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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: stpaultheapostleto@archtoronto.org
 Website: www.stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org

Administrator: Fr. Roy Farrell
Parish Secretary: Mrs. Rita Apalit

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS
 Tuesday to Friday: 10:00 am to 5:30 pm
 As of Monday, March 6th, the Parish Office will be open Mondays to
 Fridays from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm.

MASS SCHEDULES & OTHER ACTIVITIES

Weekday Morning Mass
 Monday, Wednesday & Friday - 9:15 am (Maltese/English)
 Tuesday & Thursday - 9:15 am (English)

First Friday of the Month:
 Bilingual Mass at 9.15 am,
 followed by Adoration & Benediction until 11:00 am

Weekend Masses:
 Saturday 5:30 pm (English)
 Sunday: 9:00 am (English)
 10:30 am (Maltese/English)
 12:00 noon (English)

Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 Every Wednesday from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Please contact the Parish Office for more details
 As of April 2023, Baptisms are held every 1st Saturday of every
 month at 10:30am. Excluding Holy Saturday
 You can find the Registration Form on our website.

Marriages:
 Contact the priest at least one year in advance of the wedding.
 A marriage preparation course is required. You can find the
 Registration Form on our website.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
 First Fridays from 8:40 am to 9:10 am
 Saturdays: from 4:45 pm to 5:15 pm

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

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 Archdiocese of Toronto. 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..

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 25
5:30pm

- Eva Bielecki (birthday)
- +Paul Delicata

Sunday, February 26
9:00am

- +Mariano Xerri

10:30am

- +Emanuella Micallef
- +Joseph Bugeja
- +Natalino & Rosa Taliana
- +Charlie & Albert Taliana
- +Silvana Dewe & Grace Bugeja
- +Joseph Cilia
- +Sylvia & George Frendo
- +Joseph Muscat

12:00 noon

- +Tony Axiak
- +Maria Fenech
- +Mabli Agius

Monday, February 27
St. Gregory of Narek

- +Doris Micallef

Tuesday, February 28

Wednesday, March 1

- Our Lady of the Immigrant Perpetual Mass
- +Cusmas Alfred Defry & Enid Constance Nugara

Thursday, March 2

Friday, March 3
World Day of Prayer

- +Julia Camilleri
- +Theresa Massa
- +Doris Micallef

February 26, 2023
First Sunday of Lent - Year A

From the Desk of Fr. Roy...



Lent can be a good time to reflect on the people who mean the most to us and the relationships we hold most dear.

Those of us who come from nations with advanced technology find it hard to accept that our family time is limited to just a few minutes a day.

This season of reflection and renewal might be an appropriate time to pray about our family lives and how we can be more thoughtful and prayerful about Lent as a family. Perhaps we could hold a family meeting over dinner or some other relaxed place. We could have a conversation about Lent and its symbols. We should consider that our spiritual life is not an individual experience, but one that is shared with our community,

our family.

One Lenten family practice might include a daily act of love for our family. Can we look around and see some small thing that needs to be done to make our lives together better? Is there laundry to sort or dishes to be washed? Is there a floor that needs sweeping or a room that needs dusting? Just one effort by each of us each day can make a dramatic difference in sharing the workload in the family. The grace we are reaching for goes beyond getting the garbage taken out, for example. We know it is a grace when my experience of taking the garbage out, feels to me like an act of love, an act of solidarity as a family. Perhaps the simplest way to prepare for this grace is to pray: Dear Lord, may this simple, ordinary sacrifice of my time for the sake of those I love, draw us closer together as a family whose hearts you are drawing to yourself in the togetherness of our family love.

One of the true beauties of Lent has to do with the granting of forgiveness, reconciliation, mercy and healing. This isn't just an issue between Jesus and me. It always has something to do with my family and with my relationships – how we are with each other. What in us needs mercy and healing? What reflections, choices, and actions do we need to take as a family this Lent to stay consistent with the patterns we have set?

Gospel Summary

Following his baptism in the Jordan River, Jesus went out to the desert to pray and understand God's will. He was alone in the desert for 40 days and nights. Satan waited until Jesus emerged from the desert before tempting Jesus to use his powers. Of course, Jesus was hungry after fasting for 40 days, so the devil tempted him first with food. "Command these stones to become loaves of bread," was the first dare. Later the devil tempted Jesus to use his power to prove that God would send angels to help Jesus if he jumped from the top of the temple. Finally, Satan offered Jesus the glory and power of all the world if he would but worship Satan. To each temptation, Jesus held fast to what he knew was God's will for him.

Reflection for Families

One of our primary goals as parents is to help our children discover their gifts and use them generously in a way that glorifies God. From a very early age we can remind our children of the source of their gifts and encourage them to use them humbly.

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family

There are many opportunities in the media for your family to recognize the gifts of other people. There are movie and television stars, musicians, entertainers, and sports figures to name a few. As you watch television, listen to songs and observe these figures, discuss as a family what the gifts of these people are. Consider today's Gospel story and share ideas about how these people are following God's will (or how they might avoid temptations by Satan). Compare how they use their gifts with the way others (such as teachers, grandparents, etc.) use their gifts.

Discussion Starters

1. One time I remember being tempted to use my gifts for the wrong purposes . . .
2. I need to take some time away to be with God like Jesus did. This is my plan . . .
3. Jesus knew the angels would protect him. I was protected, too, when . . .

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STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION As we begin this great season of Lent it is important to take some time to reflect on how we plan to best spend this time to grow as stewards of Christ. We often associate Lent with fasting and penances, which are undoubtedly good. However, it is important that if we are going to give something up, we should strive to replace it with something good as well, for Aristotle famously said that "nature abhors a vacuum." This leads us to the practice of "fasting and feasting" in Lent. Through this practice we are able to cultivate strong stewardship through fasting from things that are unvirtuous and feasting on charitable and wholesome acts. Let us take some time to prayerfully reflect on how we can implement the following list this Lenten season. Fast from judging others; Feast on the Christ dwelling in them. Fast from emphasis on differences; Feast on the unity of life. Fast from words that pollute; Feast on phrases that purify. Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude. Fast from anger; Feast on patience. Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation. Fast from negatives; Feast on affirmatives. Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion for others. Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that strengthens. In essence, let us fast from anything that prevents us from being good stewards and feast on those practices that strengthens us.

Summary As we begin this great season of Lent it is important to take some time to reflect on how we plan to best spend this time to grow as stewards of Christ. It is important that if we are going to give something up, we should strive to replace it with something good as well. Let us strive to fast from anything that prevents us from being good stewards and feast on those practices that strengthens us.

A HUGE THANK YOU goes to all who, in many different ways, contributed to the success of our St. Paul's Feast Dinner Dance. It was a great evening enjoyed by all! The profit left for the parish was \$6,729.

VOCATION REFLECTION Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days of prayer and fasting. Are you open to being led by the Holy Spirit into the life-commitment God has prepared for you? If God is calling you to serve him as a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

email vocations@archtoronto.org

ShareLife Sunday Collections:
 **March 26 | April 30 | June 4**

Support our Lenten ShareLife Appeal In this time of Lent, please reflect on the great needs of our brothers and sisters who are helped through your kind support of ShareLife. Last year, ShareLife supporters like you enabled 1,900 young parents and their children to access programming, along with diapers, food and clothing. Your support of ShareLife provides hope and support as they create better lives for their families. Please give generously once again this year.

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Visit our website at <https://stpaultheapostleo.archtoronto.org>, and sign up. Once you enter our website, click on 'Contact Us' on the top headings, a dropdown menu will appear and you will then need to click on 'Sign Up'. Enter your contact details as requested. In the section titled, 'Notify Me Regarding', please select 'News'. Please make sure that you selected to receive Email Notifications 'Daily'. You will notice that 'Parish Bulletin' and 'Special Alerts' are already selected by default. Once you have Subscribed you will receive an email asking you to verify your email address. **You will not be fully subscribed until you verify your email address.**

Please keep in mind that from time to time, you may receive news items that do not pertain to our parish. If you receive an email with news items from the Archdiocese that do not interest you, you may simply delete the email.

Do not Unsubscribe to the email because by doing so, you will no longer be able to receive the weekly bulletin.

If you have any questions or need any help with this, please contact the office during office hours. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.