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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, February 12

- For the people of the Parish

Sunday, February 13

9:00am

- Fr. Karm Borg
- Maria Di Maulo

10:30am

- Emanuel, Carmela & Tessie Psaila
- Margaret Cross Morana
- Ralph Cini
- Anne Muscat

12:00 noon

- Susanne Camilleri

Monday, February 14

- Carmen Muscat
- Carmnu Vella

Tuesday, February 15

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Wednesday, February 16

- Our Lady of the Immigrant Perpetual Mass
- Carmel & Edmond Scicluna

Thursday, February 17

- Rose & Domenic Bartolo
- Frank Micallef
- Joseph Caruana

Friday, February 18

- Family Micallef

MASS INTENTIONS



February 13, 2022
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - C

Pastor's thoughts ...



It has often been said that “God’s ways are not our ways”. I think this saying has never been truer than in the story we are celebrating this weekend.

St Paul never had any intention to go to Malta. His sole intention was to go to be tried in Rome, using his privilege as a Roman citizen. Had he not filed his appeal to go to Caesar, he would have been a free man. As King Agrippa himself said during Paul’s trial, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar”, because he “is not doing anything that deserves death or imprisonment.” However, since Paul had lodged that appeal, his wish had to be respected.

Paul wanted to use that excuse to visit the Christian community in Rome, to whom he had already written a letter although he had never visited them yet. That was Paul’s plan – a long-time ambition of his. God, however, had other plans in mind.

As soon as they set sail, they started encountering difficulties. The trip was taking longer than expected due to the bad weather. When they took shelter in Crete, Paul insisted they should not keep going. The centurion and the owner and captain of the ship decided otherwise. This decision was almost fatal. The storm kept growing. For days on end the expert mariners could not control the ship. Those on board started losing hope. Luke tells us that at one point “we finally gave up all hope of being saved”.

In desperation, some tried to escape. Paul stopped this, assuring everybody that all were going to be saved. By now, thanks to a vision he had, he had become in tune with God’s plan in this story. Paul would, eventually, face Caesar, but first, they had to “**run aground on some island.**” This was, therefore, the real purpose of this whole adventure. Paul’s coming to Malta was no human endeavor. It was purely God’s providence in action.

There is no doubt that the people of Malta had always been a religious people. The thousands-of-years old temples scattered throughout our islands are ample testimony to this. This religiosity of our ancestors shines forth in today’s story. When Paul was bitten by a snake, the people immediately saw this as a divine punishment for some huge wrong-doing. “This man must be a murderer,” they said. One may manage to escape a storm, but there is no way one can run away from divine justice! Then, upon seeing that no ill befell him, they concluded he must be a god! That’s how a Maltese mind works: from one extreme to another!

By now Paul must have understood how God was constructing this story. And Paul the evangelizer did what he knew best. The above-mentioned phenomenon, together with the healing of the island’s chief official, must have earned Paul the people’s trust. The people of the island stopped to listen to him. And he shared with them the wonderful gift which he had received on that fateful day on the road to Damascus.

This is what real faith is all about. It is not something for me to keep, but something to live and to share. The gift of faith our ancestors had received from Paul has been handed on to us through many generations.

It is up to us, now, to live it and share it. This will be the best way to thank and honor this great Apostle for what he gave us.

- Fr Mario

OFFICE HOURS

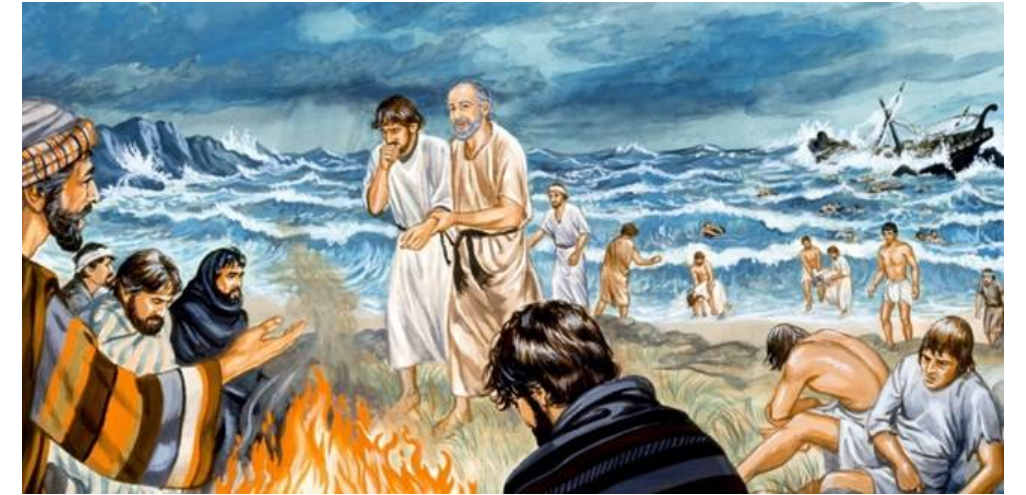
During this pandemic, the Parish Office is **opened on a limited schedule** (Tuesday to Friday from 2:00pm to 5:30pm), however phone calls and emails are still being attended to during normal office hours:

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.

“Let us give to others that which St Paul has given to us.”

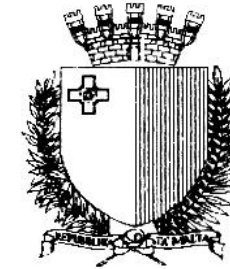
- Mgr Joseph DePiro
(Founder of the MSSP)



THANK YOU FAREWELL ... WELCOME

This Sunday, during the 10:30am Mass, we say our goodbyes to **Dr Raymond Xerri**, as he ends his term as Consul General of Malta for Canada. We thank Dr Xerri for all that he did during his time in Toronto, both for the Maltese-Canadian community and for our parish. We wish him well as he begins a new chapter in life, and promise to keep him in our prayers.

We also give a warm welcome to **Ms Denise Demicoli**, who will be replacing Dr Xerri.



Illum, waqt il-quddiesa tal-10.30am, insellmu lil **Dr Raymond Xerri** li se jispiċċa mill-kariga tiegħu bħala Konslu Ġenerali ta’ Malta għall-Kanada. Nirringrazzjaw lil Dr Xerri ta kull m’ghamel kemm mal-komunita’ Maltija fil-Kanada kif ukoll, b’mod partikulari, mal-parroċċa tagħna kemm dam fostna. Fil-waqt li nawgurawlu għal futur sabih, inwegħduh it-talb tagħna. Illum nilqgħu fostna wkoll lil **Ms Denise Demicoli**, li se tieħu post Dr Xerri fil-Konsolat.

TAX RECEIPTS

Please note that **Tax Receipts for 2021** will be mailed out during this coming week, by the Archdiocese of Toronto. In the meantime, there are still some **Offertory Boxes** for this year to be picked up, at the Church entrance. Unless claimed, we shall be removing them shortly.

A big thank you to all of you who are financially helping the running of the parish.



REST IN PEACE

We pray for **Jessie Sherri** and **Anne Muscat**, who passed on to eternal life these last days. We also pray for their families and loved ones, that the good Lord will give them his peace and consolation.

JOB OFFERS

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is currently actively recruiting candidates for various positions. If interested, please see poster at the church entrance.



“Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold.” (Acts: 28:1-2)