

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 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 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:	Michael Pirri
Family Coordinator:	Marilena Berardinelli
Evening Office Assistant:	Stela Tudor

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

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

By Lisa Fernandes

Today is the second week of four weeks which make up the season of Advent. Advent comes from the Latin word "adventus" meaning *coming* and this time is about both the coming of Christ at Christmas as in his historical birthday and the Second Coming to bring justice and harmony to the world.

In this season of Advent before Christmas, we have moved from ordinary time in the liturgy to a time of celebration where we look forward to Christ's coming.

Themes throughout Advent include hope, peace, joy and love. The readings for the second week of Advent deal with peace. In the first reading, we learn about a time of peace and safety: "Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid....." (Isaiah 11: 6)

In the second reading, we see further a discussion of hope – telling us not to give up hope but to wait in harmony with one another: “May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus...” (Rom 15:5)

The gospel continues this theme of waiting and hoping and, in addition, we see a theme of repentance in which the faithful will prepare themselves for Christ’s coming: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” (Mt 3: 2). The Gospel refers to John the Baptist as an example of how we might anticipate Christ’s coming.

As we all know, colour plays a significant role in the church as it takes us through the liturgical year. For the season of Advent, purple in the vestments, candles, wall hangings etc. has a meaning of sovereignty, i.e. Christ is King. (I love the season of Advent as it is the season of new beginnings and my favourite colour purple is in abundance).

During this time as well, the Advent wreath is traditionally lit. The wreath itself is a symbol of eternity and unending love. There are four candles. The second candle, which is purple, is the Bethlehem candle which represents the birthplace of Christ (the first coming) and the hope of Christ coming again to the world.

This new liturgical year is also the anniversary of the Reformation - the 500th anniversary which was recently observed ecumenically with Pope Francis and Lutherans. We can recognize the pain of the divisions in the church because we all experience divisions in our own lives. We encounter it in our own society trying to live together in a diverse country. As an American citizen, I see as we look to the south, how the problems of possible divisions still exist. During Advent, there is time for all of us to experience repentance as we reach out with a goal towards harmony.

Sunday’s Readings:

Isaiah 11.1-10

Romans 15.4-9

Matthew 3.1-12

CELEBRATING OUR JEWISH HERITAGE

As part of our ongoing Advent focus, the Parashat Hashavuah known as the “Torah portion” of the week is given a Hebrew name that reflects a significant word or short phrase in the selected verses. This week’s Parashat Hashavuah is entitled “Toldot,” meaning “Generations” and it is **Genesis 25:19-28:9**.

Last week, the Torah portion included the marriage of Abraham’s son, Isaac, to Rebekah. This week, we read that Rebekah experiences a difficult pregnancy yet gives birth to twin boys: Esau and Jacob. The brothers have a tenuous relationship, often arguing about Esau’s birthright as firstborn and the promises made to Abraham that would be passed on through the generations of his family. The Torah portion ends with Jacob imploring God’s mercy as he incurs his brother’s anger.

This portion gives great insight into the difficulties experienced by Abraham’s family. They are like any other family- they argue, make mistakes, and grieve.

Discussion Questions:

What have been the key learnings shared and passed down “from generation to generation” in your family?

How have these pearls of wisdom influenced your faith life?

(Take some time to discuss with your family.)

PRESENTATION ON THE TRINITY

All are invited this **Wednesday, December 7** for a presentation on the Holy Trinity with Regis College Theology Professor, Fr. Gilles Mongeau, S.J. Come and learn why the Holy Trinity is considered to be an “eternal dance of love.” Our gathering will begin with evening prayer at 7:00pm in the church (followed by the talk at 7:15pm in Charbonnel Lounge on the USMC campus). No pre-registration is required.

ADVENT CHALLENGE: WEEK 2

1. Write a poem. Use the question, 'What am I doing when I feel the most at peace?' If you would like, please accompany with a photograph that compliments your poem and send it to leanna.cappiello@utoronto.ca. Your poem+photo will be posted on social media with your permission. Consider this a public declaration of what peace means to you.

2. Pursue an act of kindness. This could entail a corporal act of mercy (e.g. feed the hungry, clothe the homeless, visit the sick); a random act of service to a stranger (e.g. purchasing coffee for the person behind you in line, leaving coins at the laundromat, leaving a note on the subway); or even reaching out to a friend who might need a sense of peace and forgiveness (e.g. a letter, a phone call, a visit). Allow this to be a kind of prayer for inner peace using action.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS UPDATE

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is once again asking for donations to make Christmas a little brighter for the needy in our area. This year, so far, our parish has provided more than \$41,000.00 worth of food, clothing, beds and furniture, rent and dentistry for our neighbours-in-need. This is an increase of 50% over last year. Please use the Christmas envelopes included in the bulletin and give what you can, but remember that all donations \$20.00 or more will receive a tax receipt at the end of the year. You are the sole source of our funding and we thank you immensely for your continued generosity!

SERRA CLUB GATHERING

You are invited to join Serra Club members on **Wednesday, December 7 directly after the 12:10pm Mass for lunch and a talk by Fr. Ed Curtis** on the new Vocation Committee in the Archdiocese of Toronto. Please meet in the back of the church after Mass and a group will head over to the designated meeting room on the USMC campus. Please contact the Parish Office if you plan to attend so we can finalize numbers.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY:

Sunday, November 27, 2016 \$8,321.60



MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 4th - 10th

Sunday

9:00am-
10:30am-
12:00pm-
4:30pm-

Second Sunday of Advent

Angela LaForgia (+)
Pro Populo
Frank and Mike Gregoire (+)
Hermina Sertich (+)

Monday

7:30am-
12:10pm-

Jennifer & Wendy Ryzek (liv.)
Fausto Silva (+)

Tuesday

7:30am-
12:10pm-

Saint Nicholas

J.C. Alexander (liv.)
Tomo Teresa (+) and Andria Vidovic (+),
Bobby Winslow (liv.)

Wednesday

7:30am-
12:10pm-

Saint Ambrose

Thalheimer Family (liv.)
Helen Maria Eustachiwna (+)

Thursday

7:30am-
12:10pm-

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Jacqueline Brunning (+)
Anne Gregoire (+), Rosa De Sa (+), Sr. Cabrini
Fahlman (liv.), and Joaquim Russo (+), Francine
Tony (liv.)

Friday

7:30am-
12:10pm-

Saint Juan Diego

John and Lena Palma (+, +)

Saturday

5:00pm-

Lorena Vicente (liv.)

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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