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**St. Paul the Apostle Church
 Maltese-Canadian
 Community Parish**

3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6P 2A3
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email: stpaulmssp@gmail.com

Website: www.saint-paul-maltese.com

Pastor: Fr. Mario Micallef MSSP

Associate Pastor: Fr. Ivano Burdian MSSP

Parish Secretary: Mrs. Rita Apalit

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday to Friday: 10:00 am to 5:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULES & OTHER ACTIVITIES

Weekday Morning Mass

Monday, Wednesday & Friday - 9:15 am (Maltese)

Tuesday & Thursday - 9:15 am (English)

First Friday of the Month:

Mass in Maltese at 9.15 am,
 followed by Adoration & Benediction

Weekend Masses;

Saturday 5:30 pm (English)

Sunday: 9:00 am (English)

10:30 am (Maltese)

12:00 noon (English)

Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Please contact the Rectory.

Baptisms are held every Saturday at 10:30am.

Marriages:

Contact the priest at least one year in advance of the wedding.

A marriage preparation course is required.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Any day, by appointment; call the office.

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.



Mission Statement

We, the community of St Paul the Apostle, are a Maltese-Canadian personal Parish, founded on September 8, 1930, and administered by the Missionary Society of St Paul. We are a faith community reflecting the gospel values of Christ according to the teaching and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. We serve the Maltese community, welcoming also other people from other nationalities. Our mission is to follow Christ by sharing our gifts of time, talent and treasure: by imitating Christ; and by giving witness to our faith through our everyday lives..

Saturday, November 27

- Doris Micallef

Sunday, November 28

9:00am

- Maria, Pietru, Joseph Portelli
- John Logan
- Linda Apalit

10:30am

- Carmen Govè
- Salvu & Mena Cauchi
- Pauline Migliore
- Charlie & Albert Taliana
- Silvana Dewe
- Helen Camilleri
- Grace Bugeja

12:00 noon

- Linda Apalit

Monday, November 29

- Carmen & Joseph Govè

Tuesday, November 30

- Joe Farrugia

Wednesday, December 1

- Our Lady of the Immigrant
 Perpetual Mass

Thursday, December 2

-

Friday, December 3

- Doris Micallef

MASS INTENTIONS



November 28, 2021
1st Sunday of Advent- C

Pastor's thoughts ...



Christmas is fast approaching. In spite of all the Covid-related restrictions, we all look forward to, at least, some time with close family and friends to celebrate this special time. It is that time of the year that has something magical about it. Christmas trees have started appearing all over the place. Houses are being decorated with colorful and flickering lights. Shops have been filling their shelves, enticing us to spend money on gifts and decorations which are not very different to those of last year. Santa-Clause figures are being taken out and dusted after eleven months of hibernation.

The Church, too, takes this season seriously. This Sunday we begin four weeks of preparation so that, when the time comes, we can celebrate Christmas fittingly. This time of preparation is called Advent.

Today's liturgy invites us to pause from the busy-ness of our lives and think about the reason for our upcoming celebrations. We start our biblical readings with an excerpt from the prophet Jeremiah. Like many other Old Testament writers, the prophet reminds us that we are about to witness God fulfilling His promises. From the very beginning God's wish for us was to live in harmony with nature, with each other and with Himself. This harmony was, unfortunately, damaged with the introduction of sin. God, who is much bigger than any sin that could be committed, promised to rectify this - something that happened with the coming of Jesus. "At that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land," Jeremiah tells us. "Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety."

Jeremiah names this future event "The Lord is our Righteousness." It is a message of hope. We all feel frustrated or angry when we see things that are not right or whenever we witness injustice. The coming of Jesus brings light where darkness seems to reign. The bright light that filled the skies around Bethlehem is a great and graphic symbol of what the birth of Jesus is all about.

Christmas is not just a reminder of something that happened two thousand years ago in Bethlehem. It is not even a re-enactment in our minds or otherwise of the birth of Baby Jesus. It is, rather, a real reminder of God's presence in our lives, in our world. It is, as we shall hear over and over again during these weeks, the coming of the "Emmanuel" - "God is with us". We all know that we need this presence in our lives.

It is for this reason that the Church gifts us with this season where we are invited to really prepare ourselves well for Christmas. There is no better way to do this than taking time to be with Him, to listen and reflect on His word, to let Him speak to us in our lives. As the great spiritual writer Catherine Doherty would say, "Listen to God's speech in his wondrous, terrible, gentle, loving, all-embracing silence." Surely, the greatest gift we could give to ourselves for Christmas is to become better persons. There is always room for improvement, and this we can only do with His help.

The Son of God who was born two thousand years ago in Bethlehem is "God-is-with-us". He is always present, if only we would allow Him. Let us clear some space for Him during this Advent so that He can be born in our lives, in our families, and in our homes.

- Fr Mario



OFFICE HOURS

During this pandemic, the Parish Office is **opened on a limited schedule** (Tuesday to Friday from 2:00pm to 5:30pm), however phone calls and emails are still being attended to during normal office hours:

Tuesday to Friday: 10:00 am to 5:30 pm.

Please call the office at 416-767-7054 to offer masses, or to make arrangements to pick up or drop off items.

VETCH - ĠULBIENA

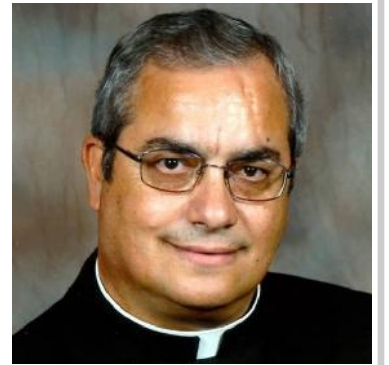
A very beautiful Maltese Christmas tradition is that of decorating the statue of Baby Jesus, or the Nativity Scene, with vetch. According to ancient Maltese tradition, light-deprived vetch seeds are grown over a period of a few weeks and placed next to the statue of the baby Jesus in the manger. Light deprived vetches grow white and stringy.

This weekend you can buy your vetch seeds from the church after Mass (\$5.00 per packet - instructions included).



Fr Karm Borg MSSP, R.I.P

Early in the morning of Tuesday, November 23, we got the news that Fr Karm Borg has passed away. Fr Karm was born on April 8, 1951, and was ordained priest within the Missionary Society of St Paul on July 9, 1978. For 15 years he was Pastor of our parish, between 2001 and 2015.



**** We are having a Memorial Mass for Fr Karm on Tuesday, November 30, at 7:00pm.**

** Frs Mario, Ivano and Giovann would like to thank everyone who, in many different ways, have expressed sympathy on the loss of a loved Paulist brother.

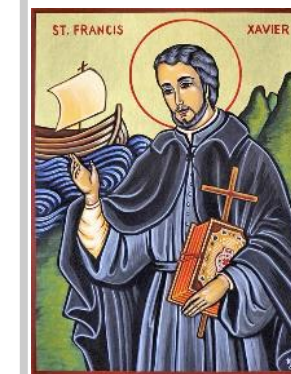
"Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord."

FIRST FRIDAY

This coming Friday, December 3, is the first Friday of December. There will be a time of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after the 9:15 Mass, followed by Benediction.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Patron saint of missionaries.



The feast day of St Francis Xavier is celebrated on December 3.

Through his intercession, we pray for all missionaries around the world.

REGISTRATIONS



Anyone who still needs to register for our sacramental programmes, please do so as soon as possible. Preparation classes will begin as follows:

First Holy Communion: December 5

Confirmation: December 12

Those who have registered will soon be receiving a note with all the necessary details.

REST IN PEACE

Joseph Francis Gauci, who passed on to eternal life during this week.

As we ask the resurrected Christ to grant him eternal peace with Him, we also remember in our prayers his loved ones during this time of loss and grief.

