

ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822 ~ FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

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STAFF

Fr. Robert O'Brian: Pastor

Rev. Antanios Farah, OAM: In Residence. Hospital Chaplain

Cathy LaBlanc: Sacristan **Lynett Wilson:** Office Manager **Micah MacMullen** Youth Minister

Jason Lo: Bookkeeper **Ives Alvarez:** Custodian

Joseph Angelo: Music Director **Allison Angelo:** Cantor **Andrea Cerswell:** 11 am Choir Lead



Oh Come
Let us Adore Him

❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



A Holy and Happy Christmas!

Many of you will either be receiving or going to family and friends this weekend and in the coming days. It is a happy duty and reminds us of the importance of the bonds that sustain us in life. For some of us, our family is far away and while we might see them on our phones or computer screens the fact that we are away from each other does not escape us. Some of us are alone and we know that for anyone experiencing challenges this can be a difficult time.

The Feast of Christmas is here to remind us that God is not far away and not afraid to be with us. God loves us. God respects us. God nourishes and gives us life. Hopefully, we will all have the chance also to help one another to know this over the course of the Christmas season.

I am very fortunate that I have memories of Christmas as a kind of miracle that showed me new possibilities in my life. For children, these are the blessings of toys, allowing us to be creative and interactive, engaging the building blocks of life. I hope that each of us takes the chance to engage in a little play at this time, to open our hearts and minds to new possibilities and

to help us to be creative and mutually nourishing. As you go to bed tonight, consider reflecting on the miracles and the people who have been the agents of God's miracles in your life. These blessings are alive in you and come from the heart of Christ.

Sitting in the pew here at St. Paul's you can call to mind people who have sat in your seat since the church was built in 1889. Jesus has come to be with them as much as He has come to be with you. I often think that as I pray for others, many are also praying for me. I've always felt that my parents are praying for me too, that we may rejoice in God's gifts together forever. Jesus comes to us innocently and full of divine love. He knows what we need before we ever ask. Quietly, in this pew today, you can utter in your soul, "Come Lord Jesus", "Maranatha, come!". God IS with us!

Wishing the blessings of the newborn Saviour upon all of us!

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 23

4:30 pm ♦

Sunday, December 24

8:30 am ♦

11:00 am ♦ For the People

4:30 pm ♦

6:30 pm ♦

11:00 pm ♦

Monday, December 25

8:30 am ♦

11:00 am ♦ For the People

Tuesday, December 26

5:00 pm ♦

Wednesday, December 27

5:00 pm ♦ † Andrew Christie

Thursday, December 28

5:00 pm ♦

Friday, December 29

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Parish Collection Summary

Due to the bulletin publication schedule over the Christmas and New Year's season, our parish collection summary from December 16 to January 7 will be provided in the January 14, 2024 bulletin.

Thank you for supporting our parish!

Donate Online



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.



Holiday Mass Schedule

Wishing you and your families a season that's merry and bright with the light of God's love.

May God bless us all with His loving presence throughout the coming New Year!

Merry Christmas!

*Fr. Bob and
The Parish Staff*



Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve - Dec 24

8:30 am & 11:00 am

(Regular Sunday Mass)

4:30 pm Family Mass

(Preceded by Carols)

6:30 pm & 11:00 pm

Christmas Day - Dec 25

8:30 am & 11:00 am

New Year Masses

New Year's Eve - Dec 31

8:30 am & 11:00 am

(Regular Sunday Mass)

4:30 pm

New Year's Day - Jan 1

10:00 am



Holiday Office Closure

The parish office will be closed between Friday, December 22, 2023 and Friday, January 5, 2024 for the holidays. Emails and voicemails will be returned once the office reopens on Monday, January 8, 2024. Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Double the impact of your ShareLife donation

Until December 31st, all contributions to our parish's ShareLife campaign will be matched up to \$500K. Please continue to donate and double the impact of your kindness by giving with a ShareLife envelope or anytime at 'sharelife.org/donate'



Winter Clothing, Toiletries and Food Drive

During the month of December, the parish will collect **CLEAN GENTLY USED** winter clothing, such as, coats, boots, hats, gloves, warm tops and pants. We will also collect **NEW UNOPENED** toiletries, such as, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, bar soap and shampoo as well as **NEW UNWORN** socks. These donations will benefit our neighbours the Good Shepherd Ministries and the Mustard Seed. Please separate clothing from toiletries when dropping off donations in the boxes near the altar.

2024 Offertory Envelopes

Offertory Envelopes for 2024 are now available in the front entrance vestibule. The boxed sets are organized alphabetically by last name. **Please make sure to pick up only the box with your name on it and DO NOT use the 2024 envelopes until the new year begins.**



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