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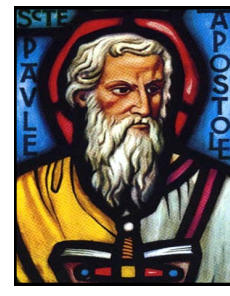
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# St. Paul the Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish

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

Email: [stpaultheapostleto@archtoronto.org](mailto:stpaultheapostleto@archtoronto.org)

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Gospel Summary

Jesus again says to his disciples, "Peace be with you." This startles and terrifies them, but Jesus shows them his hands and his feet, and they know that he is indeed who he says he is. He opens their minds to understand the Scriptures, and tells them that they have been witnesses to all the things the prophets foretold.

### Reflection for Parents

Think back over the years since your children were born. As you have watched them change and grow, where have you witnessed the power of God in their lives? How have you come to know, through watching them, that God is who he says he is— Creator, love, forgiveness, compassion, and mercy? What works of God have you been a witness to?

### Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family

Gather around your family prayer table. Place upon it a globe or a map of the world. Point out the countries that are served through your parish's missionary efforts or through the missionary efforts of the Church (see [crs.org](http://crs.org), the official Web site of Catholic Relief services, for information on the Church's worldwide outreach ministry). Explain that many people in such countries are witnesses to the power of God because of the support, prayers, and generosity of families just like your family. Think of ways your family can support the outreach efforts of your parish or of the worldwide Catholic Church. Pray together for missionaries throughout the world.

### Discussion Starters

In place of discussion starter questions, remain gathered around the globe or map of the world. Choose one country you have mentioned in your family discussion today. Work together to learn more about that country. What is its capital city? How many people live in that country? What is the major religion in that country? Try a food from that country. Draw a picture of that country's flag. Find out what the Catholic Church is doing to make a difference there. Make a commitment to pray for the people in that country who are in need and, if possible, donate to a missionary outreach that serves that country.

## 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  
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 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

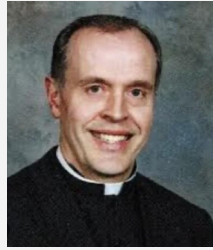
**OFFICE HOURS**  
 Monday to Friday  
 9:00am to 4:30pm  
 (Priest is always available by appointment)

**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.

April 14, 2024

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## From our Pastor's Desk...



As we rejoice in the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us remember that Easter is not just a single day, but a glorious season of **50 days** leading up to the solemnity of Pentecost. This is a time for renewal, for deepening our faith, and for sharing the Good News with others.

**Continue in Prayer and Reflection** Easter Sunday may have passed, but our journey with the Risen Christ is just beginning. Let us continue to pray and reflect on the mystery of our salvation. Here are some ways to pray during this season:

**An Easter Prayer** "Good and gracious God, as we greet the signs of Spring, we give you praise for the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. May the promise of immortality and the triumph of justice and love over death inspire us to live the promise given to us, reaching out to the poor and marginalized, and being neighbor to all those we meet."

**Joyous Time of Year** "May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year bring peace and happiness to you and those you hold most dear. And may Christ, Our Risen Savior, always be there by your side to bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide."

**Share the Faith** Easter is a beautiful liturgical season to share our faith and evangelize. Here are some suggestions:

**Read the Acts of the Apostles** - Immerse yourself in the excitement of the early disciples as they responded to Jesus' mission. Discuss the insights with friends or family members.

**Invite Someone to Mass** - invite a friend or family member who may have been away from the church.

**Share the Love** - Show interest, love, and concern to everyone you meet and build relationships that can lead to sharing your faith.

Let us use this time to grow in our spiritual life and to spread the joy and hope of Easter to all. May the Holy Spirit guide us as we approach the solemnity of Pentecost, and may our hearts be open to the renewal it brings.

- Fr. Roy

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION:** Befriending God One of the most wholesome and life-giving relationships we can enjoy in this life is that of friendships. The book of Sirach says that "faithful friends are a sturdy shelter; whoever finds one has found a treasure." Of course, the greatest friendship that we can have is our friendship with God. However, many people find it difficult to see God, the creator of the universe, as a friend. This is why Jesus became incarnate as a man, so that He could reveal God to us in a way that we could more fully grasp. The Catechism teaches that "Jesus is inseparably true God and true man. He is truly the Son of God who, without ceasing to be God and Lord, became a man and our brother" (CCC 469). Since we know what it is like to befriend other humans, we can extend this same means of friendship to Jesus. However, this friendship doesn't remain like all of our other friendships. Rather, since Jesus is also fully God, our friendship with Him also implies that we are friends with God. This beautiful reality of Jesus being both God and man is visible in the Gospel today. Jesus appears to the disciples in His glorious new risen body, yet like all humans, he took a piece of fish and ate it. While this is a small example, it points to the reality of Jesus' identity. As stewards, our friendship with God is the most important relationship we need to foster. Let us take some time each day in prayer to converse with Jesus as we would a close friend and by doing so, enjoy friendship with God.

We all love having friends and since we know what it is like to befriend other humans, we can extend this same means of friendship to Jesus because he too is fully human. However, this friendship doesn't remain like all of our other friendships but is elevated to the status of being friends with God, since Jesus is also fully God. As stewards, let us take some time each day in prayer to converse with Jesus as we would a close friend and by doing so, enjoy friendship with God.

*Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.*



Through ShareLife, you help refugees find safety and freedom

Your generous gift to ShareLife is crucial for immigrants and refugees establishing a new life in Canada. Your love and support have not only provided them with safety and freedom, but have also given them the opportunity to create a brighter future in our community.

Thus far we have raised **\$2,205.00** toward our goal of **\$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).

Thank you for living the Gospel through ShareLife!

Growing in faith as a Catholic involves both spiritual practices and practical steps. Here are some simple ways to deepen your faith:



1. **Attend Mass each Sunday:** Prioritize Mass attendance on Sundays. It's the heart of our faith journey.
2. **Monthly Confession:** Regularly seek God's mercy through confession.
3. **Daily Prayers:** Set aside time for prayer each day. Consider incorporating prayers into your daily routine.
4. **Reading:** Explore spiritual books, including the Bible and writings from saints.
5. **Acts of Mercy:** Perform daily acts of kindness and mercy.
6. **Read Daily Mass Readings:** Reflect on the Scriptures.
7. **Pray the Rosary:** Start with a decade and gradually build up.
8. **Show Gratitude:** Practice daily gratitude for all you have.

Remember, it's about taking small steps and growing steadily.

**VOCATION REFLECTION** What could convince someone to turn to God? The story that God became human? The story that Jesus cured the sick? The story that Jesus forgave sin? The story that Jesus rose from the dead? Or, perhaps, the story of the witness of your own life!

If you have the continuing inclination that God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, call **Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.**

[vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org) [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)



**Praying with specific intentions** is a beautiful practice that allows us to focus our hearts and minds on particular needs or desires. When we approach a saint with a specific request, it demonstrates our trust in God's providence and His ability to work through others.

**A novena** is a series of prayers said over **nine consecutive days**, often seeking divine favour or expressing gratitude. The tradition of novenas dates back to the early days of Christianity, and it is rooted in the nine days that the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary spent in prayer between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday.

Now, let's explore a **short novena to St. Therese of Lisieux**, also known as the Little Flower. St. Therese is a beloved saint who encourages us to approach God with childlike confidence and trust:

### **NOVENA TO ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX Day 1**

Dearest Saint Therese of Lisieux, you promised to spend your time in heaven doing good on earth. Pray that God may increase my trust in His goodness and mercy as I ask for the following petitions: *(State your intention clearly and confidently)*

Pray for me that I, like you, may have great and innocent confidence in the loving promises of our God. May I live my life in union with God's plan for me and one day see the Face of God whom you loved so deeply. Help me be faithful to our loving God, bringing peace and love to the world through faithful endurance in love for Him.

Loving God, bless me with the capacity for great love. Strengthen my belief in Your unconditional love for each of Your children, especially for me. Amen.

Feel free to continue this novena for the next eight days, expressing your specific intentions to St. Therese. She intercedes for us with her innocent confidence, just as she promised to do from heaven.