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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
 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)
 Tuesday & Thursday - 9:15 am (English)
First Friday of the Month:
 Bilingual Mass at 9.15 am (Maltese/English)
 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..

Saturday, May 20
St. Bernadine of Siena
5:30pm
 • +Antonia Cini & Josette Xerri

Sunday, May 21
The Ascension of the Lord
9:00am
 • Missa Pro Populo
10:30am
 • +Theresa Attard Muscat, Leonard Attard
 • +Carmelo Attard
 • +Joseph Bonnici
 • +Vincent Bonnici
 • +Moses & Elizabeth Mifsud
 • +Nenu Dingli
12:00 noon
 • +Maria Fenech
 • +Mary & Fred Haber

Monday, May 22
St. Rita of Cascia
 • +Teresa & Andrew Sheikh

Tuesday, May 23
 • +Joyce Camilleri

Wednesday, May 24
 • Our Lady of the Immigrant Perpetual Mass
 • +Joe, Charlie, Rita & Nina Cutajar

Thursday, May 25
 • +Paul Delicata

Friday, May 26
St. Philip Neri, Priest
 • +Don Naranjit

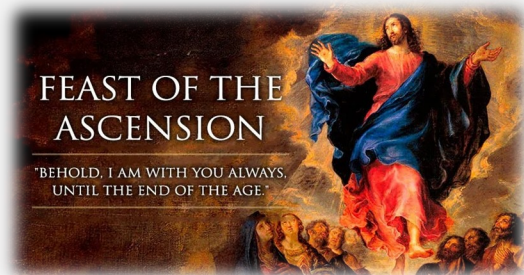
Sunday, May 21, 2023
Ascension of the Lord - Year A

MASS INTENTIONS



Over the years, a popular question has been the meaning and significance of the ascension of Jesus Christ. I shall attempt to provide an answer in this reflection. Following His resurrection, Jesus showed Himself to the women close to the tomb, to His followers, and to over 500 other people. In the days following His resurrection, Jesus provided instruction to His disciples about the kingdom of God. On the fortieth day after the resurrection, Jesus and His disciples journeyed to Mount Olivet, near Jerusalem. Jesus assured His followers that the Holy Spirit would soon be given to them, and He commanded them to stay in Jerusalem until the Spirit had descended.

Jesus gave a blessing upon them and then rose into heaven. It is clear from the Bible that Jesus returned to heaven in His physical body. He ascended from the ground slowly and visibly, closely watched by many attentive observers. As the disciples watched intently, attempting to get a last glimpse of Jesus, a cloud obscured Him from their sight, and two angels came and promised that Christ would come back "in the same way that you have seen Him go". The Ascension of Jesus Christ holds significance for multiple reasons, among which is the fact it concluded his earthly ministry. Almighty God had mercifully sent His Son into the world at Bethlehem, and now the Son was journeying back to the Father. Humanity had reached the point where restrictions were no longer present. It signified the success of His earthly work. All that He had hoped to accomplish had been achieved. It signaled the reappearance of His celestial glory. During Jesus' stay on earth, His majesty was hidden with a single exception of the Transfiguration. It showed His exaltation by the Father. The One who the Father was pleased with was taken up in honor and given a name greater than all other names. It gave Him the opportunity to make a place for us. It symbolized the start of His task as High Priest and Mediator of the New Covenant. It established the outline for His return. Upon Jesus' return to establish His Kingdom, He will come back to us in the same physical form He departed- bodily, visibly, and in the clouds. The Lord Jesus is now in heaven. The Scriptures regularly illustrate Him in a place of honor and authority at the right hand of the Father. Christ is the supreme authority of the Church, the source of spiritual gifts, and the One who is all-encompassing.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION: This Sunday we celebrate the great feast of the Ascension of the Lord which is ripe with spiritual importance and depth. Let us examine how the Lord's ascension affects us as stewards. Firstly, when the apostles watched the Lord ascend into heaven, two angels appeared and asked them "why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" The apostles were not meant to stay there constantly gazing heavenward. Instead, they, like us, are called to live firmly on this earth with our whole purpose set on reaching heaven and leading as many people with us as possible. We see this at the end of St. Matthew's Gospel when Jesus gives the great commission to "make disciples of all nations." Jesus' ascension is a firm call to action. A call to be stewards and use our gifts to spread the Gospel within our parishes and the Church. We do this through the strength of Christ within us who says "remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." It is now up to us to cooperate with the Spirit and make disciples of the whole world. Let us end by pondering the beautiful saying of St. Teresa of Avila. "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are His Body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours." Jesus' ascension is a firm call to action for at the end of St. Matthew's Gospel He gives us the great commission to "make disciples of all nations." This is a call to be stewards and use our gifts to spread the Gospel within our parishes and the Church. Let us strive to do this through the strength of Christ within us who says "remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.

Gospel Summary

The Gospel reading today concludes the Book of Matthew. It was at this point that Jesus, knowing he was about to return to the Father, commissioned the apostles to carry the message of the Good News into the whole world. They would baptize, make more disciples, and teach the message Jesus had taught them. Jesus made it clear that his ascension did not mark an absence; he would always be with them. This Gospel message is the foundation of the Church and makes clear what we are called to do and be.

Reflection for Families

We don't need to go to the four corners of the earth to be missionaries. We are called as parents to the same mission as the apostles. We are the first and most significant teachers of our children. We bring them to baptism and show them the Good News. Not only our actions speak to our children about what we believe and how we hope they live Christian lives, but our efforts to prepare them for the sacraments and come to the Lord's table every week helps them know the full depth of our faith.

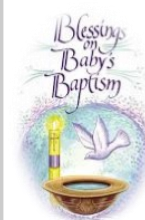
Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family

During the past weeks we have been reminded often by Jesus that he will not leave us alone. Sometimes it's hard to explain to children where someone is who we can't see. Like the people in the early Church we have faith, but we also have doubt. As if it were a scavenger hunt, let family members look for places they find Jesus this week. In what way can your family help others know Jesus' presence?

Discussion Starters

1. I need Jesus with me especially when . . .
2. I know how the disciples felt when Jesus left them. I remember someone leaving . . .
3. I think I would have been a great missionary because . . .

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This weekend we welcomed **Sloane Hannah Laine Bonnici**, who joined our Christian Community through the Sacrament of Baptism.

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



THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA will be visiting our parish next Sunday, May 28th. He will attend the 10:30 am Mass which will be followed by a reception in the Lower Hall.

Because of this event, the 12:00 noon Mass, on that day ONLY (May 28th), is being cancelled. Our regular Sunday Schedule will resume the following week.

On Friday, May 26th at 7:00 pm, the following young people will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, administered by Bishop Robert Kasun:

*John Matthew Centritto
 Patricia Sulei English
 Alyssa Maria Felgueiras
 Brayden Patrick Grima
 Sebastian Zachary Kourous
 Alexander John Nesci*



*Michael Nicola Nesci
 Michael Edward Pace
 Lillian McGregor Serodio
 Ryan Louis Sousa
 Sofia Castro Sualog
 Aiden Hanwu Zhang*

Congratulations to these young people and their families. As a parish community, we accompany them with our prayers. May the love and joy of Jesus be always present in their hearts and may the Holy Spirit guide them throughout their lives.

A big thank you to our Catechists Jessica Dingli and Andrea Casciaro, who helped to prepare our young people for this very important day in their lives.