

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES - ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO
ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CEMETERY

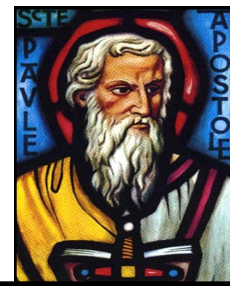
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St. Paul the Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish

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

Email: stpaultheapostleto@archtoronto.org

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Gospel Summary

Jesus continues to call disciples to come and follow him. Simon and Andrew left their nets to follow him. James and John left their nets, their father, and their hired men to follow him. Jesus' presence and Jesus' words moved these men to leave everything behind, even though they did not fully understand that to which they were being called.

Reflection for Parents

In Catholic parishes throughout the world we continue to see in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) children, youth, and adults who are answering the call to follow Jesus. They come to the Church curious about who Jesus is, what he teaches, and what following him means in their daily lives. We are a part of the community that encourages and guides them on their journey of conversion. But conversion, the turning of our minds and our hearts and our lives to God, is something we are all called to. Today is a good day to think about where we need to turn to or turn back to God. What do we hear him calling us to do? To change? To be?

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

Lead a fun discussion about all the things each family member did today. Conclude by saying (in an exaggerated tone), "Whew! We were busy!" Then invite family members to think about where—in all the busyness—they took time to listen to the voice of Jesus. When did they pray? How did they serve him by helping or serving someone else? Challenge family members to take extra time for Jesus each day in the coming week. You may wish to make this a point of sharing each evening at dinnertime or at bedtime.

Discussion Starters

1. To me, following Jesus means . . .
2. Something I would find hard to leave behind to follow Jesus is . . . because . . .
3. One way I can be a fisher of men 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.



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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: 4:30pm (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

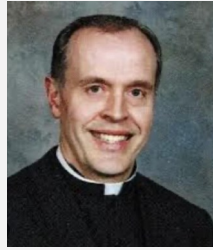
Secretary
 Mrs. Rita Apalit

OFFICE HOURS
 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 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.

January 21, 2024

From our Pastor's Desk...



In this week's pastor's corner, I would like to emphasize the significance of praying for unity among Christians. I would like to invite all to join us at an upcoming event scheduled for this coming Sunday, January 21st, at 4pm at St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Cathedral 455 Ferrier St. (Steeles Ave. E. & Warden Ave.), Markham. Please join Archbishop Francis Leo and a diverse group of Christian leaders in praying for the restoration of full visible unity, as willed by Jesus Christ for the Church. The Livestream for this event is available for

access at: <https://bit.ly/WPCU2024live>.

I would like to offer some insight into the historical context of this annual event. In 1908, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was established as the Octave of Christian Unity, placing significant emphasis on the act of prayer for the unity of the church. Father Paul Wattson, cofounder of the Graymoor Franciscan Friars, proposed the dates of the week. He conceived of the week beginning on the Feast of the Confession of Peter, the variant of the ancient Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, on 18 January, and concluding with the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul on 25 January.

Pope Pius X granted his official blessing to the concept, while Benedict XV actively promoted its observance across the Roman Catholic Church. To emphasize the relationship between Christian unity and the Petrine See, Wattson temporarily renamed the observance as the "Chair of Unity Octave".

In the mid-1920s, Protestant leaders further suggested an annual period of prayer for Christian unity, taking place before Pentecost Sunday, the customary observance of the Church's birthday.

If you cannot attend this upcoming event, I would like to encourage you to pray for its success and to explore opportunities for engaging with fellow Christians in our neighbourhood and the wider community.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION Fishing for Christ "Come follow me and I will make you fishers of people." Just as Jesus called his first disciples 2000 years ago, he continues to call us to follow him. As we reflect on this beautiful Gospel account, let us focus on one particular aspect, the fact that Jesus uses the image of being a "fisher." It is most interesting to note that as he is calling actual fishermen, he uses their own language. There is a deep spiritual insight that can be gleaned from this, namely, that Christ uses what we bring to the table to serve Him and the Church. While fishing may seem unrelated to being an apostle, Jesus does not downplay their past experience. He invites them to bring all of the gifts and talents that they've received from God, but instead of using it for their own gain, to use it to gain souls for Christ. So too as stewards, we can sometimes think that God can only use us if we're already perfect disciples, or have degrees in theology or extensive training in ministry. However, the Lord wants us to bring all of our experiences, even our personal and professional backgrounds to serve Him. If we have backgrounds in finance or accounting, we can use that to help assist various parish ministries. Likewise, if we have experience as a teacher, we can utilize those gifts through various catechist or RCIA groups. This is the heart of stewardship. To recognize that we all bring our own particular gifts that can be used to serve Christ. Let us reflect on our own gifts and graciously heed the call to become "fishers of people," each in our own way. Summary As Jesus calls the apostles, He uses their own language by inviting them to be "fishers of people." There is a deep spiritual insight that can be gleaned from this, namely, that Christ uses what we bring to the table to serve Him and the Church. This is the heart of stewardship, so let us reflect on our own gifts and graciously heed the call of Christ to become "fishers of people," each in our own way.

Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.

Feast of the Shipwreck of St. Paul

DINNER & DANCE

on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024
at 6:00 PM

Come enjoy a 5-Course meal with your
Church Family!

Cash Bar
Raffle
Music by DJ

For more information or to purchase tickets,
please call Freda Mifsud at 416-762-1891.

Tickets prices are:

Adults - \$50.00, Children (5-12 yrs.) - \$20.00

Children under 4 yrs. - Free

Seating will be on a first-come first-seated basis. All bookings and payments must be made by Monday, February 5th.

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



VOCATION REFLECTION The call of the disciples is so familiar to us that we tend to miss the wonder of the disciples' response, which was immediate and complete; they leave everything and follow Jesus. Can we do less if we feel that God is calling us to the priesthood, religious life or diaconate? If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, call Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997. vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

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/>



WORLD
MARRIAGE DAY
SECOND SUNDAY OF FEBRUARY

CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

January 25th

'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear his own voice; for you will be his witness to all the world of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you delay? Get up, be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on his name.'



The weekend vigil Mass is now being celebrated at 4:30 pm every Saturday.

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.

