



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

The Twelve Days of Christmas

We know that old Christmas song and love to rhyme off the different gifts for each day of Christmas, especially, "FIVE GOLDEN RINGS!" The giving and receiving of gifts and the socializing that are part of this season are enjoyable blessings of the season. The subtext for some may be loneliness or the interior upset of difficult memories. This is a charged period of time. At the very least, many of us are exhausted by the time Christmas itself arrives.

The season has been skewed by the way marketing has exploited this time; it can leave us feeling inadequate and tired. Traditionally, the Twelve Days of Christmas extended the feast from Christmas Day itself to Epiphany. In Canada, rarely do we get twelve days because Epiphany is transferred to Sunday rather than being on January 6th. School holidays often end before Epiphany. Just the same, the idea of taking time after Christmas to see each other and recharge is both relevant and beautiful. In Lent we might think about the deeper disciplines that could help us to live the Christian life more fully. But in Christmas season our appreciation and gratitude are at the forefront. And that might also lead us



Giotto's "The Adoration of the Magi". Fresco in the Lower Church of the Basilica of San Francesco d'Assisi in Assisi, Italy

to reach out to some of our family and friends who may not be surrounded by family at Christmas time. And if we find ourselves keeping our own company we can also dip into our sense of gratitude. Who has helped us in our life? A short word of thanks can be a boost for all concerned. Part of what a parish is about also is the way in which we are extended family to one another. I hope that we grow some different ways to express that. Expect to see some developments in this regard in 2023.

In many European countries the traditional day for the exchange of gifts has been Epiphany, mirroring the gifts of

the Magi before the Christ child. When we exchange our gifts, can we see we are giving them to someone we love who is another Christ for us? Perhaps it is truer than we realize. Thank you!

Santa Claus we also know as a kind of alias for "St. Nicolas". His gifts represent the blessings that children are for us. His generosity is a modern-day miracle that even those without faith accept.

In this moment when our gratitude is allowed to flower may we take time to be truly grateful for Jesus, for one another and for the privilege of sharing God's saving love in every moment.

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

December 17-18, 2022

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** these 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

Saturday, December 17
4:30 pm ♦ † Ron Lichacz

Sunday, December 18
8:30 am ♦ For the People
11:00 am ♦

Tuesday, December 20
5:00 pm ♦

Wednesday, December 21
5:00 pm ♦ Unannounced

Thursday, December 22
5:00 pm ♦

Friday, December 23
5:00 pm ♦ Unannounced

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.



December 17-18, 2022

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