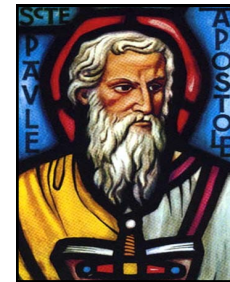


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Pastoral Team

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.

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Gospel Summary

Today's Gospel reading could be viewed as a collection of mini-teachings and practical discipleship reminders. At its conclusion, Jesus says, "A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks" (Luke 6:46).

Reflection for Parents

The beginning of today's Gospel reading contains much food for thought for parents and all teachers of the faith. Jesus asks, "Can a blind person guide a blind person?" (Luke 6:39) and he says, "... When fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher" (Luke 6:40). Today, take time to think about what you are doing to grow in your knowledge of the Catholic faith and in your relationship with God. Realize the importance of your role as the primary teacher of the faith to your child. Ask for the help and wisdom of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling this valuable ministry.

Bringing the Good News Into Your Family

Focus your family on the last portion of today's Gospel reading, Luke 6:43-45. Invite family members to give examples of what it means to bear good fruit. For example, "Bearing good fruit means telling the truth" or "Bearing good fruit means sharing God's love with others." Explain that the Bible names nine fruits of the Holy Spirit that are examples of good fruit. Invite your family members to listen as you read Galatians 5:22-23. Review the Fruits of the Holy Spirit as they are named in the Galatians passage: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Discussion Starters

In place of discussion starter questions, work together to create a Fruits of the Holy Spirit poster or mobile. Invite everyone to take part in cutting out a total of nine fruit shapes from various colors of construction paper. On each shape write one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Either create a poster of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit or use hangers and yarn or string to create a mobile for display near your family prayer table or in a place where family members will see it. Then pray together, "Holy Spirit, help us always to bear good fruit!"

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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 or simply scan the QR code

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 1
4:30pm

- +Czerniaski Family

Sunday, March 2
9:00am

- +Emanuel & James Magro

10:30am

- +Vic & Josephine Attard & Family
- +George Pulo
- +Therese & Paul Calleja
- +Rosalia Bertani
- +All Souls in Purgatory

12:00 noon

- Missa Pro Populo

Monday, March 3

- +Julia Camilleri

Tuesday, March 4

Shrove Tuesday

- +Doris, Joseph & Catherine Micallef

Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday

- +Deceased members of the Grech & Schembri Families

Thursday, March 6

- +Cosmas & Enid De Fry

Friday, March 7

- +Valentino, Vincent & Josephine Micallef

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From the Pastor...

As disciples of Christ, we seek to grow in our relationship with Jesus, let's prepare our hearts for the upcoming season of Lent. Here's a simple guide to help you understand and embrace this sacred time.

Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. But before that, join us for a Pancake Breakfast and Sausage on Shrove Tuesday, March 4th following the 9:15 am Mass. Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day, is a day of feasting before the fasting season of Lent begins. The term "Shrove" comes from the word "shrive," meaning to confess and receive absolution.

The Purpose of Lent

During Lent, the Church prepares to celebrate the dying and rising of our Lord Jesus. It's a time for deep reflection and spiritual growth. Here are some key aspects:

Preparation for Baptism: Lent is a special time for those who will be baptized at Easter and for all of us who will renew our baptismal promises.

40 Days of Fasting and Prayer: These 40 days (excluding Sundays) reflect Jesus' time in the wilderness, Moses' fast on Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, and Israel's 40-year journey to the Promised Land.

Penance and Reconciliation

Lent has historical roots in the reconciliation of penitents. In the past, individuals would dress in sackcloth and sprinkle ashes on themselves as a sign of penance. Today, we all receive ashes on Ash Wednesday as a reminder of our need for repentance.

Our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help us revisit our relationship with God, ourselves, and our neighbors. Through the celebration of Reconciliation, we draw closer to Christ and improve our lives.

Baptism and the Elect

Central to Lent is the role of baptism and the journey of the "elect" – those preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil. Important rituals marking their faith journey are celebrated during Sunday liturgies.

Aspects of the Season

Violet Vestments: The use of purple vestments signifies penance. Sometimes, a red-hued purple is used on Sundays and Good Friday.

Decoration: The season is marked by simplicity. Flowers are not used in the altar area, and some places cover crosses and statues during the last two weeks of Lent.

Music: Reflecting the somber tone, musical instruments are used only to accompany singing. The "Alleluia" is excluded, and the "Glory to God" is omitted except on important feasts.

Traditional Practices

Praying the Way of the Cross: Reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross.

Devotions to Mary, Mother of Sorrows: Honor Mary's suffering and her role in Jesus' life.

Lenten Weekdays

The readings during Lent reflect the season's themes of prayer, fasting, and the spirit of fulfilling these practices for the benefit of others.

Passiontide

The last two weeks of Lent, once called "Passiontide," intensify the Lenten message. Special readings and the optional veiling of images mark this period.

Holy Week

Holy Week celebrates the paschal mystery – the events of our salvation accomplished by Christ. It begins with Passion (Palm) Sunday, remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

The Triduum

The Paschal or Easter Triduum is the high point of the liturgical year, celebrating the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord. These three days, from Holy Thursday evening through Easter Sunday night, are the climax of our Lenten preparation and penance.

Let's journey together through this sacred season, growing closer to Christ and deepening our faith. Blessings to you as we prepare our hearts for Easter!



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 5th

There will be two Masses:

9:15 am - Bilingual

7:00 pm - English



ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX

PRAYER GROUP will meet on

Monday, March 10th

following the 9:15 am Mass in St. Joseph's Room.

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 www.vocationstoronto.ca

STEWARSHIP REFLECTION Unlocking the Secret of Happiness "Lord, it is good to give thanks to you." These are the words from the refrain of this Sunday's responsorial psalm. Thanksgiving is at the core of what it means to be a steward. We cannot offer our gifts to our parish communities if we don't first acknowledge and give thanks to God for giving us these gifts in the first place. Cardinal Collins in his Pastoral Letter on Stewardship* says that, "deep stewardship begins with gratitude and ends with accountability ... We recognize gratefully that everything in life is a gift of God." Not only does gratitude unlock a spirituality of stewardship, but it is also the first step in living a life of greater joy. The opposite of gratitude is indifference. Often times we are indifferent and unaware of all the great gifts in our lives. By adopting an intentional lens of gratitude we can begin to realize how blessed we truly are. St. Gianna Molla beautifully tells us that "the secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for what He is sending us every day in His goodness." Wherever we are reading this reflection, let us take a moment to thank God for three things around us. We can express our gratitude for having a roof over our heads, food in our stomachs, or the joy of family and friends. Above all, we can always be thankful for the gift of God's love in our lives. As stewards, let us begin to adopt a spirituality of thanksgiving and begin living more joyful lives.

St. Gianna Molla beautifully tells us that "the secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for what He is sending us every day in His goodness." Wherever we are reading this reflection, let us take a moment to thank God for a few things around us. We can express our gratitude for having a roof over our heads, food in our stomachs, the joy of family and friends, and above all, we can always be thankful for the gift of God's love.

Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.



**COME JOIN US FOR
OUR PANCAKE
BREAKFAST!!**

SHROVE TUESDAY

As we approach the holy season of Lent, we invite you to join us for a Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on **Tuesday, March 4th** 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.

