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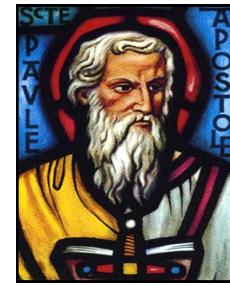
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# St. Paul the Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish

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**Pastoral Team**  
 Fr. Roy Francis Farrell  
 Pastor  
 Deacon Raymond Frendo  
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**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 23, 2025

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**GOSPEL REFLECTION**  
 In today's Gospel reading, Jesus spells out what it means to honor the Commandment of love. It means loving your enemies, doing good to those who hate you, blessing those who curse you, and praying for those who mistreat you. It means giving to everyone who asks of you and doing to others as you would have them do to you. The ending of this passage includes four additional directions concerning the way of love—stop judging, stop condemning, forgive, and give.

**REFLECTION FOR PARENTS**  
 Today is a good day to take a love inventory. Jot down the eight practical directions given in the Gospel Summary regarding honoring the Commandment of love: love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you; stop judging; stop condemning; forgive; and give. On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being "living in love," rate yourself as a parent, as a spouse, and as a follower of Jesus Christ. Where are you living in love? Where is there room for growth and change?

**BRINGING THE GOOD NEWS INTO YOUR FAMILY**  
 Create a family love inventory that includes four of the practical directions given in today's Gospel: do to others as you would have them do to you; lend expecting nothing back; forgive; and give. Explain the scale of 1-5, with 5 being "living in love." Rate yourselves two times. First, rate yourselves as a family according to how you show love to one another. Second, rate yourselves as a family according to how you show love to those outside of your home—for example, how you show love to neighbors, friends, other family members, and so forth. Ask yourselves where you are living in love and where there is room for growth and change. Make a family action plan and follow the plan.

**DISCUSSION STARTERS**

- Someone who loves others like Jesus asks us to love is . . .
- For me, the hardest part of Jesus' Commandment to love is . . . because . . .
- This week I will show love to . . . by . . .

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**Visit Our Website**  
 You can become a member of our parish community, register for Sacraments, get information on upcoming events, sign up to receive a digital copy of our weekly parish bulletin, and much more.  
 Visit our website at [stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org](http://stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org) or simply scan the QR code

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, February 22**  
**4:30pm**  
 • +Paolo Corapi

**Sunday, February 23**  
**9:00am**  
 • +Veronica Micallef

**10:30am**  
 • +Anthony & John Sultana  
 • +George Pulo  
 • +Natalino, Rosa, Anthony, Charlie & Albert Taliana  
 • +Joseph & Grace Bugeja  
 • +Silvana Dewe & Emanuella Micallef

**12:00 noon**  
 • Missa Pro Populo

**Monday, February 24**  
 • Eva Bielecki (birthday)

**Tuesday, February 25**  
 • +Nicolina & Michaelangelo Debrincat

**Wednesday, February 26**  
 • +All Souls in Purgatory

**Thursday, February 27**  
 • +Doris, Joseph & Catherine Micallef

**Friday, February 28**  
 • +Zammit & Cutajar Families



## From the Pastor...

We are pleased to provide you with our 2024 financial report with this week's bulletin. We thank you profoundly for your ongoing generosity and support and for all your contributions to our parish community. Your donations make a significant impact on the operations and outreach programs of our parish, allowing us to continue serving our community and fulfilling our mission. Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

This year, our biggest expenditure was the replacement of our heating system, which cost \$80,000. We are indeed very thankful for all the monies raised thus far. We took the money from our checking account and slowly we are building it up to a comfortable level. Thankfully, we did not have to touch our investment fund with the archdiocese. We don't know what the future holds in terms of additional repairs or major expenses. It's important that we have a cushion in case of emergencies. However, we must remain cautious with our spending to be prepared for any unexpected expenses.

As we reflect on the financial challenges we faced this year, maintaining a healthy financial position is crucial for the long-term sustainability of our parish. We must continue to monitor our expenses closely and prioritize building up our reserves to ensure we are prepared for any future financial obstacles.

By maintaining a diligent approach to financial management, we can navigate future uncertainties with greater confidence and resilience. We sincerely appreciate every donation, big or small. Your dedication and unwavering support for our parish community are invaluable. If you have questions about this report, please reach out to myself or a member of the finance committee. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Fr. Roy and the Finance Council Committee

May God bless you and your families.

**STEWARSHIP REFLECTION** In the face of today's secular culture, various Christian values may seem far too radical or outdated. Many people, with well-meaning intentions, may think that "being good" is all that matters in this life. However, the Gospel responds with the challenge to be more than good, but rather, to be holy. One of Jesus' radical messages that can help us work towards holiness is the call to love our enemies. In the time of Jesus, and even to this day, the notion of loving those who wrong us or hurt us seems like an impossible ideal. We often have a hard time loving those whom we should naturally love. How then are we expected to love our enemies? We must first realize that it is a long process to truly love them but it begins with small acts of prayer. We often wish for bad things to happen to our enemies, or at the very least, we hope things don't go well for them. We can begin to heal the unforgiveness in our hearts by praying for God to bless them. Prayer is powerful. Let us begin to pray for the good of our enemies and slowly rid ourselves of feelings of anger or hatred. For example, perhaps we can pray one Hail Mary a day for God to bless the family and work life of those whom we find it difficult to love. We can always look to the example of Christ on the cross, who boldly prayed for those who crucified him. Let us strive to be stewards of God's love and mercy.

Summary One of Jesus' radical messages that can help us work towards holiness is the call to love our enemies. We must first realize that it is a long process to truly love them but it begins with small acts of prayer. Let us begin to pray for the good of our enemies and slowly rid ourselves of feelings of anger or hatred.

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



### Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

There will be two Masses:

9:15 am - Bilingual

7:00 pm - English

#### Understanding Lent

Lent is a solemn period of 40 days of preparation for Easter, beginning with Ash Wednesday. It commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, enduring temptation and reflecting on His mission. For Christians, Lent is a time of penance, reflection, and renewal.

#### Preparation for Lent

1. **Prayer:** Deepening your relationship with God through regular prayer is fundamental during Lent. You might consider setting aside extra time each day for prayer and reflection.
2. **Fasting:** Lent encourages us to make sacrifices, often in the form of fasting. This isn't just about giving up food but can also include abstaining from certain activities or luxuries to foster a spirit of humility.
3. **Almsgiving:** Giving to those in need is an essential component of Lent. This could be in the form of financial donations, volunteer work, or simply acts of kindness to those around you.
4. **Reconciliation:** Seeking forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation helps to cleanse our hearts and renew our commitment to live as followers of Christ.

**VOCATION REFLECTION** The Lord Calls us to do God's Will. Pray that you may know God's Will in your life; especially, if you have the inclination that you are being called to the ordained or consecrated life. 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)

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.



SHROVE TUESDAY

**LENT IS AROUND THE CORNER** As we approach the holy season of Lent, we invite you to join us for a

Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on **Tuesday, March 5th** following the **9:15 am Mass**.

**Cost:** \$5.00 per person

**Tickets:** Available at the parish office during office hours or at the back of the church after all weekend Masses.

We hope to see you there!

*\*\* All proceeds will go toward covering the cost of our new heating system. \*\**

This breakfast is not only a wonderful opportunity to build community and support our heating system fundraiser, but it also marks a day for us to begin our journey into Lent with purpose and reflection.



**ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX PRAYER GROUP** will meet on **Monday, March 10th** following the 9:15 am Mass in St. Joseph's Room.



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.