



# 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

## The Beatitudes: The Good Shepherd in Our Midst

In the Beatitudes Jesus turns our world upside down. The meek will inherit the earth. Those who remain poor in spirit and rely on God and not themselves will be happy. It is not the strong and self-reliant who are representative of the life of God's Kingdom. The 200-year story of St. Paul's parish includes many parishioners who have had difficult and challenging lives. The meek have always been here.

This weekend our friends at the Good Shepherd Centre are celebrating 60 years of service to men in need in this city. Christ the Good Shepherd carries the lost and weakened sheep on his shoulders safely home to pasture.

There are many reasons why people find themselves without housing. The cause and the effect is often alienation of relationships. For those with some kinds of mental health challenges the first need is to recognize that something is truly in need of repair. Many have struggled with addiction which often is a coping tool to deal with emotional hurt that has never



been given the circumstances in which healing can take place. And once people are addicted all kinds of other things follow. Health problems may be serious and the fact that drugs affect cognition, the judgement needed to get on and stay on a path to healing may be obstructed.

Today, the Good Shepherd has some 95 people working together not only to relieve symptoms but accompany people on getting to and repairing the sources of their challenges. We are all aware of what a critical issue housing is becoming with it being too expensive even for well

employed couples to afford. It would be great to say that the supply of those in need of the Good Shepherd is going down, but the opposite seems to be true. In the new digital age these marginalized people are being pushed further away from gaining the tools to be effective participants in the society in which they live.

It is one thing to say we would all love to see solutions to this wound in our society, but it is because of those who work every day at the Good Shepherd that our words can have some credibility. Many many people have received that lift that they needed to recover stability and lives of meaningful relationship. Christ was not afraid to be present to those on the margins nor shy about telling us that the last shall be first. May Christ the Good Shepherd make fruitful the care provided by all those who serve this important ministry in our city and our Archdiocese.

In Christ,

*Fr. Bob*

# ❖ NOTEWORTHY

## Thanksgiving Food Drive



Beginning September 23rd, the parish will collect non-perishable food on behalf of the Good Shepherd, who to 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 will be available at the front of the church until thanksgiving weekend. You can also donate financially by scanning the QR code or visiting [goodshepherd.ca/donate](https://goodshepherd.ca/donate).



## Try Alpha

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

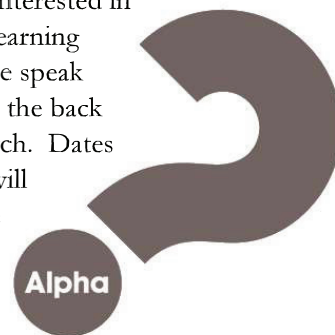
**What is Alpha?** Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith.

**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.

**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.

If you are interested in joining or learning more, please speak to Micah at the back of the church. Dates and times will be available shortly, so stay tuned...



**September 16-17, 2023**

## Parish Collection Summary

	2023	2022	Diff
Last Wkd	\$ 2,866	\$ 2,994	↓ \$ 128
Mth Target	\$ 6,464	\$ 16,773	↓ \$ 10,308

*Thank you for supporting our parish!*

## Blessing of the Creatures

*Saturday, September 30th, 2023 at 3 pm  
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Toronto*

St. Francis' Parish will be hosting a Blessing of Creatures on September 30th at 3 pm. This is a wonderful event where people can bring their pets and see them blessed. All are welcome.

### Mass Intentions

*Saturday, September 16*

4:30 pm ♦ For the People

*Sunday, September 17*

8:30 am ♦ Johnny Brooks

11:00 am ♦ Good Shepherd Ministries

*Tuesday, September 19*

5:00 pm ♦

*Wednesday, September 20*

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

*Thursday, September 21*

5:00 pm ♦

*Friday, September 22*

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.



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.

## ShareLife: Combating hunger through your compassion

Many of our brothers and sisters grapple with the daily challenge of putting food on the table. In response to their urgent need, ShareLife has launched the Food Security Grants, dedicating over half a million dollars to combat hunger.

Your compassionate support of our parish's ShareLife Campaign will make possible this bold action. Although we have already surpassed our \$46K goal by \$3,000, we ask you to please continue to support our fight against hunger at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate) or by giving at the parish with a ShareLife envelope. Thank you for heeding the Lord's call to feed the hungry in our community and beyond.

## Celebration of the Solemnity of St. Michael & Conferral of the Pallium upon the Most Rev. Francis Leo

*Friday, September 29, 2023 – 5:30 pm – St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica - 65 Bond St.*



On September 29th at 5:30 pm, in celebration of the Archdiocese of Toronto's patron, St. Michael's feast day, Archbishop Francis Leo will celebrate Mass at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, including music from the world-renowned St. Michael's Choir School. As part of the celebration, the Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, the Most Rev. Ivan Jurkovič, will confer the pallium on our archbishop, a symbol of his role as Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto and shepherd to the faithful. Following Mass, there will be an informal reception with light refreshments in the St. Michael's Cathedral atrium and courtyard. Seating will be first come, first served. All are welcome to join in this special celebration for our archdiocese and archbishop! *Due to the timing of this Mass, our parish Mass on September 29th will take place at 12:15 pm rather than the usual 5 pm.*

## The 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees ('WDoMaR')

*Sunday, September 24, 2023*

His Holiness Pope Francis announced this year's WDoMaR theme as "Free to Choose Whether to Migrate or to Stay." Pope Francis acknowledges that while the decision to migrate should always be free, in many cases it is not. This point was reflected by St. John Paul II in his 90th WDoMaR message in which he wrote, "building conditions of peace means in practice being seriously committed to safeguarding first of all the right not to emigrate, that is, the right to live in peace and dignity in one's own country." Pope Francis quoted the words of the Lord, "...I was a stranger, and you welcomed me" reminding us that the Lord's words are a "constant admonition to see in the migrant not simply a brother or sister in difficulty, but Christ himself, who knocks at our door." Visit [migrants-refugees.va](http://migrants-refugees.va) or scan for info.



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