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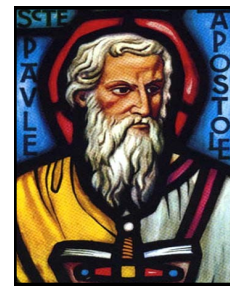
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Pastoral Team
 Fr. Roy Francis Farrell
 Pastor
 Deacon Raymond Frendo
 Permanent Deacon

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.

February 2, 2025

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Gospel Summary
 In today's Gospel we read that Mary and Joseph honored God's law by taking Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem in order to present him to the Lord. There we encounter Simeon, a man of great faith who believed in God's promise that he would see the Christ of the Lord before he died. We are also introduced to the prophetess Anna, who worshiped in the Temple day and night. Following the presentation, the Holy Family returned to Nazareth in Galilee, where Jesus grew and became strong.

Reflection for Parents
 As parents we can appreciate the way that Mary and Joseph honored God's law by presenting Jesus in the Temple. Most of us have presented our own children for Baptism in our own parish churches. These are important events in the journey of faith. But the very end of today's Gospel, which speaks of the return to Nazareth where the child Jesus continued to grow, reminds us that it is in the days after and in-between such events that faith is lived out, learned, and strengthened in daily family life. What we say and do in the ordinary moments of ordinary days together helps shape who our children will become.

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family
 Recall Simeon and Anna, two elderly people of faith who are introduced in today's Gospel passage. Help your children recall the elderly members of your family and their ancestors who kept the faith throughout the ages. Show your children pictures of these faithful women and men, and share what you know about them. If you have kept a family tree in your Bible, review it with your children. As an alternative, create together a family tree that allows space for drawings, photographs, short stories, and the names of your ancestors in faith. Place this family tree in a place where all family members can see it and add to it.

Discussion Starters
 In place of discussion starters today, invite your family to take part in the following suggested prayer and action.

- Prayer:** Make a list of all of the elderly members of your family and their ancestors whose names were mentioned today. Read the names one at a time, inviting family members to respond, "Pray for us."
- Action:** As a family, think about an elderly family member, neighbor, or friend in need of special help or care. Decide on an action you can take as a family to help the person who comes to mind. Make a plan to take action within the next week.

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Visit Our Website
stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 1
Presentation of the Lord
4:30pm

- +Maurice Porlier

Sunday, February 2
Presentation of the Lord
9:00am

- +Emanuel & James Magro

10:30am

- +Vic, Josephine Attard & Family
- +Carmel, Emanuel & Tessie Psaila
- +George Pulo

12:00 noon

- Missa Pro Populo

Monday, February 3
St. Blaise

- +Doris, Joseph & Catherine Micallef

Tuesday, February 4

- For the intentions of Leli Cutajar

Wednesday, February 5
St. Agatha

- +Anna Menna

Thursday, February 6
St. Paul Miki and Companions

- +Joseph Farrugia

Friday, February 7

- +Vincent, Emanuel & Rose Micallef

From the Pastor...

As we journey through the liturgical year, February brings us two significant celebrations: the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd and the Memorial of St. Blaise on February 3rd.

The Presentation of the Lord On February 2nd, we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas Day. This feast commemorates the presentation of Jesus in the Temple by Mary and Joseph, in accordance with Jewish law. It marks the moment when Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, the Light to the nations. This celebration highlights the importance of Jesus' presence as a light in our lives and calls us to reflect on our own call to be light for others. Traditionally, candles are blessed on this day, symbolizing Christ as the Light of the World.

The Memorial of St. Blaise On February 3rd, we remember St. Blaise, a 4th-century bishop and martyr known for his miraculous healings, particularly of throat ailments. Following the homily during the 9:15 am Mass, we will have the blessing of throats, invoking St. Blaise's intercession for protection from illnesses. This tradition is a beautiful reminder of God's care for us and the intercessory power of the saints.

Jubilee Year Celebrations We invite all parishioners to join us in celebrating the Opening Jubilee Year Masses in the Central Region of the Archdiocese of Toronto. The Masses will be held at:

- **St. Paul's Basilica (83 Power Street)** on Wednesday, February 12th, celebrated by Bishop Kasun
- **St. Mary's Church (588 Adelaide Street)** on Thursday, February 20th, celebrated by Bishop Kasun
- **St. Edward the Confessor Church (75 Churchill Ave)** on Tuesday, February 25th, celebrated by Cardinal Francis Leo

All Masses will begin at 7:00 pm, with confession times from 5:30 pm to 6:45 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and reflect on the blessings of our faith.

Thank You for Your Support I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all parishioners for your generous contributions to the fund for our new heating system. The amount collected so far is \$18,250.00. The money raised at the St. Paul's Feast dinner and dance will go towards this much-needed project. Your ongoing support is deeply appreciated and makes a significant difference in the life of our parish.

Blessings to you and your families as we continue to grow in faith and service.

- Fr. Roy

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION This Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. We reflect on Joseph and Mary taking the child Jesus up to the temple and the prophet Simeon taking the child into his arms. Simeon was an elderly prophet in Jerusalem to whom it had been revealed that "he would not see death before he had seen the Christ" (Luke 2: 26). After labouring in the temple for his entire life, Simeon was rewarded with the gift of beholding Christ with his own eyes.

The reward of Simeon is the reward awaiting all of Christ's faithful stewards. The reward of beholding Him with utter joy and peace in Heaven. The USCCB write in their Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, "What is the reward to which good stewards can look forward? The answer is perfect fulfillment in God's Kingdom." It is in God's Kingdom that we will enjoy the beatific vision for all eternity.

So when the commitment to our life of stewardship becomes difficult and we're tempted to despair, let us remember the reward of Simeon that awaits the faithful steward. This remembrance should help us increase our labours of love for God and the Church for we know that we are not doing it for any other purpose than unity with God for all eternity. This is the goal of our Christian lives.

Summary

After labouring in the temple for his entire life, Simeon was rewarded with the gift of beholding Christ with his own eyes. The reward of Simeon is the reward awaiting all of Christ's faithful stewards. So when the commitment to our life of stewardship becomes difficult and we're tempted to despair, let us remember the reward that awaits us of beholding Him with utter joy and peace in Heaven.

Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.



St. Paul's Feast DINNER & DANCE

on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025

Doors open at 5:30 pm

Five-Course Meal, Cash Bar

Raffle Prizes, Music by DJ

Tickets: Adults - \$50; Children 5-12 - \$25.00, 4 & under - Free

For more information or to purchase tickets,
please call **Freda Mifsud at 416-762-1891.**

MARRIAGE SUNDAY On the second Sunday of February each year, the Archdiocese of Toronto celebrates **Marriage Sunday**. In 2025, it will be celebrated on the weekend of February 8/9. This occasion highlights the importance of the institution of marriage rooted in faith, affirms couples who strengthen our faith community through their witness, and complements World Marriage Sunday celebrations that take place across North America.

Parishes and the lay faithful are called upon to affirm the sacrament of Matrimony and to honour married couples in the community. We are also grateful to those who assist couples as they prepare for marriage and to those engaged in marriage enrichment programs or lay movements to support the sacrament of Matrimony.

As part of Marriage Sunday 2025 celebrations, Bishop Ivan Camilleri will preside at a special Mass to honour married couples, with special recognition for those celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+ wedding anniversaries in 2025. The Mass will take place **at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 9, 2025 at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica (65 Bond Street, Toronto)**. All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their marriage commitment.

All are welcome to attend. Couples celebrating a 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60+ anniversary in 2025 may register for reserved seating. All other seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Those who are unable to attend at the Cathedral are invited to join the celebration via [livestream Mass](#). The broadcast will begin at 2:15 p.m.

Registration and other important information can be found at www.archtoronto.org/marriage.

VOCATION REFLECTION No prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. Do not be discouraged by jeers when considering priesthood, diaconate, or religious life.

If God is calling you contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca



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

TAX RECEIPTS FOR DONATIONS MADE IN 2024 are currently being prepared. You can expect to receive yours in the mail during the week of February 9th. Thank you all for your support and generosity.