



DIOCESE OF ALGOMA

From the Archbishop

We give because we bear the name of Christ.

We give with JOY, delighted to be able to offer with outstretched hands gifts in abundance.

We give in HOPE, for the gift will be blessed and multiplied – a single seed becomes a head of wheat.

We give in FAITH, this blessed gift will be enough, because we bear the name of Christ.

27th January, 2025,

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople

Dear people of God in Algoma,

We are in the midst of the Annual Vestry Meeting season of our congregations. I write to offer my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your unwavering commitment, your boundless energy, and your enduring faith. In this past year, we have faced challenges and uncertainties, but we have also witnessed remarkable acts of grace, strength, and resilience in the life of our diocesan family.

Here in the north unpredictable weather has caused havoc for many communities planning community events over the winter months. Your ability to ‘pivot’ and remain faithful has been a testament to your love for Christ and his Church. You have truly lived out the call to serve with humility and joy, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

To our faithful clergy and lay leaders, I give thanks for your dedicated service in the various ministries that make up the life of our parishes. You have worked tirelessly, to lead worship, provide pastoral care, ensure the smooth running of church administration, manage finances, and provide outreach to those in need. I also want to acknowledge the many volunteers who, in their quiet and steadfast ways, continue to embody Christ’s love within our communities. Your dedication to the work of the Gospel has made an immeasurable difference. Whether through teaching, mentoring, organizing, or simply offering a kind word, you have been a witness to the goodness of God in our midst.

With you, I pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed whose deaths we mourn and who are deeply missed.

With your faithful financial contributions over the years, you've demonstrated your deep commitment to the mission and ministry in your parish and to the wider church. Although there is no way to fully express our gratitude, I am continually inspired by your loyalty and your ongoing generosity, especially as many of you are living on fixed incomes.

It is always encouraging when we receive the Annual Vestry booklets in the Synod office to read the missional objectives you have taken the time to prayerfully consider for the coming year, and to reflect on the ones you set in the last year. If your parish is electing or the incumbent appointing new wardens, I extend a special word of welcome to the new leadership. You are assuming vital leadership roles within the parish which comes with great responsibility. Thank you for your willingness to take on these roles.

2025 is a Synod year. We will gather in Sault Ste. Marie from the evening of May 7th – to noon on the 10th. If you are allowing your name to stand to be a Synod delegate, please note these dates as well as the fact that you will be representing your parish on Deanery Council and have the potential to be members of the Diocesan Executive Committee. We are looking for diversity within the diocesan leadership. If you have gifts to offer the wider councils of the church do allow your name to stand for election. I am hoping that we will welcome many young people to diocesan synod this year as revitalizing youth ministry in Algoma is going to be a strong synod theme.

As we move forward, it is natural to feel a sense of trepidation about the future. Much of what lies ahead is unknown, and yet we trust in the faithfulness of the God who walks with us. While the future may be uncertain, we take heart in the truth that it is never unknown to God. He who holds the past and the present in His hands will also guide us into what is to come.

In baptism, each of us is marked with the sign of the cross and sealed as Christ's own forever. This is the unshakeable foundation upon which we stand. The promises of God are sure, and His love is steadfast. Even during the unknown, we are never alone.

I urge you, dear friends, to remain steadfast in your faith. To continue to serve with joy, to love with kindness, and to proclaim the hope of the Gospel to a world in desperate need of it. May we lean into God's strength and remain faithful to the call of Christ, trusting that God's Spirit will guide us as we walk into this new chapter.

May God bless you and keep you in the days ahead, and may you continue to shine as lights in the darkness, reflecting the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ's love and service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Germond". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a small cross symbol at the beginning of the first name.