

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 *Ardèche 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

REJOICE IN THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

This Sunday you might notice something special. Rose liturgical vestments instead of the Lenten purple. Prelude and postlude music at Mass, different from the other weeks of Lent when the organ is muted and we depart in silence. This Fourth Sunday of Lent, also known as *Laetare* (Rejoice) Sunday, is the mid-point of our Lenten journey, where we pause and look ahead to the promise of Easter. The entire liturgy encourages us to hope in the Light of Christ, which we will encounter at the Easter Vigil.

The more than 40 participants in the RCIA program are particularly anticipating Easter, when they will receive the Sacraments of Initiation – just three weeks away! This Sunday, those preparing to be baptized will go through the Scrutiny Rite, during which they are invited to examine their hearts and see their need for repentance and conversion, while the whole parish community prays for them to be strengthened in faith.

In my work, I am privileged to walk with the RCIA participants and many others in their faith journey. As I reflect on the Gospel today, I cannot help but see their faith journey (and my own) reflected in the story of the man born blind.

It all begins with an encounter with Jesus. This encounter is absolutely life changing. In the Gospel, the man born blind is touched, he is sent, he is transformed. The transformation is so dramatic that those who knew him from before this encounter no longer recognize him. Our scriptures tell us though, that unlike humans, who look merely at the surface, God sees in a different way – to the heart.

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 man is then called to testify about his transformative encounter, again and again, even at great cost. With each time he shares, he comes to some new insight about Jesus. First, he acknowledges what Jesus has done for him. Then he knows Jesus is a prophet. Then he courageously proclaims that Jesus is from God, and finally he recognizes that Jesus is Lord, and worships him. The one who was blind now sees more clearly than any of those who had sight.

Each of us have encountered Christ in some way in our life. Hopefully in ways that form and transform us. As a cradle Catholic, I don't have one "lightning bolt" moment of conversion, but I have encountered Jesus again and again and again in my life. Including last weekend at our parish's Encounter: 24 Hours for the Lord. When we reflect on the ways our lives have been touched, healed, led, and illuminated by Christ, and as we begin to share our faith story, we come to greater insight and deeper faith. This also happens as we listen well to each other's faith journey. Through reflection, sharing, listening and journeying together, we too, start to see to the heart – our own, each others', and God's. We bear the light of Christ a little more into our world that desperately needs God's transforming love.

We are very blessed to accompany our parish's RCIA cohort towards Easter. They are witnesses to us of the marvellous works of God. On this Laetare Sunday, let us rejoice in how Jesus has touched their lives, let us reflect on how we have each encountered Jesus, and may our reflection and sharing help us to live our call to be the light of the world.

~ JoAnn Melina Lopez

PRAY FOR THE RCIA PARTICIPANTS

This Sunday we celebrate the Second Scrutiny with the Elect (those preparing for baptism this Easter), in which we pray for them to be liberated from the power of sin and to be strengthened in Christ. Please pray for the elect, as well as the baptized members of our cohort as they all prepare to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter.

TENEBRÆ PRAYER

Wednesday, April 1, 8pm

All are invited to join us on Wednesday, April 1, at 8pm in the church for our annual Tenebræ service. Latin for "shadows", this contemplative service of readings, choral music, and congregational chants uses light and darkness to draw us into the sense of grief and loss of Holy Week, as we await the hope of Resurrection.

LAMENT AND LOVE: LENTEN MEDITATION IN MUSIC

Friday, March 27, 2026, 7:30pm

Join us at St. Basil's for an evening of sacred music as we stand on the threshold of Holy Week. Music by contemporary composers John Tavener, Olivier Messiaen, and Arvo Pärt, traces a path from lament to love at the foot of the Cross. From the cry of *Threnos* to the stillness of *Spiegel im Spiegel* and the profound meditation of *Stabat Mater*, this programme invites us into the depth and hope of the Passion.

Performed by an ensemble of voices, strings, and piano, including Musician-in-Residence Lindsay McIntyre, Schola Cantorum countertenor Peter Koniers, and Director of Music John Paul Farahat. Free admission. Donations in support of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health are gratefully received (suggested \$25).

A BAROQUE PASSION MEDITATION: ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOLA CANTORUM CONCERT

March 16, 7:30pm, St. Basil's Church

Join the St. Michael's *Schola Cantorum*, directed by Dr. Christina Labriola, with consort led by Valerie Gordon, and soloists from Mia Bach's Faculty of Music 3rd year Oratorio class, for this reflective Lenten concert. The performance will feature two affecting and dramatic musical meditations on Christ's Passion: Schütz's Seven Last Words, a remarkable devotional work setting the last words of Jesus on the cross, and excerpts from an oratorio-style setting of the St. Mark Passion, attributed to Reinhard Keiser. Admission is free, with donations gratefully accepted.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Week begins on the weekend of March 27-28 with our regular liturgy schedule on Palm Sunday.

Wednesday, April 1, Tenebræ Prayer: 8pm

Holy Thursday, April 2, Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7pm

- No 12:10pm Mass. Confessions 11:15am to 1pm. Adoration at the Altar of Repose ends at 11pm.

Good Friday, April 3, Celebration of the Passion: 3pm

- No Masses. No confessions. Office closed. Church open from 10am to 6pm.

Holy Saturday, April 4, Easter Vigil: 8:15pm

- No 5pm Mass. No confessions. Church opens at 4pm.

Easter Sunday, April 5, Mass: 9am, 10:30am & Noon

- No 4:30pm Mass. Church closes at 2pm.

Easter Monday, April 6, Mass: 7:30am & Noon

- No confessions. Office closed.

SERRA CLUB MEETING

Wednesday, March 18, following the 12:10 p.m. Mass

All are welcome to join the next meeting of the Toronto Downtown Serra Club. Our guest speaker will be Fr. Gustave Ineza, OP, Pastor, Sacré-Cœur Parish. Fr. Ineza was born in Rwanda and survived the 1994 genocide and time in refugee camps in the Democratic Republic of Congo before joining the Dominican Order in 2002. He will share his vocation story and more about his own personal journey. Guests and those interested in learning more about Serra International are most welcome.

INTRODUCING TIPTAP PAY

We are excited to share that our parish is now able to accept donations by credit card onsite using the newly-installed TipTap Pay kiosk, located near the baptismal font. The kiosk is equipped with three devices, each representing a fixed amount: \$10, \$20, or \$50.

Tiptap pay donations will support our general offertory collection and cannot be designated for specific purposes (e.g. Outreach ministry, Mass intentions, Music, ShareLife, St. Vincent de Paul, candles, music ministry, etc.)

To donate: Simply tap your credit card, debit card, or mobile wallet against the device indicating your preferred donation amount. When you tap, there will be a series of beeps, which indicate:

- **Approved:** one beep followed by a second beep.
- **Unsuccessful:** two quick beeps.
- **Declined:** one beep followed by three quick beeps.

If you would like to receive a tax receipt at the end of the year: You will need to register each card used, after an initial donation is made. Please note that mobile wallet donations are not eligible for a tax receipt at this time. Only transactions which use a tapped physical card are eligible to receive a tax receipt. You may register your card through the QR Code, or at <http://tinyurl.com/TipTapReg>.

There are three tax-deductible ways to give to St. Basil's:

- Weekly Sunday Envelopes
- Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) – *automatic monthly debits from your bank account*
- Credit Card (*using the kiosk or online via CanadaHelps*).

Please note: we are charged a processing fee for each credit card payment, which is deducted from your donation.



UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

March 14 – 15: Easter Flowers

Your generous contribution will ensure our church is able to offer a welcoming and beautiful environment during the Easter season.

March 21 – 22: ShareLife

ShareLife supports agencies that carry out the mission work of the Church. Their efforts to serve the marginalized in our communities and around the world are made possible thanks to our donors' generosity. This year is the 50th Anniversary of ShareLife. Our parish fundraising goal is \$109,000. To give, use a ShareLife envelope, online through our website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

MASS INTENTIONS

MARCH 16 - 22



MONDAY

7:30am | Elisabeth Gilligan (liv.)
12:10pm | Adele O'Connell (+)

TUESDAY

12:10pm | Francis, Mary & Monica Gannon (+,+,+)
Richard Schell (+), Edward Essue (+),
Romy Lyon (liv.)

WEDNESDAY

12:10pm | Vocations

THURSDAY

12:10pm | Members of Marriage & Family Ministry,
Greg Robinson (liv.), Celedonia Tapia (+)

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

5:00pm | Ruben Caluya Sr. (+)

SUNDAY

9:00am |
10:30am | Pro Populo
12:00pm | Julieta Villalobos (+)
4:30pm | Carmelita Salazar (+)

Pray for the Sick, especially, Sue Banfield, Marion Bayfield, Rebecca Beaton, Annabelle Brossard, Desmond Brownlee, Steve Chandeller, Lynden Beiyang Chen, Yvonne Clarke, Josephine D'arnico, 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.

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