



# 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](mailto:stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org)  
Website: [stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org](http://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

## Gifts

We have just gone past “Giving Tuesday”, which follows “Cyber Monday” and “Black Friday”. I’m not sure what that is supposed to say about our spending patterns.

Christmas is coming soon, and we are looking to give gifts and express our appreciation. For us, as believers in Jesus, our giving is an outward expression of the GIFT we have received – God-with-us. Whether it is a gift for a loved one or a donation to help others or support our life of faith, where it comes from in our heart and soul makes all the difference. Parents keep handmade gifts from the children long after the kids have grown up as a sign of the way that they treasure them.

And when we receive gifts, we are most moved when the gift comes from the heart of the giver, or when there is an element of surprise, often showing how much the person loves us and is aware of our needs. Gifts are wonderful as well when they are exchanged with a sense of freedom – happy to give and graced to receive.



As a child I looked at the different store catalogues, imagining all the possibilities. In the online world the same is going on still. A gift, however, is not measured in its monetary value or even if it is popular, but in the way that it represents the deep love in which we all participate.

I do hope you consider the needs of the many charities that have been challenged during the pandemic to continue to serve the needs of others. In this regard, our parishes have been no different; it has been challenging. On the other hand, if you are being squeezed by the present inflationary

prices of things, please do sensibly meet your needs so that you can be of cheerful service in your daily life.

My last thought is that I know that some people find this time of year difficult. Please, remember not only that we walk together to meet, to know and love God, but that grace also can come to you this year. Perhaps Jesus has a gentle word of healing for you and deep peace.

I am so grateful for all of you and your love of God and of neighbour.

In Christ,

*Fr. Bob*

## ❖ NOTEWORTHY

### 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.

- Eucharistic Ministers – Saturday, December 10, at 1:30 pm
- Altar Servers (Part 1) – Saturday, January 14, at 10:30 am
- 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.

### Lessons & Carols

*Presented by Together in Worship Canada*

Please join us on Friday, December 9th at 7 pm for a concert featuring the Together in Worship Canada Choir, conductor, Vincent Cheng and organist, David Simon. Coffee will be served in the parish hall following the concert. A suggested \$20 free will offering is appreciated.



Please visit [www.tiwc.ca](http://www.tiwc.ca) for more information.



### Winter Clothing and Toiletries 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.





## 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

## A Star Has Shone *Presented by: Villa Charities and Coro San Marco*

*Monday, December 12, 2022 at 7 pm; Columbus Centre: 901 Lawrence Ave. W.*

A wonderful way to enjoy the true Spirit of Christmas performed by Coro San Marco and soloist on December 12th at the Columbus Centre. For more



information or to purchase tickets visit <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/a-star-has-shone-tickets-441119198397> or scan the QR code.



## 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](mailto:vrts@societyofsharing.org); or by visiting their website at [societyofsharing.org](http://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](http://catholicregister.org/writingaward) or scan the QR Code.



## Mass Intentions

*Saturday, December 3*

4:30 pm ♦ For the People

*Sunday, December 4*

8:30 am ♦ Kathryn & James Lowes

11:00 am ♦ † Felomina Obiena

*Tuesday, December 6*

5:00 pm ♦ † Greg Szpara

*Wednesday, December 7*

5:00 pm ♦

*Thursday, December 8*

5:00 pm ♦

*Friday, December 9*

5:00 pm ♦

## 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.***

## 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.

## 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](http://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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