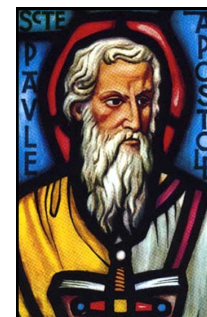


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St. Paul the Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish

**3224 Dundas Street West,
 Toronto, Ontario M6P 2A3
 Tel 416-767-7054**

Email: stpaultheapostleto@archtoronto.org

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Summary

This great story illustrates God's tremendous love for us. In the story a servant (someone like us) owed an incomprehensible sum of money (our sinfulness) to a king (God). The servant begged for time to repay the debt. The king, out of love and compassion, forgave the entire debt. But the sad ending of the story described the servant's inability to forgive another person's much smaller debt.

Reflection for Families

This is an easy gospel for parents to understand. We are called to love one another and forgive one another just as God loves and forgives us. Just as God loves us unconditionally, we freely love our children. They return this love, not out of fear or obligation. They love us because we love them.

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family

As you watch television this week or see movies, notice how many times the theme of forgiveness is used in the media. Rethink the story's ending. What if forgiveness had not taken place? Share your ideas with one another. How would the world be different if we didn't forgive one another? Talk about times forgiveness has made a difference in your own lives.

Discussion Starters

1. I try not to make the same mistakes twice, but there is one person who has had to forgive me for the same thing more than once...
2. I know the power the servant felt over the second servant. Sometimes I feel more powerful when someone owes me something. I had this feeling when...
3. It feels good to be generous like the king. One time I remember especially is...

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Visit our website at stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org or simply scan the QR code, to get updated information, become a registered parishioner, register for Sacraments, sign-up to receive the weekly bulletin, and much more!!



Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 16

5:30pm
Sts. Crmelius & Cyprian
 • +John Fenech

Sunday, September 17

9:00am
 • +Carmen Muscat

10:30am
 • +John Logan
 • +Nenu Dingli
 • +Moses & Elizabeth Mifsud
 • +George Zahra

12:00 noon
 • +Salvina & Paul Ballucci
 • +Suzanne Camilleri

Monday, September 18
 • +Mary Joyce Tonna Brown

Tuesday, September 19
 • +Eduardo Nemesio

Wednesday, September 20
Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gön & Paul Chông Ha-sang & Companions
 • +Vincent & Phillippa Bartolo

Thursday, September 21
St. Matthew, Apostle

Friday, September 22
 • +Alexander Cole

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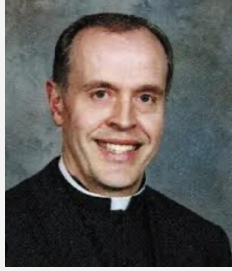
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**September 17
 2023**

From our Pastor's Desk...



Maltese and Gozitans mark Independence Day on September 21st. This day signifies Malta's rightful place among the community of nations. 'Independence' means exercising power and autonomy without interference from other states. It means freedom from colonial rule. It shows a process that started before 1964 and continues today.

However, 'independence' has its limits. Sovereign states are independent in terms of sovereignty and autonomy of power. States need to cooperate and depend on each other for their citizens' benefit. After two world wars, Europe needed a political structure to ensure peace.

The quest for peace was the fundamental principle embraced and promoted by the European project's founding fathers. They knew peace grows through unity among nations. They knew that adopting individualistic approaches would lead to mutual destruction. Given the present circumstances, it is essential that we remember these principles.

Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, reminds us of the interconnectedness of everything and everyone.

We will hold a reception to commemorate Independence Day in the hall after the 10:30 am Mass on September 24th. This serves as a reminder to strive for solidarity, not only among nations but also within our own community and with future generations.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION: The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant Forgiving and Being Forgiven The central mystery woven throughout the readings this Sunday is the need to forgive others. In today's Gospel we hear the parable of the wicked servant who although he was greatly forgiven of his large debt could not forgive the small debt of his fellow servant. This parable can be summarized by the words found in the Our Father, "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." The Catechism teaches us that unless we forgive those in our lives, we cannot fully experience God's forgiveness. It says that "in refusing to forgive our brothers and sisters, our hearts are closed and their hardness makes them impervious to the Father's merciful love; but in confessing our sins, our hearts are opened to his grace" (CCC 2840) So as stewards we should strive to forgive those who have hurt us, but how do we do this? The essential answer is prayer. The Catechism plainly states that "it is not in our power not to feel or to forget an offense; but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies the memory in transforming the hurt into intercession" (CCC 2843). So, we don't need to conjure up warm or fuzzy feelings, but we must intentionally choose to pray for our debtor and for the grace to forgive them. This is a difficult process and is sure to not happen overnight. Let us take some time daily, starting today, to pray for those who've hurt us.

The Catechism is very explicit in teaching that unless we forgive others, we cannot fully experience God's forgiveness. It instructs us that forgiveness doesn't necessitate good feelings or forgetting past offenses, but instead that it requires intentionally praying for those who have hurt us. As stewards let us begin to pray for the ability to forgive and so live out the words, "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH 93RD ANNIVERSARY DINNER & DANCE on

Saturday, September 30th
(doors open at 6:30pm)

Adults: \$50, Children (5 - 12 years old): \$20,
Children under 5: Free

For tickets or more information, please
contact Freda at 416.762.1891

Bookings and payments must be made
by Sunday, September 24th.

Celebration of the Solemnity of St. Michael & Conferral of the Pallium upon the Most Rev. Francis Leo Friday, September 29, 2023 – 5:30pm at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica

The Archdiocese of Toronto celebrates the feast day of our archdiocesan patron, St. Michael, on Friday, September 29, 2023. All are welcome to join in a special celebration on that day at 5:30 p.m. at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica (65 Bond St.).

Archbishop Francis Leo will celebrate Mass, with music from the world-renowned St. Michael's Choir School. As part of the celebration, the Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, the Most Rev. Ivan Jurkovič will confer the pallium on our archbishop, a symbol of his role as Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto and shepherd to the faithful.

Following Mass, there will be an informal reception with light refreshments in the St. Michael's Cathedral atrium and courtyard. Seating will be first come, first served. All are welcome to join in this special celebration for our archdiocese and archbishop!

VOCATION REFLECTION "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." Consider service as a priest, deacon, brother or sister. If God is calling you contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

vocations@archtoronto.org
www.vocationstoronto.ca

September 30/October 1, 2023 Special Collection - Indigenous Healing & Reconciliation

As part of our ongoing efforts towards healing and reconciliation, the Archdiocese of Toronto has made a commitment to provide funds in support of programs and initiatives that respond to the various needs that exist among Indigenous Peoples both locally and throughout the country.

The Indigenous Healing & Reconciliation fund is part of a national effort announced by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. To date, the fund has raised close to 40 percent of the \$30 million target as pledged by the Canadian bishops. The archdiocese will contribute \$6 million towards the national pledge. The collection on September 30/October 1 provides an opportunity for the faithful to contribute to this important initiative. For more information or to donate online please visit: www.archtoronto.org/

WELCOME!!

We kindly request that you extend a warm welcome to the seminarian assigned to our parish, Mr. Keith Diaz. Presently, he is registered in his first year of philosophy at St. Augustine's Seminary. Starting from September 16/17, he will visit once a month. He will assist in the Masses and provide support as required.

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