



# ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822 ~ FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

## STAFF

**Fr. Robert O'Brien**  
Pastor

**Fr. Antanios Farah, OAM**  
In Residence, Hospital Chaplain

**Cathy LeBlanc**  
Sacristan

**Micah MacMullen**  
Youth Minister

**Lynett Wilson**  
Office Manager

**Jason Lo**  
Bookkeeper

**Ives Alvarez**  
Custodian

**Joseph Angelo**  
Music Director

**Allison Angelo**  
Cantor

**Andrea Cerswell**  
11 am Choir Lead

## MASS TIMES

Saturday: 4:30 pm ♦ Sunday: 8:30 am and 11:00 am  
Tuesday to Friday: 5:00 pm

Mass is celebrated at the Good Shepherd Centre - 412 Queen St. East,  
Monday to Friday: 12:00 pm

## CONFESSIONS

Saturdays from 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

## CONTACT

📍 83 Power Street, Toronto, ON M5A 3A8 | ☎ (416) 364-7588

✉ [stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org](mailto:stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org) | 🌐 [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
- ♦ First Communion, Confirmation and RCIA;  
Registration takes place in September
- ♦ Anointing of the sick & Communion to the sick and shut-ins;  
Please call during office hours

## ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Alyson Sobol, Principal ♦ Tel: (416) 393-5204

## ❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



### Lent: Christ Has Come to Bring Life

Being on the doorstep of Lent, I believe that a little bit of the fundamentals of our faith might help us in accepting the depth of God's grace and love for us. The disciples, who had Jesus physically present with them, had difficulty receiving the full truth of His presence among them. So we, who live by faith in Christ, legitimately struggle as well.

Inevitably, this brings up a topic that we'd sooner avoid; Sin. I don't know how you feel, but I myself feel as though I am being accused the minute the word is brought up. Instinctively, I want to move on to a more "positive" topic. I've lived long enough to be aware not only of some of my own defects but to also appreciate that the sorrows ever present in our world are often the consequence of what we do or don't do together. Young people in school are often encouraged to make "a difference", however the moral question is to be more specific with that statement. What difference are you going to make?

When we speak about what takes us away from God, we are not only speaking about individuals, but about the relationship we have as a people loved by God. A little grammar may help illuminate things.

Sin, in the singular, refers to the general or cumulative effect of all that takes us away from God. As much as we see the sparks of grace and divine love in our daily lives, we also see the many things affected by the faults and weaknesses of others, whether they are conscious or unconscious. This becomes part of the environment in which others live and in which we live ourselves.

Sins are our acts or omissions that harm the ease and freedom of our relationship with God. So often, we are most aware of it through the harm and discomfort we may have in our relationship with others. What we may not think of as often is

the effect of our behaviour on others, even when what we are doing is not obviously sinful.

Depending on how we were raised, we were likely taught which actions or inactions constitutes a sin. However, there are other dimensions to consider. We might have a bad habit that began as a coping mechanism. What was the origin of these sufferings that led to the need to find a way out? What knowledge and skills were available to find options to answer the pain or difficulty? Sometimes challenges in life arise from bad things that have been visited upon us. Usually, there is much to work through. There are no perfect parents, for example, and the gaining of wisdom to appreciate their struggles often takes time. In time, we also must come to terms with the effects of these things on others.

The social messages in popular music and elsewhere seem to say that the struggles are inevitable, but they can create scars of their own that we would be better off without. Lent is the season of Christ, the Healer.

Humility is the quality of appropriately accepting our responsibility, while also accepting what cannot be changed, in order to be free to receive Christ's forgiveness and healing. In this we work together, joined to Christ in His renewal of creation. We are preparing for Easter when the beginnings of that renewal become visible in the risen Lord.

Take time this Lent to follow your own agenda so that the conversion you experience might be the most fruitful! Let's look forward together to an Easter in which we clearly become a people joined to Christ's healing of the wounds of this world.

In Christ,

*Fr. Bob*



## Weekly Mass Intentions

**Saturday, February 10**

4:30 pm ♦ † Nathan Freeburn

**Sunday, February 11**

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ Isbelia Velasco & Norbey Ordonez on their 25th (Silver) Wedding Anniversary

**Tuesday, February 13**

5:00 pm ♦ † George Hawkins

**Wednesday, February 14**

5:00 pm ♦

7:00 pm ♦

**Thursday, February 15**

5:00 pm ♦ † Eva Foley

**Friday, February 16**

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

## Ash Wednesday Masses

February 14, 2024 at 5 pm & 7 pm



Lent is a special time of spiritual renewal in the Church which begins on Ash Wednesday. On Wednesday, February 14th, the parish will celebrate two Masses, at 5 pm and 7 pm, for the distribution of Ashes. During Lent the Stations of the Cross will be prayed Friday evenings after 5 pm Mass.

## Introducing EDGE - A Middle School Youth Ministry

First & Third Fridays of the Month from 6 pm - 8 pm in the Parish Hall



EDGE is a Catholic middle school youth ministry experience created to provide a fun and safe place for youth to find Catholic community, discover answers to their questions about faith, and encounter Jesus in a personal way.

St. Paul's EDGE ministry will run on the first and third Friday evenings of each month, from 6 pm to 8 pm. All youth in grades 5 - 8 are invited to join EDGE beginning Friday, February 2nd in the parish hall.

For more information speak to Micah, our Youth Minister, at the main church entrance or email him at [mmacmullen@archtoronto.org](mailto:mmacmullen@archtoronto.org).

## Parish Collection Summary

	2024	2023	Diff
Feb 4	\$ 3,709	\$ 3,707	↑ \$ 2
Feb 11		\$ 1,897	
Feb 18		\$ 5,790	
Feb 25		\$ 2,911	
Mth Target	\$ 3,709	\$ 14,305	↓ \$ 10,596

*Thank you for supporting our parish!*

## 2023 Tax Receipts



2023 tax receipts have been mailed out. Please contact the office if you have any questions. We appreciate your generosity in supporting your spiritual home. Thank you!

## 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](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.



## 2024 ShareLife Campaign Begins

As we approach our first ShareLife Sunday collection on March 17, it is essential that we come together in compassion to meet our Archdiocesan Campaign goal of \$14 million, addressing the growing needs in our communities. By reaching this goal, our agencies will continue to:

- offer walk-in counselling to those facing mental health issues
- help victims of domestic violence
- ensure isolated seniors are not forgotten
- deliver food to children in developing countries
- form priests and deacons who will minister in our parishes

Your support of ShareLife makes these programs and others possible. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope or online through our parish website.

## Lift Jesus Higher Rally

March 2nd, 2024 from 9 am to 5:30 pm  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre

Lift Jesus Higher Rally (LJHR) is an annual rally that focuses on evangelizing through uplifting music, testimonials, reflections, Divine Mercy celebration and Eucharistic Adoration.

There will be several inspirational speakers for the Adult rally and for those between 13 and 18, the Youth rally will be supercharged through great music, inspiring skits, fabulous testimonies and talks. Attendees will have the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and The Most Reverend Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto will celebrate Mass.

For more information or to purchase tickets visit [ljhr.ca](http://ljhr.ca) or scan the QR code.



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