



## St. Paul's Co-Cathedral Parish

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Rector: Very Rev. Fr. Stefano Penna

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33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 14, 2021

### The Third 'Last Thing' - Hell

"L'enfer, c'est de ne plus aimer" – "Hell, is not loving anymore". This line from Georges Bernanos' *Diary of a Country Priest* has long impressed me with the simple horror of Hell. How could such be possible? An eternity of not loving?

We are between generations of Catholics: those who grew up with the terrifying threat of punishment "sinners in the hands of an angry God" and those shaped by a reaction to this into presuming that Hell is just an empty idea. Neither is nor ever was correct.

One cannot quibble – the idea of hell has a firm place in the teachings of Jesus and the apostolic writings. God has absolute respect for the freedom that He gives to the human person He creates. This is the way of love: it sets the other completely free. We are free even to reject that we are creatures, we are free to reject the way of love of God. Our life on earth is no charade or play-acting – Christianity is unique in insisting on the greatness of human beings. As Joseph Ratzinger writes, "*Human life is fully serious ... the irrevocable takes place, and that includes then, irrevocable destruction. The Christian man and woman must live with such seriousness and be aware of it. It is a seriousness which takes on the form of the Cross of Christ.*"

So – the Face of the Love that is God can be the encounter with our own "No!" to that Love. Is it possible for such a human "No!" to silence the Eternal "Yes!" of God's love? I confess to thinking this not possible when I was young – but I humbly set aside such presumption when I witnessed how capable human beings are of deep depravity (and so I rejoice in our capacity for miraculous good). Yes – God takes us seriously. Even to allowing us to choose to "not love anymore". Ratzinger writes, "*Heaven reposes on freedom, and so leaves to the damned the right to will their own damnation.*" **The Gates of Hell are locked from the inside.**

What a serious threat emerges from within our own freedom! But praised be Jesus Christ, for He has given us His Cross as the way to see this Freedom in **Mercy**. On the Cross, Jesus accepted the reality – not the *idea* but the full reality of every human "No!" uttered in freedom. But He did this with the deeper freedom of Love – to enter into the Abyss of 'not loving anymore'. Thus, we proclaim bluntly in our Apostles' Creed: "*He descended into Hell*". The "No's!" need not be irrevocable if we *surrender* to God's real suffering in merciful love so that we might be able to turn to Him before it is too late.

The Cross teaches us something as well – it is the knowledge of the saints like Thérèse of Lisieux and St. John of the Cross: Hell is not a threat to be hurled at others but a challenge to each of us to be united with Christ Jesus in His descent into Hell. When we are faced with the darkness and emptiness of prayers that seem to give no comfort or provide no answer and when we reach into the hells of other people bound by their own or their oppressor's "No's!"- we too share in His suffering offer of Mercy.



But the doctrine of eternal punishment teaches truth – *mercy* is not something that we can assert for ourselves but can only beg of the One who is begging us from the Cross. **Mercy is not a theory, as the Cross teaches us, "it is the prayer of suffering, hopeful faith".**

### MONDAY, November 15, 2021

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary  
12:10 pm - Mass († **Nick & Vivan Kalyniuk**)  
6:30 pm - Medjugorje Prayer Group

### TUESDAY, November 16, 2021

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary  
12:10 pm - Mass († **Gladys Komadoski**)  
7:00 pm - Marriage Preparation

### WEDNESDAY, November 17, 2021

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary  
12:10 pm - Mass (**SI Hadyn Locke**)  
5:30 pm - Children's Choir Practice  
6:30 pm - Sacramental Prep  
6:30 pm - Parish Council Meeting  
7:30 pm - Choir Practice for 8:00 and 10:00 am  
8:30 pm - Choir practice for 8:00 pm

### THURSDAY, November 18, 2021

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary  
12:10 pm - Mass († **Maxine Kitchen**)  
7:00 pm - RCIA  
7:30 pm - Ladies' Night  
8:30 pm - Christ the King Prayer Group

### FRIDAY, November 19, 2021

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary  
12:10 pm - Mass († **Adeline Vogelgesang**)  
5:30 pm - Novena to Santo Nino  
6:30 pm - Chanted Divine Office  
7:00 pm - Gregorian Chant Mass

### SATURDAY, November 20, 2021

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary  
12:10 pm - Mass († **Leo Goller**)

### SUNDAY, November 21, 2021 Christ the King

8:00 am - Mass  
10:00 am - Mass  
5:00 pm - Filipino Mass in Tagalog  
7:15 pm - Divine Office - Vespers  
8:00 pm - Mass  
Compline (following Mass)  
Live Stream every Sunday at 10 a.m. at  
<http://www.stpaulscc.com/>

### LITTLE SISTER PARISH



For the week of **Nov 21 - 28** we are asking for **SKIM MILK POWDER.** Guadalupe Parish always needs Ziplock storage bags. Drop-off bin is in the welcome area.

## LECTOR/WELCOMER TRAINING

In order to best prepare ministers, St. Paul's will be hosting **one night of training** in which the Lector and Welcomer ministries will be engaged. Our Parish is growing and the liturgical celebration is being renewed so it is **vital that all those who have signed up attend** this session:

**Thursday, November 25, 7:00**

### We are still in need Welcomers

for the 8:00 am and 8:00 pm Masses.

Call or email the office to volunteer.

(306) 652-0033 [parish@stpaulcocathedral.ca](mailto:parish@stpaulcocathedral.ca)

### Fr. Penna's Reading Circle

Tuesday Evenings, 7:00 pm

beginning November 23

in the Welcome Area

Book being studied is

*Leisure: The Basis of Culture*

Copies available to purchase

On **Friday, December 10 at 7:30 pm**, the St. Paul's music program is pleased to present an Advent Lessons and Carols led by our newly formed Children's Choir. Admission is free, but donations will be welcomed to raise funds to grow the music ministry.



### OFFERING FOR November 7, 2021

Loose	\$ 778.45
Envelopes	\$ 2677.25
Renovations	\$ 1040.00
Pre-Authorized Giving	\$ 4700.00
Pre-Authorized Giving Renovations	\$ 690.00