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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 18, 2021

- Sunny Camilleri

Sunday, December 19, 2021

9:00am

- Patricia Nielson

10:30am

- Michaelangelo Debrincat
- Carmela, Emanuel, Tessie & Joseph Psaila
- Pauline Migliore
- Joseph, Rosaria & Gaeta Gauci

12:00 noon

- Maria Fenech
- Frank Cini

Monday, December 20, 2021

- Joe Caruana

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

- Maria Gomez Mendonca (1 yr. anniversary)

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

- Our Lady of the Immigrant Perpetual Mass
- Charles Camilleri

Thursday, December 23, 2021

- Emanuel Cutajar

Friday, December 24, 2021

8:00 pm (Maltese)

- Joe Farrugia

Midnight (English)

- Linda Apalit
- Mario Capizzano
- Families Cachia & Xuereb



December 19, 2021
4th Sunday in Advent - C

MASS INTENTIONS

Pastor's thoughts ...



“The child leaped in her womb.”

At the center of today's gospel, we have two pregnant women, and two unborn children still in their mothers' wombs, one of them leaping with joy. As we prepare for the birth of Him who has been called “King of kings” and “Lord of Lords”, the liturgy does not present us with some nobleman, knights in shining armor, or people of power in their high-floor offices. Instead, we have two realities which were very low down the scale of importance in society: women and children. It seems that, from the very beginning, God wanted to make sure that we understand that His ways are not our ways, that with Him the first become last and vice-versa. Mary was right when, following the angel's visit and

while she was still unsure about what and how it was going to happen, she burst out in song proclaiming that God “has looked on his lowly servant”. In humility, out of humble beginnings, through the vulnerability of seemingly unimportant humans, God brought about what was to become the greatest event in human history.

It would be enough for us today if we stayed in the presence these two women and let them speak to us. We look at them as they share their joy, excitement and awe at all that was happening in them and through them. One of them was now well beyond the possibility of giving birth, while the other's pregnancy had nothing of the ordinary in it. As soon as Mary arrives at her doorstep, Elizabeth greets her with what is probably the most beautiful title Mary could ever get: “blessed is she who believed.” Yes, Mary is declared blessed because she believed in something that went against all human logic. She might have not understood. She had been confused. Probably she still had a hundred-and-one questions about this pregnancy and the child to be born. Yet, she freely and joyfully said yes because she believed that God wanted something from her and that He could make it happen.

We are celebrating the second Christmas under the shadows cast by Covid. Some of us have suffered more than others during these last two years. Others are still scared of what might happen, and all of us experience uncertainties about what's going to happen next. And yet, we have Christmas once more to remind us that Jesus came in the midst of all this. He was born in poverty, lacking all basic securities. He came into a world full of turmoil and anxieties. As an unmarried mother, Mary had all her fears allayed as she allowed God to take over. Her song, the Magnificat, was one of praise, thanksgiving and joy.

“The Almighty has done great things for me,” she says, not allowing her humility to diminish God's powerful action working in her.

We all have our moments of darkness, uncertainties, pains or problems in our lives. The story of Christmas tells us that Jesus is not embarrassed to enter into these realities. On the contrary, it is precisely in these stories that he wants to enter, to be re-born.

“Blessed is she who believed,” Elizabeth said. Do we believe that Jesus can do wonders in our lives too, like He did in the lives of Mary and Elizabeth?

- 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.

POINSETTIAS

We are still 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!



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



WELCOME

We welcome into our Church **Mason George McCready**, who is receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend. We pray for him and for his family as they help him continue to grow as a mature Christian.



READERS... PLEASE NOTE

Readers who will be attending Mass during the Christmas and New Year's weekends, please put your names on the forms being provided in the sacristy, showing for which Mass you can give your service.

It is important that all liturgies during this beautiful liturgical season of the year are covered.



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!



Synod
2021
2023

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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.



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



REST IN PEACE

During this past week we had the burials of:

Maria Lourdes De Giorgio, Doris Mary Casaletto, and Josephine Vassallo.

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

