



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



Lent: A Season of Purification

Last week I wrote about the Rite of Election which is an important part of the First Sunday of Lent. Now, I am devoting some space to the unfolding of the season of Lent, both for our newly minted Elect and for all of us. The Elect are preparing to be made new, to become part of Christ's new creation in His name. This is the time to sweep away anything that gets in the way, whether a wound, a bad habit, or an attitude that has become weary with the world.

For those of us who are already initiated in our Catholic faith, our cue comes from the journey of the Elect. Is there something that we need to let go of, a particular burden to be freed from, or a distraction that takes us away from the One who is truly important and Who gives light to all our relationships? The Word of God, the readings we use throughout the season are arranged to make that change more possible.

Like Jesus Himself, there are times for activity and service, and there are times for quiet dialogue with the Father. The moments of stillness help to solidify changes the Lord is making in our lives, as He writes His love in our hearts and minds.

Traditionally sacrifice also enters into the scene and is what lies behind the idea of "giving up something for Lent". My simple suggestion is that you consider that your sacrifice be some of your time. We seem to stuff our days with so many things. Positively showering one another with a respectful

attention, while we encourage each other for good, wouldn't be a bad idea. I only half-jokingly suggested dropping the headphones or taking a big cut on "screen time". Living in a world too mediated by the things we like could leave us without real empathy or understanding for others, a dent in our ability to have deep relationships. I will write some more for us to consider next week.

The last item I wish to write about is ShareLife. It began in the late 1960's, as Share Lent, an annual campaign by Canadian Organization of Development and Peace, joining all our Catholic social agencies and needs of the seminary into a single diocesan-wide effort. The ShareLife campaign has grown over the years to include a fund that helps dioceses around the world to promote the Gospel as well as an increased number of supported agencies. Relevant to our own parish are organizations like Catholic Family Services of Toronto and Catholic Cross-Cultural Services, that help families and immigrants. St. Augustine's Seminary continues to receive support. More info will be forthcoming. Please consider a substantial donation to ShareLife. It will make important differences for many people.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

❖ NEWS

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 24

4:30 pm ♦ † Stephen Ball

Sunday, February 25

8:30 am ♦ † Adriana R. Nerizon

11:00 am ♦ For the People

Tuesday, February 27

5:00 pm ♦ † Rev. Noel Whelan

Wednesday, February 28

5:00 pm ♦ † Joseph Steiner

Thursday, February 29

5:00 pm ♦

Friday, March 1

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Parish Collection Summary

	2024	2023	Diff
Feb 4	\$ 3,709	\$ 3,707	↑ \$ 2
Feb 11	\$ 3,324	\$ 1,897	↑ \$ 1,427
Feb 18	\$ 4,559	\$ 5,790	↓ \$ 1,231
Feb 25		\$ 2,911	
Mth Target	\$ 11,592	\$ 14,305	↓ \$ 2,713

Thank you for supporting our parish!

2023 Tax Receipts

Parish tax receipts have been mailed out. Online donation receipts are mailed separately by the Archdiocese. Please contact the office if you have any questions. We appreciate your generosity in supporting your spiritual home. Thank you!

St. Joseph's Centre Reminder

Reminder that donation bottles for the Centre of Hope for Women will be picked up next weekend, March 2 & 3.

Donate Online

Credit card or direct bank account debit donations are an easy way to help support our parish. Tax receipts are emailed immediately for a single donation and mailed at the end of the year for recurring gifts. Scan the QR code or visit stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org and hit the Donate button. Check that "St. Paul's Basilica, Toronto" is selected from the Parish drop down menu when signing up.



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.



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 ccb.ca/lent or scan the QR code.



Tenebrae Service

Friday, March 22, 2024 at 7:30 pm

With a dimly-lit church, a rarely-seen candle holder, and somber tones, "Tenebrae" (Latin meaning 'darkness' or 'shadows') is a unique and special service, adapted from 9th century medieval Roman Catholic practices, marking the days of Holy Week with readings, music and candles extinguished one by one. On Friday, March 22, at 7:30 pm, we invite you to experience the Tenebrae service, sung by the St. Michael's Choir School Alumni Choir and set to music composed by the school's founder, Msgr. John Edward Ronan. This is a solemn liturgical service, open and free to all. However, a free-will donation will be gratefully accepted.



Good Friday Concert

Friday, March 31, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Please join us on March 31st, at 7:30 pm, as our parish hosts the Together in Worship Canada (TiWC.ca) Choir, with conductor, Matthew Larkin and organist, Manuel Piazza, as they enable our reflection on Christ's death through Duruflé's Requiem and other featured works by Anerio, Lappano, Stainer and more, performed by some of Toronto's finest musicians. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Advanced tickets and package deals may be reserved at the parish office.

Show your love through ShareLife



ShareLife Sunday is March 17. Our parish goal for this year's campaign is \$70,000.

Through your kindness, over 40 Catholic organizations and social service agencies can help marginalized members of our community. No one is turned away due to inability to pay. This is all possible through your support. 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 ljhr.ca or scan the QR code.



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