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St. Paul the Apostle Church
Maltese-Canadian
Community Parish

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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, December 4

- Carmen Muscat

Sunday, December 5

9:00am

- Nina & Salvu Schembri

10:30am

- Pauline Migliore
- Doreen Camilleri

12:00 noon

- Francesca & Antonio Capizzano

Monday, December 6

- For the People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 7

- Anthony Sultana

Wednesday, December 8

- Our Lady of the Immigrant Perpetual Mass

Thursday, December 9

-

Friday, December 10

- Family Micallef

MASS INTENTIONS



December 5, 2021
2nd Sunday of Advent - C

Pastor's thoughts ...



Today's gospel begins with a list of big-shots: the Emperor Tiberius; the governor Pontius Pilate; Herod, ruler of Galilee and his brother Philip, the other tetrarch; Lysanias ruler of Abilene; and even the supreme religious leaders of Israel, Annas and Caiaphas. It was a way of helping us pinpoint with a certain precision when a certain event happened. Obviously, the writer (St Luke) deemed this event so important that it merited precise detail. Following this star-studded introduction, Luke tells us what the event was: the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. What an anti-climax! The person: John. A nobody in the upper circles of society, a religious extremist who had a knack for getting himself in trouble. The place: in the desert. Far from the glorious palaces of the political leaders mentioned, and even far from the temple, home of two high-priests.

The word of God came to John. Again, a very precise detail. In a world full of words, it was one specific word John received – God's word. This is very fitting as we enter into the second week of Advent. This season will eventually lead us to the celebration of Christmas, when the Word of God becomes flesh. And then, throughout the whole year, we shall see this Word of God in action. In the gospel Jesus does not speak to us about love; he loves. He does not speak to us about mercy, or of giving – he shows mercy and he gives himself to others. This word which came to John is alive and active!

It is this Word that we are being invited to receive this Christmas, and beyond. Advent helps us to prepare the ground for its reception. We have to straighten our paths so that we can be able to see clearly. Distractions have to be cleared away. The Word will help us to fill our emptiness, the voids in our lives, so that we can truly live a full life. The first reading from the prophet Baruch develops this theme very well. It is an invitation to arise at the sound of God's word, "rejoicing that God has remembered" us. It is, in actual fact a song of returning. After seventy years in exile, the people of God is now returning to Jerusalem, to where he really belongs. The mission of John the Baptist will eventually become a constant call for conversion. He invites Herod for conversion, and he invites each and every one of us to do the same. The true meaning of conversion is to return to the right place, to where you belong.

"God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory," proclaims Baruch. Indeed, the season of Advent is a joyous journey leading us to the one true light for whom the angels sang "Glory" on Christmas night. It is the light that has to guide us in our lives. "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path," prays the psalmist. It is all connected. The Word which took flesh in Bethlehem is the word which enlightens our path. Thanks to this light, we can look forward to celebrate a merry and joyous Christmas.

- Fr Mario

Advent Prayer

**GOD OUR FATHER
HELP US KEEP WATCH
AND STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH
AS WE WAIT FOR THE COMING
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
WAKE US UP
AND FIND US READY
TO SERVE AND PRAISE HIM.
AMEN.**

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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

Final Call!

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).



WELCOME

This Saturday **Ava Marie Schwartz** has received the Sacrament of Baptism. While welcoming her into our catholic community, we pray for her and for her family, as they help her grow as a mature Christian.



"May the feast of our Mother help us to make our whole life a "yes" to God, a "yes made of adoration of him and of daily gestures of love and service."

- Pope Francis,
December 8, 2019.



SUNDAY MISSAL - 2022

If you missed our, we've got more copies of the Sunday Missal for this new Liturgical Year. This is a good source to have the weekly Word of God with you for your personal prayer and reflection. You can pick them up after Mass. Cost: \$5.00



THANK YOU

We have received a note of thanks from **Good Shepherd Ministries**, for the recent **Thanksgiving Food Drive** from our parish. "With so many people struggling to make ends meet in our community, your support means a great deal," the letter said. "Your support will help Good Shepherd to continue to prepare hot nutritious meals this winter for people who are homeless and vulnerable."

Our parish continues to accept donations of non-perishable food items throughout the year, which will go to Good Shepherd.

*** Meanwhile, the recent special collections yielded the following:

Shepherds' Trust: \$830

World Mission Sunday: \$1,085

On behalf of the recipients—a huge Thank You! May God reward you a hundred-fold.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Father,
you prepared the Virgin Mary
to be the worthy mother of your Son.
You let her share beforehand
in the salvation Christ
would bring by his death,
and kept her sinless
from the first moment of her conception.
Help us by her prayers
to live in your presence without sin.
We ask this through
our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. *Amen*
—The Liturgy of the Hours