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

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.

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 25, 2021

9:00am

10:30am

Paul Delicata

12:00 noon

- Linda Apalit
- Mario Capizzano
- Alfred Saliba

Sunday, December 26, 2021

9:00am

Radek & Eva Bielecki (Wedding Ann.)

10:30am

- Silvana Dewe
- Charlie & Albert Taliana
- Frank & Mary Vella
- Nenu Dingli
- Pauline Migliore
- Grace Bugeja

12:00 noon

- Suzanne Camilleri
- Tony Axiak
- Linda Apalit

Monday, December 27, 2021

Doris Micallef

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

• Joseph & Catherine Micallef

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

• Our Lady of the Immigrant Perpetual Mass

Thursday, December 30, 2021

Friday, December 31, 2021

December 26, 2021 The Holy Family of Jesus - C



Pastor's thoughts ...



Here we are, celebrating another Christmas. Once more, traditions repeat themselves. In spite of Covid-related restrictions, we still hear the sound of "Silent Night" and "O Come All Ye Faithful" ... or a "Ninni La Tibkix Iżjed." Family meals are prepared, gifts wrapped, given and received. Trees decorated and colored lights adorn our streets. Even the story is very well known. And it brings some kind of comfort in troubled lives and in an uncertain world. Mary and her ever-so-faithful husband Joseph. Angels singing on high and shepherds running from their fields to discover what the angels had proclaimed.

And yet, even in that first Christmas story, not all was rosy. The baby had to be born in misery and discomfort, all due to an edict issued by a foreign ruler who had made himself god. The Roman legions were patrolling the countryside and streets to impose their empire's idea of peace. The baby's pregnant mother feeling unwelcome in no uncertain terms. The baby himself would, in a short time, be sought to be get rid of because of the fear experienced by Herod, who liked to give the impression that he was mighty and powerful. The God-made -man came into a world that was far from perfect. Yet, he did not shrink from any of this. The Immanuel – the God-is-with-us, was born to the sound of "Glory to God and Peace on earth" being sung. His birth was a promise fulfilled. Had everything been perfect, there would have probably been no need of Him coming to dwell amongst us.

What we remember of then, is re-lived in the here and now. Because the bible is never just about then. It is a word for now. Not unlike the world then, our own world is far from perfect. Family problems, strained relationships, sicknesses and death and personal issues are all a reality in our world. And yet, the Jesus who was not afraid to enter into a broken world two thousand years ago, is not afraid to do so now. Whether it is in our troubled selves or in our divided homes, Jesus comes to bring the same message of peace and hope. The story of Christmas says that God has not given up on us. It says God is with us, not over us, or judging us, or condemning us, or deserting us. True, his presence often goes unnoticed by many. But that is nothing new. Many were not aware of his coming on that first Christmas. But for those who dared to listen and to believe, he did make a difference.

On whose side shall I be this Christmas? On one side there are the likes of the self-proclaimed deity Caesar Augustus and the mighty Herod on his throne in his majestic palace in Jerusalem. They thought they had it all, and had no need of a God-made-baby. On the other hand, we find people like gentle Mary, the quietly-strong Joseph, the simple shepherds, and the three foreigners who were wise enough to be open to the new and unexpected.

Let us make room this Christmas for the baby to come into our lives. Let us make time to listen to whatever message his angels would like to proclaim. Let us take the risk and allow him to surprise us, knowing that his presence never leaves things unchanged.

- 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.

Frs. Mario, Ivano and Giovann wish you and all your loved ones a most Blessed and Happy Christmas.



May the love and joy of Jesus reign in your hearts always.

PARISH CALENDARS

2022 Parish Calendars are now available. You can pick them up from the Church, or from the office during office hours. Inspired by Pope Francis' spirituality and his letter *Laudato Si'*, this year's calendar encourages us to love and respect the nature which God has created

for us.

Thank you to the **Malta Bake Shop** for sponsoring the printing of this year's calendars.

REST IN PEACE

A few days ago we had the news of the death of **Enzo Gusman,** a well-known and much loved personality within the Maltese community. Enzo's funeral will be held on Tuesday, and will be livestreamed on our you-tube channel.

While asking the God of Mercy to grant him eternal rest with Him in heaven, we also pray for his loved ones during this time of loss and grief.



OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas period. We shall be open again on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.



ENVELOPE BOXES

There are still some Offering Envelopes to be picked up from the back of the church. When you take them, please do make sure that it is your box, doublechecking the address. Some names are very similar!

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



SYNOD OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Pope Francis has launched the **Synod on Synodality**: a two-year global process of listening to the faithful that will help the Church reflect on how we can do God's will in the world today. The comments of the faithful will ultimately be discussed at a meeting of the bishops in the Vatican in 2023. To learn more about the Synod on Synodality and to share your thoughts, please visit: www.archtoronto.org/synodality

. On the same page there is a survey where everyone is invited to share their thoughts about different aspects of the Church. Please participate!



2021 2023 For a synodal Church