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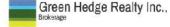
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## St. Paul the Apostle Church Maltese-Canadian **Community Parish**

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, February 19

For the People of the Parish

## Sunday, February 20

#### 9:00am

- Anne Muscat
- Anthony & Frank Zammit
- Margarita Escobar

#### 10:30am

- Joseph Gauci
- Nenu Dingli
- Enzo Gusman
- Michaelangelo & Nicolina Debrincat

#### 12:00 noon

Maria Fenech

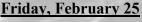
#### Monday, February 21

## Tuesday, February 22

### Wednesday, February 23

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

## Thursday, February 24



Paul Delicata

February 20, 2022 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time - C

## Pastor's thoughts ...



"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful". During this year's Sunday liturgies, we are going through the gospel of St Luke, which is commonly known as "the gospel of mercy". We can say, therefore, that this phrase which we heard in today's gospel is the central to Luke's message.

According to Luke, for Jesus it is not enough that I be merciful whenever I feel like it or up to a certain extent. Jesus is asking me to become merciful like God my Father.

The question is: if I am to be merciful like my Father, how is my Father merciful, so that I can imitate Him? I believe that if each one of us were to sincerely take a good like at our own lives, it would not be hard to begin to understand God's mercy towards us.

Personally speaking, I know that God's mercy towards me has known no limits. Irrespective of what I have done in my life, God has always been there to accept me with unconditional love and forgiveness.

St Luke must have known, however, that not everybody is capable of making a good reflection on one's own experience. Later on in his Gospel, he therefore gives us a beautiful story to help us understand how this Father of ours is merciful. This is the well-known story of the Father of the prodigal son, upon which we will reflect more deeply later on in the year. In this story we have a father who is deeply hurt by the actions of both his sons – albeit in different ways. The younger son had completely cut himself off from his family. He spent all his inheritance, and now he has the guts to come back to his Father and beg for some kind of forgiveness and reconciliation. Yet, the Father accepts him and embraces him without any questions asked or conditions imposed. The elder son, on the other hand, vehemently refuses to join in the celebrations organized by the Father on his brother's return. His mind is totally out of sync with that of his Father. Yet the Father reaches out to him, begs him, and tries to help him to start thinking the way He thinks. How right Jesus is when today he tells us that God "is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked"!

Initially we might be scandalized by the actions of these sons. But then, we soon realize that, sometimes, we are not too far from them in our actions. In today's gospel Jesus tells us that, to be truly merciful, we are to love our enemies and bless and pray for those who do us harm. We are to lend without expecting anything back in return, and be super-generous in our giving. In a few words we, as Christians, are being asked to make a qualitative leap in our way of living from that of non-believers. It is not enough to love those who love me, help those who can eventually help me, etc. Those are things which "even sinners" do,

Jesus reminds us. And if I do just like any other non-believer does, what kind of Christian am I?

This might seem a tall order. Jesus' expectations might seem difficult; and, indeed, they sometimes are. But we know that he never asks the impossible from us. With his help, progress is possible for us.

Let us pray that we become truly a community of merciful people. A light that brings some hope in situations of darkness. Salt that can make a difference in someone's life.

- 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 RESTRICTIONS**

Following the provincial Covid-restrictions update announced a few days ago:

- Capacity limits will increase in many settings, but the two-meters distance is still required at religious ceremonies. This means nothing changes in our church.
- Masks must still be worn.
- If you don't feel well ... stay home!
- The Archdiocese of Toronto and the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario are working through some details for the Tuesday, March 1 restriction easing. Details about any changes will be communicated once they arrive from the Archdiocese.

#### TAX RECEIPTS

Please note that **Tax Receipts for 2021** are being mailed to your home directly 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 parish.



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

#### PARISH EMAIL LIST

This bulletin, as well as any last-minute news or covidupdates, are being sent by emails to all our subscribers. If you are not receiving our news, or know someone who might be interested in hearing from us, please send us a note on <a href="mailto:stpaulmssp@gmail.com">stpaulmssp@gmail.com</a>

# Prayer for Family

May my family be protected from harm, misfortune and sadness. May we enjoy the privilege of spending time together to share joy, celebrate happy occasions and to be there for each other when there is need for comfort. May good health prevail and may there be ever-present faith in God's mercy and grace.

Prayables

#### FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY

Monday is Family Day. We encourage everybody to take the opportunity to spend quality time with your families. Pope Francis often reminds us of some very important ingredients which make up a good family life. Amongst these he tells us that:

- Parents need to find time to play with their children
- Prayer is important "It is in the family that we first learn how to pray"
- Accept your imperfections. "More than anywhere else, the family is
  where we daily experience our own limits and those of others, the
  problems great and small entailed in living peacefully with others. A
  perfect family does not exist!"
- Be patient. "With patience comes holiness"
- Do the little things.
- Say the "three essential words: Please, Thank you, and Sorry."

