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 Website: [www.stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org](http://www.stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org)

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

**REGULAR OFFICE HOURS**  
 Monday to Friday: 10:00 am to 5:30 pm

**MASS SCHEDULES & OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**Weekday Morning Mass**  
 Monday, Wednesday & Friday - 9:15 am (Maltese/English)  
 (Fridays during Lent: Stations of the cross following morning Mass)  
 Tuesday & Thursday - 9:15 am (English)

**First Friday of the Month:**  
 Bilingual Mass at 9.15 am followed by the Stations of the Cross  
 Adoration & Benediction from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

**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  
 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  
 Tuesdays at 8:30 am (during Lent only)  
 Anytime by appointment.

**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 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, March 18**  
**5:30pm**  
 • +Jane & Joseph Farrugia

**Sunday, March 19**  
**9:00am**  
 • +Michael Muscat  
 • +Theresa Massa & Massa and Tonna Families

**10:30am**  
 • +Nenu Dingli  
 • +Joseph Muscat

**12:00 noon**  
 • +Guza & Carmelo Vella  
 • +Maria Fenech  
 • +Joseph Bartolo

**Monday, March 20**  
*St. Joseph*

**Tuesday, March 21**

**Wednesday, March 22**  
 • Our Lady of the Immigrant Perpetual Mass  
 • +Francesca Cassar

**Thursday, March 23**  
*St. Turibius of Mogrovejo*

**Friday, March 24**

**Sunday, March 19, 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year A**

## From the Desk of Fr. Roy...



Let's talk about the fourth Sunday of Lent in this reflection. Laetare Sunday is another name for it. Laetare's Latin for "rejoice" or "celebration". The word also means jubilation, elation, delight and delightfulness. This joyful state is a stark difference from the sorrowful attitude of the other days in Lent.

The word "Laetare" is taken from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon at Mass: "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were mourning" (a translation of Isaiah 66:10).

On Laetare Sunday, there are certain allowances to the typical Lenten practice: "The vestments of this Mass can be either violet or rose in color. The altar may be adorned with flowers according to the Roman Missal (106). Rose is the liturgical color for joy. Beautiful flowers bring joy to the heart.

There are many reasons to rejoice on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, but the most significant being the approach of Easter. On Ash Wednesday Easter was a long way off, six and a half weeks, but on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Easter is only three weeks away, and as the greatest of all Christian feasts draws ever nearer, joy increases. Joy is also on the upswing because the time left with the rigors of the Lenten discipline, penitential practices like fasting, abstinence, and self-denial, is more than half over.

In relation to a different topic, please save the date for our Lenten Mission, beginning on March 29th and ending with Our Lady of Sorrows procession on March 31st. I suggest you encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to make use of this chance to enhance their spiritual wellbeing and ready their hearts for the holiness of Easter.

### Gospel Summary

Using saliva and earth, Jesus made a paste to heal the blind man. The healing became a true conversion for the man, but created some problems for Jesus with the Jewish leaders. Because this healing took place on the Sabbath, the Pharisees accused Jesus of breaking Jewish law. The Pharisees tried to get confirmation of this action from the blind man's parents and from the blind man himself. In the end, the authorities were unable to charge Jesus with any wrongdoing and had to recognize that Jesus was gaining many disciples.

### Reflection for Families

In order for parents to help their children follow the light of Christ, they too must open their eyes. As Jesus helped the blind man understand, it is not enough to see only with our eyes. We need also to see with our hearts and allow our every action to reflect this sight. Jesus healed the man of his blindness, but in the end the man recognized Jesus as the Messiah and worshiped him.

### Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family

Make an effort today (or sometime this week) to really see God in our lives. This may take some time and deliberation, but take a walk together and look for signs of God in the beauty of nature. Talk about ways God has helped you see with your heart, and suggest ways you can share the sight of your heart with others. You might bring some of your findings to your family's prayer space.

### Discussion Starters

1. My eyes were really opened when...
2. The hardest thing for me about being blind would be...
3. The most precious thing I've seen with my heart is...

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**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION** In today's Gospel we encounter Jesus healing a man who was born blind. In all of the Bible, this is the only healing of a man blind since birth, whereas other healings were of temporary blindness. The uniqueness of this great mystery offers us the ability to richly reflect on what it means to be good stewards of Christ. Firstly, while the man was healed of his physical sight, the more remarkable miracle was his ability to grasp Jesus' true identity. When Jesus reveals to him that He is the Son of Man, the blind man boldly responds, "Lord, I believe." The blind man did not come to this realization on his own, but it was the Lord's working in his life that led him to this change of heart. So too in all of us, it is the Lord and His grace that brings about our interior conversion. We must never fall into the temptation that our faith and charity is the result of our own strength or abilities. After the blind man's encounter, it says "he worshipped Him." As good stewards we should seek to imitate his example, falling down in thanksgiving and adoration for all of the grace and gifts the Lord has poured into our lives. Let us take a moment today to praise God most especially for the gifts of our Catholic faith and the Church.

In the Gospel Jesus performs a two-fold miracle of healing a man of his physical blindness and his spiritual blindness. So too in all of us, it is the Lord and His grace that brings about the miracle of our interior conversion. Let us imitate the cured blind man and fall at the feet of Jesus and thank Him for the gifts and graces He has poured into our lives.

**VOCATION REFLECTION** "We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day." Are you being called to a life as an ordained or a consecrated person? 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](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org)  
[www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)

**WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!** We are delighted to welcome you to our parish community. Please take a look at our website, [stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org](http://stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org), where you can register as a member of the parish. The registration page can be found by clicking on 'Contact Us' and selecting 'Register' in the drop down menu. You can also register or update your information by filling out the forms found at the back of the church and the parish office.

Both **Sunday Offering Envelopes** as well as a digital **Authorized Giving Program** (direct deposit donation) are available to you as a means of helping to meet the needs of the church. For more information please contact the Parish Office during office hours; Monday to Friday 10:00 am to 5:30 pm.



This year's Passover Seder Meal will be held on **Saturday, March 25th**, after the 5:30 evening Mass.

**Tickets:** Adults - \$20.00/person  
Children 12 yrs. & under - Free

For tickets or more information call Freda Mifsud at 416-762-1891



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

### 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

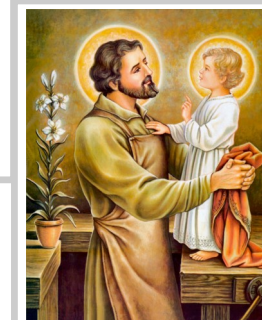
Show your love on the Feast of St. Joseph through ShareLife. Today we celebrate the feast of St. Joseph and reflect on his holy life and the way he loved and cared for Jesus and Mary.

Next week is ShareLife Sunday. May we emulate St. Joseph's example and share our blessings with the least of our brothers and sisters. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate).

During this past week we had the funeral of **Joseph Farrugia**.

As a community of faith, we keep him in our prayers so that God will give him eternal peace with Him.

We also continue to pray for his family and loved ones, to find consolation and peace in their hearts.



O St. Joseph, guardian of the Holy Family, be with us in our trials. May thy prayers obtain for us the strength to flee from error and wrestle with the powers of corruption so that in life we may grow in holiness and in death rejoice in the crown of victory. Amen.

**St. Joseph's Feast Day is on March 19th.**

Because March 19th falls on a Sunday this year, we will be celebrating St. Joseph's feast day on Monday, March 20th at 9:15 am.