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## St. Paul's Basilica Parish

*Established in 1822*

*First Parish of the Archdiocese of Toronto*

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Website: [stpaulsbasilicaparish.com](http://stpaulsbasilicaparish.com)   E-mail: [stpaulsbasilica@on.aibn.com](mailto:stpaulsbasilica@on.aibn.com)

Mass Intentions at St. Paul`s Basilica

Saturday March 25, 2017 4:30 p.m.

Parishioners St. Paul`s Basilica

Sunday March 26, 2017 8:30 a.m.

+ Pablo Chia Sr.

11:00am

+ Jose Faller

+ Lydia Collins

Monday March 27 – Saint Joseph,

Tuesday March 28 – Ferial

Wednesday March 29 - Ferial

Thursday March 30 – Ferial

Friday March 31 – Ferial

Weekday Masses are held at the Good Sheppard Centre Tuesday to Friday at 12:00 noon



THE SANCTUARY LIGHT BURNS FOR:  
THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. PAUL'S BASILICA



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Samuel has been commissioned by God to choose a successor to Saul. Like us, Samuel frequently judges by appearances, while God judges by the heart. Samuel's selection of David and Jesus' healing the blind man in today's gospel speak to us of God's choices. Jesus sees in the blind man someone with great potential who moves from a world of darkness to collaborate with Jesus. He will be the one to display the work of God and reveal Jesus to others.

The readings call us to move from our blindness to the revelation of God in Jesus. To believe is to come to the light, while to disbelieve is to be spiritually blind and walk in the darkness.

Paul reminds us that when we are committed to Christ, we become children of the light, and earlier in his letter to the Ephesians he prays that his community might have "the eyes of your heart enlightened) (1.18)

"I once was blind but now I see." John Newton composed *Amazing Grace* and based it on his own conversion experience, after which he began a life-long ministry of reconciliation. The blind man received not only the gift of sight but also the gift of faith. May we like him experience this Lent as a true conversion of heart.

*Fr. Jack Lynch, SFM  
Scarborough, ON*



**THE WAY OF THE CROSS**

The Way of the Cross, or Stations of the Cross, is a Catholic devotion that originated in the journey of pilgrims to Jerusalem where they would retrace the steps of Jesus during his passion. Franciscan originally encouraged this devotion, which became popular in the fifteenth century. The focus for the devotional practice consists of fourteen stations that can be as simple as a cross or as elaborate as wood, marble, or other artistic renditions of various aspects of the passion of Jesus.

Stations of the Cross at the Basilica

Friday evenings at 7:00pm come journey with Jesus on the Way of the Cross.

**BAPTISM**

We wish to welcome into our parish family the following young people, *Isabella Norman, Galileo Chavez, Torin Chavez*. Please keep these little ones, their parents and godparents in your prayers as they begin their journeys of faith.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

Every Sunday at the 11:00am mass.



**CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Children's choir is well underway and new members are welcome. Children 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. Please contact: [st.pauls.childrens.choir@gmail.com](mailto:st.pauls.childrens.choir@gmail.com)

*Please come join us for this wonderful opportunity!*

**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.**

**CATHOLIC REGISTER EASTER DRAWING CONTEST**

The Catholic register is conducting its sixth annual Easter drawing contest for children Grades 1-8. The top entry in each of the three categories will receive a \$50 gift certificate for a day at the movies. The winning drawings will appear in The Register's Easter edition on April 16, 2017. Submission deadline is noon on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Full details online at [bit.ly/easterdrawing](http://bit.ly/easterdrawing).

**BE RECONCILED TO GOD!**

God created us in love and calls us into relationship. When we lose track of that, we don't live as we should: we aren't being the people God meant us to be. We all need to be reminded of who we really are, so we can live from that fullness. We are offering the opportunity to be made whole again. FR. RON KRAFCHIK will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession the weekends of April 1/2 and April 8/9. BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER MASS.

**ST. PAUL'S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP**

St. Paul's Young Professionals group will meet for coffee and a Lenten reflection on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> between the Sunday Masses (from 9:45 to 10:45a.m.) in the basement of the church. Any young adults from the parish are welcome to join us. We hope to see you then!

**CALL FOR CONSCIENCE CAMPAIGN**

Now that euthanasia/assisted suicide is legal in Canada, doctors in Ontario are being forced to help arrange for the killing of their patients. If a doctor objects to providing a referral for assisted suicide/euthanasia, they could be fined, disciplined or even removed from their practice. Many may be forced to retire or move outside the province if the provincial government does not recognize their freedom of conscience. Please visit [www.CanadiansforConscience.ca](http://www.CanadiansforConscience.ca) to join the "Call for Conscience" and write directly to your Member of Parliament asking them to protect conscience rights.

**THE SPIRIT SINGERS and COMMON THREAD**

**Would You Harbour Me?:** A fundraising concert for Syrian Youth. Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:30pm, MacLeod Auditorium, Faculty of Medicine, 1 King's College Circle, University of Toronto. Enjoy the U of T Spirit Singers and Common Thread choirs as they perform songs of justice and peace to raise funds for Syrian youth. All proceeds to NMC-

CESI which comprised of University of Toronto reading/skills. Youth supporting youth! Tickets can be purchased online: [\\$15.00 general public, \\$5.00 students.](http://www.uoft.me/spiritsingers)

**TOILETS**

We ask that anyone using the toilets to PLEASE flush them after each use, we are experiencing issues because this is not being done. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

**TURNING TO GOD IN PRAYER**

*The Lord is near to all who call upon him. Psalm 145:18*

Do you pray more often during Lent? It is one of the traditional themes of this holy season along with fasting and almsgiving. A lot of people will tell you it is easy to pray. And for some of us it is, largely because we do it often. But for those of us who have been away from the practice of prayer, it is not something that comes without difficulty. If you haven't talked to a good friend for many years, those first few moments can seem awkward. But once you get going, it's like old times and the conversation flows. That is the same with prayer. God does not care if you have been away or if you are worried about how to start the conversation. "Call upon" your God. He needs and wants to hear from you.

*Loving God, in my hunger, I turn to you.*

Paul Pennick

**FAITH CONNECTIONS  
DOING THE RIGHT THING**

Faith Connections, the Office of Catholic Youth, and local parishes invite young adults (18-39) to join us for an evening of thought-provoking theological discussion in a comfortable and relaxed setting, with special guest: Victor Dodig, CEO of CIBC. Taking place March 27, 2017-7:00p.m 9:00p.m. at Boston Pizza, 50 Courtney Park Dr. E., Mississauga. For more information call OCY at 416-599-7676 or visit [www.faithconnections.ca](http://www.faithconnections.ca)



**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 Collin's statement on federal euthanasia/assisted suicide legislation is now available online at <http://www.archtoronto.org/euthanasia>

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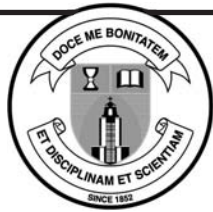
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