

St. Paul's Basilica Parish

Established in 1822

First Parish of the Archdiocese of Toronto

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Pastor: Fr. Edward J. Smith



*May the Blessings of this
Holy Season be with you Always.*

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE.
CHRISTMAS EVE 4:30P.M. 7:00 P.M. AND
MIDNIGHT MASS
CHRISTMAS DAY 8:30A.M. AND 11:00A.M.



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY,
SATURDAY DEC. 26TH 4:30P.M.
SUNDAY DEC.27TH 8:30 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.

FEAST OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD.
THURSDAY DEC. 31 4:30 P.M.
FRIDAY JANUARY 1ST 8:30 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
SATURDAY JANUARY 2ND 4:30P.M.
SUNDAY JANUARY 3RD 8:30 AND 11:00 A.M.

“MAY THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST IN ALL IT’S FULLNESS CONTINUE TO
FIND A HOME IN YOU” COLOSSIANS 3:16

MERRY CHRISTMAS

A Holy
and Blessed
Christmas

A decorative starburst graphic with eight points, positioned behind the text.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

The liturgies of the Christmas season invite us to slow down and become more contemplative. Each gospel, beginning with Christmas Day itself, presents a little vignette of this mystery of God become one of us as a vulnerable child, as a member of a human family, as a refugee fleeing for his life, and so on. In each case, we can take the time to gaze upon the child and let our hearts be moved; Saint Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, put great stock in the graces that come from simply holding the newborn Jesus and gazing upon him with love.

That this is a call to contemplation is made clear in the language of light that pervades so many prayers of the Christmas season. The opening prayer of the Mass during the Night praises God who has “made this most sacred night radiant with the splendour of the true light.” This “new radiance of your Incarnate Word” gives birth in us to “the light of faith, which illumines our minds” and “shines through in our deeds” (Mass at Dawn). This light, says the first Preface of the Nativity of the Lord, helps us to recognize in Jesus “God made visible” and so “be caught up through him in love of things invisible.”

This Christmas, take time to respond to God’s invitation in the Scriptures and prayers of our liturgies by setting aside moments of quiet to see, taste, touch, and savour the mystery of God’s Word made flesh. Let your guard down, and fall in love with the child all over again.

THE YEAR OF MERCY

Pope Francis has proclaimed a Year of Mercy beginning on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015 and concluding on Saturday, Nov. 20, 2016.



Pope Francis states in his letter announcing the Jubilee of Mercy that this is to be a year allowing every person to encounter the mercy of God.

A HUGE THANK YOU

I want to thank all of our good people who have contributed to our Family of Faith Campaign. Your generosity is outstanding!! Together we have continued the very strong legacy established by so many other people of faith who have worshipped here at St. Paul’s from one generation to the next and have given thanks to God for their blessings! Through our collective generosity we have raised to date \$512,713.00. If you have not contributed please call the parish office or see Fr. Smith.

Help to the Refugee Crisis

In response to the global refugee crisis, Cardinal Thomas Collins has launched “Project Hope” a special emergency appeal. This 100-day campaign aims to raise 3 million in order to settle 100 refugee families in the Archdiocese of Toronto as soon as possible. The effort will also require 100 volunteer committees to assist with settlement services. To make a donation to support the appeal visit: www.archtoronto.org or call 416-934-3411. You can also donate through our parish with a cheque made payable to *St. Paul’s Basilica-Project Hope-Refugee Sponsorship*. We continue to pray for all those suffering, mindful of our call to welcome the stranger in our midst. Those interested in assisting by being a volunteer should contact the Office for Refugees at 647-780-0827.

Taize Prayer Ministry at St. Paul’s
To be held Sunday January 17, 2016 at 3:30 P.M. at St. Paul’s
If you are interested in assisting us, please contact StPaulTaize@gmail.com

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