

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
Coffee Hour follows the 10:30am Mass

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 *Ardeche Hall (basement)*
 Saturday: 11:00am *Decker Room (basement)*

FAITH SHARING (ONLINE)

Tuesday: 7:30pm (<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:
Coordinator of Community Engagement:

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
 Rosemary Boissonneau

THE WILDERNESS: A PLACE OF TESTING AND NEW FREEDOM

In Christian spirituality, the wilderness or desert often symbolizes a time of purification, repentance, and total dependence on God. It is a place of new beginnings. It is where, touched by the Holy Spirit and by grace, we choose to let go of our burdens, to leave behind the weight of the world, and to walk more freely toward God.

When we begin such a spiritual journey, we often expect everything to become easier. We think the Spirit will guide us smoothly, grace will comfort us, and peace and joy will fill our hearts without struggle. Yet the experience of Christ shows us something different. The Gospel tells us that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, and it is there that he was tempted. The place of closeness to God also became a place of testing. What should we do when, in the middle of our spiritual journey, temptation appears?

The first temptation comes through materialism: *“Command these stones to become bread.”* It touches our basic physical needs, our human weakness, and our desire for security. Jesus responds by reminding us of what truly sustains life: *“One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”* He does not deny the need for food, but he refuses to make it the center of life. Our deepest hunger is for God.

....continued on next page

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.



The second temptation appears as spiritual pride: throwing himself from the Temple to force God to act. This is the temptation to test God, to demand signs, and to place ourselves at the center. Jesus answers with humility: “*You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.*” True faith trusts God rather than trying to control Him.

The third temptation is the desire for power: “*I will give you all this if you worship me.*” It appeals to our longing for greatness and influence. Jesus firmly rejects it: “*The Lord your God you shall worship.*” He chooses faithfulness to God over worldly success.

As we prepare for Easter, this Gospel invites us to remain faithful on our journey. The wilderness is not only a place of consolation, but also a place of struggle and discernment. By following Jesus, resisting materialism, pride, and the desire for power, and relying on the Holy Spirit, our journey through the wilderness this Lent can become not a place of defeat, but the beginning of a new freedom.

~ Jean Pierre Paul Durand, SJ

Lent at St. Basil's:

LITURGICAL CHANGES IN LENT

You have likely noticed several changes to the liturgy during Lent. The Gloria is absent, and we refrain from alleluias. The organ is generally used only to support congregational singing, so there is no prelude before Mass, and we depart in silence after the dismissal. These changes are part of a liturgical fast emphasizing the Lenten season – may they help us to prepare for the Easter Triduum and the joy of the Resurrection.

ENCOUNTER: 24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

Friday, March 6 - Saturday, March 7

Join St. Basil's and USMC Campus Ministry for a special time of prayer, service, and community to Encounter God this Lent. Beginning on Friday evening with Evening Prayer (Vespers), and ending with Saturday evening Mass, we will devote ourselves to encountering Christ's merciful love. Featuring Eucharistic Adoration, Liturgy of the Hours, Scripture, Praise and Worship, activities for families, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we will be keeping the church open overnight for Eucharistic Adoration and prayer as a community. All are welcome! Please sign up to hear more details and to help us plan. Visit: www.stbasilontario.org/24hours

JOHN FORD FOOD DRIVE

February 28 - March 1, before & after all Masses

Outreach volunteers will be here next weekend to collect donated unopened pantry items, which will be used for our meal service or distributed directly to our patrons. Meal-replacement drinks, canned stews, and canned meat and fish are particularly helpful to our patrons.

During this season we also welcome donations of new or gently used rain gear to assist our adult patrons. Items such as socks, umbrellas, and coats will truly make a difference in someone's life.

This Lent, our parish is raising funds to help stock our new permanent space, the St. Basil's Community Care Closet, with toiletries, clothing, and other non-perishable necessities. Your generous financial support will support our patrons' needs year-round. Cash donations are also gratefully accepted, and you can donate online.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Fridays in Lent, starting February 20
5:30pm**

In addition to our usual weekly prayer offerings, we will gather to pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at 5:30pm, immediately following Evening Prayer.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OTHER LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES:

- St. Michael's Schola Cantorum Concert, Monday, March 16, 7:30pm
- Musician-in-Residence Concert, *Musical Meditations and Arvo Pärt's Stabat Mater*, Friday, March 27, 7:30pm
- Tenebrae Prayer Service, Wednesday of Holy Week, April 1, 8pm

Check our website for additional resources to deepen our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as a community of faith this Lent: <https://www.stbasilontario.org/lent>

SHARELIFE

Lent is a time to open our hearts, to see Christ in those who suffer and to respond with love. By supporting ShareLife, you can reach more people, lift more burdens, and remind our brothers and sisters that they are not alone. The first ShareLife Sunday collection is on March 22. Our parish goal this year is \$109,000. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY TRAINING

Wednesdays, weekly from February 25 to April 1
7-8:30pm, online

The annual Archdiocesan formation and training for bereavement ministry will be offered online on Wednesdays, February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1, from 7-8:30pm. This program will explore ways to begin a bereavement ministry in your parish. Registrants are required to participate in all online sessions, complete pre-homework and pass final assessment. There is no cost to attend but register early as capacity is limited. Register by February 23. <https://bit.ly/BMT-Register2026> Questions? Contact: formation@archtoronto.org

COME & SEE

February 27 - March 1
St. Augustine's Seminary (2661 Kingston Rd.)

The Office of Vocations is offering a weekend Discernment Retreat at St. Augustine's Seminary for single men who feel the Lord may be calling them to discern the priesthood. Visit: www.vocationstoronto.ca/comesee

LIFE-GIVING WOUNDS RETREAT

Friday, May 15 to Sunday, May 17
St. Augustine's Seminary (2661 Kingston Rd.)

Life-Giving Wounds: A Healing Retreat for Adult Children of Divorced or Separated Parents invites participants to move through the broken image of love that appeared to them in their parents' relationship to their deepest origin and identity as God's beloved, capable of great love. Must be 18 or older to attend. Cost: \$325 per person (\$225 for students), which includes meals, lodging and retreat material. Limited subsidies are available if cost is a concern. For university/college students, contact your campus minister for more information. Space is limited. To register, visit: bit.ly/LGW-TO-Retreat-Register2026.

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

February 21 - 22: St. Vincent de Paul

This collection supports the work of our parish's chapter of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as they support our neighbours who are struggling through food assistance, compassion, and a listening ear.

MASS INTENTIONS

FEBRUARY 23 - MARCH 1



MONDAY

7:30am | M. T. Klotz (liv.)
12:10pm | John Papez (+)

TUESDAY

12:10pm | Holy Souls (+)

WEDNESDAY

12:10pm | Brian Danter (+)

THURSDAY

12:10pm | Ann Lanio (liv.), Susan Adams (+),
Jacob & Mervin Lopez (liv., liv.)

FRIDAY

7:30am | Glynda Kou (liv.)
12:10pm | Stefan & Anna Papez (+, +)

SATURDAY

5:00pm | Len Ciavarella (+)

SUNDAY

9:00am
10:30am | Pro Populo
12:00pm | Vivian Kwok & Winnie Man (liv., liv.)
4:30pm

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 Vyphius, and Alexander Wu.

Pray for the Deceased, especially Mary Jane Martin.

JGrace Massage
 Registered Massage & Acupuncture Therapists
 www.jgracemassage.ca
 15 Wellesley St W #208
 416.927.8566



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES & FUNERAL SERVICES
 ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO
 www.catholic-cemeteries.com

Holy Cross Cemetery & Funeral Home
 905-889-7467
Mount Hope Cemetery 416-483-4944

BE THE GOOD

Inquire about financial assistance at stmichaelscollegeschool.com



SMCS
 ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SCHOOL



Footcare on Bay

John Ray, D.Ch.
 Benjamin Cohen, D.Ch.
 905 Bay Street 416-962-0062

Donate Today:
ccaafdn.ca



Catholic Children's Aid FOUNDATION

Dr. Benny Kwong
 Dentist
Serving our neighbourhood for over 30 years
 1033 Bay St., Suite 211
 416-928-3080



HAWTHORN SCHOOL

Where her character will flourish.
 Co-ed Daycare, JK & SK
 All-girls grades 1-12
 York Mills & Leslie
 416-444-3054
hawthornschool.com

Funeral Prearrangements available
 Call for your FREE Personal Planning Guide



ROSAR - MORRISON FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

467 Sherbourne Street (at Wellesley)
 416-924-1408
James A. Munroe, General Manager
james.munroe@dignitymemorial.com
Michael Kessel, Assistant Manager
michael.kessel@dignitymemorial.com



Shopping Locally Saves Gas!



Give the thrill of flight!
 North America's only public 777 & 737 simulators. **Book Today!**
uflysimulator.ca | 416-777-2261
 1535 Meyerside Dr #6



Sotheby's | Canada
 INTERNATIONAL REALTY
 Real estate with grace, integrity and purpose.
 416.818.1508
kmyles@sothebysrealty.ca

Kimmé Myles
 Broker
 E.&O.E.: Sotheby's International Realty Canada Brokerage is Independently Owned And Operated.



Serving the community since 2010
 In the Manulife building
416-923-8831



DENTISTRY ON THE PATH
 General Dentistry, TMJ, Implant, Invisalign, Cosmetic, Pinhole, Headache & Snoring



We now accept **CDCP**



Book your appointment today!



Before



After

416-595-5490 | DrYolandaCruz.com

390 Bay St. C006, Bay St. & Richmond St., Concourse Level

Trusted Leaders in Vision Care since 1993



torontoeyecare

MANULIFE CENTRE
 55 BLOOR ST. W.
 416-966-1955



Serving our community since 2012
 PSW and Nursing services
 Contact us for a free assessment
647-836-8329
info@joyfulhomecare.ca
www.joyfulhomecare.ca