

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES - ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO
ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CEMETERY

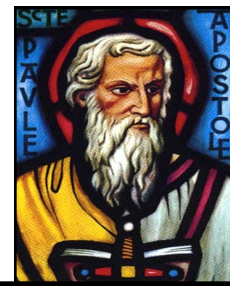
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St. Paul the Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish

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 Tel 416-767-7054

Email: stpaultheapostleto@archtoronto.org

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Gospel Summary

In today's Gospel Jesus begins to call his disciples. The first two to be called were disciples of John, who pointed out to them that Jesus was the Lamb of God. Andrew, one of the two, then brought his brother Simon to Jesus, saying that Jesus was the Messiah. Those who responded to Jesus' call sensed that there was something different about this Teacher, though they did not yet understand what following him would require of them.

Reflection for Parents

We can sense the excitement of those first disciples when they saw Jesus and received Jesus' invitation to follow him. They literally stopped what they were doing and followed him, inviting others to join them along the way. Today is a good day to think about our own level of excitement when we hear the words of Jesus spoken in the Gospels or see him in others around us. Do we share enthusiasm for our faith in Jesus with our children? Do we, through our words and actions, lead them to him? How so?

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

Invite family members to help each other trace their footprints onto colored construction paper. Have each family member write or draw on each footprint one way he or she follows Jesus. Give family members time to share with each other what they have written or drawn. Cut out the footprints and display them on the refrigerator or in a place where all family members will see them. Title your display "Our Family Follows Jesus."

Discussion Starters

In today's Gospel, Andrew brings his brother Simon to Jesus. For today's discussion, invite family members to think about people they know whom they would like to bring to Jesus in prayer. For example, perhaps you want to bring to Jesus a neighbor who is ill, a classmate whom no one likes, or a friend whose parents are getting a divorce. Write each name on a slip of paper, and place the papers in a small basket or bowl. Conclude by inviting family members to draw one name at a time and to read the name, inviting all to respond, "Lord, we bring (him/her) to you. Lord, hear our prayer."

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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, January 13

- 4:30pm
- +Emily & Joseph Zerafa, Adelina Cordina & Joe Zerafa

Sunday, January 14

The Epiphany of our Lord

9:00am

- +Rita Caruana

10:30am

- +John Azzopardi
- +Carmen Piscopo
- +Herb & Violet Polster
- +John & Anthony Sultana

12:00 noon

- Missa Pro Populo

Monday, January 15

- +Joseph & Josephine Portelli, +Tony & Carmela Buttigieg

Tuesday, January 16

- +Lucia Sousa

Wednesday, January 17

St. Anthony Abbot

- +Doris Micallef

Thursday, January 18

- +Leokadia Szarama

Friday, January 19

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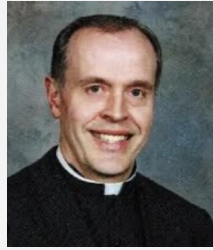
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January 14, 2024

From our Pastor's Desk...



Now that Christmas Season is over, we can focus on the next liturgical season called "Ordinary Time." Ordinary Time is named so because the weeks are numbered, not because it is common. The word "ordinalis" comes from the Latin word "ordo," meaning order. This represents the ordered life of the Church, where we live neither in feasting nor in severe penance, but in watchfulness and expectation of Christ's Second Coming.

The Gospel for the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time always features John the Baptist acknowledging Christ as the Lamb of God or Christ's first miracle at the wedding at Cana. For Catholics, Ordinary Time is when Christ, the Lamb of God, walks among us and transforms our lives. It is not ordinary at all!

The normal liturgical color for Ordinary Time is green, representing the time after Pentecost when the Church began to grow and spread the Gospel to all nations.

Ordinary Time includes the parts of the Catholic Church's liturgical year that are not part of Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter. It encompasses two different periods: the Christmas season after Advent and the Easter season after Lent.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION "Come and see." These are the words of invitation that Jesus says to His first disciples and that He still says to us 2000 years later. This is the call of the steward, to come and see the goodness of the Lord. Let us reflect more deeply on the figure of St. Andrew in this episode and seek ways to imitate him. Firstly, when Jesus invited him, it says that Andrew obeyed and "came and saw." He readily and wholeheartedly heeded the call of Christ. After his encounter with Christ, his life was profoundly changed and he left everything to follow Him. Once we encounter the love and goodness of God we too can no longer hold onto our past lives. Let us strive to continue to journey with God, going ever more deeper into His love. If we have not yet personally encountered Christ, let us remember that Christ longs for us to be with Him so it is never too late to turn to Him. Moreover, upon meeting Christ, Andrew did not keep his new found joy to himself but instead runs to tell his brother Simon. He brings Simon to Jesus which leads to Simon's call to follow Christ and is where he receives the name Peter. True stewardship leads to evangelization. Once we've experienced the joy of the Gospel, we too should seek to bring others into this joy. Perhaps one act we can do this week is invite a friend to Mass or a parish event so that they too can begin to "come and see" the Lord.

In the Gospel today, after Andrew's encounter with Christ, his life was profoundly changed and he left everything to follow Him. Moreover, upon meeting Christ Andrew did not keep his new found joy to himself but instead runs to tell his brother Simon. As stewards, let us constantly seek to go deeper in our relationship with Christ and strive to invite others to the parish so that they too may "come and see" the goodness of the Lord.

Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.

VOCATION REFLECTION A good vocation prayer to say every day - from the time we are young until we are in our golden years - is found in today's first Scripture reading: "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening". Just try it with sincerity, starting today and, if you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon, call Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca



Our New Year's dinner and dance was a delightful EVENT, flowing seamlessly from start to finish. The delectable aromas wafting from the kitchen tantalized our taste buds, while the sight of the beautifully presented dishes left us in awe. The vibrant entertainment filled the air with joyous melodies, and the laughter and applause of the crowd created a lively atmosphere. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the social committee for their unwavering dedication and talent in orchestrating such a successful and enjoyable event. Your commitment and hard work are truly valued.

We now eagerly anticipate our next dinner and dance on Saturday, February 10th, more exciting details will be shared in the weeks to come.



MISSION YOUTH FROM HAMILTON will be joining us to serve the homeless on January 27th. They will meet at the parish at 10am for an event that last until 8pm. All youth are welcome to join, and parents are welcome to volunteer as well. To register, please visit www.hamiltonmissionyouth.com

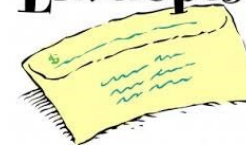


PASTORAL LETTER

Seeking The Kingdom Of God In All Things On January 1, 2024, the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, the Most Rev. Francis Leo released a Pastoral Letter, "Seeking the Kingdom of God Above and Beyond All Other Things."

The letter is directed to the People of God in the Archdiocese of Toronto and offers a deep theological, spiritual and pastoral meditation as we begin a new year. Please visit: www.archtoronto.org to download a copy of the letter.

Offering Envelopes



If you haven't done so already, you may pick up your box from the back of the church. If you have decided that you do not want a box of envelopes any longer, please contact the parish office.

Thank you for your continuous support for the parish, it is all very much appreciated.

The year-end official tax receipts are now being prepared, If you have moved during the past year, or need to have a correction made on your records, please notify the parish office as soon as possible at 416-767-7054.

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE MASS

As part of Marriage Sunday 2024 celebrations, Archbishop Francis Leo will preside at a special Mass to honour married couples, with special recognition for those celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60th wedding anniversaries in 2024. The Mass will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 11, 2024 at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica (65 Bond Street, Toronto). All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their marriage commitment during the Mass.

All are welcome to attend. Couples celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60+ anniversaries in 2024 may register for reserved seating. Reserved seating is limited, so please register early. All other seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Those who cannot attend at the Cathedral are invited to join the celebration via livestream Mass.

Registration & information:
www.archtoronto.org/marriage

LIVESTREAM LINK:

<https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live/>



Please be advised that effective this weekend the vigil mass will be at **4:30 PM**.

This change will last for **six months**, after which we will

evaluate its impact and feedback.

If you have any questions or concerns about this change, please feel free to contact us. We appreciate your support and participation in our parish life.