



St. Paul's Co-Cathedral Parish

720 Spadina Crescent East

Saskatoon, SK S7K 3H2

Rector: Very Rev. Fr. Stefano Penna

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32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 10, 2024

The Widow's Mite

The end of the year brings November's reflection on the Last Things – Death, Judgment, Hell, and Heaven. Time for the year-end accounting – not with an eye to paying taxes but with our minds set on Eternity and God's Judgment. In the Gospel today, Jesus makes two points about how to shape our accounting – both deeply challenging.

Jesus points out the utter faith in God reflected by the widow who this poor widow who “*put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury.*” (Mk. 12:43) Like the destitute widow of Zarephath who gave her last morsel of food to Elijah (Kgs. 17:10-16), this woman trusts completely in the LORD who “*keeps faith forever... the fatherless and the widow he sustains, but the way of the wicked he thwarts.*” (today's Ps. 146). Jesus observes with divine eyes – He does not see as humans see for He understands completely what it is *the deep reality* of each gift. Does our use of our resources reflect complete trust in the Lord? Times are tough – we must show economic responsibility ... but are we cheap?

The second point Jesus makes is actually a profound challenge to those who receive the gifts the poor make to God – the scribes who keep the business of the Temple (which was Jerusalem's economic lifeblood). He is very severe about the hypocrisy of this kind of “*religion-become-business.*”: “*They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.*” (Mk. 12:40). Ouch. This is a fundamental demand for those who serve in the New Temple – the Church – we are *never to be a business.*

It is beyond a doubt that this teaching of Jesus fundamentally transformed our Christian civilization's approach to taxation and care for the poor (not ever a mark in other cultures). Sadly, leaving *Christ behind*, our civilization and its scribes have mastered devouring the poor, the unborn, the aged, while making long speeches about *diversity, equity, and inclusion* – all for appearance. What are Christians to do? The resources of the Church are vast – literally what is available to every member of the Church is Christ's – are we “*devouring resources*” for the sake of appearances – of being able to do comfortable business in our faithless culture? The smoke of our burned churches should wake us up.

So, let's look carefully at the use of the generous resources provided by each of us in St. Paul's community with Jesus' challenge.

First of all, we are small but – bless the Lord – we are generous. We do give of our resources in the midst of troubled times with tangible trust in the Lord. As we are asked to keep the pastoral work of Parish through the collection, and the Diocese through the Bishop's Annual Appeal – you and I are able to see Jesus looking at us as we place our “*money in the treasury*” – and with His joy we find ways to find even more generosity.

Secondly, all this precious treasure will continue to be properly and carefully managed as we renovate this temple of the Church so that its foundations can be a place of holy beauty where we, our children, and our children's children can rest, worship, and be sent in the Lord to announce the salvation that is coming, soon and very soon.

The summer fruits have been harvested, families have gathered together in thanksgiving, and this week we pause to honour the sacrifices of those who defended our freedoms. This is also a time of reflection for the great outpouring of generosity towards our renovation efforts:

Our Family Day BBQ this summer raised nearly \$14,000 for a total of over \$21,000 in the month of August. September donations also reached \$21,000, and the month of October hit a record high for 2024 at \$46,335. These recent gifts bring our grand total to \$825,000 ! Thanks be to God.

Many will have noticed the work which has commenced in the rear of the church to renew the confessionals. This essential work is of particular importance as we head into the Jubilee year - which brings with it an important emphasis on mercy and forgiveness. Check out the video clip (on our website/youtube channel) between Fr. Penna and Fr. Young discussing the confessionals and year of Jubilee.

Come LORD JESUS, let each of us know how to take account of our lives through Your saving eyes.

MONDAY, November 11, 2024
St. Martin of Tours (M)

Remembrance Day - Office Closed

11:00 am - Confessions & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** (SI Mike & Barb Knouf)
6:30 pm - Medjugorje Prayer Group

TUESDAY, November 12, 2024
St. Josaphat (M)

11:00 am - Confessions & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** (SI Delores Hudec)
7:00 pm - Marriage Prep

WEDNESDAY, November 13, 2024

11:00 am - Confessions, & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** (SI Janelle Nicholson)

THURSDAY, November 14, 2024

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** († Paul Charlebois)
4:30 pm - RCIC
7:00 pm - RCIA
8:00 pm - Christ the King Prayer Group

FRIDAY, November 15, 2024
St. Albert the Great (OM)

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** († Paul Charlebois)
5:30 pm - Baptism Prep
5:30 pm - Sto. Nino Prayer Group

SATURDAY, November 16, 2024
St. Margaret of Scotland (OM) & St. Gertrude (OM)

11:00 am - Confessions & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** (SI Dr. Carlo Di Gregorio)

SUNDAY, November 17, 2024
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am - **Mass**
10:00 am - **Mass**
5:00 pm - Filipino **Mass**
7:30 pm - **Solemn Vespers**
8:00 pm - **Mass**

Christ the King Prayer Group

We gather for prayer every Thursday night at St. Paul's Co-Cathedral beginning at 8:00 p.m.
Today Jesus asks us to let Him be our King.
Let us respond.

Novena to Christ our King begins November 15 and ends on November 24 (Feast of Christ the King)

Copies of the Novena prayer are available at the back of the Church.

For more information, contact Lynne Ludwig - (306) 203-3587 or Brenda Roenspies - (306) 997-4437

Catholic School Trustee Elections: The municipal election day is **Wednesday, Nov. 13** including elections for Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) school division's board of education.

Find submitted candidate profiles on the GSCS website at: <https://www.gscs.ca/page/46/elections>

Campaign Life Saskatchewan will be selling Religious Christmas cards and Christmas cakes after the Sunday Masses at St. Paul's on **November 24**. The Cards are \$10 for a pack of 10 cards, and \$20 for the 1 lb cake and \$30 for the 2.5 lb cake. For more info contact Louis at 306-249-2764



Mark your calendars for this year's

St. Nicholas Party!

Sunday, December 8

after the 10:00am Mass

OFFERING for November 3, 2024

Cash Donations	\$ 1,335.65
Envelopes	\$ 2,410.00
Renovations	\$ 1860.20