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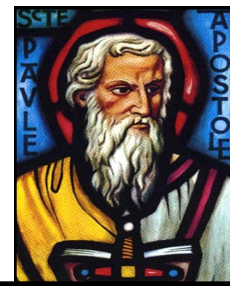
Consulate General
 of the Republic of Malta

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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
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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 7pm - 8pm

Stations of the Cross
 Every Friday during Lent after
 9:15am Mass

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.

March 10, 2024

Gospel Summary
 This Gospel passage contains one of the most beloved and well-known verses of Scripture: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (John 3:16). Indeed, God's great love for us is clearly presented in this Gospel reading. The Gospel also calls us to keep coming into the light, to turn from our wicked ways, and to live the truth.

Reflection for Parents
 God sent his Son into the world with a purpose, and that purpose was to save and to redeem those who believed in him. Take time to think about the world into which you are sending your children. What are you doing to prepare them to fulfill their purpose, their call, as sons and daughters of God? How are you showing them what it means to come to the light and to live the truth?

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family
 Think of one or more persons your family knows who might be experiencing a time of darkness, at time when it is difficult for them to remember that God loves them. Decide on ways your family can reach out to those persons—perhaps by sending cards, making phone calls, fixing meals, or spending time with them. Make an action plan to follow through on your decisions.

Discussion Starters

1. One purpose for which God created me is...
2. A time I knew that God was with me and that God loved me was...
3. Someone I can be a light to this week is... I will do this by...

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Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 9
 4:30pm

- +Schembri & Grech Families

Sunday, March 10
 9:00am

- Missa Pro Populo

10:30am

- +Mary Ann Debono
- +Joseph Bartolo
- +Carmel & Edmond Scicluna
- +Victoriana & France Borg
- +Emmanuel Sammut & Sammut Family
- +Frank & Mary Vella

12:00 noon

- +Joseph Farrugia

Monday, March 11

- +Mary Ann Debono

Tuesday, March 12

- +Cutajar & Zammit Families

Wednesday, March 13

- +Joyce & Janice Tonna

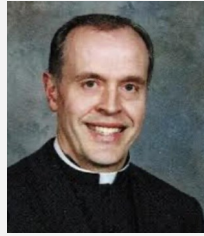
Thursday, March 14

- +Eugenio Sturino, Mariano & Amalia Stellato, Adelina Stellato

Friday, March 15

- +Mary Ann Debono

From our Pastor's Desk...



In this week's bulletin, I would like to emphasize the significance of confession and how it can serve as a precious gift to ourselves, whether it be for Easter or any time we seek to be reconciled with God. Without a doubt, let us delve into the importance of confession from a Catholic perspective and delve into how it can bring joy and transformation to the lives of Christians.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CONFESSION:

- ◆ **Spiritual Cleansing:** Confession allows us to **acknowledge our sins** before God. Just as we bathe to cleanse our bodies, confession purifies our souls. It's an opportunity to **release guilt** and experience God's **forgiveness**.
- ◆ **Restoration of Fellowship:** Sin disrupts our relationship with God. Through confession, we **restore our fellowship** with Him. **1 John 1:9** assures us that if we confess our sins, God is **faithful and just** to forgive us and cleanse us from unrighteousness.
- ◆ **Healing and Freedom:** Confession brings **emotional healing**. When we confess, we unload burdens, fears, and regrets. God's grace sets us free from the chains of guilt and shame.
- ◆ **Accountability:** Confession involves speaking our sins aloud to a priest. This act of vulnerability fosters **accountability**. The priest serves as a spiritual guide, offering counsel and encouragement.

THE JOYFUL ASPECT OF CONFESSION:

- ◆ **Reconciliation:** Confession leads to **reconciliation** with God and others. Imagine the joy of being reconciled after a strained relationship! Similarly, confession restores our bond with God.
- ◆ **Spiritual Spring Cleaning:** Just as spring cleaning brings freshness to our homes, confession rejuvenates our souls. The joy lies in knowing we've cleared out the clutter of sin.
- ◆ **Divine Embrace:** Confession isn't a courtroom; it's a **loving encounter**. God eagerly awaits our return. The prodigal son's joy upon returning to his father (Luke 15:11-32) mirrors the joy of confession.
- ◆ **Eucharistic Joy:** After confession, we receive the **Eucharist**. This sacrament brings immense joy—the real presence of Christ nourishing our souls.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR CONFESSION:

- ◆ **Examination of Conscience:** Reflect on your actions, thoughts, and words. Consider the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the virtues. Pray for God's guidance.
- ◆ **Sorrow for Sin:** Develop **contrition**—a genuine sorrow for offending God. Pray the Act of Contrition sincerely.
- ◆ **Choose a Priest:** Find a priest you trust. Remember, he acts **in persona Christi** (in the person of Christ).
- ◆ **Confession:** Enter the confessional with humility. Confess your sins honestly, including frequency and severity. Listen to the priest's counsel.
- ◆ **Penance:** Accept the penance assigned by the priest. It's a way to express your desire for change.

OVERCOMING FEAR:

- ◆ **Remember God's Love:** God desires your healing, not condemnation. His love surpasses any fear.
- ◆ **Focus on Mercy:** The priest represents God's mercy. He won't judge but will guide you toward healing.
- ◆ **Regular Practice:** Frequent confession reduces fear. The more we experience God's grace, the less daunting confession becomes.

In summary, confession is a **gift of grace**, a pathway to joy, and a means of spiritual growth. Embrace it with trust and gratitude!

During **Lent**, Catholic churches cover their statues and crucifixes as part of a **symbolic practice**. Let's explore the reasons behind this tradition:

1. VEILING STATUES AND CRUCIFIXES:

- ◇ **Heightened Focus:** The veils serve to **heighten our senses** and create a longing for **Easter Sunday**. By covering beautiful images, the Church directs our attention away from the visible and toward the **spiritual realm**.
- ◇ **Preparation:** The last two weeks of Lent are a time of **immediate preparation** for the **Sacred Triduum** (Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday). The veils remind us to get ready for these significant liturgical events.
- ◇ **Anticipation:** The veils produce a **sense of anticipation** for Easter. When we attend Mass during this period, the covered images remind us that something extraordinary is approaching.
- ◇ **Domestic Practice:** Families are encouraged to imitate this practice at home by veiling prominent religious images. It helps us participate in the liturgical season, especially if we cannot attend Mass during the week.

2. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES:

- ◇ The **Roman Missal** instructs that in the Canada, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from the **Fifth Sunday of Lent** may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the **Celebration of the Lord's Passion** on Good Friday, while images remain covered until the beginning of the **Easter Vigil**.
- ◇ **Stations of the Cross** are an exception. They are not covered because they directly depict the **Passion of Christ** and serve as a powerful meditation during Lent.

3. SYMBOLISM:

- ◇ The veiled images remind us of our earthly life, which is like living in a **veiled world**—an exile from our true home. Just as the veils are removed before the **Easter Vigil**, we anticipate the unveiling of our true home in heaven.

In summary, the practice of veiling statues and crucifixes during Lent invites us to reflect, prepare, and eagerly await the joy of Easter.

ShareLife Inspired by God's love: Support ShareLife's mission

Today, as we contemplate God's boundless generosity, may we, too, be moved by this same spirit of generosity. May this inspire all of us to be kind, compassionate, and move us to share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in need.

Our first collection will be held next weekend, March 16th/17th. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

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



LENTEN RETREAT

*Voices of Lent
with Deb Goré*

All are encouraged to attend the parish Lenten Retreat on 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.

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