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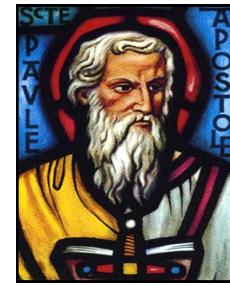
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Pastoral Team
 Fr. Roy Francis Farrell
 Pastor
 Deacon Raymond Frendo
 Permanent Deacon

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 9, 2025



“When we were safely ashore, we learned that we were on the island of Malta”. - Acts 28:1

It is once again my pleasure to wish you all a very blessed feast day. After having visited Malta and Gozo this past October, I have gained a deeper understanding of your rich history, vibrant religious celebrations, and the importance of commemorating them with joy and dignity. My time in Malta allowed me to truly appreciate the strong religious faith that underpins the feast of St. Paul's shipwreck.

It is a wonderful tradition that each year we read the account from the Acts of the Apostles, recounting how, through divine providence, St. Paul found himself in Malta and was able to spread the Catholic faith. In a world that often cannot appreciate the significance of the past, it is crucial for us as Christians to move forward while also looking back, as this allows us to gain clarity and a sense of purpose in our journey.

I wholeheartedly encourage everyone to deepen their faith and live out the teachings of the gospel. This Jubilee year presents a beautiful opportunity for us to delve even further into our faith and recommit ourselves to Christ and the teachings of the Church. I am truly grateful for the warm welcome and the willingness of the people of this parish to collaborate with me.

As we navigate the uncertain future, we must continue to live our faith courageously and humbly, knowing that only God knows what lies ahead. Let us remain steadfast in our commitment to Christ and embrace the opportunities for growth and spiritual transformation that come our way.

May this feast day be a time of reflection, renewal, and celebration. May it strengthen our faith and inspire us to live as true disciples of Christ.

CHALICE is a Canadian Catholic international child sponsorship charity. For over 30 years, Chalice has been dedicated to supporting vulnerable children in developing countries, helping them overcome obstacles and complete their education. Through the generosity of sponsors, Chalice provides children with access to education, nutritious food, healthcare, and other essential needs. Chalice's sponsorship model empowers families by giving them the financial decision-making power to address their unique needs. This approach ensures that children can stay in school and have a hopeful future. A representative from Chalice will visit our parish on February 22nd and 23rd and speak at the end of Mass.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 8

4:30pm

- +Emanuel Grech

Sunday, February 9

9:00am

- +Rita Caruana

10:30am

- +All Souls in Purgatory
- +Tony Axiak
- +Anne Muscat
- +Joseph Gauci
- +Therese Calleja
- +Joseph Farrugia

12:00 noon

- +Frank Cini

Monday, February 10

St. Scholastica

- +Amante Camilleri & Lina Bonello

Tuesday, February 11

- +Czeslaw Iwan,
Sofie Evans (birthday)

Wednesday, February 12

****9:00 am**

- +Deceased members of the Grech & Schembri Families

Thursday, February 13

- +Eddy & Mary Everest

Friday, February 14

Sts. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius

St Valentine

- +Carmen Muscat

****The Mass on Wednesday, February 12th will be held at 9:00 am as Fr. Roy needs to attend a zone meeting at St. Helen's Church right after the Mass.**

SPECIAL READINGS FOR THE FEAST OF ST. PAUL

First Reading: Wisdom 14:5-6

"For even in times of wrath, people escaped from your hands to a place of safety. You guided Noah, whom you loved, on a boat that carried the hope of the world to the new generation."

Commentary: This reading from the Book of Wisdom highlights God's providential care and protection. It reminds us of how Noah and his family were saved from the deluge, symbolizing how God guides and protects His people through the storms of life. In the context of St. Paul's shipwreck on Malta, it emphasizes that despite the perilous journey, God's hand was at work, ensuring the survival and safe arrival of Paul and his companions. This reading invites us to reflect on how God's providence has guided and protected us in our own lives, just as He did for Noah and Paul.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 106 (107): 23-32

"Those who go down to the sea in ships, who do business on great waters, they see the works of the Lord and his wonders in the deep. For he commands and raises the stormy wind, which lifts up the waves of the sea. They mount up to the heavens, they go down again to the depths; their soul melts because of trouble. They reel to and fro and stagger like a drunken man and are at their wits' end. Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brings them out of their distresses. He calms the storm, so that its waves are still. Then they are glad because they are quiet; so he guides them to their desired haven."

Commentary: This psalm speaks of the perils faced by sailors and how God's providence calms the storms and brings them to safety. It parallels St. Paul's journey by sea, illustrating the dangers he encountered and how God's providence ensured his survival. As we celebrate the feast of St. Paul, this psalm encourages us to trust in God's care and to recognize His presence in the midst of our own life's storms. It invites us to cry out to the Lord in times of trouble and to trust that He will guide us to safety.

Second Reading: Acts 27:18-25

"For many days neither sun nor stars appeared, and the great storm continued raging. We finally gave up all hope of being saved. After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: 'Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.'"

Commentary: This passage from Acts recounts the harrowing experience of Paul and his companions during a violent storm at sea. Despite the fear and hopelessness, Paul remains calm and reassures everyone on board, trusting in God's promise of protection. This reading highlights Paul's unwavering faith in God's providence and serves as a powerful reminder that, even in the most dire circumstances, we can find courage and hope by trusting in God's plan. As we celebrate the feast of St. Paul, we are inspired to cultivate a similar faith and trust in God's guidance.

Gospel Reading: Mark 16:14-18

"Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.'"

Commentary: In this Gospel reading, Jesus rebukes His disciples for their lack of faith and then commissions them to spread the Gospel to all nations. This passage underscores the importance of faith and the responsibility of believers to share the Good News. In the context of St. Paul's shipwreck and his subsequent ministry in Malta, it reminds us of the transformative power of faith and the call to evangelize. As we celebrate this feast, we are encouraged to strengthen our faith and to be active witnesses of Christ's love and message in our own lives.

Conclusion

The readings for the feast of St. Paul's shipwreck to Malta emphasize Divine Providence and the importance of faith and trust in God's protection. They invite us to reflect on our own experiences of God's guidance and care, and to celebrate the legacy of St. Paul, whose unwavering faith and dedication to spreading the Gospel continue to inspire us. May these readings help us to deepen our faith and to trust in God's providence in all circumstances.