



# 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

**Cathy LeBlanc**  
Sacristan

**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

## CONFESSIONS

Saturdays from 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm  
(closed for lunch from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm)

## CONTACT

83 Power Street, Toronto, ON M5A 3A8 ♦ Tel: (416) 364-7588  
Fax: (416) 366-5617 ♦ Email: [stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org](mailto:stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org)  
Website: [stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org](http://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

### Allowing Grace to be Fruitful

St. Paul writes often about how we live “in Christ”. Evangelicals may ask you, “Have you been born again?” In Baptism we enter into Christ’s death, again, St. Paul tells us that, and into His resurrection, beginning to experience His gifts as the first fruits of the Kingdom. And therein lies the question for us ... how fruitful are the graces we have received in the sacraments going to be in our life? That’s our project as followers of Jesus. We want no barriers to the effectiveness of God’s grace in our lives.

The parish is beginning one avenue for that process of becoming more open to the fruits of Christ’s gift of new life. Alpha is one venture. We will see a variety of these opportunities in the coming years.

Not only is the content of the program providing good food for the mind and soul, but the conversations we have will let us open new horizons for one another. An added bonus is the increased sense of



real community and spiritual togetherness that will be fostered.

Our faith is not a “one size fits all” proposition. Alpha may be a fit for some and for others, avenues for deepening life in Christ may be different. Variety is the spice of life and more will be coming.

On other fronts, we are now accepting registrations for the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist (First Holy Communion). We are expecting a short visit from Archbishop Francis Leo on December 2nd when he will celebrate the 4:30pm Mass here at the parish. On February 3rd next year we will host a concert of the Estonian Philharmonic

Chamber Choir ([epcc.ee/en](http://epcc.ee/en)). This world-famous European choir specializes in pieces by modern composers of chant. You can find videos of them singing on YouTube. Their recordings are on a variety of major classical labels including, ECM and BIS. For streaming you can find them on Spotify, Tidal, Qobuz and Apple Music (and perhaps others). Tickets for the concert at our parish are available through the Soundstreams website at [soundstreams.ca/events/estonian-philharmonic-chamber-choir-2/](http://soundstreams.ca/events/estonian-philharmonic-chamber-choir-2/) or by scanning the QR code.



I also hope I will be able to share with you our upcoming maintenance projects and some updates on the practical aspects of the parish’s operations.

In Christ,

*Fr. Bob*

## ❖ NOTEWORTHY



### Thanksgiving Food Drive

The parish is collecting non-perishable food on behalf of the Good Shepherd, who help provide meals for the homeless and at-risk individuals in our community. Most needed are canned foods such as tuna, tomatoes, tomato sauce, beans, soups and vegetables. Dry goods needed include cereal, granola bars, bagged rice, condiments, tea and coffee. Boxes for food are available at the front of the church through thanksgiving weekend. You can also donate financially by scanning the QR code or visiting [goodshepherd.ca/donate](http://goodshepherd.ca/donate).



### Try Alpha

*Every Sunday from 12 pm to 2 pm, until December 10th, in the Parish Basement*

You may have heard about the parish's plans to host an Alpha series beginning this Fall, but what exactly is Alpha...

**What is Alpha?** Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith.

**Who's it for?** Alpha is for anyone who's curious. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open environment. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you want.

Alpha

**How does it work?** Alpha runs for 7-12 sessions. Each session includes food, a short talk and discussion where you can share your thoughts and ask questions. There's no pressure, no follow up and no charge. Donations towards food costs are appreciated.

The parish is currently hosting an Alpha series every Sunday, after the 11 am Mass, until December 10th, in the parish basement. If you are interested in joining or learning more, please speak to Micah at the back of the church or email [mmacmullen@archtoronto.org](mailto:mmacmullen@archtoronto.org).

**September 30 / October 1, 2023**

## Parish Collection Summary

	2023	2022	Diff
Last Wkd	\$ 6,149	\$ 1,719	↑ \$ 4,430
Mth Target	\$ 15,512	\$ 16,773	↓ \$ 1,261

*Thank you for supporting our parish!*

## Sacramental Preparation

Families with children ready to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation next spring can pick up a registration package from the back of the church or the parish office.

### Mass Intentions

**Saturday, September 30**

4:30 pm ♦

**Sunday, October 1**

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ Ongoing Healing and Reconciliation with the Indigenous Peoples of this Land

**Tuesday, October 3**

5:00 pm ♦

**Wednesday, October 4**

5:00 pm ♦ † Rev. Msgr. John Weber

**Thursday, October 5**

5:00 pm ♦

**Friday, October 6**

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

## Donate Online



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](http://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.



## 2023 Parish Survey

As we look at ways to further foster our parish's Catholic community we hope to hear from you, our parishioners, to better understand and serve your needs. We would be very grateful if you would take a moment to fill out a survey. Paper versions are at the back of the church and can be left in the weekend collection basket or scan the QR Code to complete the survey online.

## Special Collection Date Changes

*Indigenous Healing and Reconciliation - September 30/October 1*

*Preservation Fund - October 8/9*

Our preservation fund collection, which was scheduled to take place this weekend, September 30/October 1, will be postponed until October 7/8. In its place, the archdiocese has asked that we hold a special collection in support of the Indigenous Healing and Reconciliation Fund. Envelopes for this special collection are available at the church entrances.

## Corrected Thanksgiving Weekend Holiday Schedule

Last week's bulletin incorrectly noted that the parish office would be closed for thanksgiving on Friday, September 29th, however, the office will in fact be closed on this Friday, October 4th for thanksgiving, reopening on Tuesday, October 10th. We apologize for any confusion. Have a happy and safe thanksgiving long weekend!

## Archbishop Leo invites you to join ShareLife's fight against hunger

"It is heart-wrenching and unacceptable that anyone today lacks access to food which is a most basic human right," shares Archbishop Francis Leo. "Our parishioners are taking action in response to the Lord's call to feed the hungry. Since the earliest days of the Catholic community in the Archdiocese of Toronto, the faithful have cared for those in need, on the margins of society and we continue this life-giving legacy." Please support the fight against hunger at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate) or by giving at our parish using a ShareLife envelope. Thank you for reaching out with the hands of Christ to feed the hungry.

## Humanitarian aid for Morocco and Libya

The Archdiocese of Toronto will accept donations and channel funds through our Catholic partners in Morocco to support relief efforts underway. Those wishing to help may do so in the following ways:

- Online through the Archdiocese of Toronto website – [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)
- By phone through the Development Office – 416-934-3411
- Through the parish, making cheques payable to: St. Paul's Basilica – Morocco Earthquake - Humanitarian Relief

Currently, our Catholic partners are not present in Libya to coordinate relief efforts and as such we are unable to accept donations to aid those affected by the flooding at this time. For those wishing to offer support to the people of Libya, please consider a gift through the Canadian Red Cross in the following ways:

- Online through the Red Cross website – [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca)
- By phone through the Red Cross – 1-800-418-1111

Please continue to pray for those who have died, for those who are missing or displaced because of these tragic disasters in both Morocco and Libya and for all who are working hard to provide relief and rescue in both locations.

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