



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
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;
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

God-With-Us: Our Faith Has Implications

Today we celebrate a feast closely allied to Christmas itself, “Mary, the Mother of God”. In much of Eastern Christianity the term used translates to “The God-Bearer”, in Greek, “Theotokos”. This changes our relationship with God. God is no longer “out there”. God is “here”.

Virtually all religious traditions express relationship with the divine by calling for a way of life with particular characteristics. In our world that values personal liberty, it runs against the grain. I will just say as a person in his early 60's now, I have known many people who have had to upend their lives in their 50's to re-establish stable life. Maybe there is something missing in that liberty. My guess is that with all the manipulations that are part and parcel of life we are not as free as we think and internally, we have many things to work out. In our faith life we call this the “purgative” stage of the spiritual life. We get rid of the things that get in the way.

A few points: One: Some discipline in our lives not only is good, but if it is of the right sort, it helps us to clarify and act effectively in what is most important. Direction and vision of any kind imply boundaries. We are going to do some things and not others. Two: Many of the implications of our faith are directed not only at our own good but that of others. We are being formed into a people who belong to God together. This can both be good and can involve sacrifice. Three: The right sacrifices in our life will help us to live more fruitfully. We can closet ourselves in with our self-expectations but developing the virtues that fit us will help us to see and live beyond ourselves in happy relationship with God and in mature love with others.

When we understand that living in conformity with Christ's expectations, is both challenging and fruitful, we may find a new springboard from which to live.

When Mary said, “Let it be done to me, according to Your Word”, she didn't have all the implications in her mind, but her developed love of God allowed her to be free, and to say, “Yes!”. As our minds turn to going back to work and to school and to thriving in the cold days of winter, help us, O Lord, to find that quiet place where we can say, “Yes” to the implications of Your coming to us! O Mary, Mother of God, draw near to us so that we may share the closeness with Your Son that you enjoy!

In Christ,

Fr. Bob





2023 New Year Blessings!

May God be with you and your families through this New Year and fill your lives with comfort, love and cheer. May this day and the days ahead, hold many blessings for you and yours. Happy New Year from Fr. Bob and the parish staff!

Winter Clothing, Toiletries and Food Drive

The parish is collecting **CLEAN GENTLY USED MENS** winter clothing, specifically, coats, boots, hats, gloves and warm tops and pants. We are also collecting **NEW UNOPENED** toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, bar soap and shampoo as well as **NEW UNWORN** socks. These donations will benefit the Good Shepherd Ministries and the Mustard Seed (part of Fontbonne Ministries). Please separate clothing from toiletries when dropping off donations in the boxes near the altar. **NON-PERISHABLE FOOD** will go to the Society of Sharing food pantry program.

Ministry Training Workshops



The parish will be hosting ministry training workshops in the coming weeks, intended for **ALL** volunteers who are **CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN** or are **INTERESTED IN** the parish ministry. The goal of these workshops is to ensure that all volunteers, both new and

existing, are familiar with and following the current procedures and responsibilities for performing the ministry. Workshops will also include practical run-throughs, scheduling / time expectations, and ensure that all screening requirements and checks are up to date.

- Altar Servers (Part 1) – Saturday, January 14, at 10:30 am
- Collection Counters – Sunday, January 22, at 2 pm
- Altar Servers (Part 2) – Saturday, February 11, at 10:30 am

Please register with the parish office if you plan on attending. If you are unable to make the scheduled date, please notify the office as alternate dates may be scheduled based on numbers.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 31

4:30 pm ♦

Sunday, January 1

8:30 am ♦

11:00 am ♦ For the People

Tuesday, January 3

5:00 pm ♦

Wednesday, January 4

5:00 pm ♦ Unannounced

Thursday, January 5

5:00 pm ♦

Friday, January 6

5:00 pm ♦ Unannounced

New Year's Mass Schedule



New Year's Eve - Dec 31

4:30 pm

New Year's Day - Jan 1

8:30 am & 11:00 am

2023 Offertory Envelopes

Offering Envelopes for 2023 will be available at the back of the church next weekend. The boxed sets will be 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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