



ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822 ~ FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

STAFF

Fr. Robert O'Brien
Pastor

Fr. Antanios Farah, OAM
In Residence, Hospital Chaplain

Cathy LeBlanc
Sacristan

Micah MacMullen
Youth Minister

Lynett Wilson
Office Manager

Jason Lo
Bookkeeper

Ives Alvarez
Custodian

Joseph Angelo
Music Director

Allison Angelo
Cantor

Andrea Cerswell
11 am Choir Lead

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 4:30 pm ♦ Sunday: 8:30 am and 11:00 am
Tuesday to Friday: 5:00 pm

Mass is celebrated at the Good Shepherd Centre - 412 Queen St. East,
Monday to Friday: 12:00 pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays from 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

CONTACT

📍 83 Power Street, Toronto, ON M5A 3A8 | ☎ (416) 364-7588

✉ stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org | 🌐 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
- ♦ First Communion, Confirmation and RCIA;
Registration takes place in September
- ♦ Anointing of the sick & Communion to the sick and shut-ins;
Please call during office hours

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Alyson Sobol, Principal ♦ Tel: (416) 393-5204

❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



The Anointed One of the Father

Holy Week begins with great solemnity. On this day, Palm Sunday, we follow Jesus into Jerusalem and accompany Him in the Passion. In St. Mark's Gospel we hear about the woman who pours precious nard, a luxurious perfume, over Jesus' head. It was very expensive! 300 days wages were required to pay for it. That's more expensive than anything you can buy at a department store.

Jesus explains to us that this anticipates His burial. You may recollect a line in the psalms that recalls something similar with Aaron the priest: *Like fine oil on the head, running down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, upon the collar of his robe.* (NAB Ps. 133:2). Aaron has been anointed to make a sacrifice on behalf of the people. Likewise, Jesus is anointed in this way to make a sacrifice. This is our theme for Holy Week! As the sacrifice of atonement places the people at rights with God, the whole of creation is now put right by Jesus' sacrifice, by His divine gift of love.

When we wish the world to be different, or just things within our families and

we grieve over it, are these not also sentiments of love? This is the not so easy aspect of love. While we are actively suffering through our grief, it is difficult, or seems unfair even, to see it as redemptive. It is only when we allow the Easter Mystery to change the experience into one that is lifegiving that we begin to "see"; to trust that we need one another's faith and love. Let's pray for each other this week.

Throughout the week we will walk the path to the Cross, and we will go to the heart of our faith. The Lord Jesus will break the bread and bless the wine, telling us that this is His body and blood, commanding us to continue to remember Him. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He will pray with great intensity to the Father, making clear to us that this difficult path of redemption is, nonetheless, the path of divine love for God's creatures.

And there will be periods of long silences. After Mass on Holy Thursday, we will have a time of great silence. On Good Friday we gather quietly and

listen once more to the Passion and then we are strengthened by the Eucharist before we resume the stillness. That stillness is only broken by the fire at the beginning of the Easter Vigil. Gently carrying the light of the resurrected Lord into the darkened church, we listen attentively to the whole arc of salvation. At the Gloria, the heavens open wide and reveal Jesus' victory over sin and death. And with the resurrection begins that new life and the new creation. We celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist! This year we will have 5 new Catholics!

My last word for this week is not to forget that Easter joy. Ultimately, we are an Easter people. Struggles we may still have but we will know the arc of divine love, of new life.

May we all have a blessed Holy Week and a glorious Easter!

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

❖ NEWS

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 23

4:30 pm ♦ † Joan Lacy

Sunday, March 24

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ Thanksgiving for Bursaries & Grants Received

Tuesday, March 26

5:00 pm ♦ † Patrick Nwosu-Adigwe

Wednesday, March 27

5:00 pm ♦ † Nestor Gardon

ShareLife: Welcome Jesus into your hearts by sharing your blessings today

Today is Palm Sunday, a time in our Lenten journey when we are reminded of the importance of welcoming Jesus in our hearts. In the spirit of His teachings and example, let us extend our hands to those who need our help the most. Thus far we have raised \$4,781 toward our goal of \$75,000. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope or online through our parish website. Thank you for living the Gospel by opening your hearts and sharing your blessings.



Office Closed for Easter Holidays



The parish office will be closed for the Easter holidays, between Friday, March 29 and Tuesday, April 2. Regular office hours will resume on Wednesday, April 3.

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' or scan the QR code.



Good Friday's Needs of the Holy Land Special Collection

Our collection on Good Friday, March 29, is a Pontifical request for the Holy Land in support of Christian communities, the works of the Holy Land and the upkeep of Holy Sites. Let us give generously to respond to the needs of the Church in the land of Jesus.

Ongoing Catholicism Program

St. Paul's invites you to attend our "Catholicism" program, happening every Sunday, after the 11 am Mass. Each week, we watch a 30-minute video by Bishop Barron, where he addresses some of the most controversial questions about life and the identity of Jesus Christ. After the video, we discuss the episode over coffee, tea, and light refreshments. The Catholicism program is a great opportunity for you to grow in your faith while getting involved with our Parish faith community. We hope to see you there!

Parish Collection Summary

	2024	2023	Diff
Mar 3	\$ 5,585	\$ 4,182	↑ \$ 1,403
Mar 10	\$ 2,268	\$ 1,910	↑ \$ 358
Mar 17	\$ 3,310	\$ 6,272	↓ \$ 2,962
Mar 24		\$ 2,757	
Mar 31			
Mth Target	\$ 11,162	\$ 15,121	↓ \$ 3,959

Thank you for supporting our parish!

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' and hit the Donate button. Check that "St. Paul's Basilica, Toronto" is selected from the Parish drop down menu when signing up.



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



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.

Palm Sunday in Lent

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