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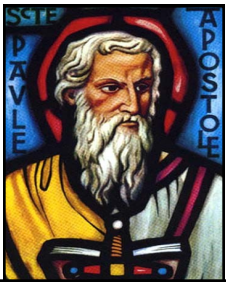


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Pastoral Team

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 7pm - 8pm

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent after
9:15am Mass

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.

April 6, 2024

St. Paul the Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish

**3224 Dundas Street West,
Toronto, Ontario M6P 2A3, Tel 416-767-7054**

Email: stpaultheapostleto@archtoronto.org

FIFTH SUNDAY OP LENT

Gospel Reflection:

Although most scholars believe that this story of the woman caught in adultery was not part of John's original writings, it is nevertheless an excellent example of Jesus' style. First of all, some of the religious leaders tried to trick Jesus into going against the law of Moses by *not* having the woman stoned or going against the Roman law that did not allow the Jewish people to impose the death sentence. Again, Jesus seemed trapped, but drew in the sand with his finger until he presented his answer. In an effort to demonstrate the forgiveness God had for his people, Jesus challenged the Pharisees to throw a stone if they were without sin. Of course, none could throw a stone and slowly the crowd drifted away. When only the woman remained, Jesus showed mercy toward her and told her to resist further sin.

Reflection for Families

Of course we will never fully know what Jesus drew in the sand. Whether his drawing was with purpose or not has been lost to history and most likely would not change the story. An important lesson we can gain from his action is that he took the time to gather his thoughts before speaking. How often do we say the first thing that comes to mind and end up regretting it? Thinking first helps us present a Christ-like presence to others even if we are dealing with a serious conflict.

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

Ask each family member to help create a list of "pet peeves" or annoying habits in others. Give each member a chance to consider the list and see if they claim ownership of any of the actions listed. Ask one another how this exercise is like the woman and the Pharisees in today's Gospel. What will you do to "throw a stone" at the guilty person? What action can you take that resembles the action of Jesus? Pray for support to accomplish this action.

Discussion Starters

1. I received a second chance that made a difference in my life when . . .
2. One judgment I hold from the past still causes me pain. In order to let go if it, I need to . .
3. The person I most identify with in this Gospel story is . . . because . . .

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Visit Our Website!!

You can register for Sacraments, become a member of our parish community, get information on upcoming events, and much more. Visit our website at stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org or simply scan the QR code below.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 5

4:30pm

- +Deceased members of the Grech & Schembri Families

Sunday, April 6

9:00am

- +Emanuel & James Magro

10:30am

- +Vic & Josephine Attard & Family
- +Deceased members of the Camilleri Family
- +John & Mary Ann Fenech

12:00 noon

- Missa Pro Populo

Monday, April 7

- +Theresa Massa & Kitty Tonna

Tuesday, April 8

- +John Azzopardi

Wednesday, April 9

- +Frank & Gustav Grech

Thursday, April 10

- +Rita Caruana

Friday, April 11

- +Richard Jankowski, Violet Saliba, Angelo Saliba

From our Pastor's Desk...

Draw Close to Christ and the Blessed Mother As we approach Holy Week, let us renew our commitment to drawing nearer to Christ and the Blessed Mother. This sacred time calls us to reflect on God’s immense love and the sacrifices made for our redemption. With hearts open to grace, let us embrace the opportunities this season offers to deepen our faith and devotion.

Holy Week: A Journey of Love and Redemption Holy Week is the most sacred time in our liturgical calendar—a time when we walk alongside Christ on His journey of passion, death, and resurrection. Each day of this holy time invites us to enter more deeply into the mystery of God’s redeeming love:

- **Palm Sunday** marks Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, a day of joy tinged with the foreshadowing of His suffering.
- The **Paschal Triduum** begins with **Holy Thursday**, celebrating the gift of the Eucharist at the Last Supper and Christ’s act of humility in washing the disciples' feet.
- On **Good Friday**, we stand at the foot of the cross, contemplating the depth of Christ's sacrifice.

Finally, at the **Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday**, we move from the sorrow of the tomb to the radiant joy of Christ’s resurrection, the fulfillment of God’s promise to us.

Holy Week also invites us to the grace-filled Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession is a beautiful way to prepare our hearts for Easter, cleansing our souls and renewing our relationship with God. We strongly encourage you to take this opportunity, especially during our **Parish Mission**.

Parish Mission: April 9th, 10th, and 11th We warmly invite you to attend our Parish Mission—a time of renewal and spiritual growth for our parish family.

- **April 9th and 10th:** Mass will begin at **7:00 PM**, with homily by **Fr. Massimo**.

April 11th: Mass will begin at **6:30 PM**, with homily by **Fr. Jimmy Zammit**.

On Wednesday and Thursday evenings, confessions will be available from 6:00 to 7:00, and on Friday evening, confessions will be available from 5:30 to 6:30. Please attempt to go to confession during this time. If you cannot attend, kindly contact the parish to make arrangements.

On the final evening of the mission, following Mass, we will offer **special prayers to Our Lady of Sorrows**. Let us come together in prayer, seeking her intercession and guidance as we enter the sacred mysteries of Holy Week.

Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows The devotion to **Our Lady of Sorrows** holds a deeply cherished place, especially among the Maltese community. Reflecting on the Blessed Mother's seven sorrows reminds us of her immense courage, unwavering faith, and profound compassion as she suffered alongside her Son.

The seven sorrows we meditate upon are:

1. The prophecy of Simeon.
2. The flight into Egypt.
3. The loss of the Child Jesus in the temple.
4. The meeting of Mary and Jesus on the way to Calvary.
5. The crucifixion and death of Jesus.
6. The body of Jesus taken down from the cross.
7. The burial of Jesus.

For the Maltese people, this devotion is not only a testament of faith but a cultural treasure. Statues of Our Lady of Sorrows, often depicted with her heart pierced by seven swords, inspire profound reverence and a deep sense of hope. Her example teaches us that even through suffering, there is a promise of redemption and resurrection. On the last day of our mission, as we pray together to Our Lady of Sorrows, let us entrust our own sorrows to her loving care. May her intercession bring us closer to Christ and strengthen us in faith.

It has been a blessing to serve as your pastor during my time here. Your kindness, hospitality, and warm welcome have truly touched my heart. As some of you may have heard, I will soon take up the role of Spiritual Formation at St. Augustine's Seminary, with my last day in the parish being **June 25th**.

I humbly ask for your prayers as I embark on this new chapter of ministry. I will always carry this parish in my heart and promise to visit you. Together, let us also pray for **Fr. James Bussanich**, who will step into the role of pastor. May God guide him and strengthen him as he leads this wonderful community.

Your prayers mean everything to me. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your spiritual journey.

As we journey through Holy Week and reflect on Christ’s love and the Blessed Mother’s sorrow, may faith and joy renew our hearts. Let us walk together toward the promise of Easter, united in prayer and hope.

God bless you all,

Fr. Roy

STEWARDSHIP REFELCTION As we quickly approach Holy Week let us take a moment to reflect on how we are using this time of Lent to renew our zeal for stewardship. In the second reading this Sunday we hear St. Paul say, “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.” We can learn a lot from this image of constantly moving forward towards the prize of our heavenly reward. Stewardship is a lifelong journey made up of many individual decisions. The decision to wake up and recognize each day as a blessing from God. The decision to offer the gifts of our time and talents for the good of the parish community. The decision to practice a moment of patience and understanding when we are frustrated or annoyed. The decision to forgive someone who has wronged us even though it is difficult. The decision to pray and receive the sacraments in order to strengthen our lives through God’s grace. As we strive to make positive decisions, let us not be discouraged when we fall or face setbacks in our ministry. St. John Paul II says that “life with Christ is a wonderful adventure.” Any adventure is sure to have mountains and valleys, but what God truly desires is that we simply keep pressing forward. St. Teresa of Calcutta said that “God does not require that we be successful only that we be faithful.” Let us strive to be faithful stewards as we journey towards our heavenly goal.

Stewardship is a lifelong journey made up of many individual decisions. St. John Paul II says that “life with Christ is a wonderful adventure.” Any adventure is sure to have mountains and valleys, but what God truly desires is that we keep making positive decisions that deepen our commitment to love and serve Him.

Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.



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Thus far we have raised **\$1,360.00** toward our goal of **\$18,500.00**. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

The new **RUNNYMEDE LONG TERM FACILITY** will be opening at the beginning of June!

A number of beds are available for those of Maltese descent who would like to apply. To apply or get more information, please send an email to:

connie.dejak@runnymedehc.ca
or call 416-762-7316



We make it possible.



St. Therese of the Child Jesus Group will meet on **Monday, April 7th at 10:00 am** in St. Joseph's Room.

VOCATION REFLECTION What am I racing after in my life? Fame? Fortune? A life in Jesus? What is the prize I seek at the finish-line?

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.

Listen Reflect Pray

Homilists:

Fr. Massimo Buttigieg (Wednesday & Thursday)

Fr. Jimmy Zammit (Friday)



**Wednesday, April 9th (bilingual)
& Thursday, April 10th (bilingual)
Confessions: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Mass at 7:00 pm followed by the Sermon**

**Friday, April 11th
Confessions: 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Mass at 6:30 pm - Sermon within the Mass
concluding with
Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows**