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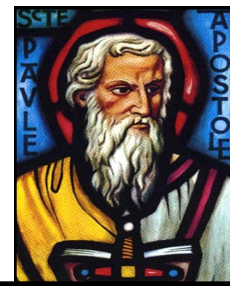
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# St. Paul the Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish

3224 Dundas Street West,  
 Toronto, Ontario M6P 2A3, Tel 416-767-7054  
 Email: [stpaultheapostleto@archtoronto.org](mailto:stpaultheapostleto@archtoronto.org)  
**FIFTH 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](http://stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org) or simply scan the QR code below.



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**Pastoral Team**  
 Fr. Roy Francis Farrell  
 Pastor  
 Deacon Raymond Frendo  
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**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 17, 2024

**Gospel Summary**  
 In today's Gospel, Jesus announces, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." But this glorification will take place only after his suffering and Death on the Cross. Jesus uses the example of a grain of wheat that only produces fruit when it falls to the ground and dies. He promises that those who die to themselves by serving him will know the reward of eternal life.

**Reflection for Parents**  
 Draw a timeline of your life in five- or ten-year increments (from birth to age ten, from age ten to age twenty, from age twenty to age thirty, and so forth). Leave room on the timeline to note any experiences of suffering, pain, and sorrow that you recall. Perhaps one of your parents died at a young age, a favorite pet died, your childhood friend moved away, or you lost your job.

After you complete your timeline, review it again and note the good that came after the times of suffering. Consider that two of the most important and most valuable lessons you can teach your children are to let go and to trust that good will come after or as a result of what may seem too difficult to bear.

**Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family**  
 Talk about recent or well-known news stories highlighting those who gave their lives so that others might live. Older family members will recall 9/11, and younger children may remember special collections they took part in for victims of hurricanes, fires, floods, and other natural disasters.

Go to [organdonor.gov](http://organdonor.gov) to find facts, inspiring real-life stories, and educational tools useful for talking with your family about the ways organ donors give of their lives so that others might live. Encourage family members age eighteen and older to register to be organ donors. Pray for all who have given their lives so that others might live.

**Discussion Starters**  
 A time of suffering, pain, and sorrow in my life was when...

1. As I look back on that time today, I feel...
2. A time in my life when something good came out of something awful was...
3. When I think of those who give their lives for others, I think of... because...

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## Mass Intentions

**Saturday, March 16**  
 4:30pm  
 • +Mary Ann Debono

**Sunday, March 17**  
 9:00am  
 • +Rita Caruana  
 10:30am  
 • +Mary Ann Debono  
 • +Peter Galea  
 • +Joseph Cucco  
 • +Rita Zammit  
 12:00 noon  
 • +Frank Cini

**Monday, March 18**  
 • +Joseph & Jane Farrugia

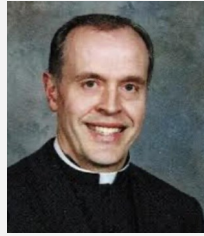
**Tuesday, March 19**  
 • +Michael Muscat

**Wednesday, March 20**  
 • +Maurice Shaw

**Thursday, March 21**  
 • +Emanuel & Lourdes Degiorgio

**Friday, March 22**  
 • +Mary Ann Debono

## From our Pastor's Desk...



In this week's reflection, I will explain the practice of covering statues and crucifixes with purple cloth during the fifth Sunday of Lent. This practice holds great symbolism and tradition within the Catholic Church. Now, let's delve into a theological reflection on this practice.

The veiling of sacred images in the church during the latter part of Lent, especially starting from the fifth Sunday, is a poignant reminder of the solemnity and penitential nature of this liturgical season. The color purple, associated with penance and preparation, envelops the church in an aura of introspection and contemplation.

This tradition, deeply rooted in the history of the Church, serves several theological and spiritual purposes:

1. **Heightened Awareness:** The sudden absence of visual comforts, such as the sight of the crucifix or statues, jolts the faithful into a heightened awareness of the Lenten journey. It is a visual cue that something profound and different is taking place.
2. **Focus on the Passion:** As the veils go up, the minds of the faithful are directed towards the Passion of Christ. The covered images create a sense of anticipation and focus on the narrative of Christ's suffering and death, which will be commemorated in the Holy Week.
3. **Longing for the Resurrection:** The veiled images also symbolize the reality that we see "through a glass, darkly" (1 Corinthians 13:12), and that the fullness of God's glory is hidden from us during our earthly pilgrimage. The unveiling that occurs at Easter resonates with the revelation of the Resurrected Christ, bringing hope and renewal.
4. **Solidarity with the Catechumens:** Historically, the final weeks of Lent were a period of intense preparation for the catechumens who would be baptized at the Easter Vigil. The veiling of images mirrors their journey from darkness to light, from blindness to sight.
5. **Mimicking the Veiling of Christ:** The veiling also recalls the moment when Christ hid himself and went out of the temple (John 8:59), just as he hides his glory from us during this time, only to reveal it fully in the Resurrection.

In essence, the veiling of statues with purple cloth is a physical expression of the spiritual realities that define the season of Lent. It is a practice that not only decorates the church but also decorates the soul with the virtues of humility, penance, and eager anticipation for the joy of Easter.

### ALTAR OF REPOSE

As we prepare to observe the sacred traditions of Holy Thursday and Good Friday, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your dedication and service in erecting the altar of repose. The altar of repose is a temporary altar where the Communion hosts, consecrated on Maundy Thursday during the Mass of the Lord's Supper, are placed or "reserved" for use on the following day, Good Friday. This is because no Mass is celebrated on Good Friday, the day when Christ's death is observed. The reserved hosts are used for Holy Communion on Good Friday and for viaticum for the dying. The altar of repose becomes a focal point for devotion and prayer, reflecting the solemnity of the occasion.

Your efforts have rekindled a pious tradition that has been a cornerstone of our parish for many years.

The altar of repose, a symbol of our faith and reverence, will stand in our parish hall as a testament to your devotion. It will serve as a sanctuary for silent prayer and reflection following our Holy Thursday Mass, continuing until 10:00 pm. On Good Friday morning, we will gather once more to offer additional prayers.

Your contribution to this holy endeavor ensures that our community can fully engage in these moments of solemn remembrance and spiritual contemplation. We are blessed by your generosity and spirit of

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION** As we approach Holy Week, the readings begin to point towards Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. His sacrifice was a sacrifice of love done to reconcile us with God. It is through His sacrifice that we now live in the new covenant between God and humanity. In the first reading, God tells the prophet Jeremiah, "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." Through Jesus, a new covenant is formed. One that is not ruled by strict adherence to laws and regulations, but rather one that is based on living in the love of God. The Lord says that He will write the covenant on our hearts. For the Lord to insist on writing it on our hearts, He implies that this covenant will be extremely personal and intimate. As stewards, we are called into a deep relationship and friendship with God. St. John Henry Newman's motto was "Cor ad cor loquitur", or "Heart speaks unto heart." He fully understood the depths and importance of what it means to be in an intimate relationship with God. Do we likewise try to foster a personal relationship with Christ? Jesus' life, death and resurrection forever changed the way we go to God in prayer. Let us strive to go to Him and bear our heart to Him, that we may be able to grow deeper in relationship with Christ.

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Come join us on **Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>** after all Sunday Masses in the lower hall for coffee, tea, baked goods, and great company.

If you are new to the community, this is a great opportunity to meet our Pastor, Fr. Roy and perhaps connect with fellow parishioners and begin to build friendships.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!!**

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



### ShareLife 1st Collection is March 17

ShareLife Sunday marks the first collection for our parish's annual campaign.

Every day, young people in our community need a helping hand due to homelessness, trafficking, or violence. ShareLife agencies ensure the safety of youth fleeing violent homes and provide them a supportive place to stay. This is all made possible thanks to amazing people like you who choose to support ShareLife. We thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Our parish goal this year is \$16,000.00. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate).

This year's Passover Seder Meal will be held on **Saturday, April 13th after the 4:30 pm Mass.** Doors will open at 5:30pm.

**Tickets:** Adults - \$25.00/person  
Children 12 yrs. & under - Free

Tickets will be available from the back of the church during all weekend Masses, or you may also call the parish office at 416-767-7054.

