

# St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and Cultural Centre

# The Cathedral Connection

October 2020



Photo by: Jerry Aulenbach

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## In This Issue:

Clergy's Message	2-3
President's Message	5
UWAC St. John's Library	7
Floor Rejuvenation Project	8-9
U.W.A.C. St. John's Mosaic	10-11
100th Anniversary Committee	12
Vice President's Message	13
St. John's Sr. CYMK	15-16
Treasurer's Message	17
PAD Form	18

# GREETINGS FROM THE CATHEDRAL CLERGY

FROM FR. CORNELL...

**“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”**

**(I Corinthians 13:1-8)**

**Beloved Brothers & Sisters in Christ! Dear friends of our cathedral community!**

**GREETINGS WITH THE NEW ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR!** Once again, by God’s mercy, we stand gathered together in the fall season, when the Church marks the beginning of a new ecclesiastical year – the time when the harvest is gathered and we begin contemplating a new season of growth. This year, we undertake this preparation and planning in unprecedented and unique circumstances, thrust upon us by the COVID-19 pandemic – an uninvited, unexpected abnormal. For many of us, the last six months have been a time of worry and heightened anxiety. Illness, job security, and even death have been in the forefront of conversation. Our students and children have endured a year of learning like no other; their achievements and milestones marked without the usual joy and ceremony. Not many of us were able to enjoy a typical summer of relaxation and recreation and travel. Programming cancelled, our church camps stood empty and silent. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada – for the first time in her history – was forced to postpone her regular Sobor for one year, at a time in our history when a frank, engaging churchwide discussion needs to occur (and vital decisions need to be made!) to reinvigorate our membership and to actively recommit to spreading the Gospel to those who are searching for the Light and struggling to hear the Good News.

As for our cathedral community, we have been challenged and moved to worship and minister by new means. Some of you are waiting anxiously to have your children baptized or to be married. Hospitals and living facilities are in lockdown or highly restricted for visitation. Our community life has been placed into what seems to be an agonizing, unending pause. Our parish’s financial health is seriously affected; sadly, we have had to reduce staff. We miss our fellowship, we miss our volunteer teams, we miss our Holy Feasts, we miss our dinners and gatherings, we miss our groups and church organizations... we miss each other! We miss the Communion of the Body of Christ!

So, with all this “abnormality” about, what are we to do this year? I’d like to offer a few thoughts...

**1) Love God; love your neighbour!** This may seem simplistic and obvious, but Christ, Himself, told us these two commandments, together, are the most important laws (Matthew 22:37, 39). To love your neighbour is like loving God (Matthew 22:39). Together, both constitute the foundation for all the other laws and the teachings (Matthew 22:40). Sometimes, and certainly in times of heightened anxiety and stress, it is good to reflect on our fundamental needs and begin afresh, to “relaunch” (a word we have become accustomed to hearing these days!). One who claims an authentic belief in God knows that God is to be glorified for all things and at all times – good and bad! – no matter the circumstances, because they know Christ is with us regardless the challenge or struggle, “even unto the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). Our first moments of life in the Church began with these very words, conveyed to us during our baptism! If we love Him above all else, therefore, and believe He is with us, then light is with us, truth is with us, victory is with us, life is with us.

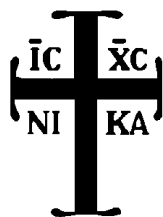
We are obligated, then, to share this light, truth, victory, and life with our neighbour, because God wants us to be “one as [the three Persons of the Holy Trinity] are one” (John 17:22). This is true Communion – unity with God; unity with our neighbour! In this time of what appears to be increasing division – it is crucial we, Christians, remember and act on these two fundamentals each day, with every person we encounter! We ought not be tempted, nor tempt our neighbour, to add our voices to the cry of “why, God?” during this period of challenge, but be reminded and to remind others of our human reality, so aptly expressed by C.S. Lewis: “Free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having.”

**2) Love the Church; love your parish!** A number of years ago, I heard the great North American Orthodox missionary of our time, Fr. Peter Gillquist (of blessed memory), say, “the Orthodox Church offers North Americans one of the very last places the ‘village’ exists.” After this excruciating period of isolation and instability in our lives, the Church ought to be a most welcoming, loving, safe, compassionate, optimistic village for all who have been “displaced” by the pandemic from the stability of community – spiritually, emotionally, and even physically. This does not depend solely upon a “council” or any “committee,” or just “the priest,” but upon the dedication and effort on the part of each of us, according to our individual gifts and talents, in whatever form of ministry we feel called to. This begins with No 1, above, to be sure; it will be accomplished successfully, to the benefit of our members and faithful, however, if we all do our part!

At present, a relatively small group of people is charged with stewarding our cathedral parish through this difficult, challenging time. The costs of maintaining our property haven’t changed significantly; income, though, is markedly reduced. Worship is reduced and now a “two format” effort – online as well as in-person (with the additional requirement of adhering to health protocols). Pastoral care / work is limited or greatly modified. Programming is, for the most part, a constant and ever-changing “question mark.” Throughout much of this time, we are learning as we go; sometimes we get it right, sometimes not. In some cases, we are learning completely new skills. I implore all of you – temper your temptation to simply criticize and complain! I know I speak for everyone currently charged with making decisions in our cathedral parish: our parish council (especially the executive members, who have added many extra hours of volunteer time!), our volunteers, and your clergy – we are working hard; we are trying our best! If something seems neglected – offer us a gentle reminder. Bad livestream on a particular Sunday? Bring it to our attention, and we will do our best to improve for next time. Can’t find online resources, like our new YouTube channel? Call or email, we’ll be glad to point you in the right direction! Want a better livestream experience? Offer a donation to help us complete permanent audio / video service. Having the thoughts, “they should be doing…” or “why aren’t they…”? We’d love to hear your suggestion or – better yet – we’d love you to volunteer to help us out! If this time (and the day we get to “post-pandemic”) offers us anything, it is the opportunity to re-commit / commit ourselves to work in the Church, and rejuvenate our parish with new ideas, new activity, new effort!

I realize this article is longer than a simple greeting for the New Ecclesiastical Year – thank-you, for taking the time to read through! The “harvest” of 2020 may not seem much to brag about. Most of us want to write it off as a “bad crop” year! I challenge all of us, however, to consider the lessons we have learned throughout the COVID-19 pandemic (and, realistically, will be continuing to learn, well into the next year!). What have we learned of sacrifice for the sake of others? Are we clear on the necessity to not judge others? Have we become kinder? Are we more patient? Have we responded to frustration with creativity? **As people of faith, have we reached an understanding that our weakness – and not our self-perceived notion of power – is our strength?** The great “Apostle of Love” Paul did, speaking of God’s revelation to him: “But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” (II Corinthians 12:9). If the harvest of pandemic is human weakness, then perhaps we can be inspired to put more effort to sowing subsequent crops with faith in Christ, who’s harvest is that which gives us His power: **LOVE!**

**In Christ’s love,  
Fr. Cornell**



## Future Member



4-month-old, Antonina Olha Maria Laniuk  
Baby daughter of Larissa Laniuk, Council Archivist

## Bookings Indicating Busy 2020!



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Слава Ісусу Христу**  
**Glory Be to Jesus Christ**

On behalf of the St. John Parish Council, I greet you with the best wishes of the Thanksgiving Season.

I begin the 6th year as president full of hope for a very successful year. The outlook for 2020 looked like we would be very busy in the Cultural Centre. A number of weddings and other social events had us fully booked.

In mid-March we were ordered into a lockdown as the Corona Virus Pandemic was declared.

On directives from the CHIEF MEDIAL OFFICER and guidance from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, normal was no longer possible. Some bookings at the Cathedral and Cultural Centre were Cancelled or postponed to a later date, which at this time is still unknown. We can thank God for keeping us safe and healthy during this health crisis.

As president I find this time to be both challenging and emotional as all protocols must be adhered to.

Turning down bookings for social events is most difficult especially baptisms and family gatherings.

A sad day was when we had no choice but to layoff members of our staff as a temporary measure.

Uncertainty still exists as to when we can return to normal.

During this shutdown it gave us an opportunity to upgrade to code, refurbish floors in the auditorium and solarium, paint the auditorium walls, install security cameras, and make improvements to the Manse. With the assistance of our treasurer we were able to take advantage of Federal Government programs, providing some financial relief. A Sincere thankyou to Orest Pohoreski for his work in this effort.

As some restrictions were lifted, we were able to live stream our Liturgies. This would not have been possible without the volunteering needed to adhere to the protocols implemented. The following need special acknowledgement for their service: Gerald Kruhlak, Dushan Bednarsky, Dob. Merrie Zubritsky, Alexander Zubritsky, Ephraim Zubritsky, Ed Thomson, and the Kruhlak family. Thank you on behalf of the Parish membership. Thankyou Fr. Cornell, for serving on the live streaming on YouTube. UO CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST- EDMONTON

I AM THANKFUL TO BE WORKING WITH SUCH A WONDERFUL Parish Council

With sadness, due to ill health, long time member representing the Parish Seniors, Eileen Yewchuk was unable to continue. Get well wishes from the Parish Council.

On a happier note our archivist on the council – Larissa Laniuk and her family was blessed with a baby girl. Congratulations from our Parish membership. See picture.

Our office remains open during the lockdown and I want to personally thank all who dropped in with financial contributions or phoned to stay in touch.

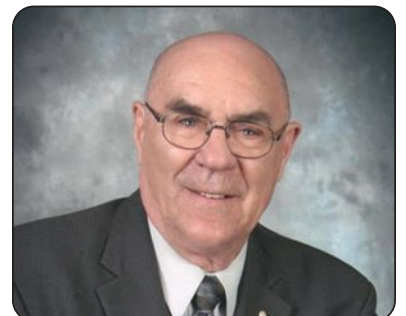
With good health we have a lot to be thankful for. We will get through this together but must rely on you for support.

There are various ways you can support financially – registering for attendance to livestream services by calling the office. Offerings can be made at that time, or automatic withdrawals monthly by arranging through calling the office, or e-transfers ([giving@uocc-stjohn.ca](mailto:giving@uocc-stjohn.ca))

You will find campaign cards for Thanksgiving with this edition. Please help us to meet our financial obligations with your support

If you have any questions or comments, call the office at (780)425-9692.

**God Bless with Christian Love,**  
**Marshall Kachmar**  
**Parish President**



**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**  
**13 MAY 2020 (MARSHALL KACHMAR, PRESIDENT)**  
**MISSING: FROM HIGHLIGHTED FRAME – OREST POHORESKI, TREASURER**



### Parish Council 2020

President	Marshall Kachmar
Vice President	Gerald Kruhlak
Secretary	Karla Palichuk
Treasurer	Orest Pohoreski
Assistant Treasurer	vacant
Property Manager	Tony Horobec
Membership Chairman	Myroslava Chomiak
Archivist	Larissa Ewanchuk-Laniuk
Events	Roxoliana Tsisar
UWAC	Julia Elaschuk
Church School	Amanda Campbell/ Larissa Paik
St. John's Seniors	Eileen Yewchuk
Sr. CYMK	Justine Jereniuk
Cathedral Choir	Karla Palichuk

### LIBRARY TO RE-OPEN--ВІДКРИВАЄМО ЗНОВА БІБЛІОТЕКУ

The UWAC St. John's Branch will be re-opening the library from noon to 1 p.m. every first Sunday of the month starting November 4. The collection welcomes a large donation from the Dnipro Seniors' Residence Library and we have also acquired some interesting new books in both English and Ukrainian on Ukrainian topics. Please visit us soon! All parishioners are invited to borrow books.

Союз Українок Канади Відділ при Катедрі наново відкриває свою бібліотеку кожної першої неділі в місяці, починаючи 4-го листопада цього року. Вітаємо 400 книжок із бувшої бібліотеки Дому Дніпра та кілька нових видань. Будьте ласка приходіть! Позичайте цікаві книжки! Ласкаво запрошуємо своїх парафіянів!

Подано Леоною Бриджес/Submitted by Leona Bridges



O. Logvenko in library

Worn Condition of Flooring, Before Restoring



Repairs to Floor



**Refurbished Floor in Auditorium**



**Refurbished Floor in Solarium**



Photos By Ed Thompson



## **Our Legacy: The Past, The Present and the Future**

### **UWAC, St. John's Cathedral Branch Mosaic Project- Input Form**

The *Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada – St. John's Cathedral Branch* have contracted a local renowned artist to vision and guide the **creation of twelve 4 by 8 feet mosaic panels in three phases**. The first phase has been completed and four mosaic panels representing "The Past" will be mounted on the upper walls of the St. John's Cathedral Cultural Centre in Edmonton by summer 2020.

#### **Project Objectives**

1. **Enhance and beautify** the St. John's Cathedral's Cultural Centre which is used by the Parish, and Edmonton's Ukrainian and greater communities for religious, recreational, educational, administrative and social events.
2. **Create a permanent visual tribute and legacy** to the parish founders, recognize members' past and present achievements, and project into the future. It will represent an artistic parish and greater community time line, and inspire future generations to know about and take pride in their heritage.
3. **Build community spirit, and foster personal satisfaction and ownership** by engaging the UWAC and St. John's parish and general community members in visioning and assembling an art project.
4. **Complete the project to coincide with the Centennial Anniversary Celebration of Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of St. John's in Edmonton in 2023.**

Your input is important to envisioning the design and content for the "Present" and "Future" phases of the mosaic project. Please comment on the phases either by sharing your ideas on this form and returning it to the UWAC mailbox in the Cathedral Cultural Centre office or by calling (780-456-6580) or emailing Julia Elaschuk ([julia.elaschuk@shaw.ca](mailto:julia.elaschuk@shaw.ca)). You may call artist, Theodora Harasymiw, directly at: 780-718-1672.

**What notable current Cathedral parish activities or experiences are important to acknowledge?**

**What vision, dreams or hopes do you see in the Cathedral's future?**

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MESSAGE

The eleventh day in November is a very important date for all Canadians to observe. Remembrance Day recognizes the armistice agreement that ended the First World War and honours the men and women who fought for our democracy and freedom during this war, and all wars and conflicts that have followed. We all truly owe them a debt of gratitude and respect for their sacrifices for our nation.

The date, November 11, has a lesser but interesting connection for our cathedral history. It was on November 11, 1923 that St. John the Baptist Parish was founded in Edmonton. Twelve visionary individuals met and set in motion the beginning of a Ukrainian Greek Orthodox parish that has grown to a cathedral and community that will celebrate our centennial anniversary in 2023.

One hundred years is a milestone for any community and we, as a cathedral community, are proud to celebrate. We have been blessed with the spiritual guidance by our clergy and hierarchs, past and present, and a membership that over the years has contributed to what our cathedral is today. In 2023, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. John's the Baptist Cathedral and invite members to share ideas and suggestions to make this a meaningful celebration for us all. Our anniversary committee is especially interested in photos and archival materials that document our cathedral history over the past 100 years. If you have something to share, please contact Marianne Makowsky or Gloria Zaharia. Photos will be scanned and returned to the owner.

The first phase of the 100th Anniversary Mosaic Project is complete, thanks to the generous support from the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada- St. John's Cathedral. Located in St. John's Cultural Centre, the first phase of this mosaic project honours the past with four panels depicting our parish life from the beginning of the 20th century to the end of the Second World War. The second phase (the present) will depict the life of our parish from 1950 to today. The talented artist of this project, Theo Harasymiw, is collecting ideas as to what is important and significant for members to include in the second phase. Please contact Theo at [paintingtheo@yahoo.ca](mailto:paintingtheo@yahoo.ca) or call her directly at 780-718-1672 to share your ideas.

This is your celebration! We are appealing to our members and supporters to help us make this anniversary celebration a memorable tribute to all members, past and present, of St. John's the Baptist Cathedral. Let's honour the past, celebrate the present, and embrace the future. The spirit of all of us lives on in our beloved church.

Marianne Makowsky  
100th Anniversary Committee

### In Memoriam

The St. John's Cathedral Parish Family would like to remember the following individuals who have reposed to the Lord over the past months.

We pray that the Lord God will establish their souls where the righteous repose.

Boris Ferbey	April 2020
Kay Hunchuk	April 2020
Nadia Fick	May 2020
Jean Romanchuk	July 2020



**УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ ПРАВОСЛАВНИЙ КАТЕДРАЛЬНИЙ  
СОБОР Св. ІВАНА**  
**UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST. JOHN**

10611 - 110 STREET,  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA  
T5H 1H7

After a strong start to the year for our volunteers and staff in the catering operations of the Cathedral, everything came to an abrupt stop with the Covid virus closing down all operations.

After some time away and then a very limited presence of just clergy serving the Liturgy, we opened our doors on July 12<sup>th</sup> to a limited number of attendees. We are following the directives of His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy, Bishop Illarion and Albert Health. We have strict procedures in place to allow those attending to do so in as safe as possible environment. We have distributed our protocol but if you would like a copy please contact the church office. Please remember to contact the church office by Wednesday of the week before you intend to attend so we are able to prepare for your presence. We will confirm your spot prior to Sunday.

I would like to thank all those attending for following the procedures in place making the experience of attending church as comfortable and safe as possible. We will be opening up spots for our Altar Servers to be part of the service with strict practices in place and if you know of one please have them reach out to me or contact our church office.

To be able to follow the protocols in place it requires a dedicated team and I would like to thank the following people for coming forward and giving their time so that others can attend the service: Dushan Bednarsky , Dobr. Merrie Zubritsky, Alexander Zubritsky, Ephraim Zubritsky, Vivianne Kruhlak, Andriy Kruhlak, Nikolai Kruhlak, Marco Kruhlak, Susan Jereniuk, and Taras Jereniuk.

I would like to acknowledge that the protocols, procedures and live streaming currently in place would not have been possible without the active participation and dedication of Archpriest Cornel Zubritsky. We are deeply grateful for your continuing spiritual and technological knowledge and guidance.

We will get through this if we stay diligent and we hope to one day soon have our church community back together celebrating the Liturgy. Keep in mind that if you cannot attend church to follow us on YouTube at “uo cathedral of st john the baptist Edmonton”.

Stay Safe

Gerald Kruhlak  
Vice President



Photos by: Julia Elaschuk

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to

**PAVLO TSISAR**

Recipient of the  
Hawrysh Scholarship Award

Congratulations to

**NIKOLAI KRUHLAK**

Recipient of the  
Lions Legacy Scholarship Award

# St. John's Sr. CYMK

St. John's Sr. CYMK has been unable to meet for the last few months due to COVID-19. Before September, our last gathering was in late February when, Mrs. Julia Elaschuk, President of St. John's Ukrainian Women's Association and Toastmaster member, led us in a short introduction of what Toastmaster's is all about. She gave us tips on public speaking, and how to make your speaking topic engaging to the audience. We are thankful for her time and support and hopeful, that she can join us again with more suggestions and lessons about public speaking. Our appreciation also goes to the Ukrainian Women's Association of St. John's for their donation of \$1,000 for Sr. CYMK for programming. We are very grateful.

On Friday, September 11, 5 Sr. CYMK members and 3 parents met at the auditorium to steam clean the auditorium chairs. Sr. CYMK rented the steam cleaner and then we got to work – unloading, steaming, wiping the chairs and then moving them to dry. We worked for about 2 hours and cleaned about 200 chairs – all while socially distancing of course.

On Saturday, September 19, Sr. CYMK ventured out to the Edmonton Corn Maze to enjoy our beautiful fall weather. We had a great turn out with 11 CYMK members and 3 parents attending. After we all made our way through the maze, we enjoyed catching up with one another by the Vatra built by Pan Taras. Some people went through the second maze, while others enjoyed the animals in the petting zoo. It was an enjoyable evening.

We are hoping to have our AGM in October to elect the executive for the coming year and plan more events to get together.

We hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy in these difficult times. Below are photos from our chair cleaning and the corn maze.

Submitted by: Justine Jereniuk







## **TREASURER'S MESSAGE**

Dear Parish Family and supporters:

Firstly- I wish to sincerely thank you for your prayers and support of our parish during these unprecedented times. It continues to be a challenge to meet our financial obligations, however the difference your assistance makes during these covid times is very much appreciated!

Some items to share from the past few months financially:

- We have received a Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) in the amount of \$40,000 from the Federal Govt to assist with our operating expenses ) this is interest free and if repaid within 2 years a \$10000 grant applies.
- We have also continue to apply for and receive the Canada Employment Wage Subsidy ( CEWS) to assist with our payroll costs – to date we have received over \$58000 from the federal govt program ...we would be in a much worse situation without these above govt programs.
- Average Sunday plate collections for the past two months is \$456. compared to over \$2000 weekly pre covid while our basic building operating expenses run close to \$9000 monthly even with limited use.(Utility fixed charges/insurance/etc) One can see why your contributions now are so vital to the parish.
- We unfortunately continue to have several employees tied to our cultural centre on a temporary layoff due to covid- we hope to resolve this situation in future but will depend on finances and allowed events.
- We have had several one time expenses to deal with – from a required fire alarm system in the church, to resurfacing flooring, to mitigating water damage in the manse – again your contributions make a huge difference in keeping our parish complex up to date.

Speaking of contributions, with your membership pledges, offerings, memorial donations and other, there are options to make it easy for you:

- dropping off a cheque at the church office or cultural centre mailbox
- mailing cheques to the parish 10611–110 ave Edmonton T5H1H7
- joining our preauthorized monthly payment program using your bank account (pls ask/phone the church office and we can provide details)
- e-transfer of funds (pls ask/phone the church office 780-425-9692 if you are interested in this)
- contributions can also be made online using your credit card at [Canadahelps.org](https://Canadahelps.org), where they issue a charitable tax receipt and submit funds to the church (again we can provide details)

If we all do our part to contribute, this will make an amazing difference in the financial well-being and future of our parish. We cannot, repeat cannot do it without your help- please consider what amount you can give.

Wishing you all good health and happiness during this Thanksgiving season, God Bless!

Orest Pohoreski  
Treasurer



Phone: 780-425-9692  
Fax: 780-425-3991

УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ ПРАВОСЛАВНИЙ КАТЕДРАЛЬНИЙ  
СОБОР СВ. ІВАНА  
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST. JOHN

10611 - 110 STREET,  
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**Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) Donation Agreement**

- START a new recurring donation
- CHANGE the amount of an existing recurring donation
- CHANGE the account number or receipted donor name of an existing recurring donation
- CANCEL my recurring donation completely

**I/we authorize the Ukrainian Orthodox Parish of St John (Registered Charity #108148321RR002) to debit my/our bank account as identified on the attached void cheque (or photocopy).**

Please debit my account as follows:

*Note: if changing an existing amount please enter the NEW TOTAL below.*

General Fund Donation: Monthly \$\_\_\_\_\_ starting \_\_\_\_\_ (month / year)

I understand monthly donations will be processed on the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month. This authorization is in effect until notice in writing to change or end this agreement is received by the Office Administrator, at least 10 days in advance of the next processing date.

I may cancel my automated donation at any time, subject to providing 10 days' advance notice. It is also my responsibility to notify the Office Administrator of any change in my bank account information at least 10 days in advance of the next processing date.

I have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAD agreement. To obtain more information on my recourse rights, I may contact my financial institution or visit [www.cdnpay.ca](http://www.cdnpay.ca).

Please issue the charitable donations tax receipt at the end of the year to:

Donor name: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(complete only if different from address on void cheque or on file)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Account Holder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed form to the Office.

You may also scan and email a signed copy along with a voided copy of cheque to [info@uocc-stjohn.ca](mailto:info@uocc-stjohn.ca)