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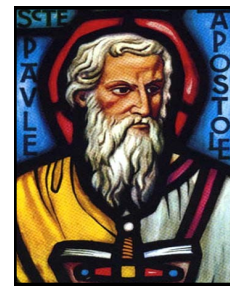
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 Fr. Roy Francis Farrell
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 Deacon Raymond Frendo
 Permanent Deacon

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: 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 12, 2025

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Gospel Summary
 Jesus came to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. At first John objected and said that it was he, John, who should be baptized by Jesus. Jesus indicated a future baptism when he responded to John saying that it was fitting for John to baptize Jesus. John acquiesced and at the conclusion of the baptism, the Spirit came down from heaven in the form of a dove and clearly announced Jesus as his son. God was pleased with His son.

Reflection for Families
 Most parents know what it means to be pleased with our children. Even when they do things that annoy, challenge, or disappoint us, we love our children. Although we experience some notion of unconditional love with our own children, it is difficult for us to grasp the magnitude of God's love for us, even when we annoy, challenge, or disappoint Him. Through our Baptism, we are members of God's family and will know the unconditional love of a parent.

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family
 Bring out pictures and memoirs of each person's Baptism—even the parents'. Recall each baptism and share memories of the day with one another. Continue by sharing ways you have each continued to grow as members of God's family.

Discussion Starters

1. As a child of God, I know God is pleased with me because . . .
2. My own Baptism is important to me because . . .
3. One time I can recall that our family lived out our baptismal promises was when . . .

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Visit Our Website
stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 11
4:30pm
Baptism of the Lord
 • +Vincenza Darmanin

Sunday, January 12
Baptism of the Lord
9:00am
 • +Rita Caruana

10:30am
 • Missa Pro Populo

12:00 noon
 • +Joe Sammut

Monday, January 13
 • +Doris Criminale Keller

Tuesday, January 14
 • +Zammit, Clark & Cutajar Families

Wednesday, January 15
 • +All Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, January 16
 • +All Souls in Purgatory

Friday, January 17
St. Anthony, Abbot
 • +Frank Tanti

From the Pastor...

This week, I want to talk about the Jubilee Year called by Pope Francis. It's a special time in the Catholic Church, filled with grace and pilgrimage. The Jubilee Year, which started on Christmas Eve, 2024, is focused on the theme of "Hope". Pope Francis chose this theme to remind us of the significance of hope, especially during difficult times.

What is the Jubilee?

The Jubilee is a special holy year in the Catholic Church, traditionally celebrated every 25 years. It is a time for the faithful to make pilgrimages to Rome, seeking spiritual renewal and forgiveness³. This year's Jubilee, however, is unique as it focuses on hope and the need to bring hope to those who are suffering.

Why was it called?

Pope Francis called this Jubilee to emphasize the importance of hope in our world today. In his papal bull, "Spes Non Confudit" (Hope Does Not Disappoint), he invites us to open our hearts to hope and to be a source of hope for others. The Pope's message is clear: hope is not indifferent but requires courage and action.

The Purpose of the Jubilee

The purpose of the Jubilee is to strengthen our faith, recognize Christ in our midst, and transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope. It is a time for us to reflect on our lives, seek forgiveness, and renew our commitment to living out our faith.

Holy Doors

One of the most significant traditions of the Jubilee is the opening of the Holy Doors. The Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica was opened by Pope Francis on Christmas Eve, symbolizing the beginning of the Jubilee Year. Holy Doors are a powerful symbol of the Church's call to holiness and the opening of our hearts to God's grace. In our Archdiocese of Toronto, the Holy Door at **St. Michael's Cathedral** will be opened, inviting all of us to walk through it in a spirit of pilgrimage and renewal.

Plenary Indulgence

During the Jubilee Year, the Church grants a plenary indulgence to those who fulfill certain conditions. A plenary indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment due for sins that have already been forgiven in confession. To receive this indulgence, one must make a pilgrimage to the Holy Door, receive the Sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist, and pray for the intentions of the Pope.

Conclusion

As we embark on this Jubilee Year, let us embrace the theme of hope and strive to be beacons of light in our communities. May this special time of grace bring us closer to God and inspire us to live out our faith with renewed vigor and joy.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a significant event in the Christian liturgical calendar, particularly for Roman Catholics. Celebrated on the Sunday after the Epiphany, it marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time.

The feast commemorates the baptism of Jesus Christ by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. According to the Gospel accounts, this event is notable for several reasons:

- Divine Revelation:** During Jesus' baptism, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove. Additionally, a voice from heaven declared, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." This moment is seen as a powerful revelation of the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- The Start of Jesus' Public Ministry:** Jesus' baptism signifies the beginning of His public ministry. It marks His anointing by the Holy Spirit and His mission to bring salvation to humanity.

Example for Believers: Jesus' baptism serves as an example for Christians. Although Jesus was sinless, His baptism by John, who preached repentance, symbolizes humility and the importance of baptism for believers as a sacrament of initiation and purification.

This feast is a time for Catholics to reflect on their own baptism and its significance in their spiritual journey. The celebration usually includes special prayers and readings during Mass that focus on the themes of baptism, the Holy Spirit, and the manifestation of Jesus as the Son of God.

It's a beautiful moment to contemplate the profound mysteries of faith and the divine love revealed through Jesus' life and ministry.

- Fr. Roy

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION This Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The Catechism says that the sacrament of "baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission." Let us reflect on how Jesus' baptism can teach us more about our own baptism. Firstly, Jesus didn't need to get baptized because he was already without sin. However, in doing so, He became a model for how we should be baptized for the forgiveness of our sins. Similarly, as stewards we are called to be authentic models of the faith to others. When people see us, do they see what it means to be a disciple? We should be examples of how to live a holy and virtuous life so that others may be inspired by our lives of stewardship. Moreover, not only is it important to do good, but we must also consciously try to avoid anything that may scandal others. All of the baptized, especially stewards, represent Christ and the Church. If we perform actions that are negative or hurtful, people who observe us may be turned away from the faith. Of course, we are all human and are bound to make mistakes, but we should strive to avoid anything that may significantly hinder others from accepting the faith. Let us always turn to Jesus for help, our true model of holiness and stewardship.

As we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we should first realize that Jesus didn't need to be baptized but rather did so in order to give us an example to imitate. Similarly, as stewards we are called to be authentic models of the faith so that others can be inspired by our witness. Moreover, it is extremely important that we avoid anything that may scandal others because this could drive them away from the Church. Let us strive to be true models of the faith.

Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.

UPDATE ON HEATING SYSTEM FOR THE CHURCH

After weeks of careful consideration and deliberation, we have successfully installed a new heating system that will ensure warmth and comfort for all members of our congregation.

The total cost of the project amounted to approximately \$80,000, which was funded through our accumulated savings. We are grateful for the diligent efforts of our finance committee in managing our finances and allocating the funds for this important undertaking.

As we all know, older buildings like ours require regular maintenance I am pleased to provide you with an update on the recent completion of the and occasional repairs. While we do not expect any immediate issues, it is essential to maintain a comfortable level of savings to cover our day-to-day expenses and handle any unforeseen circumstances that may arise.

Considering this, we kindly invite those who wish to contribute to this project to mark their envelopes with the designation "New Heating System." Every donation, regardless of size, will contribute to the preservation and upkeep of our cherished church building for the years to come. We sincerely rely on your support and generosity.

We will provide receipts for all donations made for income tax purposes. Your contributions are vital to our parish's community's continued success, and we appreciate them.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who were directly involved in making this project a reality. I am truly thankful for the expertise and guidance provided by our dedicated parishioners, whose valuable insights and recommendations helped me make the final decision that I believe is in the best interest of our parish.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support, and may God bless you abundantly.