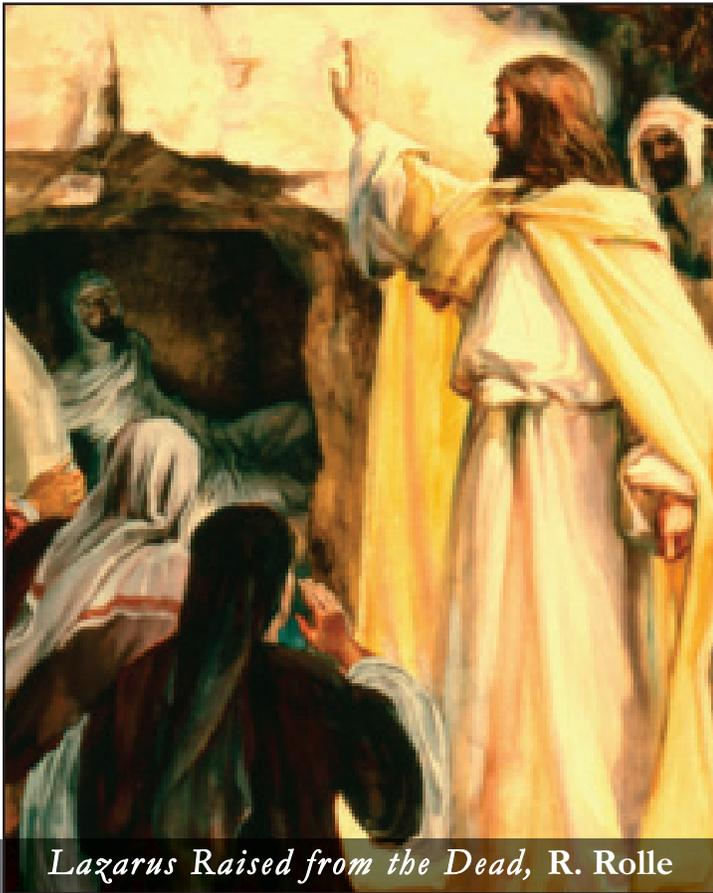


LENT

ST. BASIL'S CATHOLIC PARISH
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE



Lazarus Raised from the Dead, R. Rolle

For 160 years (1856-2016), St. Basil's Parish has been home to people of all ages and needs. For those who need hearing assistance, devices are available at the front desk. Simply leave a photo ID to borrow one during your visit.

Mothers are welcome to nurse their children in church or provide them snacks as needed. As Pope Francis has said, children's voices, even when crying, make "the most beautiful choir of all." If you need to, feel free to walk with your child in the back of the church or in the hallway off the side aisle. We are blessed because you are all here!

50 St. Joseph Street, Toronto M5S 1J4
www.stbasiltoronto.org * 416-926-7110

Office Hours: Monday - Friday:
(9:00 am - 1:00 pm; 2:00 pm - 8:30pm)
Saturday & Sunday: (9:00 am - 6:30 pm)

SUNDAY MASSES

5:00 pm (Sat); 9:00 am; 10:30 am;
12:00 pm; 4:30 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday-Friday: 7:30 am; 12:10 pm

CONFESSIONS

Monday-Friday: 11:30 am - 12:00 pm
Saturday: 4:15 pm - 4:45 pm

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 5:10 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

Please see the parish website or call the main office for details.

RAISED FROM SUFFERING

By Fr. Chris Valka, C.S.B.

This Sunday's readings represent some of the most dramatic stories in scripture: Ezekiel's vision of dry bones revived by the breath of God, and Lazarus raised from the dead. Two miraculous events that contain a great lesson: death is a part of life, but it is not the end, and it is not removed from God's awareness.

John's account of Lazarus is beautiful in every detail, but there are two pivotal moments in the Lazarus story that I would like to draw your attention to:

The first concerns Martha's words to Jesus: "Lord, if you would have been there, my brother would not have died." You can imagine the pain, perhaps even anger, she must have felt knowing that Jesus was capable of saving him, but chose not to. Her brother had been dead for four days. How long was she waiting for Jesus to intervene?

It would have taken time for word to get to Jesus and for him to make the journey to the village.

Still, Martha was confident that Jesus could do anything he asked of God. She did believe that Jesus was the Christ, but it is clear she did not fully comprehend what that meant. Martha lived in hope, even when there seemed to be no reason to do so. But it must have been so very hard to have hope for so long, when things seemed so bad . . .

The second moment is the infamous shortest line in the Bible: Jesus wept. No elaboration is necessary. Nothing more needs to be said. Jesus felt their pain, their suffering. In two simple words, we learn that God is not absent from our sorrows, difficulties, and loss. Though it may seem that God is far away, God enters into our most difficult moments and feels deeply.

Is this line so noteworthy because it is the shortest in the Bible? No. It is noteworthy because it conveys an important theological truth: our faith, our religion cannot be reduced to some form of magic, nor are we helpless pawns on the chessboard of a whimsical God. God doesn't intervene to prevent the tragedies and sufferings of life.

For certain afflictions, there exists no human remedy. Words of encouragement often fail to effect any change. Many times people in these situations are not able to do anything, not even pray. They are like Lazarus in the tomb.

And God is there in the midst of it all – weeping. This is our God who stands in profound human solidarity with us. This is the incarnation of God – fully embracing our human condition. Suffering cannot be avoided. It is part of humanity. God does not prevent it; rather God is there with us... until we are ready to truly live.

Sunday's Readings:

Ezekiel 37.12-14

Romans 8.8-11

John 11.1-45

ALL HANDS ON DECK: PARISH CLEANING!

You are all invited to help parish staff clean the church from top to bottom so that it is Easter ready! We are assembling a team on **Monday, April 3 from 6:00-9:00pm**. We are cleaning, scrubbing, brushing, and sweeping every surface, nook, and cranny in the church.

Please plan on wearing work clothes as things are very dusty! We are also in need of the following items: glass cleaner, Scott's Liquid Gold (used for all wood surfaces), rags, small paint brushes, toothbrushes, gloves, and small canister vacuums.

No RSVP necessary. If interested, please meet in the vestibule of the church at 6:00pm.

SINGING THE PASSION OF CHRIST

On **Tuesday, April 4, at 7:30pm**, voice students of the University of Toronto Faculty of Music sing works from Mozart to Rossini, Mendelssohn to Beethoven, and Verdi to Donizetti in St. Basil's Parish. With Mia Bach, piano, Dr. Darryl Edwards, Director, and Christina Haldane.

Free admission. Donations accepted towards the music program of Saint Basil's Catholic Parish.

PRESENTATION ON HOLY WEEK

On **Wednesday, April 5**, Doctoral Candidate at the University of St. Michael's College Faculty of Theology, Bishoy Dawood, will present on Holy Week. What are the central features of this week, what do we celebrate and why? Bishoy will offer a theological interpretation based on iconography and sacred art.

Our gathering begins at **7:00pm in the church** for ecological Stations of the Cross before moving to Charbonnel Lounge (on the USMC campus) for the talk and discussion. All are welcome! No pre-registration is required.

IGNATIAN SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Are you looking for time away from the frenzy of everyday life? Do you need time to relax, to reflect, to pray and to learn, and perhaps for the first time, to enjoy silence? The retreat is titled "**Resurrectionis Gaudium! Living the Joy of the Resurrection!**" On Easter Sunday, Jesus comes to the disciples bringing healing, forgiveness, and mercy. This encounter with Jesus, alive beyond death, transforms the hearts of the disciples, releasing them from fear and filling them with profound joy- a joy they wish to share with the whole world. Easter joy is the very foundation of our faith. Come and meet the risen Jesus for yourself, and learn to live your Easter joy every day. **Facilitated by Jesuit Scholastics and Fr. Gilles Mongeau, S.J.** **This retreat begins on Friday, April 28 and ends on Sunday, May 30.** The suggested offering is \$185.00 per person (which includes meals and accommodation at Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre in Pickering). For more information or to register, please visit pickmanresa@rogers.com or call 905-839-2864.

FATHER CHRIS' FAREWELL RECEPTION

The Parish council, in consultation with the pastoral team, has devised a three-fold plan to acknowledge and celebrate Fr. Chris' term as Pastor of St. Basil's Parish. Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, June 6 at 6:30pm-** the date and time of Fr. Chris' Mass of Thanksgiving followed by a reception in our newly renovated parish hall. This reception will be a pot luck- so any culinary contributions are most appreciated. You can state what you plan on contributing as we get closer to this goodbye event.

Secondly, recognizing the significant work our parish is now completing in its 160th anniversary year, council is preparing a small book to record these changes and our transformation as a community. Kindly reach out to council members (via the parish office) if you have any questions, ideas, or suggestions for raw material to include in the keepsake book. Finally, the third element of the plan involves a token of our appreciation. Fr. Chris had already planned on a trip to Italy in mid-June for retreat and renewal before assuming his new duties at St. Thomas University. Parish council has decided on behalf of all of us at St. Basil's to make a cash donation from our current operating account to help Fr. Chris cover his travel expenses. Please stay tuned for more details as June quickly approaches. Thank you!

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY

Sunday, March 26, 2017 \$6,800.45



APRIL 2nd - 8th

Sunday 9:00am- 10:30am- 12:00pm- 4:30pm-	Fifth Sunday of Lent Olivia Vaz (liv.) Pro Populo Paulo and Grazia Scoppio
Monday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	Nympha Vibar (+)
Tuesday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	Fr. Harold Gardner (+) Frank and Mike Gregoire (+)
Wednesday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	The Thalheiner Family Stefan and Anna Papez (+)
Thursday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	Anne Crowder (+)
Friday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	Anne Gregoire (+) Vocations
Saturday 5:00pm-	Vigil of Palm Sunday John Isdell (+)

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Mary O'Brien, Claire Fidler, Kam Fung Tem, Angel Martinez, Margaret-Mary McKenzie, Joe Torres, Lucille Mirvish, Celerina Agpoon, Bernice Casey, Concha Gaeitereiro, Clare DeMello, Erika Farncomb, Filomena La Rocca, Joseph Troncone, Hai Luen Liu, Neil McCormack, Jack Gervais, Sue Lockwood, and Barbara MacMahon-Firestone.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED, especially Tony Desanti.

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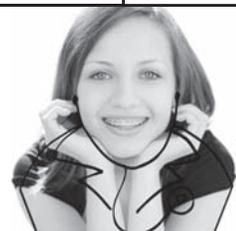
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