

Living the Gospel

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ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822 ~ FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

83 Power Street, Toronto, Ontario M5A 3A8

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❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Taking Stock and Looking Ahead

This weekend you are receiving the annual financial report for 2023, which includes comparative figures from 2022. This is the first time we are seeing our financial picture as it is emerging “Post-Covid”. As you can see, donations and other sources of revenue are up. It is no surprise that costs have also significantly increased.

Historically, the maintenance of this large, beautiful, heritage church has fallen to the resources that are generated largely here at the parish. As some who have been at St. Paul’s a long time know, there was a significant campaign in the early 2000’s which resulted in the interior restoration, as well as other work, to improve the church building and the rectory.

St. Paul’s has three “lives”. Primarily, we are a regular inner-city parish. Secondly, we welcome diverse groups from across the Archdiocese and beyond. In 2023 we welcomed over 30 school groups from across southern Ontario, and hosted celebrations with the Good Shepherd, Catholic university chaplaincies, the Office of Catholic Youth, the Legacy Society of the Archdiocese, Toronto Right to Life, the Loretto Sisters and the Toronto Catholic District School Board. The third “life” that St. Paul’s has is cultural. We often interact with various arts and cultural groups and communities. In the last year we have hosted

two recording sessions, four community-based choir concerts and two organ recitals in association with the Royal Canadian College of Organists. We also participated in the Doors Open weekend and welcomed a thousand visitors over the two days.

As I alluded to in the announcements last weekend, I have begun a process of discussions with the Archdiocese that will see us working together to support further development in all three of these areas. It will help clarify how we, as a parish, can take a proportionate responsibility to serve the mission of the Church here at St. Paul’s, while also taking into account the ways in which the basilica does and will support the wider mission of the Archdiocese.

I will continue to keep you informed as these discussions develop. Bear in mind that our parish family will undoubtedly grow significantly, and all of us have a part in ensuring that happens effectively. Currently, there are approximately 3,600 condo units actively under construction within the parish boundaries. The next year will see the opening of the Port Lands, where a whole new city neighbourhood will be developed, with some of those new residents attending St. Paul’s. The expected completion of the Regent Park redevelopment, the eventual opening of the new Ontario Line subway, bringing the nearby Corktown station, and

a similar intensification around the planned Riverside-Leslieville station, will make St. Paul’s much more central and accessible.

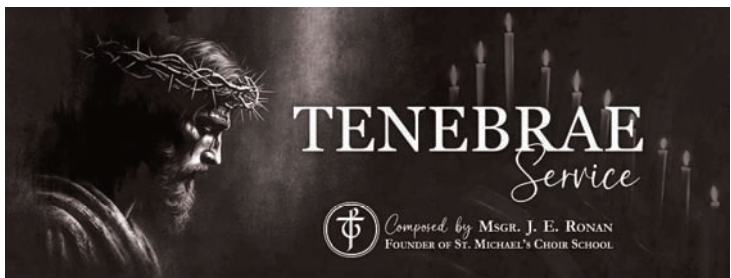
In addition to its beauty and historical significance, the basilica is very fortunate to have generous meeting spaces. It is a blessing that allows us to expand our parish life, and is a great asset for welcoming groups from across the Archdiocese. All this current and future potential for the basilica have been recognized and are reasons for us and the Archdiocese to enthusiastically make full use of the first Catholic parish in Toronto.

We are using your financial support of St. Paul’s to help meet our operating costs and to support prudent developments that will make us more able to serve our needs, those of the Archdiocese and provide a hospitable welcome for many others in our city.

Thank you for being committed to our parish community and supporting the mission of the Church to make Christ known and to manifest His healing and creating love. We will continue to try to be good stewards of your gifts.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob



With a dimly-lit church, a rarely-seen candle holder, and somber tones, “Tenebrae” (Latin for ‘darkness/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.



Please join us on **Good Friday, March 29th, at 7:30 pm**, as our parish hosts the Together in Worship Canada Choir, with conductor, Matthew Larkin and organist, Manuel Piazza, as they enable our reflection on Christ’s death through Duruflé’s Requiem Op. 9 and other featured works by Anerio, Lappano, Stainer and more, performed by some of Toronto’s finest musicians.

Reserve tickets in advance at the parish office and save. Adult tickets are \$20, \$15 for Students/Seniors and \$70 for Groups of Four(4). Hurry, prices increase by \$5 per ticket at the door.

❖ NEWS

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 9

4:30 pm ♦ † Fr. Sean O’Sullivan

Sunday, March 10

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ † Anton Pham Van Ngoc

Tuesday, March 12

5:00 pm ♦ Janice Byrne

Wednesday, March 13

5:00 pm ♦

Thursday, March 14

5:00 pm ♦ † Inez Marie McGovern

Friday, March 15

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Parish Collection Summary

	2024	2023	Diff
Mar 3	\$ 5,585	\$ 4,182	↑ \$ 1,403
Mar 10		\$ 1,910	
Mar 17		\$ 6,272	
Mar 24		\$ 2,757	
Mar 31			
Mth Target	\$ 5,585	\$ 15,121	↓ \$ 9,536

Thank you for supporting our parish!

Lenten Reconciliation Services

During Lent Reconciliation Services will take place:

- » Every Saturday from 3:45 pm to 4:15 pm or by appointment
- » Saturday, March 16 - 2 pm to 4:15 pm
- » Wednesday, March 20 - 5:30 pm to 7 pm

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'](http://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 ['cccb.ca/lent'](http://cccb.ca/lent) or scan the QR code.



Young Adult Board Game & Social Night

March 23 at 6:30 pm

Come out and meet other young adults (19+) for a fun evening of board games and fellowship in the parish hall. Bring your own games or join in a game brought by others. Light snacks and refreshments will be served. Suggested donation: \$5. Donations help us cover the cost of this event and to continue offering events like this in the future. Email mmacmullen@archtoronto.org for more info.



Inspired by God's love: Support ShareLife's Mission



Today, as we contemplate God’s boundless generosity, may we, too, be moved by this same spirit of generosity. May this inspire all of us to be kind, compassionate, and move us to share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in need. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope or online through our parish website.



Holy Thursday / March 28

(No 5:00 pm Mass)

Mass of the Lord’s Supper - 7:30 pm

Adoration until 9:30 pm

Good Friday / March 29

The Lord’s Passion

1:00 pm & 3:00 pm

Stations of the Cross - 5:30 pm

Holy Saturday / March 30

Easter Vigil - 8:00 pm

(No 4:30 pm Mass)

Easter Sunday / March 31

8:30 am & 11:00 am

Concert in honour of Saint Joseph, Patron of Canada

March 21st, 2024 at 7 pm - 8:30 pm

Join us on March 21st, at 7 pm, as our parish hosts the Heralds of the Gospel for a free concert in honour of St. Joseph’s 400th Anniversary as Patron of Canada.

The performance features the angelic voices of Mississauga’s Guiding Light Academy Children’s Choir, accompanied by an organist and trumpeters from the Heralds religious community, violonist Eddy Marcano and Tenor Romulo Delgado. The programme will include a variety of popular hymns, honouring the earthly father of the Infant Jesus, form around the world, alongside explanations highlighting the historical and spiritual context of each hymn. For more info call 1-800-674-3410 or email heralds@haralds.ca

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