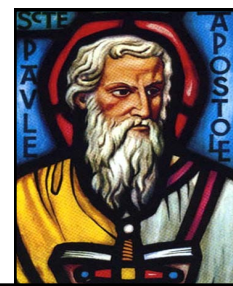


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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Visit Our Website!

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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)

Gospel Summary
 It is not clear to scholars exactly what precipitated Jesus' reaction at the Temple. In what would appear to be a fit of anger, Jesus used a whip to drive out the animals. The Jews challenged Jesus, who replied, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." They thought Jesus was referring to the temple that had been under construction for forty years, but Jesus was speaking of the resurrection of the temple of his body—a temple they did not recognize.

Reflection for Parents
 Think about ways your family members use everyday objects for purposes other than those for which they are intended. Perhaps a teenager responsible for taking out the garbage rolls the garbage can to the curb on his or her skateboard. An old blender might now be used to mix paints. A refrigerator box has been magically transformed into a fort.

In today's Gospel, Jesus warns us that the Temple—God the Father's house—does not exist to serve as a marketplace or as a bank. It is a holy place with a holy purpose. Take a few moments to think about what happens in God's house, your parish church. Think about the purpose for which this house of God exists. Then think about your *domestic Church*, your "Church of the home." Is it serving the purpose for which it was created? Is it a holy place with a holy purpose?

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family
 Work together to identify ways that your *domestic Church*, your "Church of the home," is a holy place—a place where God dwells. For example, perhaps your domestic Church is a place where family members, neighbors, and friends are made to feel welcomed and loved. Or, perhaps your family members—the members of your domestic Church—pray together each day or take part in a ministry to the poor. Encourage all family members to take part in the discussion. Invite suggestions for becoming even more of a holy place—a place where God dwells.

From this discussion, write a three- to five- sentence family mission statement that begins: "Our domestic Church is a holy place—a place where God dwells. Together we . . ." Create a poster of your mission statement and display it in a place where all family members will see it.

Discussion Starter
 Some people today misuse God the Father's house—our parish church—when they . . .

March 3, 2024

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Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 2
4:30pm
 • +Emanuel, Carmela & Tessie Psaila

Sunday, March 3
9:00am
 • Missa Pro Populo

10:30am
 • +Albert Taliana
 • +Therese Massa & Massa & Tonna Families
 • +Doris Micallef
 • +Vic & Josephine Attard & Family
 • +Julia Camilleri
 • +Mary Ann Debono
 • +Tony Axiak
 • +Anthony & John Sultana

12:00 noon
 • +William & France Micallef, Mary & Fred Haber, Anthony, Louis, Rosie, Joseph Ellul

Monday, March 4
 • +Emanuel & Lourdes Degiorgio

Tuesday, March 5
 • +Mary Ann Debono

Wednesday, March 6
 • +Mike Zaccaria

Thursday, March 7
 • +Auxibius & Gertrude Alexander

Friday, March 8
 • +Mary Ann Debono


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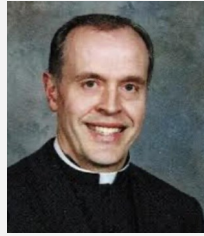


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From our Pastor's Desk...



As we continue our Lenten journey, we enter into a special time of grace and prayer for our parish community. During the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent, we celebrate the Scrutinies with our two candidates who are preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation at Easter. The Scrutinies are rites that help the catechumens, also called the elect, to examine their lives, repent of their sins, and receive God's healing grace. They also help us, the faithful, to renew our own commitment to Christ and to pray for our brothers and sisters in faith.

The Scrutinies are based on three Gospel stories that reveal the power and mercy of Jesus: the Samaritan woman at the well, the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus. These stories invite us to encounter Jesus as the living water, the light of the world, and the resurrection and the life. They also challenge us to recognize our own thirst, blindness, and death, and to seek the Lord's forgiveness and healing.

The Scrutinies are celebrated after the homily at different Masses during these weeks. The elect are invited to come forward and kneel before the altar. The priest and the assembly lay their hands on them and pray for their deliverance from evil and their growth in holiness. The priest also prays over the elect using special prayers called exorcisms, which are meant to protect them from the influence of the devil and to strengthen them in Christ.

The Scrutinies are an opportunity for us to draw closer to Jesus as we prepare for the great feast of Easter. Let us support our candidates with our prayers and our example, and let us also examine our own hearts and ask the Lord to purify and enlighten us with his grace.

Kindly keep me in your prayers as I embark on a familiarization pilgrimage to France from March 4th to 11th. I will visit various holy sites, including Lourdes, where I will pray for our parish and our intentions. Lourdes is a place of miracles, where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette and revealed herself as the Immaculate Conception. Many people have experienced healing and conversion at Lourdes, and we ask Our Lady to intercede for us and for our needs.

May God bless you and your families during this Lenten season, and may he fill you with his love and peace.



We are blessed to have many newcomers joining our parish family. We welcome you with joy and gratitude, and we hope you will find a home among us. We encourage you to get involved in the life of our parish, to share your talents and gifts, and to grow in your faith and friendship with us. If you are new to our parish, please register at the office or online. We would also like to extend an invitation for you to

join us on Sundays for our coffee gatherings. The parish hall is where we usually hold our monthly gatherings. It's a great opportunity to meet our dedicated staff and volunteers and gain insight into all the activities happening within our parish.

LENTEN RETREAT
Voices of Lent

Saturday, March 16th

Mass at 9:30 am
Retreat: 10 am to 12 noon followed by lunch

If you are interested in attending, please write your name on the sheet that is provided at the back of the church



Confession is a Place of Victory In today's first reading we hear about how Moses received the Ten Commandments from God on Mount Sinai. The Church has always taught that the Ten Commandments are a gift that God has revealed to us to help us orient our lives in a way that best leads us to holiness. In the Gospels, in addition to teaching about the Ten Commandments, Jesus teaches about the importance of loving God and loving our neighbour. The Catechism states that the Ten Commandments "must be interpreted in light of this twofold yet single commandment of love, the fullness of the Law" As we are in this penitential season of Lent let us take some time to reflect on how well we are living up to these commandments. One common way of doing this is to perform an examination of conscience. This involves reflecting on our own lives in light of the Commandments and their related sins. This isn't meant to be a sadistic practice of self-loathing but rather an opportunity to see in which ways we can grow in deeper love for Christ and our neighbour. The best way we can start this process of growth is to avail ourselves to the sacrament of Confession. Confession always remains a place of victory for the Lord is achieving our salvation through the forgiveness of our sins. To be reconciled with God is always a source of celebration. Let us not look to our examination of conscience and confession as a place of guilt and defeat. Instead, this Lent let us be cleansed through the grace of the sacrament so that we may grow as ever holier stewards of Christ. Summary In today's first reading we hear about how Moses received the Ten Commandments from God on Mount Sinai. As we are in this penitential season of Lent let us take some time to reflect on how well we are living up to these commandment through an examination of conscience. Let us then avail ourselves to the sacrament of Confession so that the Lord can victoriously heal us of our sins, helping us grow in holiness.



Fr. Massimo Buttigieg will be at our parish to hear confessions on Thursday, March 21st between 6:00 and 7:00 pm.

ShareLife Living the Gospel by Giving Generously

As part of our Lenten almsgiving, we are invited to take part in the ShareLife campaign, which supports many charitable and pastoral ministries in our archdiocese and beyond. ShareLife helps to provide food, shelter, health care, education, and spiritual care to those in need, regardless of their faith background. ShareLife also supports the formation of priests, deacons, and lay ministers, as well as the evangelization of our culture and the promotion of the dignity of life.

Our parish goal for this year is to raise \$16,000 for ShareLife. We ask you to give according to your means and to be generous in sharing your gifts with others. There will be three ShareLife collection. You can also donate online or by using the envelopes in the pews. Thank you for your support and your witness to the Gospel of life.

St. Therese of the Child Jesus Group

will meet at 10:00 am on Monday, March 4th in the St. Joseph's Room.

New members are welcome! There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church for new members.



Daylight Saving Time Starts
March 10, 2024

Remember to set your clocks **ahead** one hour Saturday night or Sunday morning the weekend of March 11.

Lenten Mission
Taking Time out to Listen, Reflect, Pray, and be Spiritually Nourished
with Deacon Raymond Frendo

Wednesday, March 20th & Thursday, March 21st
Mass at 7:00 pm followed by the Sermon

Friday, March 22nd Mass at 7:00 with the Sermon within the Mass
Concluding with Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows on the evening of the 22nd.