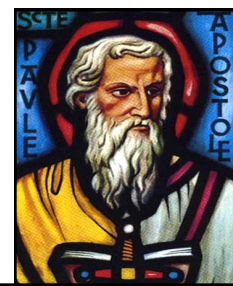


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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gospel Summary

Jesus warns his disciples to be watchful and alert. He tells the story of a man who traveled abroad and placed his servants in charge. Each servant had his own work to do, and the gatekeeper's task was to be on watch for the man's return. In the same way we are to watch for the Lord's return, taking care to not fall asleep.

Reflection for Parents

There is an old saying, "When the cat's away, the mice begin to play!" When our boss isn't looking, it may be tempting for us to slow down the pace. When we aren't home, our children might be tempted to play rather than do their homework. But we are each in our own way called to be like the servants in today's Gospel story—staying faithful to whatever tasks we've been given whether the master (the boss, the parent) is away or at home. Today, pray to be faithful to the tasks you have been given as a parent, a spouse, a coworker, a friend, and a disciple of Jesus.

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family

Today is the First Sunday of Advent. It is also the first day of the new liturgical year. Spend some time today preparing for this new year. Hang a new liturgical year calendar and create your family Advent wreath. Light the first candle, and talk about how you will celebrate the season of Advent. Talk about what you as a family can do to stay awake for the coming of the Lord at Christmas.

Discussion Starters

1. Some things I am in charge of at home/school/work are . . .
2. When I do not do what I am supposed to do at home/school/work . . .
3. One way I can stay more awake for the coming of the Lord is . . .

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Visit Our Website!!

You can register for Sacraments, become a member of our parish community, get information on upcoming events, and much more. Visit our website at stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org or simply scan the QR code below.



Mass Intentions

**Saturday, December 2
 5:30pm**

- +Rita, Leli & Sunny Camilleri

**Sunday, December 3
 9:00am**

- Missa Pro Populo

10:30am

- +John Sultana
- +Carmel & Edmond Scicluna
- +Marlene Abela
- +Doris Micallef
- +Carmen & Joseph Gove

12:00 noon

- +Frank Cini

Monday, December 4

- +Carmen Muscat

Tuesday, December 5

- +Nina & Salvu Schembri

Wednesday, December 6

- +Vincent Micallef

Thursday, December 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop

- +Eugenio Sturino, Mariano & Amalia Stellato

Friday, December 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- +Theresa Massa

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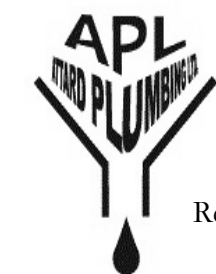
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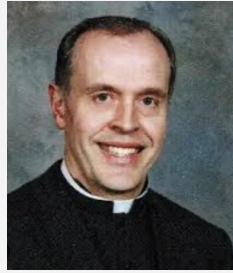


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Pastoral Team
 Fr. Roy Francis Farrell
Pastor
 Deacon Raymond Frendo
Permanent Deacon
MASS SCHEDULE
Daily morning Mass:
 Monday, Wednesday & Friday
 9:15am (Maltese/English)
 Tuesday & Thursday
 9:15am (English)
Weekend Masses:
Saturday: 5:30pm (English)
Sunday:
 9:00am (English)
 10:30am (Maltese/English)
 12:00pm (English)
Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Every
 Wednesday 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Secretary
 Mrs. Rita Apalit
OFFICE HOURS (Trial)
 Sunday 10:00m - 1:00pm
 (Church Foyer)
 Monday 9:00am - 1:00pm
 Tuesday 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 is 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.

December 3, 2023

From our Pastor's Desk...



I can't believe that Advent is here again. Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas, but it is also more than that. It gives us a vision of our lives as Christians and shows us what is possible. The vision of Advent is twofold: it looks back to Christ's first coming in Bethlehem and forward to his second coming. Between these two events, we find meaning for our lives as Christians.

First, we celebrate Christ's incarnation. We see his life and experience his presence as a human being in our history. Christ came to show us how to live. He gave us principles to live by. But he also knew that we couldn't live alone. He formed the

Church, a community held together by love. In that community, we find unlimited possibilities and meaning. Alone, we can do nothing. Together, we find true meaning.

When Christ left this earth, he didn't abandon us. He remains with us through his Spirit, the Church, the sacraments, the Scriptures, and each other. He lives in community with us and keeps his vision of life before us. When he comes again, his presence will no longer be hidden. It will be revealed in all its fullness, and it will never end. His presence will perfect and complete our community. This is the greater significance of Advent.

During these few weeks of Advent, we reflect on the time from Christ's birth to his Second Coming. Advent brings us a magnificent vision of life and hope for the future. It is our time to become more involved and caught up in the meaning and possibilities of life as a Christian community. We are preparing not just for Christmas, but also for Christ's Second Coming. This means that when he comes again, we will be awake and watchful. He will not find us asleep.

Our parish retreat will take place on December 16th. It will begin with Mass at 9:30 am, followed by a time of reflection and prayer with our facilitator, Debra Gove. It will be a great opportunity to renew your spirit and prepare for the coming of Christ. For people less familiar with a retreat, a retreat is a special time of prayer and reflection. It can help you deepen your relationship with God and prepare your heart for Christmas. It is also a time of community and fellowship. You can share your faith and insights with others and support each other in prayer and friendship.

Join us for a retreat and bring someone along. Sign up at the back of the church or leave your name at the parish office. The retreat ends at noon with a pizza lunch.

SPECIAL MASS CARDS WITH BEAUTIFUL IMAGES

The parish has a limited number of special Mass cards with images of St. Paul, Mary Undoer of Knots, Our Lady of the Assumption, and a Nativity scene. These cards are a wonderful way to express your faith and devotion to the saints and the Holy Family. They are also a meaningful gift for your loved ones at Christmas time.

The cost of each card is \$25.00, which covers the printing and the offering for the Mass. The Mass will be celebrated for the intention of the person you choose, either in memory of a deceased one or in thanksgiving for a blessing. The Mass is the greatest prayer we can offer to God, and the saints intercede for us with their powerful prayers.

If you would like to purchase one of these cards, please contact the parish office as soon as possible. They are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't miss this opportunity to share the joy and grace of the Mass with your family and friends.



VETCH - ĠULBIENA

Gulbiena (Vetch) is still available at \$5.00 per packet. You can purchase from the back of the church after Mass or from the Parish Office during office hours.

There are still **Sunday Missals**

for the next Liturgical Year available at a cost of \$5.00 each. The new liturgical year begins this weekend. Pick up your copy from the Church or Parish Office



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: CHANGE IN VIGIL MASS SCHEDULE

We are writing to inform you of a significant change in our vigil mass schedule that will take effect from **Saturday, January 6th, 2024**. The vigil mass that used to be at **5:30 PM** will now be at **4:30 PM**. This change will last for **six months**, after which we will evaluate its impact and feedback.

This decision was made after a careful deliberation by the parish council, who weighed the pros and cons of such a change. The main reasons for this change are:

- To enable those who walk to church to feel more safe and comfortable, as it will not be so dark when the mass is finished.
- To provide an opportunity for people who have later gatherings or commitments to attend mass and then to go to their function.
- To align with the daylight saving time and the seasonal changes in the weather and daylight.

We understand that this change may cause some inconvenience or adjustment for some of you, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation. We hope that this change will benefit our parish community and enhance our worship experience.

If you have any questions or concerns about this change, please feel free to contact us.

Archdiocesan Consultation Underway –

Share Your Ideas to assist with future planning!

Archbishop Francis Leo is inviting the Catholic community to share thoughts and ideas regarding future pastoral planning in the Archdiocese of Toronto. Feedback will help inform a renewed Pastoral Plan to be used in the years ahead. To learn more about the process, read the letter of invitation from the archbishop and complete the short survey by December 15, 2023, please visit: www.archtoronto.org/consultation Please take a few minutes to share your insights and ideas.

Thank you for your collaboration in this archdiocesan initiative.

The **annual Anointing of the Sick Mass followed by the Seniors' Christmas Luncheon**

hosted by the Maltese Canadian Federation and Lehen Malta, will take place on Sunday, December 10th at the 12:00 Mass.

Tickets are \$15.00 per person, and can be obtained from the Parish office during office hours, or by contacting Joe Sherri at 416-571-3944 or Paul Portelli at 416-830-0198.

The **ST. THERESE PRAYER GROUP** will have a meeting on Monday, December 4th at 10:00 am in the St. Joseph's Room.



Our **Annual Christmas Concert** is going to be held on Friday, December 8th at 7:00 in the evening. Following the concert, we will have some cookies, hot chocolate, coffee and tea to enjoy with good company.

Offering Envelopes

If you haven't done so already, you may pick up your box from the back of the church. **Please note that some envelope numbers have changed**, therefore please double-check the name and address of the box you are taking. We thank you for your continuous support for the parish, it is all very much appreciated.

As we prepare for the celebration of Christmas, we are invited to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, which is a source of grace and healing for our souls. Confession helps us to repent from our sins, to receive God's forgiveness, and to grow in holiness.

On Friday, December 15th, Fr. Massimo Buttigieg will be available for confessions from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. This is an opportunity for those who feel more comfortable in going to a Maltese speaking priest. I will also be available to hear confessions in English at the same time.

In addition, I will hear confessions in English on December 20th, 21st and 22nd from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

Please make an effort to come to confession before Christmas and experience the joy and peace that God offers to those who seek Him with a sincere heart.

May God bless you and your families during this Advent season.