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ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CEMETERY

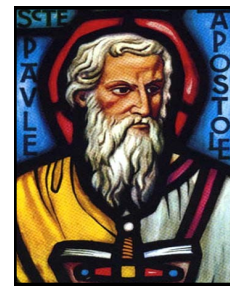
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St. Paul the Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish

3224 Dundas Street West,
 Toronto, Ontario M6P 2A3
 Tel 416-767-7054

Email: stpaultheapostleto@archtoronto.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Gospel Summary

Jesus tells us in today's Gospel that he is the Good Shepherd. He distinguishes between good shepherds and hired hands. Good shepherds truly care for, guard, and protect their sheep. Hired hands are more likely to run at the first sign of trouble. As a good shepherd, Jesus knows his sheep and his sheep know him. Jesus is so devoted to his sheep that he will lay down his life for them.

Reflection for Parents

Think of all the people who share in the task of teaching, guiding, and protecting your child. Who among those people is truly a good shepherd—a person who invests himself or herself in your child's life? Who are the "hired hands"—those who are less personally invested, but are still a part of your child's circle of formation and care? Think about your own role as a parent. How are you being a good shepherd to your child and to your family? Are there any "wolves" in your life, drawing your attention away from the flock God has placed in your care?

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family

Today is a day to give thanks to the shepherds! Invite family members to talk about the good shepherds in their lives and in your family's life. Make a list of the shepherds who are mentioned by name. Use arts and crafts supplies and notecards to write thank-you notes or to create "Good Shepherd certificates." Mail or deliver the notes or certificates in the coming week.

Discussion Starters

1. Some of the wolves that take my attention off of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, are ...
2. Something I can do to help me follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd, more closely is....
3. Someone can be a good shepherd to is... by...

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Visit Our Website

You can register for Sacraments, become a member of our parish community, get information on upcoming events, and much more. Visit our website at stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org or simply scan the QR code below.



Mass Intentions

- Saturday, April 20**
4:30pm
- +Michael Muscat
- Sunday, April 21**
9:00am
- Missa Pro Populo
- 10:30am**
- +Maria Sultana
 - +Nenu Dingli
 - +Joseph & Carmen Gove
 - +Carmel & Edmond Scicluna
 - +Mary & Joe Mifsud
 - +Mabli, Guza & Rachele Agius
 - +Alfred Galea
- 12:00 noon**
- +Maria Fenech
- Monday, April 22**
- All Souls in Purgatory
- Tuesday, April 23**
St. George
- +Anthony & Frank Zammit
- Wednesday, April 24**
- +Emanuel Sammut & Grech Family
- Thursday, April 25**
St. Mark
- +Paul Delicata
- Friday, April 26**
- +Doris Micallef

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 Fr. Roy Francis Farrell
 Pastor
 Deacon Raymond Frendo
 Permanent Deacon

MASS SCHEDULE
Daily morning Mass:
 Monday, Wednesday & Friday
 9:15am (Maltese/English)
 Tuesday & Thursday
 9:15am (English)
Weekend Masses:
Saturday: 4:30pm (English)
Sunday:
 9:00am (English)
 10:30am (Maltese/English)
 12:00pm (English)

Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Wednesday 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

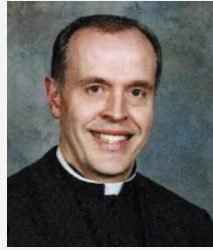
Secretary
 Mrs. Rita Apalit

OFFICE HOURS
 Monday to Friday
 9:00am to 4:30pm
 (Priest is always available by appointment)

SACRAMENTS
Baptism: Please contact the priests. Baptisms are held on the first Saturday of the month at 10:30am
Marriages: Contact the priest one year in advance of the wedding. A marriage preparation course is mandatory.
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
 First Friday: 8:40am to 9:10am
 Saturdays: 4:45pm to 5:15pm
 Anytime by appointment.
Anointing of the Sick:
 Contact the priests. Parishioners are reminded that this is not a sacrament that should be left for the last possible minute. It is a Sacrament for the sick, not just for the dying.

April 21, 2024

From our Pastor's Desk...



This coming Sunday, we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, a day dedicated to praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Let us unite in prayer and ask the Lord to guide those He has chosen to serve in these sacred vocations. As a Catholic parish, fostering vocations and encouraging young men to consider the priesthood is a noble endeavor. Here are some prayers you can incorporate:

Prayers for Vocations:

Almighty and eternal God, in your unfailing love, you provide ministers for your Church. We pray for those whom you call to serve as priests. Inspire in them a generous response. Grant them courage and vision to serve your people. May their lives and service call your people to respond to your Spirit among us."

O God, Father of all Mercies: Send your graces upon those you have called to gather the fruits of your labor. Preserve and strengthen them in their lifelong service to you. Open the hearts of your children to discern your holy will."

Loving and Generous God: Help us grow in love and service of our Church. Bless us by raising up dedicated leaders from our families and friends who will serve as priests, sisters, brothers, deacons, and lay ministers."

Loving God: Call from among us more men and women who will serve you as religious. By their way of life, may they provide a convincing sign of your Kingdom for the Church and the whole world."

He said to them, 'Come and See.' (John 1:39): God of all nations, we are grateful for the first Catholic missionaries and explorers. Inspire young men to explore God's potential call to the priesthood."

Remember, prayer is powerful. By praying fervently for vocations and creating a supportive environment, our parish can play a vital role in nurturing future priests and religious. May God bless your efforts!

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all who attended the Seder Meal this past weekend. Your presence was a blessing to our community. A special note of gratitude goes to the volunteers on the social committee, who worked tirelessly to set up and prepare a delicious meal for us all. Your dedication and service did not go unnoticed.

The success of events like the Seder Meal is a testament to the strength of our parish community. It is the collective effort of many hands and hearts that brings us together in fellowship and faith. I encourage more parishioners to consider volunteering; your time and talent are invaluable gifts that help our parish thrive.

Together, let us continue to build a community of faith, hope, and love.

VOCATION REFLECTION This is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The world needs leaders with courage and integrity. The Church needs good leaders as well, leaders who will unselfishly care for the needs of God's people and minister to them. If you feel God is calling you to priesthood, religious life or diaconate, call **Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.**

Email: vocations@archtoronto.org Website: www.vocationstoronto.ca

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION: This Sunday we are invited to reflect on the image of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Jesus shepherds us, His flock, by protecting us from any ravaging dangers, helping us stay in the fold and seeking us when we're lost. We as sheep must listen to and obey His voice. There is a familiarity and closeness between a shepherd and his sheep, and so too, there is an intimacy between Jesus and us. As stewards, we are called to imitate Jesus in all ways, including His role as shepherd. We all have people in our lives we are called to look out for, whether it be our families, friends or fellow parishioners. The most important step in effectively shepherding others is to first become a holy sheep in Jesus' flock. We must seek to grow in prayer and virtue, and through that flows the grace to journey with others heavenward. Within this call for all of us to be shepherds, God gives a special grace to particular men to more closely imitate the Good Shepherd through the vocation of priesthood. In regards to vocations, Jesus gives us only one instruction: "to pray to the Lord of the harvest, that He may send more labourers" (Matthew 9:38). Therefore, all of us have a role to play in fostering vocations. God continues to call priests, and through our prayers we can help young men answer the call. One great practice we can adopt is praying one Hail Mary every day for an increase in vocations.

As stewards, we are called to imitate Jesus in all ways, including His role as the Good Shepherd. The most important step in effectively shepherding others is to first become a holy sheep in Jesus' flock. God also calls many people to more closely shepherd His people in the priesthood and through our prayers, we can help young men answer the call.

Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.



Invest in our Church's future by giving to ShareLife

Your kindness and devotion enable St. Augustine's Seminary, along with the Office of Vocations and Redemptories Mater Missionary Seminary, to provide an excellent formation for our seminarians as they pursue a life of service. This past year, you invested in our Church's future by supporting 58 seminarians at St. Augustine's Seminary and Redemptories Mater Missionary Seminary.

This Sunday, April 21, we celebrate the 61st World Day of Prayer for Vocations. There has never been a better time to support and pray for our seminarians, wherever they may be on their journey.

The second ShareLife collection will be collected on **Sunday, April 28th**. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.



Our next COFFEE SUNDAY is on April 28th.

Coffee and tea will be served after all Masses on Sunday.

April 23rd marks the feast day of St George and the name day of Jorge (George) Mario Bergoglio. According to an 11th century legend, St George is the saint who killed the dragon, a symbol that iconography associates with the Devil himself. Born in Cappadocia, St George is believed to have been an officer in the army of the Emperor Diocletian. He died a martyr's death in the year AD303. The episode of the dragon slaying relates how St George, protected by the Cross, killed a people-eating dragon, thus ensuring that Faith triumphed over evil.



O God, who didst grant to Saint George strength and constancy in the various torments which he sustained for our holy faith; we beseech Thee to preserve, through his intercession, our faith from wavering and doubt, so that we may serve Thee with a sincere heart faithfully unto death. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.