

LENT

ST. BASIL'S CATHOLIC PARISH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE



“Transformation,” Alexander Ivanov (1824)

For 160 years (1856-2016), St. Basil's Parish has been 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!

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

Office Hours: Monday - Friday:
(9:00 am - 1:00 pm; 2:00 pm - 8:30pm)
Saturday & Sunday: (9:00 am - 6:30 pm)

SUNDAY MASSES

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

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

CONFESSIONS

Monday-Friday: 11:30 am - 12:00 pm
Saturday: 4:15 pm - 4:45 pm

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

Please see the parish website or call the main office for details.

A TIME TO BE TRANSFIGURED

By Elizabeth Chesley-Jewell

Last weekend I attended the Rite of Election with my fiancé who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. The experience of watching him stand and publicly consent to receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist was incredibly moving. A quiet personal journey of becoming closer to God through RCIA will culminate in a much larger transfiguration at the Easter Vigil as myself, our family, and the Church watch him “put on Christ” and receive the gifts of the sacraments that he has felt called to for so long.

This week as we celebrate the Transfiguration of Jesus it is important to understand what the word transfiguration means. While on the mount with His disciples Jesus did not transform into the Son of God. A transformation would imply that it was only at this moment that He became Divine. Instead, the chosen apostles, who till now had only seen Jesus in his human form, see Jesus transfigured in all his glory as the Son of God. This moment serves as a source of hope for the disciples during the terrifying events of Christ's suffering and death.



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St. Basil's Church, Toronto

Lent is a solemn time of year. We are called to look at our shortcomings and focus on repentance and penance. Good Friday is a day where we acknowledge that our sins are the nails that fasten Jesus our Lord to the cross. Often, we pray to have the strength to never succumb to temptation and to sin no more. Essentially, we are praying to be transformed, to become something that is not human because we are all bound to sin at some point and must seek forgiveness.

But the transfiguration reminds us of our true nature. We are all made good. While our sins nailed Jesus to the cross we know that on Easter He rose from the dead and, in doing so, brought us salvation. Acknowledging that we are worthy of this gift can be difficult but, when we do, we are also transfigured. We begin to live a life that exudes goodness. We are made radiant with joy. Someone can look at us and, despite our scars, failings, and humanity, see the face of Christ. Furthermore, we are then able to approach the Eucharist and Easter like the members of the elect; with a humbled joy at the immense gift we have received.

As we journey through this Lent may we pray to be transfigured. To recognize our own goodness and to not be afraid to let that goodness shine as a light for others.

Sunday's Readings:
Genesis 12.1-4
2 Timothy 1.8b-10
Matthew 17.1-9

PRESENTATION ON ECO-THEOLOGY

You are invited to a presentation on an Introduction to Eco-Theology offered by University of Toronto Associate Professor in the Department of Religion, Dr. Stephen Scharper, on **Wednesday, March 15**. Dr. Scharper will explain the principles of environmental ethics and an ecological worldview from a faith perspective.

Our gathering begins at **7:00pm in the church proper** to pray together ecological Stations of the Cross before moving to Charbonnel Lounge for the talk and discussion. All are welcome! No pre-registration is required.



STORIES FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Lent is a time to reorient our priorities by discovering anew what it means to live for Christ. One of the main features of Lent and this reorientation process involves almsgiving. Your support to our parish's outreach ministry is vital and does so much to help those of our community in need.

During Lent, **St. Vincent de Paul volunteers will share with you some of the life experiences of our Neighbours-in-Need (NIN)**. We have obscured their identities to protect their dignity and to observe strict confidentiality. They are offered as insights into the people that we serve and support through your generosity.

Sally is fragile. A lifetime of bad luck and tough circumstances caught up with her when her latest partner started to beat her shortly after they hooked up. She escaped twice only to be tracked down and cornered in a situation that left her totally vulnerable. She suffered more abuse only to escape once more, this time to a protective woman's shelter. Albeit bare bones and very basic, the accommodation behind triple locked doors means that she can finally sleep at night. She has no luxuries. She can barely get necessities. Nonetheless, she expresses enormous gratitude for the little help that we are able to provide. "Without Saint Vincent de Paul, I don't know what I'd do...."

A \$50 food voucher goes a long way.

SERRA CLUB LUNCHEON TALK

Join Serra Club members on **Wednesday, March 15, 2017 immediately following the 12:10 pm Mass** for lunch and an opportunity to hear from our honoured guest, **The Most Reverend Bishop Robert Kasun, C.S.B. Bishop Kasun** will be speaking on "Why Would Anyone Want to be a Priest (or Religious Sister) in The World and Church Today." We will meet at the back of the church directly after Mass and proceed to the Senior Common Room in Brennan Hall. All are welcome. If you wish to join us, please RSVP to the parish office.

Our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Coordinator, Mariann, has invited children participating in the atrium to consider doing something special together with their family to grow in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during this Lenten season. Below we offer a few suggestions to get you started. This week, we focus on fasting.

FASTING

*Fast from technology. Pick a time during the week where your family shuts off the TV, the WiFi, and their cell phones, and find something that you can do together.

*Fast from eating out. Children (and pregnant women and the elderly) are exempt from the Christian practice of fasting from food. However, we can help our children become sensitive to the reality that not everyone in our world eats when or what they want. Instead of having the children pick from a restaurant menu, invite them to help in the preparation of one meal per week. Use the time to eat and connect as a family.

*Fast from "me" centered activities. Our lives get busy and we focus less on each other. Use Lent as an opportunity to connect (or reconnect) with an aging or homebound friend or relative. Invite your children to write cards, draw pictures etc. to help bring joy to someone else.

*Fast from buying new toys/clothes etc. Our lives are cluttered with "stuff" that squeezes out space for God. In solidarity with the poor, wait the 40 days to fill the "needs" and "wants."

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY

Sunday, March 5, 2017 \$6,142.00



MASS INTENTIONS

MARCH 12th - 18th

Sunday Second Sunday of Lent

9:00am-
10:30am- Pro Populo
12:00pm- Wilton Earl Northgraves (+)
4:30pm- Carmela Filicetti (+)

Monday
7:30am-
12:10pm- Carmen D'Cruz (+)

Tuesday
7:30am-
12:10pm-

Wednesday
7:30am- Frank Gallippi (+)
12:10pm- Luigi & Lina Ciavarella (+,+)

Thursday
7:30am-
12:10pm- Vocations

Friday St. Patrick
7:30am- Lee Family (liv.)
12:10pm- Frank, Monica, and Mary Gannon (+,+,+)

Saturday
5:00pm- John Quane (+)

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Mary O'Brien, Claire Fidler, Kam Fung Tem, Angel Martinez, Margaret-Mary McKenzie, Joe Torres, Lucille Mirvish, Celerina Agpoon, Bernice Casey, Concha Gaeitereiro, Clare DeMello, Erika Farncomb, Filomena La Rocca, Joseph Troncone, Hai Luen Liu, Neil McCormack, Jack Gervais, and Sue Lockwood.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED.

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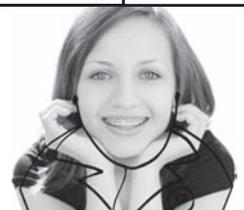
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