

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



Announcing the Birth of Christ to the Angels, Govert Flinck (1639)

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

“REMEMBER YOUR DIGNITY”

By John Dalla Costa

Such joy to relish this day. A light is born that no darkness can swallow; a hope has been enfleshed that no despair can ever despoil.

The angels were right acclaiming: “Glory to God in the highest!” How can our hearts not sing with praise on this day? That said, for all that we now know Christmas to be, the birth of Our Lord is actually the greatest possible reversal from expectation.

This day actually celebrates “Glory to God in the lowest,” because the salvation for every atom of creation was vested in a child conceived out of wedlock, and born in a barn to homeless parents.

For all that is uplifting, we are actually beholding “Glory to God in the least,” because the greatest force in history - that of healing forgiveness - sprouted from one of the farthest possible distances from the usual centres of political, economic, or military power.

Christmas commemorates “Glory to God in the smallest and most vulnerable,” because the Word of truth became incarnate in a child, whose later teaching invites us “to become like little children” so as to host in our own hearts the unbounded wisdom of God.

Throughout Advent we have worked as a parish on making space for the Messianic waiting that our Jewish ancestors experienced over generations. Immersing ourselves in this process of hope-against-hope was to help recover the utter surprise of Bethlehem, in order to feel anew the upside-down unsettling unleashed by our Saviour’s birth. Today deserves more of that solemn space - to appropriate God’s remarkable intervention in history, and to unwrap with peaceful deliberation the priceless gift of God’s presence in our own lives.

The Divine Office for Christmas includes a sermon from the fifth century by Pope St. Leo the Great. He wrote: “Christian, rememberer your dignity, now that you share in God’s own nature...and

have become a temple of the Holy Spirit.” Glory to God in the highest, indeed, and in you, and in me, and in all our sisters and brothers.

Merry Christmas!

Sunday’s Readings:
Isaiah 62.11-12
Titus 3.4-7
Luke 2.15-20

CALLING ALL 6-9 YEAR OLDS

We are now accepting registration for children ages 6-9 interested in participating in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. **The program begins Sunday, January 22 from 11:40-1:00pm and includes the children’s participation in the Liturgy of the Eucharist (during the 12:00pm Mass).**

For more information or to register your child please contact the program coordinator: Mariann Dusmore at cgsmariann@gmail.com.

JOHN FORD FIRST SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

The **first collection of 2017** will take place on **January 7/8**. Please note that due to renovations downstairs and our ability to store pantry items is limited, monetary donations are preferred. Thank you!

“For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9.6

Please note that there will be **no 4:30pm Mass on Sunday, December 25.**

Additionally, **the parish office will be closed and no Masses or confessions will be offered on Monday, December 26 (Boxing Day).**

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

By Fr. Chris Valka, CSB

For 160 years, St. Basil's has born witness to the many ways God "breaks through" the divisions of our world. In this place, we encounter our equality before and with God. In recognizing God within us, we also recognize our equality with each other. As Catholics, we take the incarnation very seriously. It shapes our worldview, our liturgies and our participation. The incarnation transforms the world into sacramentals and Sacraments – elements that make invisible realities visible. This Christmas, we celebrate 160 years of making love, forgiveness, belonging, healing, peace, and the like, more visible. In this season of gift-giving, I cannot imagine a better gift to give to God than this.

Still, there is much work to do. During Advent, I read *The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation* by Richard Rohr. Essentially, it is a wonderful read about the nature of God as relational. For the longest time, he argues that we have focused on God as "three persons", but a more appropriate understanding is "three faces". Furthermore, that we would be much better off thinking of God, not as a noun, but as a verb. Rohr draws an analogy to the particles that make up our world. The energy they contain is not within the particles themselves, but in the spaces between the particles. In other words, their power is in the relationship they have to one another. This, Rohr writes, is a wonderful way of thinking of God. Likewise, ourselves, for we are made in this image.

Perhaps this Christmas, the incarnation of God in our lives anew will give us an opportunity to see ourselves and others anew? Perhaps our energy will be found in our relationships rather than the static objects that fill up our lives? For this is the reason we celebrate Christmas – so that we may better understand that God is in relationship with us – not as some distant, celestial being, but as one of us.

May your Christmas be filled with the energy that comes from love, forgiveness, belonging, healing and peace – the fruits of our relationship with God and each other. Thank you for celebrating this magnificent season with our parish community. Merry Christmas and a very blessed New Year!

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY:

Sunday, December 18, 2016
Total not available by submission deadline

MASS INTENTIONS



DECEMBER 25th - 31st

Sunday The Nativity of the Lord

9:00am-
10:30am-
12:00pm-

**There is NO 4:30pm Mass today*

Monday Saint Stephen, First Martyr

**There are NO Masses or confession today (Parish Office is closed)*

Tuesday Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

7:30am-
12:10pm-

John McGloin (+)

Wednesday The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

7:30am-
12:10pm-

Luigi Ciavarella (+) and Santiago Afante (+)

Thursday

7:30am-
12:10pm-

John Davis (+)

Friday

7:30am-
12:10pm-

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Saturday

5:00pm-

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, Bernice Casey, Concha Gaeitereiro, Clare DeMello, Erika Farncomb, Filomena La Rocca, and Joseph Tronccone.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED.

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