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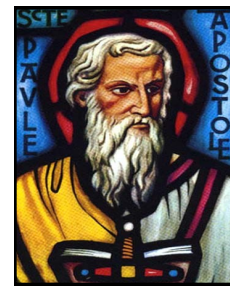
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3224 Dundas Street West,
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 Email: stpaultheapostleto@archtoronto.org

Visit Our Website

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 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: 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.

December 8, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gospel Summary
 In today's Gospel, Luke places the beginning of John the Baptist's ministry within a historical context. He sets John's ministry in time by telling us who were the rulers and leaders in the region. We recognize many of the names— Pontius Pilate, Herod, Annas, and Caiaphas. Into this time comes John, proclaiming a baptism of repentance and preparing the way of the Lord.

Reflection for Parents
 Valleys, mountains, winding roads, and rough ways are all a part of the journey of life. As parents, our task is to teach our children how to apply faith in God and Christian values to help straighten out or make right what is wrong, and to help make smooth what is difficult or rough. Seeking forgiveness from one another and from God is one of the greatest ways we can do so. Take a few moments to ask God to place within you a forgiving heart so that you may teach your children to walk in the ways of forgiveness and love.

Bringing the Good News Into Your Family
 As a family, recall the bumpiest, hilliest, most snow-covered, pothole-full, curviest, narrowest, and scariest roads you have ever driven on. Talk about things that create the bumps, hills, potholes, curves, and dangers on the road to Heaven. For example, anger creates a bump on the road to Heaven and little white lies create curves in the straight path to God. Then brainstorm things you can do this Advent to smooth and straighten the road to God, including forgiving one another and following God's Word.

- Discussion Starters**
1. If I could give one message about God to everyone I know, my message would be . . .
 2. Something that keeps getting in my way on the road to Heaven is . . .
 3. One thing I can do to make the way of the Lord straighter is . . .

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Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 7
4:30pm
 • +Schembri & Grech Family

Sunday, December 8
Second Sunday of Advent
9:00am
 • +Missa Pro Populo

10:30am
 • +Anthony & John Sultana
 • +Joseph Farrugia
 • +Olga Pace
 • +Matilda & Joseph Zammit

12:00 noon
 • +Frank Cini

Monday, December 9
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 • +All Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday, December 10
 • +Sam Debono

Wednesday, December 11
 • +Cutajar & Zammit Family

Thursday, December 12
 • +Eugenio Sturino, Mariano, Amalia & Adelina Stellato

Friday, December 13
St. Lucy
 • +All Souls in Purgatory

From the Pastor...

In this week's corner I will to reflect on to reflect on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a feast that holds profound significance in our Catholic faith. This solemnity, usually celebrated on December 8th, is transferred to December 9th this year as the 8th falls on a Sunday. It provides us a moment to ponder and celebrate the divine grace bestowed upon the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was conceived without original sin.

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception was formally declared by Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1854. This declaration affirmed that from the very first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, Mary was preserved immune from all stain of original sin.

As we reflect on this great mystery, we are reminded of Mary's unique role in salvation history. Chosen to be the mother of our Lord, she was graced with a purity that prepared her to bear the Son of God. This feast invites us to grow in our love and devotion to Mary, recognizing her as our model of faith and obedience to God's will.

To grow in our love for the Blessed Virgin Mary, we can:

- **Pray the Rosary:** This beautiful prayer helps us meditate on the significant events in the life of Jesus and Mary.
- **Seek her intercession:** Mary is always ready to intercede for us with her Son. Let us bring our petitions to her with confidence.

Imitate her virtues: Mary's life was one of humility, obedience, and unwavering faith. Let us strive to embody these virtues in our own lives.

As we honor Mary on this solemn feast, let us also deepen our commitment to living out our faith with the same devotion and trust that she exemplified.

Parish Announcement

We warmly invite you to join us for a bilingual Mass on December 9th at 9:15 AM to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Following the Mass, there will be a reception in the parish hall. This will be a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and to reflect together on the blessings of this holy day.

May God bless you all abundantly, and may the Blessed Virgin Mary continue to guide and protect us with her maternal love.

Thank you, and God bless.

Fr. Roy

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH** - Confessions from 10:00 am to 12 noon in English and Maltese.
- ◆ **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH** - **Annual Christmas Concert is cancelled.**
- ◆ **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND**
 - ◇ **12 noon Mass** - Anointing of the Sick
 - ◇ **1:00** - Senior's Christmas Luncheon hosted by the Maltese Canadian Cultural Association (MCCA). Tickets for the luncheon are \$20.00 per person and can be purchased from the Parish Office during office hours at 416-767-7054, or from the back of the church after all Sunday Masses.

JUBILEE YEAR



The Catholic Church will celebrate a special Jubilee Year in 2025. This tradition began in 1300 when Pope Boniface VIII introduced the first Jubilee, also known as a "Holy Year". The frequency of Jubilee years has varied over time. Initially, they were celebrated every 100 years, then every 50 years, and more recently, every 25 years or as requested by the Holy Father. The Jubilee Year includes many celebrations within the city of Rome and also local initiatives in

dioceses around the world. The theme of the 2025 Jubilee will be "Pilgrims of Hope". In the words of Pope Francis: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to

gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision."

The Holy Father will open the Jubilee Year on December 24, 2024. This will be done with the official opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica. The Jubilee Year will continue until January 6, 2026, which is the Solemnity of the Epiphany. On this day, the Holy Door will be closed.

In the Archdiocese of Toronto, we will open the Jubilee Year with a Solemn Opening Mass taking place on Sunday, December 29, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. Reconciliation will be prior to the Eucharist from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION In the Gospel this Second Sunday of Advent we hear about the proclamation of John the Baptist. John's vocation in life was to "prepare the way of the Lord, [and] make his paths straight." He played the vital role of closing out the line of prophets that all pointed to Jesus. As stewards, all of us are called in a similar way to imitate John the Baptist and point others to Christ. Evangelization is an essential aspect of our stewardship. One of the greatest gifts we can ever receive is the knowledge and love of Christ in our lives. A gift as great as this cannot be held for ourselves but must be shared with as many people as possible. This Advent season, let us help share the true meaning of Christmas to our friends and family members, especially those who may have fallen away from their faith. However, all evangelization must be done in truth and charity. St. Thomas Aquinas says, "To convert somebody go and take them by the hand and guide them." This is the crucial image we must keep in mind as we strive to spread the faith. Evangelization requires work. We must lovingly and patiently meet others where they are and slowly walk with them as they discover the mysteries and beauties of the Church. Perhaps one action we can try is to invite someone to Mass with us next week. Let us strive to use this season of Advent to grow in our spirit of evangelization.

In the Gospel today we hear of the proclamation of John the Baptist, and as stewards, all of us are called to imitate him and lead others to Christ. St. Thomas Aquinas says, "To convert somebody go and take them by the hand and guide them." We must lovingly and patiently meet others where they are and slowly walk with them as they discover the mysteries and beauties of the Church.

Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES - DECEMBER 12

On 12 December, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Church in Canada marks the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples.

This initiative of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has been coordinated since 2002 by the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council (formerly the Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Council). This year, the reflection by the Council is inspired by Pope Francis's words of healing and reconciliation spoken during his "penitential pilgrimage" to Canada.

Together we pray:

O God, Creator and Father of all, with humility and hope, we, your children, acknowledge the relationship in You of all living things. For this we thank You and praise You.

We call on You, Great Mystery, our God who comes to us in Jesus Christ, Your Son – our Lord, teacher, prophet and brother – to open our minds and hearts as we continue to walk the difficult, yet critical journey of reconciliation and healing.

In our world of such blessed diversity, we see so many struggles and obstacles to oneness and unity.

We implore You to heal our brokenness and division. Show us in Jesus the way to unity among the multiplicity of Your peoples in our world.

We also pray that You will guide and lead us in the Truth, and show us how to be a people who walk with You. May we be a people of Respect, Humility, Courage, Honesty, and Compassion - as we find Your Wisdom on the Spirit-led journey that supports deep healing and fosters renewed relationships. Lord, make us channels of Your Peace, Hope, and Love! Amen