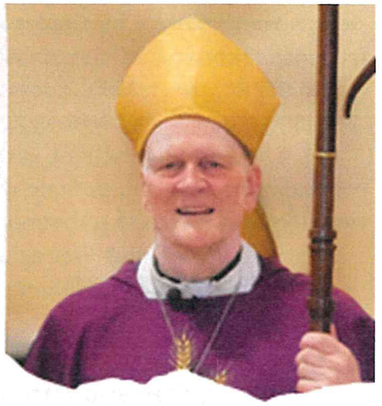
## 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As we embark on this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal, I invite you to take the opportunity to reflect on our theme: **"Called to Respond: Living the Father's Will"** These words remind us of Jesus's reflection and call to us to live and act in the love of His Father and our Father:

*"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love."*(John 15: 9-10)

Pope Leo has just provided us with his first encyclical titled, Magnifica Humanitas ("Our Magnificent Humanity"). The pope is responding to our world marked by restlessness, uncertainty, and increasing concerns about the state of our common humanity in the world, with a message about the profound greatness of our common human dignity. As Pope Leo states,

*"There is also the more profound and important level of ontological dignity. This is the dignity that belongs to every human being simply by virtue of existing, of having been willed, created and loved by God. No sin, failure, humiliation or exclusion can diminish the profound value of a human life that God has willed and called into being."*
(MH #52).

This dignity is blessed and manifest to one another and to the world as we love and act like God.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal is not simply a fundraiser. It is a personal and communal act of discipleship and a way by which we participate in the mission of Christ in our world of today. Through the Bishop's Annual Appeal, that mission becomes visible across our diocese. Your generosity helps support seminarians preparing for priesthood, ministries serving families and youth, outreach to the poor and vulnerable, Indigenous reconciliation initiatives, pastoral care in our parishes, Catholic education and faith formation, and the many works of evangelization that proclaim Christ's love in our communities.

I therefore invite every parishioner, every family, and every community in our diocese to prayerfully consider how you can support this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal. No gift is too small when it is offered with faith and love.
The aim of our appeal is not *"to have people giving more"*- but rather, *"to have more people giving!"* ...participating and sharing together the work of God's people in our local faith communities ...for our world of today. Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and your faithful witness to Christ.
May Mary, Mother of the Church, who responded wholeheartedly to God's call, intercede for us. May she teach us to say with courage and humility: *"May it be done to me according to your word."*

I conclude with the words well known to us from St. Francis of Assisi, as we celebrate 2026 as the Year of St. Francis: *"Lord, make me a channel of Your peace; Where there is hatred let me bring You love; ...Where there is despair, hope; For it is in giving that we receive; and in dying that we are born to eternal life."* (Prayer of St. Francis)

BAA Video

Sincerely in Christ,

+MAHagemoen

Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen
Bishop of Saskatoon

Generations of Faith
St. Paul's Co-Cathedral Renovation

# St. Paul's Co-Cathedral Parish


720 Spadina Crescent East
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3H2
Rector: Very Rev. Fr. Stefano Penna
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Fr. Andrzej Wychucki
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Donat Davatz
Pastoral Assistant: Sr. Peter Mary 306-986-3885
Office: (306) 652-0033
E-Mail address: parish@stpaulcocathedral.ca
Website: www.stpaulscc.com


## 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## October 11, 2026

### The Secret: *"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."*

The Desert Fathers of the first centuries of the Church, aspired to live with ***Apatheia*** *(ἀπάθεια)*. Despite our modern understanding of *apathy* as a negative state of 'I-don't-care', the original Christian sense was of **being free of sinful disorderly urges and selfish attachments, so allowing the soul to focus completely on God**. In other words, to be like our Heavenly Patron St. Paul who writes in today's Epistle,

> *"I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need."* *(Phil. 4: 29-30)*

Living contentedly and confidently by not being overtaken by the pressures of our circumstances, we can be like Paul who faced success in ministry *and* the most violent rejection. We are not to disdain pleasure and beauty in life. Yet, we are to be temperate: neither gluttonous nor obsessed with fasting. Faced with a sparse meal or a heaping feast, we look **beyond the food to the One who gives**. Simply, we say "Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy Gifts" even over the most unpromising of dinners. ***"I am initiated into the mysteries of knowing how to live with abundance and with plenty."***
(Phil. 4:31 – my translation)

This is the "Secret" of contentment: not some Buddhist or Stoic indifference ...but seeing God behind all things, or, as St. Paul writes, doing "*all things through him who strengthens me*." There is the strength that frees us: knowing the Love of God made visible in Christ, trusting the Father to be with us, and living in the Spirit of freedom that comes to those who know how loved they are by God. The "Secret" is no secret: it is being baptized into the Mystery of the Trinity. And initiated into this mystery of being loved beyond all measure by God, we are no longer to be made "grumpy" by circumstances but are to proclaim, "THANK-THEE" to God. There it is, the secret of freedom in life is *to be thankful because everything is God's gift.*

That is my Thanksgiving prayer for you, carissima famiglia. That you be able, no matter what the circumstances of this weekend, to be *THANKFUL* to God. Such thankfulness will cut down on any family "drama", such thankfulness will make the Turkey taste better, such thankfulness will stretch our hearts even if – like my clan – a chair is conspicuously empty.

One way I have learned this kind of strengthening thanksgiving is through the Eritrean Community who celebrate so powerfully the Holy Mass in their Rite here in our Co-Cathedral. All of them have come through trauma, violence, displacement (often in refugee camps), and loss. Yet when their voices unite reaching out to God at the Mass with a sonic-wave of prayer and when they dance holding high portraits of the Holy Family (as they did celebrating Our Lady of Perpetual Help yesterday) – well, I see a community that does all things through Him who strengthens us. It is what I meet in you my dear family: that as St. Thérèse said, "*enfin tout est grâce*" – "after all, everything is Grace". *Joyeuse Action de graces*! Happy Thanksgiving.

**"Let us take the occasion "to recognize that we all have received so many gifts, first and foremost, the gift of life, the gift of faith, the gift of unity … and to give thanks to God for the many gifts we've been given."** (Pope Leo XIV)

**MONDAY, October 12, 2026**
**Thanksgiving Day (office closed)**
11:30 am - Confessions & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** *(SI Fr. Stefano Penna)*
6:30 pm – Medjugorje Prayer Group

**TUESDAY, October 13, 2026**
11:30 am - Confessions & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** *(SI Arlene Hretsina)*
7:00 pm - Marriage Prep

**WEDNESDAY, October 14, 2026**
**St. Callistus I (OM)**
11:30 am - Confessions, & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** *(† Leo & Maria Michaud)*
1:00 pm - **Eucharistic Adoration**

**THURSDAY, October 15, 2026**
**St. Teresa of Jesus (M)**
11:30 am - Confessions & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** *(SI Zoe & family)*
8:00 pm - Christ the King Prayer Group

**FRIDAY, October 16, 2026**
**St. Marie-Marguerite d'Youville (M)**
11:30 am - Confessions & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** *(SI Phyllis Dallyn)*
4:30 pm - RCIC
5:30 pm - Sto. Nino Prayer Group
6:30 pm - RCIA

**SATURDAY, October 17, 2026**
**St. Ignatius of Antioch (M)**
11:30 am - Confessions & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** *(† Neil Kirzinger)*
2:00 pm - Baptism

**SUNDAY, October 18, 2026**
**29th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
8:00 am - **Mass**
10:00 am - **Mass**
12:30 pm - Eritrean **Mass**
5:00 pm – Filipino **Mass**
8:00 pm - **Mass**

**Class for First Reconciliation** for children grade 2 and up will begin October 28! Classes will be held Wednesday evenings at 4:30pm. Registrations can be found on the website or by contacting Sr. Peter Mary at **srpetermary@stpaulcocathedral.ca**
Registrations are open until October 20.

***Eucharistic Adoration***
Wednesdays 1 - 5 pm

**Renovation update:**
Renovation work continues this month. Watch for new lighting in the side aisles of the nave. There will also be painting in the nave, and choir loft, as well as flooring in the sacristy and St. Paul's Oratory. Some areas of the church will remain temporarily closed, and weekday Masses may be relocated to the basement during portions of the painting work. Please follow posted signage and thank you for your patience and support as these improvements continue.

*St. Alphonsus Liguori wrote, "Mary loves you with all the love of every mother who has ever lived combined. Think of the awe and wonder of a mother looking at her brand-new infant for the first time, how she pays attention to every detail of that child. That is how the Virgin Mary looks at you every single second."*
**(*The Power of the Rosary*, Gabriel Castillo)**

**OFFERING for October 4, 2026**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cash Donations | | $ 1,261.00 |
| Envelopes | Grazie! | $ 1,655.00 |
| Renovations | | $ 5,480.00 |

The just man will never waver… he has no fear of evil news; with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear; he will see the downfall of his foes.
Open-handed, he gives to the poor; his justice stands firm for ever. His head will be raised in glory.
(Psalm 12)

**Search Youth Retreat for Grades 10-12** – A live-in faith inspiration event for youth will be held Nov. 13-15 in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon: arrival 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13 (use main doors of E.D. Feehan High School, Saskatoon) and concluding at about 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15. Cost: $100 (includes food and accommodation, funding assistance is available). Pre-register online by Nov. 9 at: https://saskatoonsearch.ca

**Called and Gifted**

*Discover your charisms!*

**Saturday, Oct. 17**
**9:00 am to 5:30 pm**
**Catholic Pastoral Centre, Saskatoon**

An Introductory Workshop for the Called and Gifted discernment process from the Catherine of Siena Institute to reveal the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given each participant to build up the Kingdom of God. Cost is $75 (includes lunch and materials.) Register at: rcdos.ca or contact diocesan Adult Faith coordinator Astrid Alas for information: (306) 659-5858 or amalas@rcdos.ca

**"One in Christ, United in Mission" – World Mission Sunday Oct. 18:** For 100 years, World Mission Sunday has been a day for prayer, reflection, and practical contributions to the Church's mission of evangelization, especially in areas where the proclamation of the Gospel is only just beginning and where the Church faces challenges. **Join the collection for the Pontifical Mission Societies** on World Mission Sunday, Oct. 18, which makes possible the work of missionaries who build churches and schools, provide health care, train seminarians, support catechists, and serve vulnerable communities: www.missionsocieties.ca/ways-to-give or use the local parish collection envelope.

**St. Mary Mission & Outreach** - For the 4th year, St. Mary Parish Hall will serve as a winter warm-up location, offering shelter, warmth and dignity to people experiencing homelessness — and we invite the entire diocese to join. Volunteer opportunities are available for people of all ages. E-mail Jennifer Nunes at jnunes@rcdos.ca to add your name to our volunteer list and receive future updates. We also invite everyone to set aside blankets, jackets and winter gear to help care for those who will seek shelter the Hall this winter. Monetary donations are always deeply appreciated. Donations may be made online at www.stmarysoutreach.com/donate , by e-transfer to smaoutreach@rcdos.ca or by cheque dropped off at St. Mary's parish.

Bishop's ANNUAL APPEAL

**How to give:** online at: https://dscf.ca/baa or through your local parish, or contact the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, SK, S7S 1H1; admin@dscf.ca or call (306) 659-5851.

**Job Opportunity:** The Diocese of Saskatoon is seeking an Executive Assistant to the Bishop / Curia Coordinator. See: https://rcdos.ca/employment for the job description and requirements. E-mail resumé to HR@rcdos.ca

**Job Opportunity**: St. Mary Parish in Saskatoon is seeking a part-time parish custodian (approximately 12 hours per week), responsible for maintaining a consistently clean, sanitary, and orderly environment throughout St. Mary Church, parish hall, rectory, offices, and associated areas. Please provide a resume prior to Friday, Oct. 23, 2026 to smasaskatoon@rcdos.ca.