

# St. Paul's Basilica Parish

*Established in 1822*

*First Parish of the Archdiocese of Toronto*

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Pastor: Fr. Edward J. Smith

**May the  
Spirit of God  
Lead You Through  
the New Year**



# SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

## Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday December 31st	4:30 p.m.	In thanksgiving for the many blessings given to the parishioners of St. Paul's Basilica in 2016
Sunday January 1 <sup>st</sup>	8:30 a.m.	In thanksgiving for the many blessings given to the parishioners of St. Paul's Basilica in 2016
	11:00 a.m.	+Jose Faller +Monique Collin



THE SANCTUARY LIGHT BURNS FOR:



### MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

"God sent his Son, born of a woman." This mysterious encounter, where a vulnerable girl finds the strength to say yes, brings about our adoption into the family of God. That fragile young woman becomes our holy mother, to whom we turn in our own moments of fragility. And God becomes our "Abba", to whom we cry out like a small child calling for their daddy.

From that "born of a woman" miracle, we are welcomed into an economy of grace that turns the power structures of this world on their heads. You want to see tough? Meet this unmarried girl face to face with a terrifying angel. You want to see a powerful king? Here is Christ crucified.

The encounter with the living God turns this broken world, full of oppression and abuses of power, onto its head. Mary embraced the encounter, and through that embrace Christ enters our world to "bring good news to the poor." The world- transformation we long for isn't subtle. Jesus promises captives released, blindness reversed, the oppressed going free: no half measures.

The encounter with the face of God is an encounter with a terrifying, purifying light. That light transforms with burning heat and renders the darkness unrecognizable. From vulnerability, strength. From the darkness, light. May the Lord make his face to shine upon us.  
*Kate McGee, Toronto, ON*



### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy for all children JK through to Grade 6 is **every Sunday at the 11:00am mass** from now until December 18<sup>th</sup>, and then will resume January 14, 2017. Please try to be on time as the children gather and go into their group at the beginning of mass. They will return to you at the offertory. Thank you to all of the volunteers who help in the program.



### CHILDREN'S CHOIR

St. Paul's is starting a children's choir!! We invite children of all ages to come to practice **after the 11am mass**. Practices will be 45 minutes with a snack provided. The goal is to have the children sing one song during the 11 am mass. The choir will not conflict with the children's liturgy or other ministries. If you have any questions please contact: [st.pauls.childrens.choir@gmail.com](mailto:st.pauls.childrens.choir@gmail.com)

*Please come join us for this wonderful opportunity!*

Merry  
Christmas

*May the blessings  
of this Holy Season  
be with you always.*

### Mass Intentions

We continue the tradition at St. Paul's of inviting people to have Masses said for a special intention. Most often this is for someone who has died but it may be for someone who is ill or is marking a special birthday or anniversary. If someone wants that Mass on a certain day that can be arranged if the day is not already taken, or the Mass is said and you are given a card to give the family. The church offering for Announced Masses, that is a Mass on a particular day is \$20.00 and an unannounced Mass is \$10.00. Having a Mass said is a great gift for someone who has everything.

### Band of Christian Brothers Men's Conference

On February 18<sup>th</sup> join Fr. Larry Richards and Archbishop of Montreal Christian Lépine for Serviam Ministries' 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Band of Christian Brothers Men's Conference** at Canada Christian College in Toronto. The theme is "Step Up". The day will strengthen and challenge men to become the man God created them to be. Mass, Adoration and Confession will take place.

Special Father/Son rates available. All info and tickets: <https://www.serviamministries.com/events/step-up/>, [info@ServiamMinistries.com](mailto:info@ServiamMinistries.com) or 1-888-522-2070.



Archdiocese  
of Toronto

### EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE

There has been a great deal of interest in the Cardinal's Statement. You are asked to tell Legislators how you feel. You are encouraged to join the coalition for Health Care and Conscience. Visit [CanadianConscience.ca](http://CanadianConscience.ca). A video of Cardinal Colin's statement on federal euthanasia/assisted suicide legislation is now available online at <http://www.archtoronto.org/euthanasia>

### When Can I Visit St. Paul's

You can visit St. Paul's Monday to Friday during office hours. There is a buzzer by the side door, just press the buzzer and the parish secretary will let you into the church. We do have visitors every day as it stands right now. More would be welcome.

### THE FURNITURE BANK

The Sisters of St. Joseph began this initiative a number of years ago to provide furniture for households that are just setting up housekeeping. This often involves refugee families and the poor. They are located in the west of the city south of the Gardiner, between Kipling and Islington. They can be reached at 416-934-1229. They will pick up for those who wish to make a donation of furniture. There is a fee involved for pickups. More information can be received at [info@furniturebank.org](mailto:info@furniturebank.org).

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**We ask that all children be accompanied by an adult to the restrooms and all public areas of the Church, at all times.**

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR:

On the front of the bulletin week after week is this passage of scripture from St. Paul's letter to the early faith community at COLOSSE "May the message of Christ, in all its fullness, continue to find a home in you" (Colossians 3:16)

As we begin a New Year, that is my prayer for all of us here at St. Paul's Basilica. Every year has its challenges and dreams fulfilled. Whether it is a good time in our faith journey or a challenging time, the words of Jesus are valid for all times and all seasons.

"Rejoice so highly favoured"

"Do not be afraid I am with you. I go before you".

St. Paul discovered these words time and time again in his own faith journey.

As we look forward to a new year, may every good gift come from Our Father of Light and may He grant us all His grace of unwavering faith, constant hope and a love that endures to the end.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Sincerely,  
Fr. Smith

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