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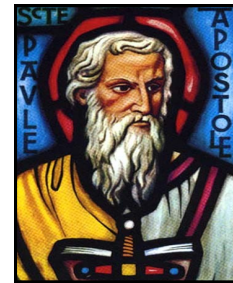


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St. Paul the Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish

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



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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.

Gospel Summary

Today's Gospel is the well-known story of the prodigal son who begged for his share of the family inheritance. He took his fortune to a far away place and quickly spent all he had on his personal pleasures. He was completely broke when a serious famine struck the area and he was forced to tend pigs, an occupation prohibited to Jewish people. As he tended the pigs, he hungered for their scraps and realized that his father's slaves lived better than he did. It was then that he decided to return home, not as a son, but as a hired hand. So happy was the man's father when he saw his son return that he celebrated with all sorts of signs of honor. The father's older son, however, was very displeased with the way his father treated his brother, claiming that he had always been there working like a slave for his father. Never once had the father celebrated with this son. The father explained that the older son had always been with him and obedient. It was cause to rejoice, however, that his other son had been lost but now was found.

Reflection for Families

Parents try to divide the world into equal pieces for each of their children, but they know how very different each child can be. There are really no "one-size-fits-all" sets of expectations for families with more than one child. This Gospel helps us remember that we need to recognize the virtues of obedience and faithfulness, while we still love unconditionally and forgive the child who challenges us. Both brothers in this story considered themselves slaves—a feeling we work hard to prevent in our children.

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

This parable about the prodigal son is a story about families and filled with emotion. Gather all your loose family photos and organize them into an album. (If you're lucky enough to be up to date, go through your photo albums.) As you arrange the photos, talk about your memory of that picture and the emotions that you associate with its circumstances. When you have finished, decide which emotion most characterizes your family. Are you pleased with this defining emotion or is this a good time to work on some changes?

Discussion Starters

1. One of the most selfish things I remember doing was when I . . . What I learned from this experience was . . .
2. A time when someone welcomed me back occurred when . . .
3. The strongest experience I recall of unconditional love was . . .

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

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March 30, 2025

From the Pastor...

As we draw closer to Holy Week, the most solemn and sacred time in our Christian calendar, let us take this opportunity to deepen our faith and renew our commitment to live as disciples of Christ. Here are some ways we can spiritually prepare, both individually and as a family, to make this our best Easter yet:

1. Create a Sacred Space at Home

- Dedicate a small area in your home as a prayer corner or altar.
- Include a crucifix, candles, and perhaps an image of the Blessed Mother or other holy figures.

Encourage family prayers and reflections in this space, especially during Holy Week.

2. Focus on Confession

- Take time to reflect on your relationship with God and others.
 - Make an effort to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which brings healing and renewal to our souls.
- Let confession be a cornerstone of your preparation for Easter, allowing you to celebrate Christ's resurrection with a pure heart.

3. Participate in the Lenten Mission

- Mark your calendars for April 9th, 10th, and 11th. Let's come together as a parish community for this special Lenten mission.

These evenings of prayer, reflection, and guidance will inspire us and prepare our hearts for the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

4. Practice Acts of Love and Sacrifice

- Perform small acts of kindness, forgiveness, and charity in your everyday life.

Consider fasting from distractions or habits that take time away from prayer and family.

5. Engage with Holy Week Services

- Attend Palm Sunday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, Good Friday services, and the Easter Vigil.

These liturgies immerse us in the mystery of Christ's suffering, death, and glorious resurrection.

Let us journey through Holy Week with reverence and gratitude, embracing the profound love and sacrifice of our Savior. Together, we can make this Easter a time of renewal, hope, and joy. God bless you all!

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

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



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 Like the forgiving father of Luke's Gospel, God welcomes us home in spite of our sinfulness, and calls us to a life of holiness. Where are you at home? Are you being called to a life as an ordained or a consecrated person?

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



4th Sunday of Lent Laetare Sunday

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION This Sunday we are invited to reflect on the beautiful parable of the prodigal son. This parable offers us an insight into the unfathomable depths of God's mercy. We are also given an example of the prodigal son to imitate. He teaches us that whenever we fall, we too need to recognize our sin, get up and approach our merciful and loving Father. However, we may at times find it difficult to accept just how generously God bestows His mercy on those who seek Him. We may have the notion that God is out to punish those who commit sin. However, there is one particularly beautiful line in the parable this Sunday that can help us ease those fears. It says that "while [the son] was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him." The beauty in this passage is that the father saw the son "while he was still far off." This means that he must've spent time each day looking out at the horizon, eagerly and lovingly waiting for his son to return. Not only does he see him, he then runs and embraces his son even though he was dirty and smelled like pigs. As stewards, we shouldn't fear approaching God for His mercy and forgiveness for He longs to grant it to us. Across the Archdiocese, every parish will host a Lenten Day of Reconciliation in which many priests will be available for the sacrament of Confession. Let us take advantage of this beautiful opportunity for healing and prepare ourselves for the Risen Lord at Easter.

This Sunday we are invited to reflect on the beautiful parable of the prodigal son which offers us an insight into the unfathomable depths of God's mercy. We are shown that whenever we fall, we too need to recognize our sin, get up and approach our merciful and loving Father. God longs to forgive us, so let us strive to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent to prepare ourselves for the Risen Lord at Easter.

Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.



Fourth Sunday of Lent
ShareLife Sunday
March 30, 2025

ShareLife Sunday marks the first collection for our parish's annual campaign. But ShareLife is more than a parish collection. It is how we, as Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto, bring the hands of Christ to those in need. From children to seniors, and everyone in between, more than 40 ShareLife agencies are there each step of the way.

As a family of faith, we lift each other up from our lowest moments. Nick's life had an easy start – he came from a good home, where he was raised with a strong work ethic, and he welcomed a son. But living with a mental illness, he struggled more than some. Deep inside, he felt like something was missing, and he devastatingly fell into addiction. With your helping hand, he rose up through the DARE Program at Good Shepherd.

"By the grace of God, I am still alive," he proclaims. "I'd love to be able to give back what was so freely given to me. I am taking roles of service, giving back as much as I can. I was afraid I'd never be able to feel the way I feel. I am very grateful that I have been given this opportunity to be sober." Thanks to your support, he is no longer just surviving—he is thriving, with a heart full of hope and a future filled with promise.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.