

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.



St Basil's Parish was founded in 1856 by the Priests of the Congregation of St. Basil, also known as the Basilian Fathers. We are the collegiate church of the University of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto, as well as being the parish church to our parishioners who come to worship here from all over the city. We strive to live the Gospel with the Basilian values of goodness, discipline and knowledge; and to live with their tradition of hospitality to all who visit here.

For those who need hearing assistance, devices are available at the front desk. Simply leave a photo ID to borrow one during your visit.

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

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

MERCIFUL JOY

By Fr. Chris Valka, CSB

One of my great frustrations with many churches is the judgment that many people associate with them. Of course, in some cases, it is because people feel guilty for what they have done (or have not done). However, there are, sadly, too many cases when those representing Jesus have not been able to see the world beyond their pointing finger.

Neither represents the Church I love. Our readings today are very clear: there is no place for judgment in the Church. No matter what you have done, no matter who you are, this – here and now – should be an encounter with joy. Not just a surface level feeling, but a warmth deep inside that reminds you that you are loved unconditionally.

Of course, when most people go to church, this is probably not the description they would offer about their experience, but both Zephaniah and

John offer explicit challenges to the establishment and way things were typically done.

For Zephaniah, who wrote just before the Babylonian Exile, Israel was turning from the worship of the One God, back to a polytheistic worship. Just before the passage we hear today, the Lord promises to purge and purify the city and they will return the Lord. And what is so amazing about this passage from Zephaniah is that the Lord says that despite all that you have done, turning against me and worshipping false Gods, there will be no judgment against you.

Even when we turn away, God invites us not to be discouraged but to allow God to rejoice over the fact that we are redeemable.

So you see, God's purpose is not judgment, but joy. It brings me to one of my favourite questions – one that is so appropriate as we begin the Jubilee Year of Mercy: What are the implications of believing in an all-knowing, all compassionate God? Perhaps in the end, mercy trumps all. And if there is judgment. . . then what we place on ourselves may be worse than that of God. Talk about a reason to be joyful!

Sunday's Readings:

Zephaniah 3.14-18a

Philippians 4.4-7

Luke 3.10-18

GINGERBREAD DRAW

Next weekend after all Masses, we are raffling off a Gingerbread house, homemade by a parishioner, right in time for all of your holiday gatherings!

Tickets will be available in the vestibule of the church and proceeds will go towards the parish hall kitchen renovations. Fr. Chris will draw the winner's name after the 4:30pm Mass, and the lucky winner will receive a call that Sunday evening.

COOKIES & CAROLING

On **Monday, December 14 at 7:00pm** in the Parish Hall, we are bringing back the nostalgic tradition of caroling, and the modern joy of gourmet cookies, this Advent season!

Warm up your voice, learn a few Christmas songs, and hit the snowy streets with fresh Toronto talent, and St Basil's Cantor, Kristin Fung!

7:00pm – Cookie Swap in the Parish Hall. Bring your favourite cookies to share with others. Home baked preferred, but not necessary.

7:30pm – Rehearsal. Kristin will lead us in a sing-along so we can be a stellar traveling ensemble.

8:00pm – Caroling on Campus. Get ready to take it to the streets!

No need to RSVP. For more info, contact leanna.cappiello@utoronto.ca.

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION SERVICE

To prepare our minds and hearts for Christmas Day and the period of Christmastide, you are warmly invited to participate in a special reconciliation service held on **Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00pm** in the church.

Guided by the Prayers of the Jewish Day of Atonement and the Advent Traditions, this experience of prayer reminds us that sin and redemption is most often a communal experience. Together, the community will pray and examen our consciences, before those gathered have the opportunity for a private confession with a priest.



**R.C.I.A./CREED:
Q+A/ADVENT SOCIAL**

If you are reading this, we are hoping that you had a chance to bring a friend to Mass this weekend. Write down your questions and comments, then join our Catechumens and Candidates on **Wednesday, December 16 at 7:00pm** (our last R.C.I.A gathering of the year) for a Q+A session with our Pastor, Fr. Chris Valka, C.S.B. and Fr. Mike Lehman C.S.B.

We begin with evening prayer in the church at 7:00pm followed by the discussion at 7:30pm in the parish hall. We will share our learnings from the nine R.C.I.A sessions covered thus far.

This lively conversation will be followed by a potluck Advent social! If you would like to participate, please bring a small dish to share. All are welcome, no pre-registration is required!

**CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD:
In the steps of St. Joseph**

Our atrium preparations are well underway, but there are still essential wood items that need completion. Projects range from simple boxes and small cabinets to more detailed pieces like small liturgical furniture.

Step by step instructions are provided-apprentices welcome! If you are interested in learning more or would like to begin work on the pieces please contact Leanna.

THE BASIL BRIGADE NEEDS YOU!

The coming of Christmas includes not only our spiritual preparation, but also the physical preparation of our Church!

On December 23 at 5:30pm after Vespers, join our cleaning and decorating party. Many hands make light work. We will celebrate with a pizza dinner when the Church is bright and sparkly. To get started, meet Leanna in the vestibule!

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY:

Sunday, December 6, 2015 \$7,814.62



MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 13th-19th

Sunday 9:00am- 10:30am- 12:00pm- 4:30pm-	Third Sunday of Advent Nicole & Natalie Chan (liv.) Pro Populo Lina Ciavarella (+) John, Robert, & Alan Wimbs (+)
Monday 7:30am- 12:00pm-	Saint John of the Cross Angela & Joseph Laforgia (+) Mai O'Connor (+)
Tuesday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	Stella & John Dabrowski, Elsy John (+) John Patrick King (+)
Wednesday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	Ade Makindipe (liv.) Patrick Quane (+)
Thursday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	Rev. Alexander Barna (+) Frank, Monica, & Mary Gannon (+,+,+)
Friday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	Ade Makindipe (liv.) Luigi & Lina Ciavarella (+,+)
Saturday 5:00pm-	William Henry McLallen (+)

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Bohdanna Kovals'kyj, Mary O'Brien, Sharon Han, Ancoreta Amigleo, Don Alvaro, Rita Moran, Clare deMello, Edna Fernandez, Kenneth Heath, Marina Kazakis, Luz Manalo, Doug Slater, Betty Hill, Hsien Tang Pan Wong, and Dr. Gerald Guest.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED, especially
Rev. Kenneth Decker, C.S.B.

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