



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 | 🌐 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



The Rite of Election: Preparation for Baptism of Adults

This Sunday, during the 11am Mass, we will celebrate the first half of the Rite of Election, with the second half of the Rite, presided over by Bishop Kasun, taking place at St. Michael's Cathedral later that same afternoon. Currently we have four people ('catechumens') who are preparing to receive all three Sacraments of Initiation at this year's Easter Vigil; Baptism, Confirmation and their first reception of the Holy Eucharist. During the Rite of Election each of these four catechumens will publicly acknowledge their desire to receive the Sacraments while the Church formally ratifies their readiness to do so.

Since last spring the four have been meeting with me every week, though we did take a break in July and August but made sure to have some time together in the middle of the summer. The process of preparation, also known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA for short, is broken down into multiple stages. The first stage we refer to as the "pre-catechumenate" or the period of "enquiry". As a group, we began by sharing the way that God has been calling to each of us and then we began to pray together and reflect on God's revelation: the creation, Christ's proclamation of the Kingdom, the group of believers from the beginning and even in the present. In fact, this experience of being and participating in the life of the Church is really the springboard to the next preparation stage, "enrollment". Once enrolled, participants attend Mass so they can reflect on the Word of the Lord and be gradually introduced to aspects of Catholic beliefs, practices and traditions, preparing for new life in Christ.

This weekend as the four catechumens become members of the Elect, they are joined to us. We are invited to pray for

and with them. We are excited that they will soon be among us living in Christ.

I have to tell you that this experience of walking with these people is a great source of encouragement to me, reminding me of the vitality of the Holy Spirit. I should also point out that we have one person who has already been baptized and will be received into the Church at Easter as well as three more people who have recently begun their journeys. You can expect to see more baptisms of adults before the year is out.

The season of Lent is constructed to support the journey of the Elect. It is a period of increased discernment and coming closer to God, purification of weak and sinful thoughts and enlightenment for a more profound spiritual preparation. As we celebrate some of the preparatory rites during Lent you will hear the readings from Year A, rather than the readings provided for this year which is Year B.

Lastly, I want to share with you an observation as I have learned about the journey of these adults. Virtually all of them had done a substantial amount of reading and studying before knocking on our door. They are remarkably well-informed and ready to learn more. As a priest, it is very exciting to me, to have people who are keen to deepen their life of faith!

Please continue to pray for the work of the Holy Spirit among us to touch us all to encounter the Lord more deeply.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 17

4:30 pm ♦ Mary Lou Lichacz

Sunday, February 18

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ † Fortunato Cofinco

Tuesday, February 20

5:00 pm ♦ Rev. Marcel Lahaie

Wednesday, February 21

5:00 pm ♦

Thursday, February 22

5:00 pm ♦ Rev. Daniel Hawkins M.S.F.

Friday, February 23

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Stations of the Cross

Fridays after the 5 pm Mass

The 40 days of Lent is a special time of spiritual renewal in the Church. During Lent the Stations of the Cross will be prayed Friday evenings after 5 pm Mass. All are welcome to join in prayer.



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.

Family Day Holiday

The parish office will be closed on Monday, February 19th for the Family Day Holiday. Have a wonderful weekend!

Parish Collection Summary

	2024	2023	Diff
Feb 4	\$ 3,709	\$ 3,707	↑ \$ 2
Feb 11	\$ 3,324	\$ 1,897	↑ \$ 1,427
Feb 18		\$ 5,790	
Feb 25		\$ 2,911	
Mth Target	\$ 7,033	\$ 14,305	↓ \$ 7,272

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.



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!

Journey through Lent Videos

Every week during Lent the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops will release a video reflection from their series entitled "Journey through Lent 2024". To view the videos visit 'cccb.ca/lent' or scan the QR code.



Free Webinar: Estate Planning from a Catholic Perspective

Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 9:00 am

Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services and the Archdiocese of Toronto estate planning team invite you to join this free webinar to learn about how to avoid issues with your Will, Powers of Attorney & Estate Planning as well as Catholic traditions around cremation, burials and funerals. To register scan the QR code, visit 'qrco.de/WebFeb24' or email participant names to development@archtoronto.org, with 'Webinar February 24' as the subject.



Support our vulnerable youth through ShareLife

In this time of Lent, we ask you to think of our brothers and sisters in need – especially our vulnerable youth who call the streets their home. "Your gift ensures youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness have access to individualized support and variety of programs and services to meet their complex and diverse needs," says Mark Aston of Covenant House Toronto. "With your caring support, youth have a safe space to turn to and a supportive team to help them plan their own path." Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope or online through our parish website.

Lift Jesus Higher Rally ("LJHR")

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

LJHR is an annual rally focusing on evangelizing through uplifting music, testimonials, reflections, Divine Mercy celebration and Eucharistic Adoration. Adults can enjoy several inspirational speakers while youth, aged 13-18, will be supercharged through great music, inspiring skits, fabulous testimonies and talks. Reconciliation will be available and The Most Reverend Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto will celebrate Mass. For more information or to purchase tickets visit 'lshr.ca' or scan the QR code.



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