

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES - ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO
ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CEMETERY

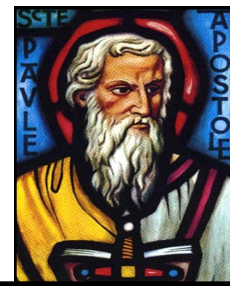
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St. Paul the Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish

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

Email: stpaultheapostleto@archtoronto.org

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Gospel Summary

In today's Gospel the Spirit drives Jesus to the desert, where he remains for forty days. Jesus is tempted by Satan and ministered to by the angels. At the end of his time of temptation, Jesus comes to Galilee proclaiming a message of repentance.

Reflection for Parents

With Catholics throughout the world, today we begin a forty-day retreat. We will spend our forty days praying, fasting, and giving alms—disciplining ourselves so that we might grow in holiness. No doubt we too will be faced with temptation, but angels will minister to us and God will speak to us through his Word. Spend some quiet time today considering how you will spend your forty-day retreat. What will you do to prepare for the renewal of your baptismal promises on Easter Sunday?

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family

The Church's forty-day retreat time is meant for young and old alike. With your family, decide on one or more ways you will spend your Lenten retreat days praying together, fasting from foods and forms of entertainment, and giving of what you have to help those in need and the Church. Make a commitment to work together to help each other honor your Lenten plan, and talk about what your family will do to celebrate the end of the retreat on Easter Sunday morning.

Discussion Starters

1. Things that most often tempt me are _____.
2. Someone who helped me in a difficult time was _____.
3. One thing I plan to do during the forty days of our Lenten retreat 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: 3:45pm to 4:15pm
 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.

February 18, 2024

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 17
4:30pm
 • +Joseph Gauci

Sunday, February 18
9:00am
 • Missa Pro Populo

10:30am
 • +Maria Bonello
 • +Carmel & Edmond Scicluna
 • +Joseph & Rose Ellul
 • +Joseph Gauci
 • +Theresa Massa
 • +Nenu Dingli

12:00 noon
 • +Frank Cini

Monday, February 19
 • +Joseph, Carmelo, Nina & Rita Cutajar

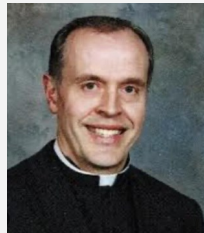
Tuesday, February 20
 • +Malgorzata Casnocha

Wednesday, January 21
 • +Emanuel Tonna

Thursday, February 22
The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle
 • +Emanuel & Lourdes Degiorio

Friday, February 23
 • +Carmel Piscopo

From our Pastor's Desk...



I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the success of our dinner and dance this past weekend to honor St. Paul, patron of Malta and our parish. It was a joyous and memorable occasion that brought us together as a community of faith and culture.

The first thank you is to the social committee for the delicious food they served and their amazing hard work and dedication. They started on Wednesday with the setup of the hall and then the remaining days preparing the food. It is amazing to see how they work so well together and then the hard work on Saturday of serving the food. The food

was delightful and I want to thank them for their generosity and hospitality.

I am extremely grateful to the Master of Ceremonies for his fine words and for flawlessly managing the event.

I also want to thank the entertainment person for providing us with music and dance that added so much to the evening. They made us feel the spirit of Malta and St. Paul through their talents and enthusiasm.

We were blessed to have Bishop Ivan Camilleri to attend the dinner and to celebrate the 0:30 am Mass on Sunday. I want to thank him for his presence and his gracious words. He reminded us of the importance of St. Paul's mission and message for our times.

I want to thank all those who attended and supported the event financially. The final tally revealed that the net outcome amounted to \$7403.

We were blessed to have a number of younger families with their children. It created a very family-like presence and shows how we can continue to grow as a parish community.

Let us continue to seek the wisdom of St. Paul by reading his letters in the Bible, which would be a good idea as we begin the holy season of Lent. May St. Paul intercede for us and guide us in our journey of faith.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION: During this First Sunday of Lent we hear the account of Jesus's temptation in the wilderness. Facing temptations is a part of life. St. Anthony the Great says to "Expect temptation to your last breath." Each time we face a temptation we have the choice of whether we follow Christ or turn away from Him. We should ask ourselves, how hard do we fight to resist temptations? St. Josemaria Escriva says to fight temptations "Saint Francis of Assisi rolled in the snow, Saint Benedict threw himself into a thorn bush, Saint Bernard plunged into an icy pond ... what have you done?" When temptations come our way we must intentionally distance ourselves from the source of temptation and pray for strength. Perhaps one practice we can start is praying a Hail Mary as we physically walk away from any potential occasions of sin. Let us also realize that every sin is tempting us with a twisted version of something good. So instead of just running away from evil, let us run towards what is true, good and beautiful. For example, we won't fall into the temptation to gossip if we form the habit of building people up with our words. We will be less likely to get angry if we practice kind acts towards our neighbour. We won't fall into the sin of lust if we strive to sacrificially love others. This Lent, let us begin to run away from sinful temptations and fill ourselves with good things from God instead. This will allow us to become holier stewards, which will lead to the revitalization of our parishes as our holiness and charity will point others to the love of Christ.

As we read the account of Jesus' temptation in the desert we should realize that we too have to fight temptations. When temptations come our way we must intentionally distance ourselves from the source of temptation and pray for strength. . This Lent, let us begin to run away from occasions of sin and fill ourselves with good things from God instead which will slowly help us grow in holiness.

Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.



ANNOUNCING THE 2024 SHARELIFE CAMPAIGN

As we approach our **first ShareLife Sunday collection on March 17**, it is essential that we come together in compassion to meet our Parish Campaign goal of \$14 million, addressing the growing needs in our communities.

By reaching this goal, our agencies will continue to:

- ◆ offer walk-in counselling to those facing mental health issues
- ◆ help victims of domestic violence
- ◆ ensure isolated seniors are not forgotten
- ◆ deliver food to children in developing countries
- ◆ form priests and deacons who will minister in our parishes

In this time of Lent, we ask you to think of our brothers and sisters in need – especially our vulnerable youth who call the streets their home.

"Your gift ensures youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness have access to individualized support and variety of programs and services to meet their complex and diverse needs," says Mark Aston of Covenant House Toronto. "With your caring support, youth have a safe space to turn to and a supportive team to help them plan their own path."

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

VOCATION REFLECTION Lent: the springtime of the soul...is a time to make a new covenant with God, develop new signs of our relationship with our Creator. Go into your own desert and discover what God is asking of you. If you think God could be calling you to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon, call **Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.**



STATIONS of the CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place every Friday after the 9:15 morning Mass during the season of Lent.

**Happy
Family Day
Weekend!**

*God in heaven,
with a mother's tender embrace you love and nurture us;
with a father's strength you save and protect us.
Look upon our family and keep us close to you.
Grant that we may be like Jesus and support, comfort,
and help one another.
Give us a love like Mary's
that we may nurture the presence of Jesus
in each other and in all your people.
Give us a faith like Joseph's
that we may care for one another and help those in need.
We praise and bless you, Lord God, through Jesus Christ
in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever.
Amen*