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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, February 26

• For the People of the Parish

Sunday, February 27

9:00am

- Anne Muscat
- Guzeppa Galea
- Linda Apalit

10:30am

- Doris Micallef
- Charlie & Albert Taliana
- Tony Axiak
- Sylvana Dewe
- Grace Bugeja

12:00 noon

- Linda Apalit

Monday, February 28

- Joe & Apolonia Farrugia

Tuesday, March 1

- Guzeppa Galea

Wednesday, March 2

- Our Lady of the Immigrant Perpetual Mass

Thursday, March 3

- Julia Camilleri
- Doris Micallef

Friday, March 4

MASS INTENTIONS



February 27, 2022
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time - C

Pastor's thoughts ...



“Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?”

As always, Jesus is very straightforward, does not mince words, always says exactly what he means. In today's gospel Jesus calls his disciples hypocrites! He is not speaking to the Pharisees – that would have hardly surprised us! He's talking to his disciples, his friends, some of whom were people whom he had personally singled out to follow him, people who had left literally everything to answer to this call. And yet, their way of living is, somehow, not consonant with the life of a true disciple.

If we are honest enough, it would not take us much effort to discover that there is a bit of this kind of hypocrite in each and every one of us. Seeing the splinter in someone else's eye while choosing not to see the beam in my own is not something unheard of! Then, Jesus goes on to say: “How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,' when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye?” Listening to these words immediately made me think how often do I criticize and judge others. Yes, Jesus is right. It's so easy to see the defect in someone else. Not only that. How often have I used the pretext of helping someone, “Brother, let me help you” to give the impression that I am better than he?

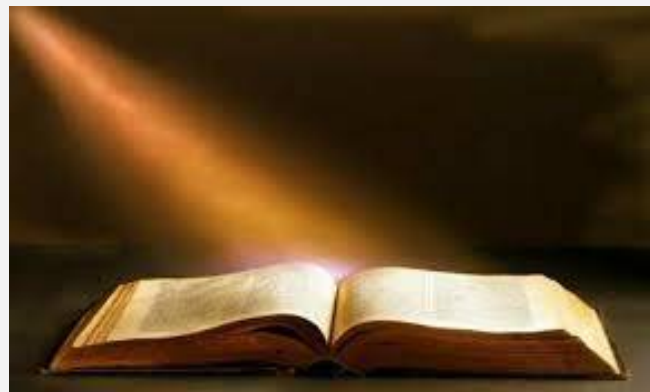
Jesus' word is always challenging. It makes me think. It helps me understand. It makes me realize stuff that is in me which I might find uncomfortable to accept, and which otherwise I would probably have never admitted. And yet, this is the truth. We are all in the same boat. Each one of us has our own weaknesses, together with our own giftedness, I might add. Where we differ is the kind of weakness we have. But, in different ways, we are all like that blind man who cannot pretend to be able to lead his blind brother. Both lack something. One of them leading the other is a recipe for disaster!

In today's gospel I find an invitation for humility. It is an invitation to have a good look at myself, without falling into the temptation of comparing myself with others. It's between me and God. Yes, it is true, others around me do have their own defects, weaknesses, and problems – what Jesus calls “splinters” in one's eye. But I have to look at my own. And, when I do that, I might be shocked to find that my splinter is, actually, as big as a beam!

Doing this is not meant to discourage me. On the contrary, acknowledging the truth about something is often the first necessary step for improvement. Having discovered, and accepted, the beam in my eye, I can, then, do something about it. Perhaps sometimes, I might think that is too big! That might be a reason why I had chosen to try not to see it in the first place. Trying to remove it is hard work. But, with Jesus nothing is impossible. This is one of the reasons why St Paul insists so much on the resurrection of Jesus in his letters. “Where, O death, is your victory?” Paul cries out in today's second reading. He does not deny the reality of death. But, with the Rising of Jesus, death has been defeated.

With death, we can include our weaknesses, our sinfulness, whatever it is that, like a beam in our eye, hinders us from seeing everything clearly, through the eyes of God. Like death, these do exist. But, not unlike death, through Jesus' resurrection they are defeated.

- 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.

LENT

This coming Wednesday we begin the season of Lent with the celebration of **Ash Wednesday**. This is a very important time in the Church's liturgical year, during which the Church helps us in our preparations to celebrate well the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter. Thus we can truly share and participate in Jesus' victory over sin and death. Like Good Friday, this day is a universal day of fasting and of abstinence from meat. The law of abstinence from meat binds those who are 14 and older; the law of fasting binds those from 18 to 59 years of age. Naturally, this does not apply to people who, for health reasons, cannot fast.

On Ash Wednesday, March 2, we shall be having the usual morning Mass in Maltese at 9:15am, and another Mass in English at 7:00pm. Ashes will be distributed during both Masses.



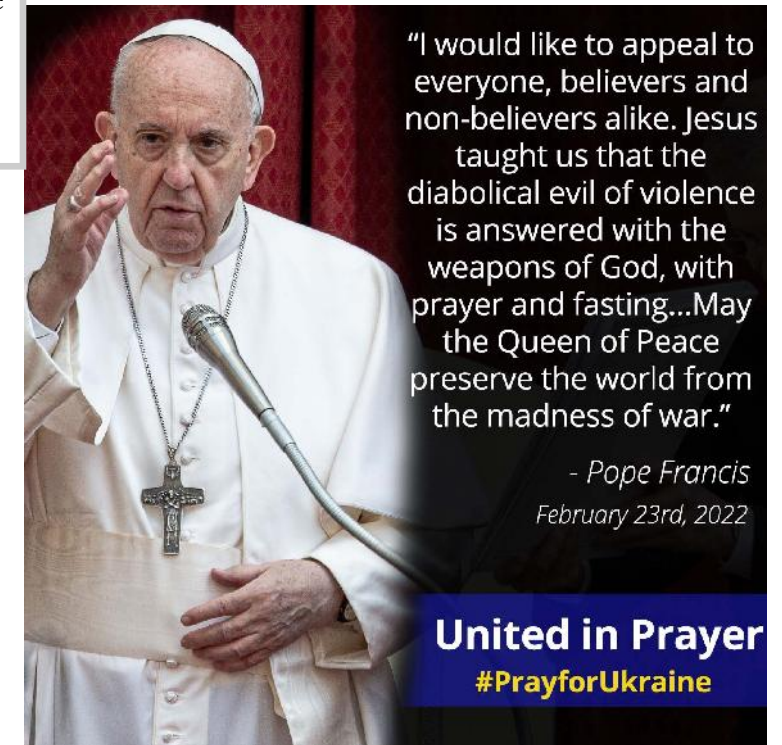
FIRST FRIDAY

This coming Friday, March 4, is the first Friday of the month. We shall have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass, followed by some time of adoration and benediction.

ASH WEDNESDAY - PRAYER FOR PEACE

Pope Francis has announced Ash Wednesday (March 2) as day of prayer and fasting for peace in Ukraine.

“I invite everyone to make March 2, Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting for peace,” he said. “I encourage believers in a special way to devote themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace protect the world from the folly of war.”



“I would like to appeal to everyone, believers and non-believers alike. Jesus taught us that the diabolical evil of violence is answered with the weapons of God, with prayer and fasting...May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war.”

- Pope Francis
February 23rd, 2022

United in Prayer
#PrayforUkraine

WELCOME!

This weekend we welcome **Ava Zaviara Russell**, who will join our Christian Community through the sacrament of Baptism.



We congratulate Ava's family and support them with our prayers, as they do their best to help her grow into a mature Christian.

REST IN PEACE!

During this past week we have had the funeral of **Tessie Sultana**. As a community of faith, we keep her in our prayers so that God will give her eternal peace with Him. We also continue to pray for her family and loved ones, to find consolation and peace in their hearts.

