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St. Paul the Apostle Church
Maltese-Canadian
Community Parish

3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6P 2A3
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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, January 8, 2022

5:30pm

- Carmen Fenech
- Carmen Gauci
- Carmen Imbroll

Sunday, January 9, 2022

9:00am

- Carmel & Josephine Zarb

10:30am

- Emanuel, Carmela & Tessie Psaila

12:00 noon

- Frank Cini
- Joseph & Emily & Joe Jr Zerafa
- Rose Bartolo

Monday, January 10, 2022

- For the People of the Parish

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

- Eugenio Sturino

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

- Our Lady of the Immigrant Perpetual Mass

Thursday, January 13, 2022

- For all Souls

Friday, January 14, 2022

- Family Micallef



MASS INTENTIONS

January 9, 2022
The Baptism of the Lord - C

Pastor's thoughts ...



After his baptism Jesus was praying, and the voice from heaven declared: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Unlike the other evangelists, St Luke is not utterly concerned with what happened during the baptism of Jesus. Rather, his focus is on what happened afterwards. Luke wrote his gospel to people who, like you and me, were already baptized. In today's passage he is telling us: look, this is what happened to Jesus after his baptism. As a baptized Christian, this is your life.

The picture painted by Luke is one of a beautiful relationship between Father and Son. The Son immediately enters into communion with the Father through prayer. The heavens open: there is no more distance between God and man. After all, Jesus' coming into our world is the physical expression of Immanuel – "God is with us". The Father, then, publicly recognizes the baptized one as his Son, a son who is loved and who gives pleasure to the Father.

Following the celebrations of Christmas, today we begin what is liturgically called the "ordinary time". This is an important time, because it is in the ordinariness of our everyday life that we are called to live out our baptism as Christians. The story of what happened at the baptism of Jesus sets the tone for us for this coming year.

Heaven is opened, implying that God is now not distant anymore. Jesus is truly the Emmanuel, the God -is-with-us;

The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus. In the beginning of Jesus' ministry Luke will highlight how Jesus was constantly moved by this Spirit. It is this Spirit, He says, that sent him to bring good news, to bring freedom, and give light to those who are in darkness;

God's voice proclaims Jesus as the Beloved Son, in whom he is well-pleased.

All this happens, of course, in a context of prayer.

The same dynamics that were present at Jesus' baptism are present in our own baptism.

The one-ness between us and God, which had been destroyed by Adam's sin, is restored. The same Spirit that descended upon Jesus is given to us too, to guide us and move us in our mission. And, like Jesus, we are proclaimed sons and daughters of God, in whom He is well-pleased. Nothing can change this reality. Irrespective of what we do in life, we remain children who are loved by the Father.

For those who doubt this fact, Luke will eventually gift us with the story of the prodigal son. But that's a story for another day.

- 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.

COVID-19 AWARENESS

Following the recent announcements from the Provincial Government, our Archdiocese is asking us to remind everyone of the following:

- "Maximum number for indoor gatherings changes from 10 people to 5 people." Our catechism and RCIA classes have either been postponed or are being held online. No other meetings are being held on parish property.
- "Staff should work virtually wherever possible." People who need to visit the parish office are being asked to do so by appointment only. Until further notice, the office will be closed, but the parish secretary will still reply to emails and answer phones during normal office-hours (Tuesday-Friday 10:00am to 5:30pm.)
- If you are not feeling well, please do not come to Church.
- Mass times remain the same, and our church capacity is unchanged since we do not reach 50% of capacity as we maintain physical distance between households.
- We continue to encourage everyone to get vaccinated if you haven't already, and get the booster if you have.
- Please do not congregate in groups outside the church before or after Mass.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. It is in these little things that we show we care!

THANK YOU

As we end the Christmas Liturgical Season, we would like to thank all of you for your messages, cards and gifts over Christmas. We surely appreciate your love, care and concern for us and our wellbeing.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank all those who helped make our Church beautiful for our celebrations: those who put up (and then put down!) the decorations, cleaners, those who donated poinsettias, as well as all who help in our liturgical celebrations.

A huge thank you also goes to all who, silently and selflessly help the parish in so many different ways throughout the year. Rest assured that your help is much appreciated, and you are often in our prayers.

Thank you!

R.I.P.

This week we celebrated the funeral of our sister **Apolonia Farrugia**. Meanwhile, the funeral of **Charlie Vella** who passed away this week will be held during this coming week. While we ask our merciful Lord to give them eternal rest with Him, we pray for their loved ones during this time of grief.



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, double-checking 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!



Synod
2021
2023

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