

150th Anniversary Edition



ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE / IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

PARISH

“Walking in Faith with Christ”

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time ~30 August 2026

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?" — Mt 16:24-26

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

First Reading + Jeremiah 20:7-9

Second Reading + Romans 12:1-2

Gospel + Matthew 16:21-27

From the desk of Father Norberto

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With hearts filled with profound gratitude and joy, we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of St. Paul the Apostle Parish. This is more than a milestone in the life of our parish. It is a sacred moment of grace. For one hundred and fifty years, God has faithfully accompanied His people in this community, blessing generations with His love, mercy, and guidance. Today, we pause to remember our past with gratitude, celebrate the present with joy, and look toward the future with renewed hope.

Our anniversary theme, ***"Walking in Faith with Christ,"*** beautifully expresses who we are and who we are called to become. The Christian life is not merely about reaching a destination; it is about walking every day with Jesus. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we encounter Christ in the Scriptures, in the Eucharist, in prayer, and in one another. He has walked with our parish through times of prosperity and challenge, moments of celebration and sorrow, and seasons of growth and renewal. Through every generation, He has remained faithful.

As we reflect on our rich history, we remember with deep appreciation the pioneering families who first established this parish. With simple but courageous faith, they built not only a church of brick and stone but also a living community of believers. Their sacrifices, generosity, and steadfast trust in God laid the foundation upon which we continue to build today. We honor the priests, deacons, religious leaders, parish staff, volunteers, benefactors, and countless parishioners whose lives of faithful service have shaped the vibrant community we enjoy today. Many have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, and we entrust them to the loving embrace of our Heavenly Father.

Our anniversary also reminds us that the Church is never simply a building; it is the People of God journeying together. Every baptism celebrated, every marriage blessed, every child receiving First Holy Communion, every young person confirmed, every sinner reconciled, every funeral entrusted to God's mercy - these moments have woven together the beautiful tapestry of our parish family. Behind each celebration is a story of God's grace at work.

As we celebrate this historic occasion, we are also invited to renew our own commitment to Christ. Faith is not something we inherit automatically from previous generations; it is a gift that each generation must embrace and pass on. The future of our parish depends not only on preserving our beautiful traditions but also on living the Gospel with renewed enthusiasm. Our mission remains the same: to proclaim Christ, to celebrate the sacraments, to serve those in need, and to become joyful witnesses of God's love in our world.

Walking in faith with Christ means trusting Him even when the path ahead is uncertain. Like St. Paul, our patron, we are called to courageously proclaim the Gospel with conviction, humility, and love. Our world longs for hope, peace, compassion, and authentic witnesses of faith. May our parish continue to be a welcoming home where every person encounters the mercy of God, experiences the warmth of Christian community, and discovers the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

As your pastor, I consider it a great privilege and blessing to walk this journey of faith with you. I have witnessed countless acts of generosity, kindness, and selfless service that reveal the living presence of Christ among us. I thank every parishioner who gives of their time, talent, and treasure to build up our parish community. Whether your contribution is seen by many or known only to God, every act of love strengthens the mission of our Church.

This anniversary is not the conclusion of a remarkable story but the beginning of a new chapter. Together, let us continue to build a parish where children grow in faith, young people discover their vocation, families are strengthened, the elderly are cherished, and those who are searching find hope. Let us become ever more missionary disciples who bring Christ's light into our homes, workplaces, schools, and neighborhoods.

As we begin the next 150 years, may we never lose sight of the One who leads us. Jesus Christ remains the same yesterday, today, and forever. If we continue to walk with Him, He will never fail us. Guided by the Holy Spirit and inspired by the example of St. Paul the Apostle, may our parish continue to flourish as a beacon of faith, hope, and charity for generations yet to come.

Finally, I entrust our parish family to the loving care of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church. May she accompany us on our journey of faith, strengthen us in times of trial, and always lead us closer to her Son, Jesus.

With grateful hearts, let us celebrate God's faithfulness over the past 150 years, rejoice in His presence among us today, and confidently embrace the future He has prepared for us.

May God continue to bless St. Paul the Apostle Parish, and may we always remain a people joyfully walking in faith with Christ.

In Christ's peace,

Rev. Norberto Eyule

Pastor, St. Paul the Apostle Parish

150th Anniversary Celebrations

“Walking In Faith With Christ”

Year at a Glance

The **150th Anniversary Committee** organized the following events to engage Parishioners in a spirit of community, faith and celebration. Most of the events took place in Father Bennett Hall:

- Logo and Poster Contest within our schools
- Purchase of educational novels depicting the life of St. Paul. These novels are available to our school communities.
- 150th Anniversary Launch Mass-June 22, 2025, main Celebrant and Homilist- **Most Rev. John Boissonneau**. Prayer Card and blessed medal of St. Paul distributed to all families at this Mass. Reception followed in the hall.
- Thanksgiving meal for less fortunate members of the community- prepared and served – October.
- Family Bingo Social–November.
- Children's Christmas Social with Carols in the Church and a visit from Santa–December.
- St. Paul Prayer bookmark distributed to Parishioners–December.
- Family Euchre Social–January.
- Anniversary Mass and Social for couples celebrating milestone wedding anniversary of 25 years or more–February.
- St. Paul Fridge Magnet distributed to Parishioners-February.
- Parish Mission led by Murray Watson, Adult Faith Formation Animator–March.
- Family Skate event at Nottawasaga Recreation Centre during March Break.
- Family Trivia and Pizza Social–April.
- Culminating Mass Highlighting our 150th Anniversary-**August 30 at 10:30am**, Main Celebrant and Homilist: **His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo**, reception to follow in Fr Bennett Hall.

Fundraiser

– “Loonie for the Lord” a year-round collection to support and finance our celebratory events and projects.

Thank you for your generosity!

Special Projects:

-Anniversary Theme Song for Launch Mass – “The Light Will Find Him” created and produced by John Miorin – Teacher SMCDSD. -150th Logo–created by Charlotte Muise, student, St. Paul’s Elementary School. -Anniversary Themed Posters – created by Maria-Patricia Rojas Quintana, Eliana Antar, Sophia Tubiera & Skyla Birch – students with our Parish Community of Schools. -150th Anniversary Quilt - A commemorative quilt has been lovingly prepared by our Parishioners and is proudly displayed in the Narthex.

-Illuminated Cross – to commemorate our 150th Anniversary to be installed at the front of the Church. - 150th Anniversary Hymn - “Light and Flame” a jubilee hymn reflecting the journey of a Parish community that has faithfully followed Christ for a century and a half. The hymn tells the story of our Parish from its humble beginnings as a “small, gathered flock” to the vibrant community of faith it is today. The lyrics recall the sacrifices, prayers, hardships and perseverance of the generations who built and sustained the Parish. It also celebrates the sacred moments that have shaped the Parish life – baptisms, celebrations of the Eucharist, weddings, confessions, funerals, and countless acts of charity and service.

LIGHT AND FLAME

(Hymn for our 150th Anniversary Celebration)

Lyrics: Fr. Nono Eyule – Parish Priest, Music: Romarc Mase and Fr. Ajel Olila, Vocals: Fr. Ajel Olila

{Verse 1}

From a small gathered flock on this soil long ago,
A seed of faith planted, too deep not to grow.
Through seasons of hardship, of doubt and of prayer,
The faithful kept walking, for Christ walked with them.

{Pre-Chorus}

Through every trial, storm, and fall,
He lived the mission – Saintly Paul.

{Chorus}

We are the light, we are the flame,
We bear the hope in Jesus' name.
One hundred fifty years we stand,
Walking in faith with Christ, hand in hand.
O Saint Paul, lead us still—
To walk with love, to do God's will.

{Verse 2}

We have buried our dead. We have baptized the new,
We have broken the bread and begun the world through.
Not always in triumph, not always in song,
But love kept this parish, and grace kept us strong.

{Pre-Chorus}

Through every trial, storm, and fall,
He lived the mission – Saintly Paul.

{Chorus}

We are the light, we are the flame,
We bear the hope in Jesus' name.
One hundred fifty years we stand,
Walking in faith with Christ, hand in hand.
O Saint Paul, lead us still—
To walk with love, to do God's will.

{Bridge}

Through joy and sorrow, rise and fall,
Your spirit echoes through us all.
This parish stands—a living sign
Of Christ in us through space and time.

{Final Chorus}

We are the light, we are the flame,
We bear the hope in Jesus' name.
One hundred fifty years we stand,
Walking in faith with Christ, hand in hand.
O Saint Paul, lead us still—
To walk with love, to do God's will.

Thanks Fr. Ajel Olila!

This is a beautiful song.

You're Invited to the Stewardship & Parish Vitality Fair

Father Bennett Hall
Saturday, September 19 after 5:00 pm Mass
Sunday, September 20 after 10:30 am Mass

Our parish needs you! Please consider joining one of the ministries below. Share your time and talents with fellow parishioners! Come and learn more and see if any of these fit your schedule.

Altar Server

- perform tasks such as carrying the processional cross and candles, holding the liturgical books for the priest, assisting with the presentation of the gifts, and ringing the bell during the consecration

Baptismal Preparation

- Share in the Church's teaching on the Sacrament of Baptism in the preparation process based on materials provided, lead sessions with parents and godparents

Cemetery Committee

- responsible for all matters pertaining to the on-going operation and maintenance of our Catholic cemeteries

Children's Liturgy

- cover the Sunday Gospel and readings at a level that children can understand and enjoy, and enrich with discussion, prayers, and songs

Choir

- share your gift of song, and possibly play an instrument for the music ministry

Collection Counter

- Responsible for confidential, timely and accurate counting of weekly and special collections for the parish according to the procedures

Edge & Lifeteen for Youth

- Assist youth ministry at meetings and events, sharing the faith

Eucharistic Minister

- Assist in distributing the Eucharist during the Communion Rite of Mass

First Communion Preparation

- Share in the Church's teaching on the sacraments by preparing for, and leading preparation sessions

Lector

- Proclaim the Sacred Scripture during the Liturgy of the Word

Parish Council

- Assist and support the Pastor in the operation of the Parish

Parish Fundraising Committee

- Actively participate on a committee to coordinate events to assist in fundraising for parish goals

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

- Prepare adults for the sacraments by providing instruction in the context of adult faith development

RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation of Children)

- Prepare children for the sacraments by providing instruction in faith development

Usher

- Establish a climate of welcome, helpfulness and order in the assembly
- Take up collection and ensure security; ensure gifts are presented

Parish Lay Organizations

- Catholic Women's League
- Knights of Columbus
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Friendship Group
- Alpha Group

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace"

1 Peter 4:10



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