

# 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

Monday-Friday: 11:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Saturday: 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

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

## LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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

## ADORATION

Thursday: 3:30-5:30 pm



StBasil\_TO

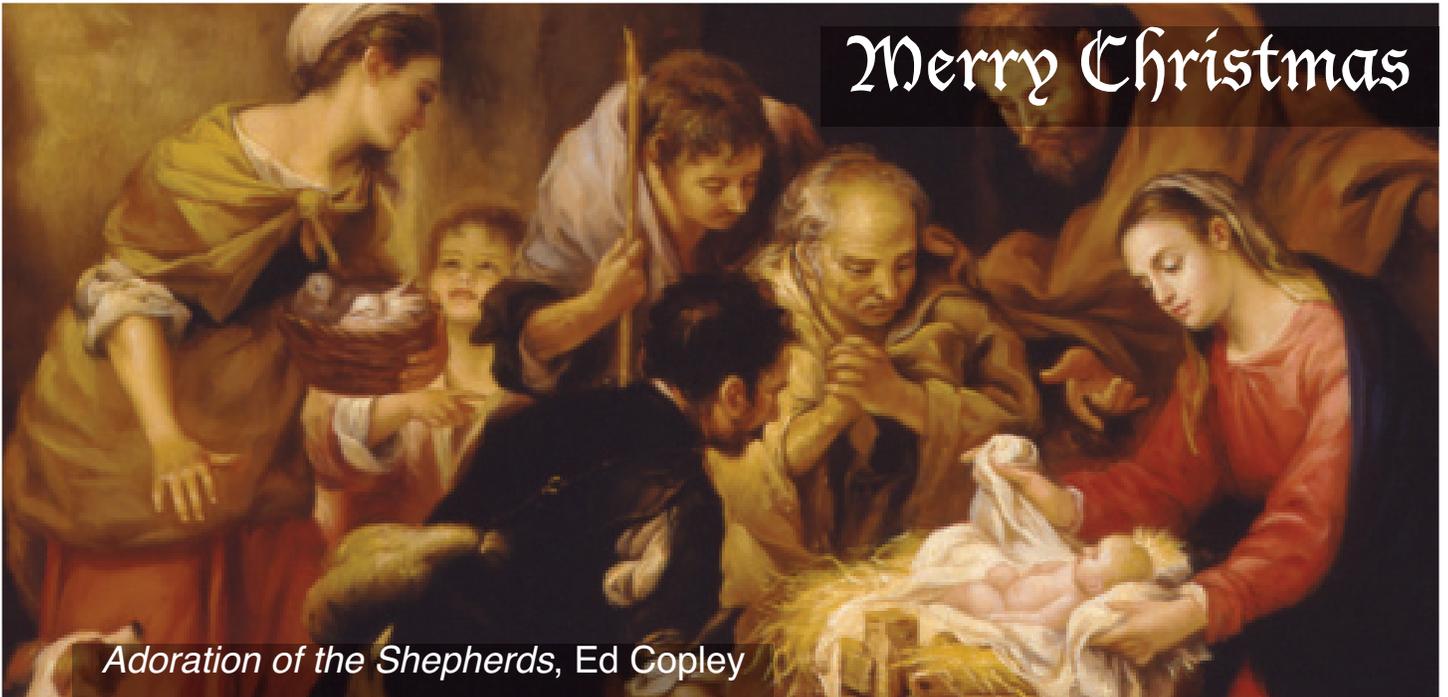


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St. Basil's Church, Toronto

## Merry Christmas



*Adoration of the Shepherds, Ed Copley*

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

## NEW BIRTH, NEW LIFE

By Leanna Cappiello

The Visitation is one of my favourite Gospel stories. Between Mary and Elizabeth is a palpable excitement – they are both pregnant and waiting the birth of their children.

In a physical sense, the Visitation reminds us of this feeling of anticipation in our bodies. Many members of this Parish are mothers, each one with her own affective experience of carrying a child in her womb.

In an emotional sense, the Visitation reminds us about the unfathomable excitement that comes with anticipation of a child at Christmastime. Whether we are children or adults or elders – we are all capable of this “leaping for joy”.

In a liturgical sense, the Visitation reminds us of the promise of what is to come, as Christmas is only the beginning of what the year ahead has in store for us. What potential Joy awaits you this coming year?

*Sunday's Readings:*

*Micah 5.2-5a*

*Hebrews 10.5-10*

*Luke 1.39-45*

## FAMILY OF FAITH CAMPAIGN

Our parish is in a unique part of the campaign, now in its final stage. By now, many of you are aware of it and we certainly all want to do our part to assist the Archdiocese. We are a parish that is blessed with many resources, but there are others that need our help. Our campaign will launch with a special information session on **January 5 at 7:00pm in the parish hall**. The Executive Director, Chris Polito, will be there to speak to the needs of the campaign and answer questions. It would be helpful if you can attend as we are only running the campaign for one month - ending on January 31, 2016. Save the date and stay tuned for details.

## 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! If you are interested in learning more please contact Leanna.

## THE BASIL BRIGADE NEEDS YOU!

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. No RSVP is required. To get started, please meet Leanna in the vestibule!

## SPONSORING A SYRIAN FAMILY

This past week, Fr. Chris finalized the forms to sponsor a Syrian Family through ORAT and Project Hope. The initiative was made possible due to a parishioner who feels passionately about refugees, now having done this a few times. She has expressed her willingness to assist others who may want to do the same. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Chris.

It will be a few months before the family arrives, and as that time gets closer, we will be enlisting your support. For now, we thought you may be interested to know the family lived very close to the fighting. A bomb exploded outside of the wife's business (a pharmacy), forcing her to close it. The construction company the husband worked for was targeted by terrorists, and the staff threatened with kidnapping. The son's school was bombed last year and he lost two of his best friends. Their daughter has lived in Lebanon for the past four years, attending university and scraping by financially. However, due to Lebanese labor laws she cannot practice her profession without citizenship, and she faces discrimination in a country that has been overwhelmed by the scale of the refugee influx. Everyone speaks English or French and all are Christian.

## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

By Fr. Chris Valka, CSB

Every year, one of my Christmas traditions is to watch, "Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown". It doesn't matter that I have seen it so many times I could recite almost the entire cartoon word-for-word, I still watch it because it simply isn't Christmas without it.

A few years ago, I heard that, originally, the producers of the cartoon were going to remove Linus' explanation to the meaning of Christmas because they were worried about being too preachy or offensive. After all, this is the question that so many people ask me these days. They will say, isn't it time we move past religion? Do you really think prayer makes a difference? Mass can be so boring – and I can connect with the spiritual realm in so many other ways.

And in fact, sometimes I do wonder. . .

But then again, I cannot imagine December without Christmas anymore than I can imagine Charlie Brown without Linus.

Of course, scholars have longed argued about what really happened on that sacred night when Our Saviour was born, but those details don't get at the real issue: belief is how we are saved from ourselves. This rather impossible story we celebrate at Christmas time is another way that God reminds us that we don't know nearly as much as we would like to think we do – that we are not our own saviours. Children are great about this fact. So many of the things we need saving from are resolved in their presence. In them there is no greed, no thirst for power, no envy, no lust, no addiction.

All of a sudden, God's plan to save the world doesn't seem so strange after all. Jesus reminds us that while our children may at times, cause us to lose our sanity and certainly many hours of sleep and a fair amount of money – they will indeed save us and remind us of what is truly important. They remind us to forgive, to keep things simple, to pay attention to one another; that being dependent on others is not a bad thing; that we don't have all the answers, that we are loved for who we are long before what we do; not to judge; to affirm one's potential long before their brokenness; to ask questions; and the list could go on...

Ultimately, they remind us that we cannot save ourselves. And with that, I wish you the merriest of Christmases and thank you for celebrating it with us.

## LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY:

Sunday, December 13, 2015

\$7,493.27



## MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 20th-26th

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
9:00am-	Greg Rath (+)
10:30am-	Pro Populo
12:00pm-	Paolo Scoppio (+)
4:30pm-	Betty and Dom McDonald (+)
<b>Monday</b>	
9:00am-	Fr. Daniel Chui, C.S.B. (+) William Henry McLallen (+)
<b>Tuesday</b>	
7:30am-	Hong Nguyen & Family (liv.)
12:10pm-	George Hurst (+)
<b>Wednesday</b>	
7:30am-	Morgan Halloran
12:10pm-	Amparo Lagdameo (+)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>
7:30am-	
12:10pm-	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>The Nativity of the Lord</b>
7:30am-	
12:10pm-	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Saint Stephen, The First Martyr</b>
5:00pm-	

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

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

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