



# 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



The Church  
is More than  
a Building

### "The Church"

It is an evocative term. It probably makes most of us think about the institutional aspects of the Church's life, but it is really a very short word for a very complex reality.

#### *The Church is "Small"*

When I first visited Rome on a holiday in 1996 and drank in the history and beauty, I also began to sense that the Church is a more fragile entity than we sometimes credit. The bureaucracy of the entire Vatican is only something over 2,000 people for a worldwide community now of almost 2 billion. Compare that with the City of Toronto employee roster or any corporate structure of size and the reality is that the Church always "does a lot, with a little". We ask people to become involved in the Church's life and depend on a relatively small group of them.

Another way I realized that the Church is small is that it really has only three levels of responsibility: the parish, the diocese and the Holy See. Compare that with any government structure you care to mention. This helps the Church to be present to its mission but when confronted by problems it means that there are limited resources and an urgent necessity of cooperation among the three levels. It can take a while to redirect those energies.

#### *The Church is "Big"*

Well, we know that the Church is a global reality and in our own archdiocese a culturally diverse one. It wasn't that long ago that the pope was always elected from among the Italian cardinals. That changed in 1978 with the election of Pope John

Paul II, the first non-Italian in something like 450 years, and of course Pope Benedict was elected as a cardinal from Germany. With the election of Pope Francis, we have a pope from outside of Europe who still has roots there. Our next pope may well come from the bigger parts of the Church, i.e., with the biggest Catholic populations and the greatest practice of the faith. Among the countries with the highest attendance at Mass are several African countries now. Latin America and Asia also have very vital local Churches. The Holy Spirit is active in these places. Already, the Church in Canada is benefiting from this. We may struggle a little with "cultural translation" sometimes but we have so much to learn from one another.

#### *The Church is us!*

The most important thing we do is actively make Christ present and the "institutional" parts of the Church are supposed to support that. It can be very easy right now to get distracted by all the chatter. So, at our own level, the parish we can bring ourselves together to allow great things to happen. Those great things may be small in the eyes of many in the world, but if they produce real fruits in grace then that is a very big thing.

The Church, then, is not monolithic. It is alive. We simply are called to actively do what we can to allow the Spirit to do great work.

In Christ,

*Fr. Bob*

# ❖ NEWS

## Social Committee Start-up!



We are currently recruiting volunteers for a new parish Social Committee. Members of this new committee will be responsible for planning, preparing and hosting social events under the guidance of parish staff. Some useful skills include brainstorming ideas, planning logistics, preparing food/desserts, setup/cleanup, serving and volunteering the day of. Parish events currently in planning include monthly coffee & dessert socials and a summer festival.

If you feel you would like to be a part of this committee, please contact the parish office with your name, contact info and ways you can help!

# ❖ NOTEWORTHY

## Parish Collection Summary

	2023	2022	Diff
Last Wkd	\$ 2,174	\$ 1,559	↑ \$615
Mth Total	\$11,072	\$10,889	↑ \$183

## Mary, Mother of God School

*Now Registering for 2023/2024*

Mary, Mother of God Private School (JK-12), located in the Roncesvalles/Parkdale area, is now interviewing for September 2023. Deeply rooted in the Catholic tradition, especially devoted to Our Lady, they are an affordable private school, with an excellent academic program, dynamic and joyful student life, and small classes. Visit [marymotherofgodschool.org](http://marymotherofgodschool.org) or call 416-531-7897 for more info.

## Kindergarten Registration!

Registrations are now being accepted for children, born in 2019, to begin Junior Kindergarten at St. Paul's School this September. For more information or to apply, visit [tcdsb.org](http://tcdsb.org) or scan the QR



## Games and Fellowship

*February 10th at 7 pm in the Parish Hall*

On Friday, February 10th, the parish is hosting a fun evening of games and fellowship! Join fellow parishioners for games such as Scrabble, Cribbage, Chess and more, including some light snacks and refreshments. All adults are welcome and feel free to bring your favourite games!



## Lift Jesus Higher Rally

*March 4th, 2023 from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm  
Metro Toronto Conventino Centre*



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

The Adult rally will feature keynote speakers Ralph Martin and Chris Stefanick and Mass celebrated by His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins. The Youth event, created for those between 13 and 18 years old, runs concurrently and is supercharged through great music, inspiring skits, fabulous testimonies and talks.

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



## Mass Intentions

*Saturday, February 4*

4:30 pm ♦ † Veronica Ball

*Sunday, February 5*

8:30 am ♦ † Charles & Giovanna Zuzek

11:00 am ♦ For the People

*Tuesday, February 7*

5:00 pm ♦ † Hiltje Adams

*Wednesday, February 8*

5:00 pm ♦ The overall health of

David Jonas Ordonez Velasco

*Thursday, February 9*

5:00 pm ♦ Unannounced

*Friday, February 10*

5:00 pm ♦ Unannounced

## Mass Intention Scheduling

Intentions are accepted for all parish Masses, contingent on availability. The offering is \$20 for a specified Mass date and \$10 for an unscheduled intention. If you would like to order a Mass intention, please contact the parish office.

## 2023 Offertory Envelopes

Offering Envelopes for 2023 are available at the back of the church. The boxed sets are organized alphabetically. Please make sure to pick up only the box with your name on it.

## 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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