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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, March 5

• Nina & Angelo Schembri

Sunday, March 6

9:00am

• Anne Muscat

• For the intentions of Cutajar Family

10:30am

• Enzo Gusman

12:00 noon

• For the People of the Parish

Monday, March 7

• Anthony Sultana

Tuesday, March 8

• Francesco Meneses

Wednesday, March 9

• Our Lady of the Immigrant
 Perpetual Mass

Thursday, March 10

• All Souls

Friday, March 11

MASS INTENTIONS



March 6, 2022
First Sunday of Lent - C

Pastor's thoughts ...



The Desert. As we begin our Lenten journey which will lead us to the Easter celebrations, the Church invites us to spend some time in the desert. Usually, when we embark on a journey, we plan to arrive at our destination as soon as possible. But here, apparently, there is no need to rush, no hurry. We have to stop, before we even begin!

The desert. That is where Jesus went, filled by the Holy Spirit, immediately following his baptism at John the Baptist's hands in the Jordan. After thirty years, he was supposed to begin his public ministry. He should have been more than eager to get going with his mission. After all, there was a whole world to be saved! But being rushed is not God's way of doing things. It was necessary that, after leaving his mother's home, Jesus goes first

through that desert-experience. There he would be alone, with himself, with his God, and with his demon! In the desert there are no distractions, no running away. It is not easy, and it is no wonder that, as Luke tells us, there Jesus was tempted for forty days. That's right, every single day of this desert experience was marked by temptation!

We do not know what kind of temptations these were. Maybe he was being tempted to get out of there, to get stuck into his ministry. Or perhaps to just do something more "constructive". Whatever they were, at the end Luke presents us with the three main, final temptations.

"If you are the Son of God", the devil tells Jesus in the first temptation. Our immediate response would have probably been an immediate "of course I am", and prove it. But Jesus did not give in. In spite of the hunger, he knew that he would only take orders from the Father. After all, material possessions are not what is really indispensable. Then comes the temptation of power and glory. "I will give you everything", the devil tells him. But Jesus knows that his knees should only bend before his God, from whom everything comes. Jesus knows that, in truth, the devil could give him nothing. Finally Jesus is told to jump off the top of the temple, forcing God to do something about it. Again, Jesus did not give in. He knew that God would not abandon him, but he also knew that God is not like a magic button to be pushed whenever one feels like it.

In the desert, Jesus had to make choices. Rather than defeating him, Jesus' temptations in the desert highlight who he really is, where his focus is, and what his priorities are. If there was any doubt, things are much clearer now.

Like Jesus we, too, are invited to move into the desert as we embark on our own journey. There we have no choice but to leave everything behind. No phones, no TV, no internet. Just me with my very self and with my God. And there, of course, I am going to meet my own demons, as I cannot run away into my usual distractions of everyday life. Like Jesus, I have to make choices.

Often our temptations are not very different to those experienced by Jesus. Having more material possessions, more comfort, is always tempting. There is always a need, a hunger, that can be created. The desert helps me to know what is really indispensable and what is a created need. And who could say that he's never been tempted by power and glory. It's enough to see how we react when people speak bad against me, tarnish my glory, to understand how real this temptation is. And, finally, how often have we been tempted to make God do whatever we ask Him in our prayers, rather than pray that we humbly enter into God's dream for us?

Let us not be afraid to create some "desert-space" in our busy lives during this Lent. It helps us understand who we really are, what is really important for us, where our values lie. It helps create clarity in our lives.

- 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:

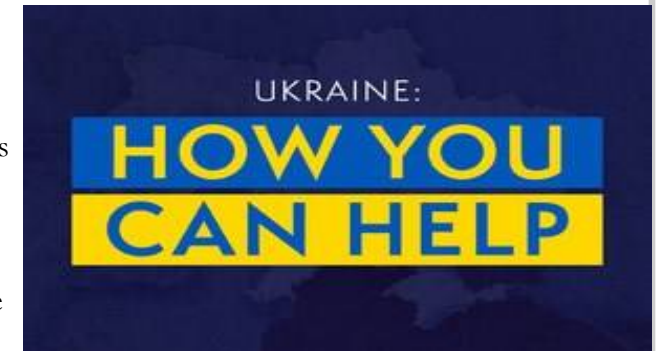
Tuesday to Friday: 10:00 am to 5:30 pm.

Please call the office at 416-767-7054 to offer masses, or to make arrangements to pick up or drop off items.

HUMANITARIOAN RELIEF - UKRAINE

The people of Ukraine is suffering! The Archdiocese of Toronto is sending funds to the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), which is a papal agency currently working in Eastern Europe, providing Ukrainians with food, shelter, medicine and transportation to safe locations, as well as to the Archdiocese's Office of Refugees which helps to bring Ukrainian refugees to Canada as soon as possible. **Please use the 'Humanitarian Relief' envelopes for your donations.**

In the meantime, we continue to pray for the Ukrainian people and all those who suffer under the human tragedy of war.

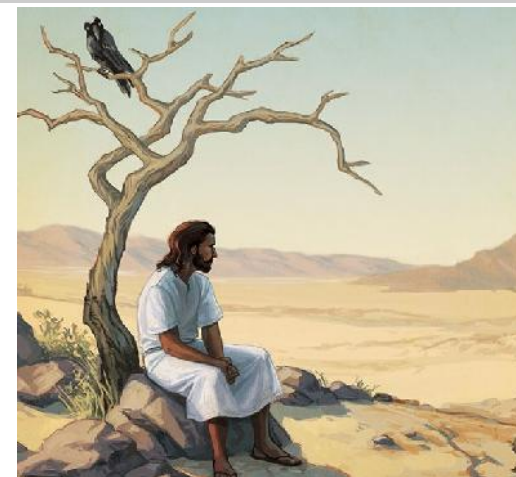


RITE OF ELECTION

During the Saturday Mass this weekend we are celebrating the Rite of Election of our catechumens, who will receive the Sacraments of Initiation this coming Easter. Please keep them in your prayers as they journey throughout this important part of their life.

DINNER WITH FR MARK

Fr Mark Grima, the Superior General of the MSSP, will be visiting our community on his way to Peru. We shall be having a dinner with him on **Saturday, March 19th**. All proceeds will be given to him for the Peru mission. More information on church notice-board. Tickets from the Rectory or Freda (416-762-1891)



SHOE-BOX CAMPAIGN - LENT 2022

Once again, during Lent we are being invited to give to those who need more than we do. The **Mission Group** is organizing a Shoe-Box campaign, to send necessary stuff to the MSSP mission in Peru. Please see insert in this bulletin for information on what is mostly needed.

REST IN PEACE!

Mariano Xerri, whose funeral we celebrated on Wednesday.

John Camilleri, who passed peacefully away in Florida, surrounded by his family.

Theresa Massa, whose funeral will be celebrated on Monday.

As a community of faith, we keep them in our prayers so that God will give them eternal peace with Him. We also continue to pray for their families and loved ones, to find consolation and peace in their hearts.



COVID-RESTRICTIONS

You must have noticed that, even in our Church, a number of Covid-related restrictions are being lifted. This is always being done as per instructions of the Archdiocese who act in consultation with medical officials.

Please note:

- Masks will continue to be worn.
- Hand-santizer will continue to be available as you enter the Church. Please use it.
- If you feel unwell ... please stay home.

THANK YOU for your wonderful cooperation during these last couple of years.