



ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822~FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

STAFF

Fr. Robert O'Brien
Pastor

Rev. Antanios Farah, OAM
In Residence. Hospital Chaplain

Lynett Wilson
Admin / Communications

Jason Lo
Bookkeeper

Cathy LeBlanc
Sacristan

Ives Alvarez
Custodian

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 4:30 pm ♦ Sunday: 8:30 am and 11:00 am
Tuesday to Friday: 5:00 pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays from 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm
(closed for lunch from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm)

CONTACT

83 Power Street, Toronto, ON M5A 3A8 ♦ Tel: (416) 364-7588
Fax: (416) 366-5617 ♦ Email: stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org
Website: stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org

SACRAMENTS

Please contact us for more information on preparing for and receiving a Sacrament at St. Paul's Basilica.

- ♦ Baptism; Two months in advance
- ♦ Marriage; Registered parishioners at least one year in advance, For all other marriage inquiries please contact the parish office
- ♦ First Holy Eucharist, Confirmation and RCIA;
Registration takes place in the fall
- ♦ Anointing of the sick & Communion of the sick and shut-ins;
Please contact the parish office

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Alyson Sobol, Principal ♦ Tel: (416) 393-5204

❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Hanukkah! The Festival of Light

Some of you may know that I go curling on Mondays in the winter. I started about 8 years ago. The group I curl with is an inter-faith curling league of ministers, priests, rabbis, cantors and a few friends of the same. This league has existed for generations and is part of a network across the country. The apex of curling for this group is that some of our members go each year to the “Friar’s Brier”, an event that takes place during the national curling championships in the same city as that competition. Several years ago, one of our teams that went called themselves, “The Frozen Chosen”, made up of rabbis and cantors.

As I have gotten to know this group better, one thing I learned was that we don’t have a rabbinical school here in Canada, so the vast majority of our rabbis have come from the United States. The friendships that have developed throughout our group over the years is really wonderful to be part of.

We all received an email from one of our rabbis last week lamenting the rise in antisemitism and reporting to us that his synagogue now had to increase its security measures significantly and at significant cost.

I would say not only is it important for us to decry antisemitism, but in a way, because of the historic treatment of Jewish people, anger directed at them is a kind of “canary in the mineshaft” to warn us of declining civility in the society in which we participate.

When we engage in assigning blame to any group of people or name-calling of any sort, we open ourselves up to settling issues by simply shouting louder ... or worse things. When we, as Catholics, are trying to share the vision of a thriving human life for each member of society that is consistent with what we believe to be revealed by God we need to take the high road. It is much easier to complain and criticize than it is to propose, listen, modify and then build together. As religions deeply inspired by our relationship with the living God, we, together with our Jewish brothers and sisters, and indeed with many people of deep faith across a variety of religions, need to show the skeptical secular society of the enrichment that it is to have faith also thrive.

Hanukkah begins December 18th and lasts 8 days and nights. It celebrates the return to Jerusalem after a period of exile. The Temple was rededicated, and the people were again able to offer



worship in the presence of the Ark of the Covenant on Mount Zion. It is from this right relationship with God that the fruits of the Covenant flow. Likewise, for us, it is the Eucharist, the gift of Jesus Himself from which flows the whole of our life together and individually. Some of you may know that our Archbishop, Cardinal Collins has as his motto, “Deum Adora” – Adore God!

Let us rejoice in walking with our Jewish brothers and sisters. Praying for real peace in our world could be a good theme as we approach the Christmas Feast.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

❖ NOTEWORTHY



Holiday Mass Schedule

*Advent
Confessions*

Friday, December 16
3:00 PM TO 4:30 PM &
5:45 PM TO 6:30 PM

Sunday, December 18
9:45 AM TO 10:45 AM

*Christmas
Masses*

Christmas Eve - Dec 24
4:30 PM, 8:00 PM & 11:00 PM

Christmas Day - Dec 25
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

*New Year
Masses*

New Year's Eve - Dec 31
4:30 PM

New Year's Day - Jan 1
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Winter Clothing, Toiletries and Food Drive

The parish is collecting **CLEAN GENTLY USED MENS** winter clothing, specifically, coats, boots, hats, gloves and warm tops and pants. We are also collecting **NEW UNOPENED** toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, bar soap and shampoo as well as **NEW UNWORN** socks. These donations will benefit the Good Shepherd Ministries and the Mustard Seed (part of Fontbonne Ministries). Please separate clothing from toiletries when dropping off donations in the boxes near the altar. **NON-PERISHABLE FOOD** will go to the Society of Sharing food pantry program.

❖ NEWS

Ministry Training Workshops



The parish will be hosting ministry training workshops in the coming weeks, intended for **ALL** volunteers who are **CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN** or are **INTERESTED IN** the parish ministry. The goal of these workshops is to ensure that all volunteers, both new and

existing, are familiar with and following the current procedures and responsibilities for performing the ministry. Workshops will also include practical run-throughs, scheduling / time expectations, and ensure that all screening requirements and checks are up to date.

- Altar Servers (Part 1) – Saturday, January 14, at 10:30 am
- Collection Counters – Sunday, January 22, at 2 pm
- Altar Servers (Part 2) – Saturday, February 11, at 10:30 am

Please register with the parish office if you plan on attending. If you are unable to make the scheduled date, please notify the office as alternate dates may be scheduled based on numbers.

2022 ShareLife \$1 Million Matching Gift Program

From Nov 1 to Dec 31, all contributions to the ShareLife Campaign will be matched by an anonymous donor up to a total of \$1 million. To participate, donate by credit card online (see below article) or use one of the ShareLife envelopes at the back of the church.



Society of Sharing: Inner-City Volunteers



A ShareLife member agency, is currently seeking volunteers for various positions, including friendly visitors, medical/shopping escorts, and grocery delivery. You can make a difference in the life of a senior who is isolated and living in downtown Toronto. For more information, please contact their Recruitment & Training Specialist at 416-413-0380 or vrts@societyofsharing.org; or by visiting their website at societyofsharing.org.



21st Annual Friars' Student Writing Contest

High school students (13-19 yrs) in the Toronto Catholic School Board are invited to participate in this annual event commemorating the global Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Write a five-hundred-word essay that explores the theme *“Do good; seek justice” (Isaiah 1:17)*. Great prizes await the top three submissions.

The deadline is January 16th, 2023. For more information and resources, visit catholicregister.org/writingaward or scan the QR Code.



Mass Intentions

Sanctuary Lamp Burns for:
Andrew Au, Amanda Dimeo,
Giuliana Marelli & Teresa Tinto

Saturday, December 10
4:30 pm ♦

Sunday, December 11
8:30 am ♦ For the People
11:00 am ♦ † Armando and
Antonietta Tiano

Tuesday, December 13
5:00 pm ♦

Wednesday, December 14
5:00 pm ♦

Thursday, December 15
5:00 pm ♦

Friday, December 16
5:00 pm ♦

Holiday Office Closure

The parish office will be closed between Wednesday, December 21, 2022 and Monday, January 2, 2023. Emails and voicemails will be returned when the office reopens on Tuesday, January 3, 2023

2023 Offertory Envelopes

Offering Envelopes for 2023 will be available at the back of the church next weekend. The boxed sets will be organized alphabetically. Please make sure to pick up only the box with your name on it.

PLEASE DO NOT USE THE 2023 ENVELOPES UNTIL THE NEW YEAR BEGINS.

Credit Card Donations

Don't carry cash or even own cheques? Want to collect miles or points on your credit card? A single or monthly donation through your credit card is a great option. Tax receipts are issued immediately for a single donation and at the end of the year for a recurring gift. Select the Donate button at stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org or scan the QR code. Please ensure that “St. Paul's Basilica, Toronto” is selected from the Parish drop down menu when signing up.



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