

ST. BASIL'S CATHOLIC PARISH

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE



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

Office Hours: Mon-Fri (9:00 am - 1:00 pm; 2:00 pm - 8:30pm)
Sat-Sun (9:00 am - 6:30 pm)

ADMINISTERED BY THE BASILIAN FATHERS

SUNDAY MASSES

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

CONFESSIONS

Mon-Fri: 11:30 am - 12:00 pm
Sat: 4:15 pm - 4:45 pm

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

Please see the parish website or call the main office for details. Weddings require a one year notice.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon-Fri: 7:30 am; 12:10 pm

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Mon-Fri: 5:10 pm
Sat: 9:00 am

ADORATION

Thurs: 3:30-5:00pm

 StBasil_TO  basilstoronto  St. Basil's Parish, Toronto

St. Basil's Parish is 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 discreetly 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!

PARISH STAFF

Pastor:	Fr. Chris Valka, CSB
Office Manager:	Margaret D'Elia
Sacramental Coordinator:	Emily VanBerkum
Community Coordinator:	Leanna Cappiello
Director of Music:	J.P. Farahat
Assistant Organist:	Rashaan Allwood

THE NARROW GATEKEEPER

By John Dalla Costa

At one of our last RCIA gatherings earlier this year, we experienced the prayerful immersion in scripture that is at the heart of the Catechesis of The Good Shepherd. Designed for very young children, this particular prayer used woodcut figures, including a tabletop miniature of an animal enclosure with a small gate, to enact the parable of the Good Shepherd. It took a while for my adult brain to surrender to the childlike cadence of this narrative in 3-D, but my heart leapt when one-by-one all the sheep followed Jesus through the gate into their protective enclosure.

I've usually interpreted this week's gospel about "the narrow gate" as a warning. Jesus is saying that not everyone will make it into the safe space on the other side. Faith professed is insufficient. Only living discipleship with concrete deeds qualifies for passage.

But after the glimmer of wonder from the toy sheep, my adult interpretation of the narrow gate feels far too calculative. My heart especially no longer buys that the narrow gate is like a checkpoint where hypocrisy is finally exposed. Yes it's needed to exclude evil. But more importantly, the narrow gate is for keeping us safe as we learn to love God, as God loves us.

Jesus ministry was defined by inclusion, welcoming everyone, always. What matters is not what we do to qualify for his acceptance, but how we accept him. The gate is therefore narrow not because God's expectations are harsh, or because God's mercy is limited, but because it is only as wide as Jesus himself.

The roughly carved figurine that will be used by children depicts Jesus carrying the lost lamb. My initial response was wanting to rest on those shoulders. But knowing Jesus, he is no doubt carrying the most reviled or vulnerable among us. The gate is narrow, but there is no need to scurry in. Once we know that imitating Jesus secures our right of way, we can imitate him here by taking care ourselves for those who are lost, until they too are safely home with our Lord.

Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 66.18-21

Hebrews 12.5-7, 11-13

Luke 13.22-30

FAREWELL TO RASHAAN

At the end of this month we bid farewell to Rashaan Allwood, who has been the Assistant Organist of Saint Basil's for approximately two years. He will be commencing studies for the Master of Music in Performance (Organ) degree at McGill University in September.

Thank you, Rashaan, for everything that you have brought to this parish community! We have been marked by your extraordinary musicianship. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours, and hope to see you again soon!

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

If you have a child who is at least seven years old and you would like to register them for our ***First Communion preparation class*** run in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atrium. The program will be approximately eight weeks in length beginning in Advent. For more information, please contact Emily. She can be reached at emily.vanberkum@utoronto.ca, or 416-926-7110 x3210.

SAVE THE DATE

Taken from the *Toronto Mirror*, Friday, September 19, 1856: "On Saturday last, the 14th instant, an important event occurred in our civic history, the opening of one of the finest collegiate churches in North America, destined...to be a haven of the Faith whence the angelic messengers of God will go..." (excerpt from Hoskin's *History of St. Basil's*)

Celebrating our 160th anniversary on Wednesday, September 14 (Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross), all parishioners are invited to attend a Eucharistic celebration with Fr. George Smith, CSB, Superior General of the Basilian Fathers presiding. Mass will begin at 7:00pm. More details to follow shortly.

THE PEOPLE IN THE PEWS

In his homily for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Fr. Chris invited everyone who comes to St. Basil's to participate in a project entitled "The People in the Pews" (you can go to our website to listen to the homily).

His invitation is for you to share your story in a written form (approx. 250 words) and with an accompanying photo of yourself.

The goal is to create a page within our website that helps us know each other's stories (much like "Humans of New York") because we so rarely get a chance to know each other and the stories in the pews are amazing stories of

success and failure, joy and sadness, healing and woundedness.

The inspiration for this project comes from Hebrews 12, where we read, "For the sake of joy, Jesus endured the cross." We, too, endure so much for the sake of the joy we may now (or soon hope to) know.

Perhaps your story will give the encouragement another person needs. Perhaps your story will help someone connect to our community.

Fr. Chris is hoping for a great response, so send him your story and photo to chris.valka@utoronto.ca. Or if you want to interview others, we are looking for a few good story-tellers!

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS!

In these slower days of summer, our construction crew has been very busy in our spaces downstairs. I am happy to report that demolition is now complete and that no serious issues were found. Praise be to God that our ancestors were incredibly thoughtful when they constructed this building, and we are taking every measure to continue this tradition. Over the past month, we have taken some extra time to consult with structural engineers and historical experts to ensure that this project preserves all of the important aspects of the building, especially while we can see the "bones" of the structure. In the next week or two, we will begin new construction as designed. (Again, you can see those designs at <http://stbasilortoronto.org/building-improvements/>). We are being told that the parish hall space will be available mid-late September and the South Hall space will be available mid-late October.

In the church, we will be installing new ceiling fans in the next week or two. After a great deal of consultation, we are installing these fans in hopes that they will help keep the building cooler in the summer and save energy in the winter. While we are still waiting to receive clearance from the historical society for air conditioning, it will be very interesting for all of us to see how these fans perform in the tail end of the summer. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask!

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY:

Sunday, August 14, 2016 \$5,271.45



MASS INTENTIONS

AUGUST 21st - 27th

Sunday 9:00am- 10:30am- 12:00pm- 4:30pm-	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Stephanie Rodrigues (+) Prop Populo Katrina Teh (liv.) Rosemary Ferrer (liv.)
Monday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	The Queenship of the Virgin Mary Juona & Norma Garcia (+)
Tuesday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	Saint Rose of Lima Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	Saint Bartholomew
Thursday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	
Friday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	
Saturday 5:00pm-	Saint Monica Anna Van Rump

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Mary O'Brien, Claire Fidler, Helen Lau, Gloria Lau, Kam Fung Tem, Angel Martinez, Margaret-Mary McKenzie, Joe Torres, Hilary McCormack, Leslie Beck, Lucille Mirvish, Celerina Agpoon, Gerald Guest, Steve Paijie, Bernice Casey, Concha Gaeitereiro.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED.

*If you would like to have a name added to our prayers for the sick or deceased, please contact the parish office.

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