the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of Ste. Sophie, recognizing their dedicated and enduring service to the cathedral.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada congratulates the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of Ste. Sophie in Montréal, Québec, with the marking of this great milestone in the life of the parish! We pray that in the second century of their worship and service to Christ, the cathedral shall remain a vibrant and active community of Orthodox faithful, who will continue to share the Faith, presented in our beautiful and ancient Ukrainian traditions and customs, within the cosmopolitan setting of the God-protected city of Montréal! **Многії та благії літа! Many blessed years!**

***Office of the Consistory of the
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada***