

ST. BASIL'S CATHOLIC PARISH

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

www.stbasiltoronto.org | 50 St. Joseph Street, Toronto, ON | 416-926-7110

SUNDAY MASSES

5:00pm (Saturday)
9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00pm, 4:30pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

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

CONFESSIONS

Monday - Friday: 11:30am-12:00pm
Saturday: 4:30pm - 5:00pm

EVENING PRAYER (VESPERS)

Monday - Friday: 5:10pm

ADORATION

Tuesday: 3:00pm-6:00pm
First Friday: After 12:10pm Mass until 1:30pm

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Monday: 12:45pm *Ardèche Hall (basement)*
Saturday: 11:00am *Decker Room (basement)*

FAITH SHARING (ONLINE)

Tuesday: 7pm (<https://tinyurl.com/StBasilFaithSharing>)

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Monday & Tuesday Lunch: 11:30am-12:30pm

Society of St. Vincent de Paul can be reached
for assistance at 416-926-2292

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Sunday: 8:15am - 1:15pm

For information about baptisms, weddings, and funerals, please see the parish website or call the main office for details. Weddings require one year's notice.



PARISH STAFF

Pastor:
Lay Pastoral Associate:
Office Manager (on leave):
Office Administrator:
Director of Outreach & Hospitality:
Director of Music & Principal Organist:
Assistant Organist:
Musician-in-Residence:

Fr. Morgan V. Rice, CSB
JoAnn M. Lopez
Margaret D'Elia
John DiCecco
Hilda O'Connor
Dr. John Paul Farahat
Adrian Ross
Dr. Lindsay McIntyre

ATTENTIVE JOY

This week Advent is illuminated by joy, as we hear the call to rejoice throughout the scriptures. The pink candle on the wreath brings that hint of light to us and promises us that **"the coming of the Lord is near."**

One of the names of Christ in this season is Emmanuel – "God with us." This name brings me tremendous consolation, for it means I never face anything alone. **Do we experience and believe that God is with us?**

I know how easy it is to forget the closeness of God in the midst of daily life. We get busy, we are hurrying to complete our to-do lists, we are attending to everyone around us, and we miss God's presence and wonderful work. Maybe that's just me! But when I slow down and take a closer look, when I really listen, I begin to see God's power at work all around me. In the beauty of creation, in volunteers sharing their gifts, in the children playing in the snow, in meals shared with friends, and perhaps most especially in the voice of those who come to our parish seeking help, guidance, and prayer on their darkest days.

In today's Gospel Jesus calls us to be attentive to good news about the liberating, healing, reconciling, energizing, and transformative work of God in our world right now, and to share what we see. **Can we be witnesses to the ways God has touched our lives and is transforming the world around us? As a community of faith, can we be the hands and feet of Christ, showing up with compassion to care for those most in need of God's presence?**

Since 1856, St. Basil's Parish has been home to people of all ages and needs. We are blessed because you are here!

Parents are welcome to feed their children in church. Feel free to move about with your child in the back of the church or in the hallway off the side aisle.



Mary Oliver wrote: "Instructions for living a life: Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it."

When we slow down enough to pay attention, we begin to notice the places most in need of hope and transformation, and the way grace is at work in our world. When we draw close, respond, and bear witness, we embody the call of the Prophet Isaiah to "Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God."

This week we shall begin the final seven days before Christmas, when our attention turns more fully to preparing to celebrate the Incarnation. This great mystery, that God comes to dwell with us in the fragility and vulnerability of humanity, is something that should give us abundant joy and hope. **God is so close us.** You will be able to join your voices to sing the "O Antiphons" at Evening Prayer (Vespers) from December 17 onward, and I encourage you to join us this week for our parish Advent Lessons and Carols. These prayerful moments help us to express our longing for God's presence, so that we might be ready to encounter Emmanuel, God with us, and tell of the good news of his presence in our midst.

May all who long for Christ be attentive to his presence, that our joy may shine out. For, as Jesuit Pierre Teilhard de Chardin wrote, "Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God."

~ JoAnn Lopez

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 21, after the 4:30pm Mass

Come and join our annual Christmas decorating party on Sunday, December 21, following the 4:30pm Mass. We need your help to set up trees, garlands, and lights to prepare the church for Christmas. RSVP through our website to help us plan for ordering pizza for dinner after.

THANK YOU BAKERS!

Our Outreach Ministry team would like to thank all those who baked cookies for the USMC Christmas Market. Thanks to your generous contributions and the work of our Outreach volunteers, we were able to raise over a thousand dollars in support of our Outreach Ministry.

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

Wednesday, December 17, 7-8pm

Join St. Basil's for Advent Lessons and Carols on Wednesday, December 17, at 7pm at St. Basil's. This prayer service, featuring sacred scripture, hymns, and choral music, will prepare us to encounter Christ as we journey through the last seven days of the Advent season towards the Nativity of the Lord. For more information, contact johnpaul.farahat@utoronto.ca.

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

Weekdays, 5:10pm (gather near the altar)

All are welcome to join in sung Evening Prayer (Vespers) at St Basil's from Monday through Friday at 5:10pm. Evening Prayer includes hymns, psalms, and readings for the Advent season, offering an opportunity for prayer and reflection at the end of each day. All materials are provided in the church.

CHANGES TO REGULAR SCHEDULE

- **The Sacrament of Reconciliation will have extended hours before Christmas.** On weekdays December 19, 22, and 23 after 12:10pm Mass until 1:15pm, and on Saturday, December 20 from 4-5pm. Please note that there will be no Confessions on December 24, 25, 26 or January 1.
- **7:30am Mass will not take place** for the term break from December 22 to January 2 (inclusive).
- **Tuesday Adoration** will not be offered on December 23 or December 30.
- **Evening Prayer (Vespers)** will not take place on December 24 to 26 or December 31 to January 1.
- **Breaking Open the Word (Tuesday online faith sharing)** will not meet on December 23 or December 30, and will resume at a new time in the new year: 7:30pm starting January 6.
- **Christian Meditation (Monday & Saturday)** will not meet from December 16 to January 9.
- **This weekend is our final coffee hour of 2025.** We will resume on January 11 after the 10:30am Mass.

READING GROUP AT ST. BASIL'S

2nd and 4th Monday of each month, 7-8:30pm

Upcoming text

Dec. 22: "The Three Low Masses" by Alphonse Daudet

We are a welcoming community of book lovers who read together, ponder what we've read, and share our thoughts and ideas. Register through our website, or contact Kristina: kristina.glicksman@gmail.com

DECEMBER & JANUARY SCHEDULE

Our Christmas schedule handout is available and also features information about upcoming programs. Consider taking an extra copy to share. The seasons of Advent and Christmas are a great opportunity to invite friends to experience the joy, hope, and peace of Christ in our faith community.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Wednesday, December 17, 11am to Noon

All are welcome to join the Holy Hour for Vocations hosted by the Downtown Toronto Serra Club before the 12:10pm Mass. We will use a monstrance blessed by Saint Pope John Paul II and gifted to Serra International.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES & GIVING

Collection envelopes for 2026 are available. Please pick them up in the church by Sunday, December 21. If you cannot find your name on the envelope list, please contact our parish office.

Our offertory (weekly Sunday collection) is our main source of funding. Your contribution supports programs that enrich the life and faith of our parishioners. As we end the year, we ask all parishioners to prayerfully consider starting to give to the offertory on a regular basis or increasing your weekly giving as you are able. Even a 10% increase, or \$5 more per week, will make an enormous difference to our parish and our impact.

There are three tax-deductible ways to give:

- Weekly Sunday Envelopes
- Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) – *automatic monthly debits from your bank account*
- Credit Card Payment (online via CanadaHelps). *Please note: we are charged a processing fee for each credit card payment, which is deducted from your donation.*

If you are not yet a registered parishioner, please register (online or via our paper form) to be set up with envelopes or PAG. If you would like to make changes to your PAG amount, please contact our office.

Tax receipts for 2025 donations will be issued in the new year. If you have moved this year, please contact us to update our records: office@stbasilortoronto.org.

Thank you for your generous support of our parish!

SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 13-14: Building Fund

This fund is set aside for future building repairs and renovation projects. It ensures our parish's long-term financial stability.

MASS INTENTIONS



MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:30am | Ana Librada Ramos (+)
12:10pm | Ricardo Balatbat (+)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

12:10pm | Francis, Monica & Mary Gannon (+,+,+),
Fr. Walsh, CSB (+), Fr. Hilmer, CSB (+)
Claudio Custodio (+), Cristina Custodio (+),
Vladovic Family (liv.), Tomo & Teresia (+,+)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

12:10pm | Vocations

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

12:10pm | Ulrike Licht (+), Marian Franco (+), Francesco
Leo (+), Irene MacCarthy (+), Edward Bueno (+)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

7:30am | Virginia Chua (+)
12:10pm | Luigi, Lina, Len, & Michael Ciavavella (+,+,+,+)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

5:00pm | Rosalie Wimbs (+)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

9:00am | Robert Sum (+)
10:30am | *Pro Populo*
12:00pm | Sera D'Amario (+)
4:30pm | Joseph Opaczewski(+)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

12:10pm | Nicola Ciavarella (+)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

12:10pm | Jamil & Laure Boulos, Aria Raymond (+,+,+)
Onisha Fernandes (liv.), Earl Lagroix (+)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 & THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

All Masses | *Pro Populo*

Pray for the Sick, especially, Sue Banfield, Marion Bayfield, Rebecca Beaton, Annabelle Brossard, Desmond Brownlee, Steve Chandeller, Lynden Beiyang Chen, Yvonne Clarke, Josephine D'amico, Jasper David-Fuchs, Clare DeMello, Maryanne Hodges, Helen Keeley, Bohdanka Kovalska, Elaine Landrie, Anne McFadden, Margaret-Mary McKenzie, David Martin, Rosy Menezes, Paul O'Brien, Robert Rodbourne, Delaila Salvador, Todd Snow, Federico Sorianosos Jr., John Sytsma, Betty Veit, Eileen Vythius, and Alexander Wu.

Pray for the Deceased, especially Mary Hardy, Fr. J. Wheeler, CSB.


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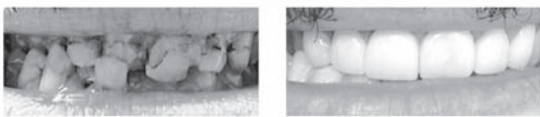


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