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**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 11**

- For the People of the Parish

**Sunday, December 12**

**9:00am**

- All Souls

**10:30am**

- Pauline Migliore

**12:00 noon**

- Edmond & Carmel Scicluna
- Rosa & Salvatore Chiappetta

**Monday, December 13**

- 

**Tuesday, December 14**

- Eugenio Sturino
- Carmen & Joseph Gové

**Wednesday, December 15**

- Our Lady of the Immigrant Perpetual Mass

**Thursday, December 16**

- 

**Friday, December 17**

- Esther Theuma

MASS INTENTIONS



**December 12, 2021**  
**3rd Sunday of Advent - C**

# Pastor's thoughts ...



People were flocking around John the Baptist. In spite of the fact that the Temple had been restored to its full glory, the priests were fulfilling their functions and sacrifices were being offered, the people were searching for something more. Their firm belief was that they should be doing something in order to obtain that which they were seeking. The question was simple: What should we do? This was not just a simple question put forward by normal, everyday people. Sinners, personified in the tax-collectors, were asking the same question, as well as foreign soldiers assigned to the Holy Land.

If the question was simple, John's answer was equally so. In a nutshell, first he told them to think of others, to share of their goods with those who had less. Then he told everyone to do what he or she should be doing, according to their calling - the simple, everyday life

things.

Sometimes we might find ourselves in the same situation as the people of John's time. We might have and be blessed with a lot of things in life. But still, we feel that there is something missing in our lives. Perhaps the crucial question, before asking what I should be doing, is, "what am I looking for? What do I really want in life?" I suspect that if we were to make a list of what we really want, joy or happiness would be somewhere at the top of that list. When you think about it, most of the stuff we do, we do it because we want joy. It's amazing how many people seem to have everything and yet lack true joy.

One person came into the world with the promise of joy. At his birth in Bethlehem, this is what the messengers from heaven sang: joy to the world. No one, no race, is excepted from this. The message of joy is for everyone. Christmas, which we shall soon be celebrating, is an invitation to allow Jesus to become present in our lives. Let the life of each and every one of us become that manger where Jesus made an appearance more than two thousand years ago.

John the Baptist's message is as relevant today as it was to his people back then. Helping others with what we have been given is a constant in Jesus' teaching and life. He preached it, and He lived it. He constantly gave of himself, until he reached the climax on the cross. This is the paradox of Christianity. Using the words of the great spiritual writer Ron Rolheiser, "As the Prayer of St. Francis puts it, we can never attain joy, consolation, peace, forgiveness, love, and understanding by actively pursuing them. We attain them by giving them out. That's the great paradox at the center of our spirituality."

The rest is relatively easy: just live what you are called to be. John told the tax-collectors not to over-tax people, and to the soldiers he told them not to abuse the power entrusted to them.

The Son of God became human to give us life, joy and peace. With Zephaniah, the prophet who gave us today's beautiful first reading, we rejoice because is in our midst. The birth of Jesus is tangible proof that our God is not a far-away deity or ideal. He is truly the Emmanuel, the God-is-with-us.

- Fr Mario

The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus.



## 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.

## ENVELOPE BOXES

Your Offering Envelopes are ready to be picked up from the back of the church. **Please make sure that it is your box, double-checking the address.** Some names are very similar!

**May we take this opportunity to thank you for your continuous support for the parish, particularly during this time marked by Covid.** Know that it is all very much appreciated, and every little bit helps.



## POINSETTIAS

This week we shall begin accepting poinsettias to decorate our Church for Christmas. Please drop them off at the Rectory during office hours.



THANK YOU!

**Let us make it beautiful for Jesus!**

## UNITED ... NOT JUST IN PRAYERS

Christmas is normally a time when friends and families come together and celebrate. However, we know there are some people who cannot celebrate with others. Amongst these, there are some of our parishioners. Covid-related restriction has, unfortunately, made this reality even more acute.

As a community of faith, we keep these sisters and brothers in our prayers. Moreover, if you know someone who is in this situation remember that a small visit (if possible) or

a phone call can make a huge difference in their lives! **Help them experience Jesus' love through your presence!**



## SUNDAY MISSAL - 2022

We still have some copies left 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



## CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Raffle tickets for statue of Baby Jesus are being sold from the Church, or from the office during office hours.

Raffle will be drawn Christmas Eve, during the 8:00pm Mass



<b>Friday, December 24</b>	8:00 pm 11:30 pm 12:00	Christmas Eve Mass in Maltese Christmas Vigil Midnight Mass in English
<b>Saturday, December 25</b>	9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 noon	Mass in English Mass in Maltese Mass in English <b>NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
<b>Sunday, December 26</b>	9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 noon	Mass in English Mass in Maltese Mass in English
<b>Friday, December 31</b>	5:30 pm	Mass in English
<b>Saturday, January 1</b>	10:30 am	Mass in Maltese <b>NO EVENING MASS</b>
<b>Sunday, January 2</b>	9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 noon	Mass in English Mass in Maltese Mass in English