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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, October 2

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Sunday, October 3

9:00am

- Maria Portelli
- Linda Apalit

10:30am

- Dominic & Carmela Ciappara
- Doris Micallef
- Gino Azzopardi, Louis Abela
- Brnjamin Paul Haber
- Culzin Whetham, Leli & Vince Micallef

12:00 noon

- Jacqueline Zerafa
- Linda Apalit

Monday, October 4

- Portelli Family

Tuesday, October 5

- Camilleri Family
- Nina Schembri
- Charlie Portelli, Charles Portelli Jr., Jason Portelli

Wednesday, October 6

Our Lady of the Immigrant
 Perpetual Mass

- Tessie Psaila

Thursday, October 7

- Galea Family

Friday, October 8

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MASS INTENTIONS

October 3, 2021

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - B

Pastor's thoughts ...



We are created for relationships. "It is not good that the man should be alone," said God in the creation story which we read in today's first reading. It's a picture of a very "human" God who cares for man's needs and tries to do His best to see man happy. So, God continues to experiment with His creative genius, and gives man all kinds of birds and animals to keep him company. All this helped, but was not good enough. God had to learn that it's not easy to make man happy! So, God had to dig deep into His fantastic mind and invented a totally new way of creating something new. He let man go into a deep sleep, and while he was sleeping God took one of his ribs, out of which he formed woman. We can almost feel man's joy and excitement when, on waking up, he found the woman next to him: "at last," he says, "this is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh".

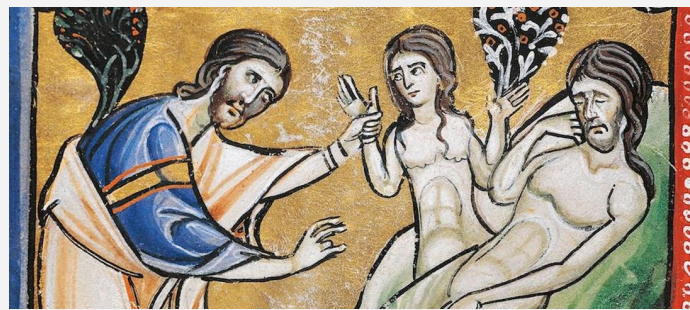
God's empathy towards man in this story is palpable. God, who had created man in His own image, knows that the man He created has to live in relationships. That's because God Himself is a living and loving relationship. The theology of the Holy Trinity is all about this (without us having to go into its details here today). The stories of creation give us a beautiful picture of this: man living in harmony with nature, with fellow human beings, and with God Himself. This harmony was, alas, destroyed when sin happened. But it was put right again with the coming of Jesus.

The gospel of today speaks to us about a special kind of relationship: that between husband and wife. For us Christians marriage is not just a decision of two people to live together, or a contract which can be terminated at any of the parties' whim. It is a sacrament celebrated between two equal people with a commitment to each other for life. It was not like this in Jesus' time. Equality of the parties was inexistent. The wife was subordinate to the husband. In the best of cases, she was his "most valued possession". The man could, then, divorce his wife even for simply "becoming displeasing" to him. This was of course open for a very wide interpretation, making her displeasing even if her cooking or cleaning was not up to the husband's expectations! Naturally, the woman had no such rights.

When asked about this Jesus chose not to dwell on when a divorce is permissible or not. Rather, he focused his teaching on the equality of both persons in a marriage relationship, and the importance of each person to respect both the other person and the commitment they made for life. He tells them that should any one member of the couple enter into another relationship, irrespective of whether it's the man or the woman, both commit adultery against their spouse.

Having said all this, it is important for us to remember that, as Christians, it is not up to us to judge anyone. We all know couples who have been, or are going, through a rough time in their relationship. We also know couples whose relationship has gone wrong, for whatever reason. Perhaps we have been there ourselves. Each case is unique and God understands each of our stories. The best we can do is pray and entrust ourselves and our loved ones into God's loving arms.

- Fr. Mario



OFFICE HOURS

During this pandemic, the Parish Office is **opened on a limited schedule** (Monday 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 make masses, or to make arrangements to pick up or drop off items.

ARE YOU SOMEONE OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...

- Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
 - Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?
- We offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the way that a non-baptized person is brought into full communion with the Catholic Church. It provides the ritual actions for all the stages of initiation as well as, guides those who might not participate in the full Rite, but who are not yet in full communion with the Church.

If you, or you know someone who is interested in the **RCIA** program please contact the office.

REST IN PEACE

This past week we had the funeral of **Charlie Taliana**.

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



WELCOME

This Saturday, we welcomed **Elijah Deryl Fernandez** into our Church, as he received the Sacrament of Baptism. We pray for him and for his family as they help him to continue to grow as a mature Christian.



THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Next weekend (Thanksgiving weekend), we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items during all the Masses. Members of the **Good Shepherd Refuge** will be picking them up and distribute them among the neediest in our community.

Good Shepherd Ministries provides 1,100 meals and snacks per day around Toronto, and offer nutritious meals to those in need.

As you can imagine, the number of people seeking help has increased due to Covid-related problems.



This weekend we will have the Collection for the **Needs of the Catholic Church**.

This annual charitable initiative assists the Bishops in their ministry of accompanying, teaching, guiding, sanctifying and caring for the Church in

Canada.

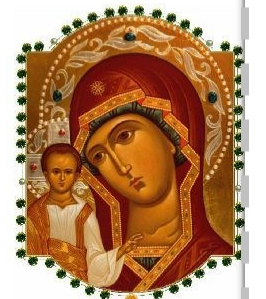
We appreciate your generosity towards this important charity.



At the request of Pope Francis we conclude the Holy Rosary during October with the "Sub tuum Praesidium" and the St Michael Prayer, below:

Sub Tuum Praesidium

We fly to Thy protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petitions in our necessities but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin



St Michael Prayer

Saint Michael Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil, may God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen