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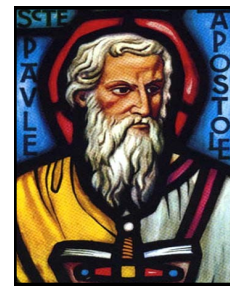
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# St. Paul the Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish

3224 Dundas Street West,  
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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: 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.

January 5, 2025

**Gospel Summary**  
The Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, asking the whereabouts of the newborn king of the Jews. Herod was troubled by this news of the birth, as was all of Jerusalem. He sent the Magi to Bethlehem to search for the child, asking that they bring the child to him so that he could do the child homage. The Magi set out and followed the star to the place where the child was. They did the child homage and offered him their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they left for their country by a different route.

**Reflection for Parents**  
This Gospel narrative is full of adventure, danger, mystery, and yes—gifts! During this Christmas season, enjoy dramatizing this Gospel as a family. Then think about how far you would travel, how far you would go to pay homage to Jesus. Would you go as far as your parish to receive the Sacraments or to spend some time in quiet prayer? Would you go as far as the soup kitchen to serve a meal to the hungry? Would you go as far as to tell someone to stop bullying a classmate or a coworker? Would you go as far as to give up a morning cup of coffee or a favorite treat in order to give to someone in need the gift of food or clothing or the necessities of life? How far would you go? What would you give as your gifts to the King?

**Bringing the Gospel into Your Family**  
The star led the Magi to the place where Jesus was. With your family, cut out several yellow construction paper stars. On each star write either a way you can find Jesus—such as “read God’s Word”—or the name of a person who has helped you find Jesus, such as “Grandma Joan.” Create a mobile of your stars using coat hangers and yarn or string. Hang your stars in a place where all family members will see them.

**Discussion Starters**

1. I can be like a star and show Jesus to others by . . .
2. The greatest gift I can give Jesus is . . .
3. The greatest gift our family can give Jesus is . . .

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**Visit Our Website**  
[stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org](http://stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org)

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, January 4**  
4:30pm  
Epiphany of the Lord  
• +Emanuel Grech

**Sunday, January 5**  
Epiphany of the Lord  
9:00am  
• +Emanuel & James Magro  
10:30am  
• +George Pulo  
• +Vic & Josephine Attard & Family  
• +Joseph Farrugia  
• +Frank Cini  
• +Emanuel Mercieca  
• +Carmen Gauci  
• +Tony Axiak  
12:00 noon  
• +Missa Pro Populo

**Monday, January 6**  
St. André Bessette, Religious  
• +All Souls in Purgatory

**Tuesday, January 7**  
St. Raymond of Peñafort, Priest  
• +Anna Muscat

**Wednesday, January 8**  
• +Doris, Catherine & Joseph Micallef

**Thursday, January 9**  
• +Carmela, Emanuel & Tessie Psaila

**Friday, January 10**  
• +Bonello Family



# From the Pastor...

This weekend we celebrate Epiphany, one of the oldest Christian feasts. The word "Epiphany" comes from a Greek verb meaning "to reveal." On this day, we remember how Jesus was revealed to the world as the Son of God.

Originally, Epiphany celebrated four events: the Baptism of Jesus, His first miracle at the wedding in Cana, His birth (the Nativity), and the visit of the Wise Men. Each of these events shows us who Jesus is:

At His Baptism, the Holy Spirit descended and God's voice said Jesus is His Son.

At the wedding in Cana, Jesus performed a miracle by changing water into wine.

At His birth, angels announced His arrival and shepherds came to worship Him.

When the Wise Men visited, they recognized Jesus' divinity and brought Him gifts.

Epiphany is important because it marks the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas, which begin with Jesus' birth and end with His revelation to the Gentiles (non-Jews) when the Wise Men visited.

In many parts of Europe, Epiphany is as important as Christmas. People exchange gifts to remember the Wise Men's gifts to Jesus.

Epiphany is also called Three Kings Day because of the Gospel reading about the Wise Men. These strangers from afar honored Jesus, not His own people or King Herod. This shows that Jesus came for everyone, not just the Jews.

As disciples of Jesus, Epiphany reminds us to follow His light and share it with others. We seek Jesus in our daily lives and try to live according to His teachings. This means showing love, kindness, and helping those in need.

New Year's resolutions are common during this time. While it's good to set personal goals, let's also resolve to show God's love by doing something extra for those we love and our community. As St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the gospel at all times. When necessary, use words."

May we continue to seek Jesus, follow His light, and live our faith with joy and commitment. Let us share His love and shine His light for the world to see.

- Fr. Roy

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION** Being a Visible Witness As we continue along in this wondrous season of Christmas, we are invited to reflect on the Epiphany of the Lord this Sunday. The word epiphany means "to make manifest" or "to make known." So on this feast day we are celebrating how God made himself known to all the nations, which is symbolized through the visit of the foreign Magi. As stewards, we are called to help the Church in her efforts to continue to make Christ known to the ends of the earth. The way of stewardship is essentially a call to evangelization. The greatest gift we can share with others is not money or food, but the knowledge and love of Christ. Pope Francis says that "we cannot keep ourselves shut up in parishes, in our communities, when so many people are waiting for the Gospel!" We must go out of our comfort zone to bring others to Jesus. One way we can evangelize others is by simply living as visible Catholic disciples in our world. In today's secular culture, any act of religiosity is seen as a radical witness of our faith. For example, whenever we are eating in public, we can begin with the sign of the cross and our grace before meals. Moreover, St. John Paul II said that we should not be "ashamed to recite the Rosary alone, while you walk along the streets to school, to the university or to work, or as you commute by public transport." Let us strive to be a sign of our faith to the world. Summary The feast of the Epiphany of the Lord celebrates how God made himself known to all the nations, which is symbolized through the visit of the foreign Magi. As stewards, we are called to help the Church in her efforts to make Christ known to the ends of the earth and we can do this by simply being a visible witness of our faith. Let us strive to make small actions that display our love for Christ such as saying grace before meals in public, praying the rosary on the bus or saying "God bless you" when someone sneezes or we say goodbye.

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



**Jubilee 2025**  
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Pope Francis recently inaugurated the 2025 Jubilee of Hope, a significant event for the Catholic Church that occurs every 25 years, encouraging Catholics to make pilgrimages to Rome. This year, Pope Francis chose "Hope" as the central theme of the Jubilee. Pilgrims can obtain an indulgence by visiting the Holy Doors at designated basilicas

in Rome, such as St. Peter's Basilica, which was opened on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024. In addition to St. Peter's Basilica, a Holy Door was also opened at Rome's Rebibbia Prison to symbolize hope for inmates. Pilgrims must pass through metal detectors and other security checks to enter St. Peter's Square. The Jubilee will conclude with the closing of the Holy Door on January 6, 2026, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Pope Francis emphasized that the Jubilee aims to strengthen faith and recognize Christ in our midst. The Jubilee also includes special events and celebrations, such as the canonization of Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint.

**Here is the prayer composed by Pope Francis for the Jubilee:**

*"Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen."*

## UPDATE ON HEATING SYSTEM FOR THE CHURCH

After weeks of discussing the best heating system, the project is now **complete**. The cost is close to **\$80,000**. Our accumulated savings funded the project.

It's not surprising that an older building like ours will, from time to time, require repair or replacement, depending on the need. Although we don't expect any immediate future issues that require fixing, we feel it prudent to keep our savings at a comfortable level in order to handle our day-to-day expenses.

For those who wish to **donate** to this project, please mark your envelopes "New Heating System." No amount is too small. We want to keep our church building in great condition for the years to come. We rely on your support. We will issue a receipt for income tax purposes.

I would like to **thank** those who were directly involved in helping to get this project going. I relied on the expertise of the parishioners to advise me. After the discussion, I made the final decision that I felt was best for the parish.

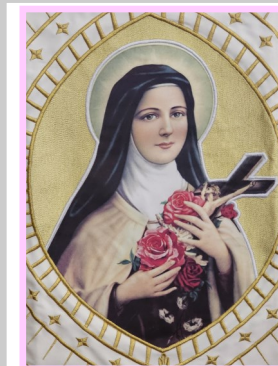
## VOCATION REFLECTION

### Epiphany of the Lord - January 5, 2025

"On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." God asks us to give our lives. What treasures have been given to you to share with others in Christ's name?

If God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon contact 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)



The next **ST. THERESE PRAYER GROUP MEETING** will be held on **Tuesday, January 7, 2025** following the 9:15 morning Mass.