

# St. Paul's Basilica Parish

*Established in 1822*

*First Parish of the Archdiocese of Toronto*

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Pastor: Fr. Edward J. Smith



## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

### Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday December 24 <sup>th</sup>	4:30 p.m.	For the parishioners of St. Paul's Basilica
Sunday December 25 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 a.m.	For the parishioners of St. Paul's Basilica
	11:00 a.m.	+Jose Faller



THE SANCTUARY LIGHT BURNS FOR:  
JOSE FALLER



### NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Christmas Day is truly an amazing grace for all humankind. It's a day that has been eagerly awaited by generations of believers and entertained through the many and hopeful oracles of biblical prophets. Today, the promises of God are now fulfilled through the amazing birth of a child in the night of Bethlehem and in the chillness of a manger. First, Mary and Joseph are the only witnesses of such a marvel. But soon, the good news is proclaimed twice to humble shepherds "keeping watch over their flock by night," by "an angel of the Lord," joined later by "a multitude of the heavenly host."

This was only the beginning of the greatest good news ever proclaimed on earth. In Luke's narrative, it's not only the number of heavenly messengers that increases, but also that of the human recipients: "on earth peace among those whom [God] favours." Born in the city of David, this child is not only the Saviour and Messiah awaited by Israel: he is no less, as the Letter to Titus puts it, "the grace of God...bringing salvation to all." Let us rejoice then – both as people who believe in this Saviour and Messiah, and together with all nations on earth whom God favours.

*Jean-Pierre Prévost, Chénéville, QC*



### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy for all children JK through to Grade 6 is **every Sunday at the 11:00am mass** from now until December 18<sup>th</sup>, and then will resume January 14, 2017. Please try to be on time as the children gather and go into their group at the beginning of mass. They will return to you at the offertory. Thank you to all of the volunteers who help in the program.



### CHILDREN'S CHOIR

St. Paul's is starting a children's choir!! We invite children of all ages to come to practice **after the 11am mass**. Practices will be 45 minutes with a snack provided. The goal is to have the children sing one song during the 11 am mass. The choir will not conflict with the children's liturgy or other ministries. If you have any questions please contact: [st.pauls.childrens.choir@gmail.com](mailto:st.pauls.childrens.choir@gmail.com)

*Please come join us for this wonderful opportunity!*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWLYWEDS

The sacrament of matrimony signifies the union of Christ and the Church. It gives spouses the grace to love each other with the love with which Christ has loved his Church; the grace of the sacrament thus perfects the human love of the spouses, strengthens their indissoluble unity and sanctifies them on the way to eternal life. Congratulations to:

*Justin & Monica*

## Christmas and New Year Mass Times

**Christmas Eve:** 4:30pm, 8:00pm and 12 Midnight  
**Christmas Day:** 8:30am and 11am  
**New Year:** Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 4:30 pm  
Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 8:30am and 11am

### Mass Intentions

We continue the tradition at St. Paul's of inviting people to have Masses said for a special intention. Most often this is for someone who has died but it may be for someone who is ill or is marking a special birthday or anniversary. If someone wants that Mass on a certain day that can be arranged if the day is not already taken, or the Mass is said and you are given a card to give the family. There is a cost. Announced Masses, that is a Mass on a particular day is \$20.00 and an unannounced Mass is \$10.00. Having a Mass said is a great gift for someone who has everything

### Band of Christian Brothers Men's Conference

On **February 18<sup>th</sup>** join **Fr. Larry Richards** and **Archbishop of Montreal Christian Lépine** for Serviam Ministries' 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Band of Christian Brothers Men's Conference** at Canada Christian College in Toronto. The theme is "Step Up". The day will strengthen and challenge men to become the man God created them to be. Mass, Adoration and Confession will take place.

Special Father/Son rates available. All info and tickets: <https://www.serviamministries.com/events/step-up/>, [info@ServiamMinistries.com](mailto:info@ServiamMinistries.com) or 1-888-522-2070.



Archdiocese  
of Toronto

### EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE

There has been a great deal of interest in the Cardinal's Statement. You are asked to tell Legislators how you feel. You are encouraged to join the coalition for Health Care and Conscience. Visit [CanadianConscience.ca](http://CanadianConscience.ca). A video of Cardinal Colin's statement on federal euthanasia/assisted suicide legislation is now available online at <http://www.archtoronto.org/euthanasia>

### WELCOME VISITORS!

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all who attend Mass with us each weekend as visitors to St. Paul's Basilica Parish. We are happy to have you with us. Please introduce yourself to Fr. Edward Smith at the end of Mass.

We would like to extend a warm and caring invitation to you to join our parish. We look forward to having you become a member of our faith community. Each individual member of our Parish is an important part of the Catholic Family. The gifts of faith from the Lord are strengthened and deepened by our Communion in Jesus Christ. The celebration of the Eucharist is the heart of our parish life. Come share your "faith", your time and your talent in one of our wonderful ministries. Call our parish office to register 416-364-7588.

*If you are already a registered parishioner we would like to thank you for all your support!*

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR....

At the beginnings of St. John's Gospel in the prologue Jesus is described as being the Word, the Word of God and this Word took flesh and dwells among us.

As we celebrate the birth of the Word let us remember that the Word of Jesus is a gift, a gift that is not given to everyone but it is given to us. Like any gift we can reject it, ignore it or use it.

My Christmas wish for all of us is that Jesus, Mary and Joseph will fill you with continuous joy and continue to make you Heralds of His Gospel in season and out of season.

*Merry Christmas,  
Fr. Smith*



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