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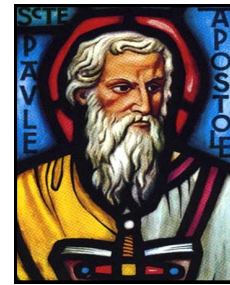
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St. Paul the Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish

3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6P 2A3, Tel 416-767-7054
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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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.

March 23 2025

Gospel Summary
 In ancient times, people thought death was the result of sinfulness. The crowds asked Jesus if that was true. He replied that it was no more true than the contrary: People lived because of righteousness. The point Jesus *did* make, however, was that repentance was necessary and necessarily immediate. Jesus then gave the people an illustration of a fig tree that had not produced fruit for three years. The vineyard owner wanted the tree cut down, but the gardener promised to aerate and fertilize it for one more year. If, by then, it did not bear fruit, the gardener would cut it down. Some scholars think the three years of no yield correlate with Jesus' three years in ministry, but the main point is that with nurturing, all may come to bear fruit in the Kingdom.

Reflection for Families
 Some children worry whether or not their parents will live as long as the child needs them— basically *forever!* But often, parents worry more that they will someday be a burden to their children. Once in a while, parents know they only have a short period of time left with their children and they quickly take stock of what is truly important and act accordingly. Even without this notice, it would be good to evaluate each day and be grateful for each moment we have with each other.


Bringing the Gospel into Your Family
 Make a Lenten "fruit bowl" as a family by writing down on strips of paper simple tasks that can be done during this season of Lent that "bear fruit" for God's Kingdom. Ideas might include praying for someone who is sick, or sending a cheerful greeting to someone who is alone. Perhaps you could visit an elderly relative or do something kind for a family member. Each day, everyone in the family takes a "piece of fruit" from the bowl and tries to accomplish the task written on the strip. (Hint: If you want to make sure the suggestions are age-appropriate, you can use different colors of paper for the children and adults.)

- Discussion Starters**
1. One way I hear God's word and let my life bear fruit for another person is by . . .
 2. The one person in my life who is like the gardener that cares for the tree so it bears fruit is . . . They help me by . . .
 3. In this story, I am most like the a) owner, b) the gardener, c) the fig tree, because . . .

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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 22
4:30pm
 • +Paolo Corapi

Sunday, March 23
9:00am
 • +Veronica Micallef

10:30am
 • +Joseph Buhagiar
 • +George Pulo
 • +Mary Muscat
 • +Carmelo Muscat
 • +Rita Zammit

12:00 noon
 • +Missa Pro Populo

Monday, March 24
 • +Vincent, Emanuel & Rose Micallef

Tuesday, March 25
Annunciation of the Lord
 • +Mario Capizzano

Wednesday, March 26
 • +Doris, Joseph & Catherine Micallef

Thursday, March 27
 • +Zammit/Cutajar Families

Friday, March 28
 • +Emanuel Grech

From the Pastor...

As we journey through the sacred season of Lent and approach the joy of Easter, it is a time for reflection, renewal, and reconnection with God. Here are some insights to help you pray more effectively, prepare your heart for Easter, and embrace the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Praying More Effectively

Prayer is the cornerstone of our relationship with God. To pray more effectively:

1. **Create a Sacred Space:** Dedicate a quiet corner in your home for prayer. A crucifix, a candle, or an image of the Virgin Mary can help set the tone.
2. **Follow a Structure:** Begin with adoration, praising God for His greatness. Move to thanksgiving, expressing gratitude for His blessings. Then, offer contrition, seeking forgiveness for your sins, and conclude with supplication, presenting your needs and the needs of others.
3. **Use Scripture:** Meditate on passages from the Bible, such as the Psalms or the Gospels. Let God's Word guide your thoughts and prayers.
4. **Practice Silence:** In the stillness, listen for God's voice. Prayer is not just speaking to God but also being open to His presence.
5. **Pray the Rosary:** This traditional Catholic devotion helps focus the mind and heart on the mysteries of Christ's life.

Preparing for Easter

Easter is the pinnacle of our faith, celebrating Christ's resurrection. To prepare:

1. **Embrace Lenten Practices:** Use this time for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These disciplines help us detach from worldly distractions and draw closer to God.
2. **Participate in Holy Week Liturgies:** Attend the Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil services. Each offers profound reflections on Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.
3. **Reflect on Baptismal Promises:** Renew your commitment to live as a disciple of Christ, remembering the grace of your baptism.

Going to Confession

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a beautiful way to experience God's mercy. Here's how to approach it:

1. **Examine Your Conscience:** Reflect on your actions, thoughts, and omissions. Consider how you have lived in accordance with God's commandments and the teachings of the Church.
2. **Express Contrition:** Be truly sorry for your sins and resolve to avoid them in the future.
3. **Confess Your Sins:** Begin with, "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been [time] since my last confession." Be honest and thorough, trusting in God's mercy.
4. **Receive Absolution:** Listen as the priest absolves you of your sins, and feel the weight lifted from your soul.
5. **Complete Your Penance:** Fulfill the penance given by the priest as a sign of your repentance.

As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, let us strive to deepen our prayer lives, seek reconciliation with God, and embrace the hope and joy of Easter. May this season bring you closer to Christ and fill your heart with His peace.



Listen Reflect Pray

Homilists:

Fr. Massimo Buttigieg (Wednesday & Thursday)
& Fr. Jimmy Zammit (Friday)

**Wednesday, April 9th (bilingual)
& Thursday, April 10th (bilingual)**
Mass at 7:00 pm followed by the Sermon

Friday, April 11th
Mass at 6:30 pm - Sermon within the Mass
Concluding with devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows.



Join us on **Saturday, April 5th at 6:00 pm** for our annual Seder Meal, presented from a Christian perspective.

This meal will help us reflect on the Jewish Passover traditions that prefigured the Last Supper and the saving sacrifice of Christ. It's a unique and meaningful event that deepens our understanding of our faith.

The price has been reduced to \$10.00 and can be purchased from the back of the church or by contacting the parish office.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!

VOCATION REFLECTION The Lord is kind and merciful and calls us to proclaim His Name. Consider service in the priesthood 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

**EASTER VIGIL
CHOIR 2025
Choir members wanted!**

Calling all singers, no musical experience required. For more information please contact the parish office at: stpaultheapostleto@archtoronto.org

REHEARSALS:

- ♦ March 30 - 10:00 am to 11:00 am
- ♦ April 6 - 11:00 am to 12:00 pm
- ♦ April 13 - 10 am to 11:00 am

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION: We are invited to reflect on one of the most famous call stories in the Bible, the call of Moses. Many of us are familiar with the events that took place as Moses comes across the burning bush in the wilderness. There is one aspect of this episode that is particularly interesting to us as stewards, and that is the first words that God speaks out of the bush. He says, "Moses, Moses!" He calls Moses by name. There is a particularity to Moses' mission. God knew that Moses was the right person for the job and shows this by using his own name as he calls him forward. As stewards, we too are all called by name to a special mission. We each have our own unique set of gifts that can be used for the glory of Christ and the Church. It is up to us to heed the call of stewardship because no one can do the particular mission God has ordained for us. One great saint who truly understood the importance of everyone's important and individual mission was St. Teresa of Calcutta. She said, "You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. Together we can do great things." Stewardship isn't a competition but rather a collaboration. Let us reflect on how we can use our time and talents to help our parish community. God is calling each and every one of us, let us readily echo the words of Moses and respond "Here I am."

Just as God called Moses by name at the burning bush, so too does God call each of us by name to our own particular mission of stewardship. St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. Together we can do great things." Let us reflect on how we can use our time and talents to help our parish community and readily echo the words of Moses and respond "Here I am."

Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.



**3rd Sunday of Lent
March 23, 2025**

Thank you for heeding the Lord's call to feed the hungry. For many children, the snacks and meals they receive in school may be the only nutritious food they eat all day. Studies show that children can't learn and thrive when they are hungry. Thanks to you, \$750,000 in Food Security Grants are making a difference across our community. Students receive the nourishment they deserve, and parents are supported in the process. The FoodShare program at ShareLife-funded agency Rosalie Hall "is a lifeline for families," says their Executive Director, Jane Kenny. "It helps parents provide food for their children, reduces their stress, and allows them to focus on being the best parents they can be." Please give at the parish using the ShareLife envelope provided, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.