

St. Paul's Basilica

Est. 1822~First Catholic Parish in Toronto

STAFF

Fr. Robert O'Brien

Pastor

Lynett Wilson

Admin / Communications

Cathy LeBlanc

Sacristan

Rev. Antanios Farah, OAM

In Residence. Hospital Chaplain

Jason Lo

Bookkeeper

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
Website: stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org

SACRAMENTS

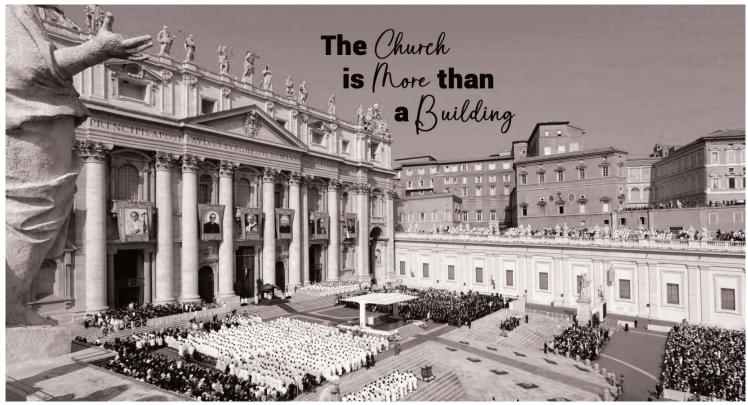
Please contact us for more information on preparing for and receiving a Sacrament at St. Paul's Basilica.

- ♦ 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;
 Registraition 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"

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!

is hosting a fun evening of games

and fellowship! Join fellow parishioners for games such as Scrabble, Cribbage, Chess and

Games and Fellowship

February 10th at 7 pm in the Parish Hall

On Friday, February 10th, the parish

more, including some light snacks and refreshments. All adults are welcome and feel free to bring your



❖ Noteworthy

Parish Collection Summary

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

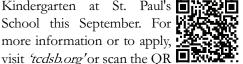
Mary, Mother of God School

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 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,



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 seperate 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, fabulus testimonies and talks.

For more information or to purchase tickets visit 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 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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