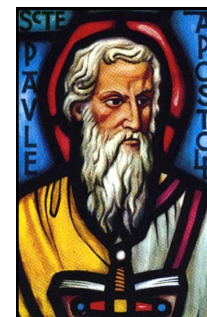


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26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Summary

Jesus pointed out to chief priest and elders that they had not believed John nor had they changed their hearts after seeing Jesus. They were like the son who said "yes" to his father's request to work in the vineyard. Even though he said he would, the son did not work. The father's second son (representing sinners) said "no" to his father's request, but went to the vineyard and worked after all. Jesus said it would be those who are like the second son who would enter the Kingdom first.

Reflection for Families

The parish parking lot on Sunday morning helps illustrate this parable. We say "yes," we believe as we worship inside our churches, but when we get to the parking lot (and work, school, neighborhood), we imitate the first son by not acting out our "yes."

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family

We are free to make choices. As a family, try to choose something of notice in your parish community. Perhaps there's a request for help in the bulletin, or parish announcements. Maybe you are aware of a need for service in your community or from something you read in the newspaper. Try to say "yes" as a family and serve someone with your response.

Discussion Starters

1. Sometimes it's hard for me to obey, especially when...
2. There have been times I have said "yes" but didn't follow through with my commitment. The reason for this is usually because...
 Sometimes I say "yes" to God even when it's hard. One of those times is when...

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Visit our website at
stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org
 or simply scan the QR code.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 30

5:30pm
St. Jerome, Priest & Doctor of the Church
 • +Maria de Freitas Candelaria

Sunday, October 1

9:00am
 • +Agnes Camilleri

10:30am
 • +Anthony & John Sultana
 • +Carmel & Edmond Scicluna
 • +Carmena Scicluna
 • +Frank Cini
 • +John Gusman

12:00 noon
 • Missa Pro Populo

Monday, October 2
Holy Guardian Angels
 • +Vincent & Phillippa Bartolo

Tuesday, October 3
 • +Doris Micallef

Wednesday, October 4
St. Francis of Assisi
 • +Deceased members of the Camilleri Family

Thursday, October 5
 • +Nina Schembri

Friday, October 6
 • +Tessie Psaila

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Pastoral Team
 Fr. Roy Francis Farrell
 Pastor
 Deacon Raymond Frendo
 Permanent Deacon

MASS SCHEDULE
Daily morning Mass:
 Monday, Wednesday & Friday
 9:15am (Maltese/English)
 Tuesday & Thursday
 9:15am (English)

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

Secretary
 Mrs. Rita Apalit

OFFICE HOURS
 Monday to Friday
 9:00am to 4:30pm
 (Priest is always available by appointment)

SACRAMENTS
Baptism: Please contact the priests. Baptisms are held on the first Saturday of the month at 10:30am

Marriages: Contact the priest one year in advance of the wedding. A marriage preparation course in mandatory.

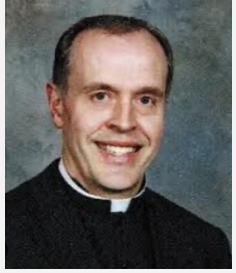
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
 First Friday: 8:40am to 9:10am
 Saturdays: 4:45pm to 5:15pm
 Anytime by appointment.

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.

**October 1
 2023**

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We dedicate the entire month of October to honouring the Blessed Virgin Mary by the Church, which recognizes her as the Mother of God. Despite the strong faith of Catholics, comprehending the position of Mary in the contemporary world can be a source of difficulty for many. The first thing we should remember is the fact that Mary's simple act of agreeing altered the course of history. She willingly accepted and agreed to follow God's will. With the birth of Jesus, the world was transformed in ways that were unimaginable.

Mary's inspiring and challenging example motivates us to live our Christian faith to the fullest. Mary accepted to be the Mother of God. As a result, she was vulnerable to shame, criticism, misunderstanding, and false accusations. Living a life according to Christian values is a challenging task. Just like others, we also face the possibility of being ridiculed by the society that endorses various immoralities. Our primary responsibility is to uphold our faith in God and to remain steadfastly loyal to both Him and the Church.

Mary strongly encourages us to cultivate a lifestyle of prayer, striving to be people who pray regularly and consistently. Mary's Magnificat is a prayer that beautifully sings of the glorious presence of God in her life.

Being Catholic, one of our specific devotions is to the rosary. Catholics use the rosary as meditation, which focuses on events from the New Testament that happened in the lives of Jesus and Mary. We structure it around basic Catholic prayers like the Sign of the Cross, the Apostles' Creed, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be. The practice brings about a state of inner concentration where the body, mind, and spirit are all focused, enabling one to pray despite being surrounded by many distractions.

Brother John Samaha, S.M, narrates a story that happened over a century ago, about a university student who, consumed with pride, boarded a train in France. Following that, he took a seat next to an older gentleman who seemed to be a financially stable farmer. Observing the man passing beads through his fingers, the student, who was known for his bold and impulsive nature, approached him. With his eyes closed and his hands clasped tightly, he was devoutly reciting the rosary in prayer.

"Sir, do you still believe in such outdated things?" the student inquired. "Yes, I do. Don't you?" the man responded. The student laughed and admitted, "I do not believe in such silly things. Take my advice. Throw the rosary out the window and learn what science has to say about it."

"Science? I do not understand this science. Perhaps you can explain it to me," the man said humbly, tears welling in his eyes.

The man's deep emotions did not go unnoticed by the university student. The younger man asked for the older gentleman's address to send him literature to clear up any confusion without upsetting him.

With some difficulty, the man put his hand inside the inner pocket of his coat and brought out his business card. As soon as the student read the card, a wave of shame washed over him, causing him to lower his head and rendering him speechless. The card contained the following message: "Paris's Institute of Scientific Research Director, Louis Pasteur". The student who was deluded had a chance encounter with the leading chemist of his country. He introduced the world to the scientific process. This process is now known as pasteurization.

It is crucial to keep in mind that the Holy Rosary carries immense power and must never be overlooked, regardless of the scenario. Staying close to Mary, who was the first and most loving disciple of Christ, will guide us closer to her divine Son, and we will experience His love in a much deeper way.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION In today's second reading St. Paul offers us a radical way of living as Christians. He says that we should humbly, "regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." While this is a challenging way of life, it is at the very heart of being a steward. To fully live with other people's interests above our own we require a dramatic interior conversion. Our society propagates the importance of the unholy trinity of "me, myself and I". In order to begin this conversion we need to turn to prayer and seek to imitate Jesus, the true steward. Jesus always sought to be a servant of others instead of demanding to be served. This was shown very poignantly when he washed the feet of the apostles. In this image, we see what it means to be a steward. To humble ourselves before others and seek their good before our own. Imagine a parish community where everyone strives to serve their brothers and sisters. This service can be manifested in a variety of ways, whether it be simply going out of our way to say hello to a new family in the parish or supporting a family undergoing a major change or crises in their life. Let us constantly renew our commitment to being stewards and seek to serve rather than be served.

St. Paul challenges us to be true stewards as he says that we should "look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." In order to begin this conversion we need to turn to prayer as well as seek to imitate Jesus, who always sought to serve rather than be served. Let us strive to serve those in our parishes whether it be simply going out of our way to say hello to a new family or supporting a family undergoing a major change in their life, or any other way.

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- peanut butter, tea bags & coffee, bagged rice



Thank you for your donation!

VOCATION REFLECTION The invitation to serve often comes more than once; are you prepared with your answer? Consider ministry as a priest, deacon or in consecrated life. Are you being invited? Contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca



This coming Friday, **October 6th is the first Friday of the month.** We will have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass, followed by some time of adoration and benediction.

**HUMANITRIAN RELIEF FOR
MORROCCO & LIBYA**

The Archdiocese of Toronto will accept donations and channel funds through our Catholic partners in Morocco to support relief efforts underway. Those wishing to help may do so in the following ways:

- Online through the Archdiocese of Toronto website – www.archtoronto.org
- By phone through the Development Office – 416-934-3411
- Through the parish, making cheques payable to: **St. Paul the Apostle Church, stating Morocco Earthquake - Humanitarian Relief on the memo line of cheque.**

For those wishing to offer support to the people of Libya, please consider a gift through the Canadian Red Cross in the following ways:

- Online through the Red Cross website – www.redcross.ca
- By phone through the Red Cross at 1-800-418-1111.

Please continue to pray for those who have died, for those who are missing or displaced because of these tragic disasters in both Morocco and Libya and for all who are working hard to provide relief and rescue in both locations.