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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 26

• **Sunday, March 27**

9:00am

• For the People of the Parish

10:30am

- Paul Cauchi
- Joseph, Rosaria & Giorgio Gauci
- Doris Micallef
- Silvana Dewe
- Grace Bugeja
- Charlie & Albert Taliana
- Tony Axiak
- Alfred Saliba (25th Anniversary)

12:00 noon

- Linda Apalit
- Theresa Massa
- Loreta Buttigieg & John Zarb

Monday, March 28

•

Tuesday, March 29

•

Wednesday, March 30

- Our Lady of the Immigrant Perpetual Mass

Thursday, March 31

- Joe & Apolonia Farrugia

Friday, April 1

- Antonia Micallef

MASS INTENTIONS



**March 27, 2022
 Third Sunday of Lent - C**

Pastor's thoughts ...



Today's gospel presents us with one of the most well-known stories of the gospel. Most of us know it as "The Prodigal Son". But I believe we would be setting out on the wrong foot if we were to focus immediately on the recklessness of the younger son. Surely, that was not Jesus' intention. The real focus of the story is the figure of the Father.

"Quick ... we are going to have a feast", he says when his wayward son decides to return home. Some would say this is not the typical reaction of a parent upon the return home of a runaway son. He had taken his inheritance. His message had been

clear. For him, his family does not exist anymore. And yet, when he found himself hungry, with no roof above his head, he had the guts to return to the house he once called home. No remorse here. No conversion. Just self-pity, and a desire to fill his stomach and have a decent bed. It doesn't matter if he's put with the servants. When he was down tending the pigs, something happened and "he came to his senses", the gospel tells us. It is that particular moment when something suddenly clicks, when he realized how foolish he had been. Indeed, sometimes, like this young man, we need to hit rock-bottom before we come to our senses. After all, some good can always come out of bad things.

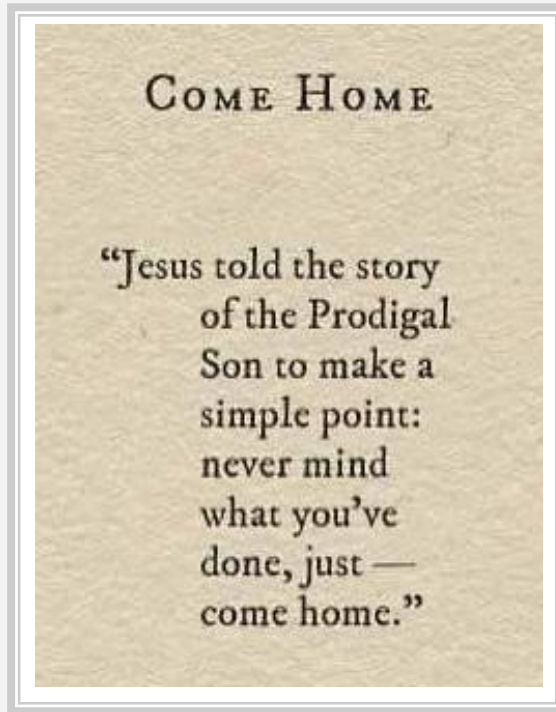
Unashamedly, he goes back to his father's house. And the father's reaction takes everybody by surprise. Just a dash outside and a hug – and probably a tear or two. No questions asked. No sermons given on "you should have known better," or "Hope you've learnt your lesson now". What matters is the fact that the son is back, safe and sound. No wonder the older son is scandalized. The father's reaction defies all logic. What we have here is utter misery connecting with mercy personified.

Unfortunately, the story tells us that neither one of the two sons really knew the father. And this is, probably, where their problem lay. That man would never consider any one of his sons as servant. He would not do it for the younger son, who dared come back and ask to be accepted as such. And he would not accept it from the older son, who apparently has wasted his whole life "working like a slave for" his father.

It would be a good idea if we tried to apply this story to ourselves. Perhaps sometimes I am a bit like one of the two sons, while in other times I might act more like the other. What matters is, who is the Father for me? What kind of relationship do I have with the Father?

My answer will very likely determine how I live my life as a Christian.

- Fr Mario



OFFICE HOURS

Back to Normal!

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

SAFE TRIP!



** We thank the MSSP Superior General, **Fr Mark Grima**, for his presence with us during these last two weeks. Fr Mark will be leaving on

Monday, on his way to Peru for his next leg of this Canonical Visit. While wishing him a safe trip, we accompany him with our prayers as he continues to fulfil his mission of service to our communities.

** **Fr Ivano** will be leaving for Australia on Saturday, for some time with his family and old friends as well as a well-deserved rest. We wish him a safe trip and a pleasant stay down under, and look forward to having him back with us in a couple of months.

MEETING WITH POPE FRANCIS

During this coming week (Monday March 28 to Friday April 1) **Pope Francis** will meet with representatives of the three major groups of indigenous peoples of Canada (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) as well as representatives of the Canadian Bishops' Conference. We pray that these meetings, which will be held in the Vatican, will have positive outcome towards healing and reconciliation.



"The Catholic Register" will be closely following these meetings from Rome, and will have regular online updates on www.catholicregister.org

PRAYER FOR PEACE

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at-risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.



Music is a vital part of all our liturgical celebrations and the Music Ministry is looking for new members to help enhance the liturgy. If you would like to lend your talents either through singing or playing an instrument, on a regular or occasional basis, please contact Louise Debono 416-707-8955

THANK YOU

** A huge thank you goes to all who, in many different ways, have contributed to the beautiful evening we had with Fr Mark on Saturday. As promised, all proceeds of the night (dinner, raffle, donations) shall be accompanying Fr Mark to be donated to our missions in Peru. **The total sum is \$8,132.**

** Thank You also for your contributions towards the people of **Ukraine** through the Humanitarian Fund. The total collection from our parish, which has already been sent, is **\$3,171.**



SENIORS' GATHERING & BINGO

Our Seniors Group will recommence with their weekly gatherings and Bingo. This will start on **Wednesday, April 6, at 12:30pm.** As always, this is a great opportunity to be together and have a few words, try your luck in a few bingo draws, and ultimately also help the parish! Since we meet in the lower hall, there is plenty of space where people can spread out and not stay too close to each other.

SHARE LIFE SUNDAY

This weekend is the first collection in our parish's annual ShareLife Parish Campaign. The ShareLife mission of "living the Gospel by providing for those in need" is at the core of how we are called to live our lives as Christians.



SHOE-BOX CAMPAIGN

A huge thank you to all who have already brought stuff for this year's campaign. Please note that you have up to Palm Sunday to bring in your donations. A list is available next to the drop-off box in the church listing what is mostly needed by our brothers and sisters in Huancane'.

This coming Friday

April 1st

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

MUSIC MINISTRY