

MARCH 2, 2025

ORDINARY TIME VIII

# ST. BASIL'S



# CATHOLIC PARISH

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

50 St. Joseph Street, Toronto M5S 1J4  
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office@stbasiltoronto.org

ADMINISTERED BY THE BASILIAN FATHERS

## OFFICE HOURS

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

## SUNDAY MASSES

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

## WEEKDAY MASSES

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

## VESPERS (EVENING PRAYER)

Monday - Friday: 5:10pm

## ADORATION

Tuesday: 3:00pm-6:00pm

## CONFESSIONS

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

## BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, AND FUNERALS

Please see the parish website or call the main office for details. Weddings require a one year notice.

## PARISH STAFF

Pastor:	Fr. Morgan V. Rice, CSB
Office Manager:	Margaret D'Elia
Lay Pastoral Associate	JoAnn M. Lopez
Director of Music & Principal Organist:	Dr. John Paul Farahat
Assistant Organist	Adrian Ross
Musician-in-Residence:	Dr. Lindsay McIntyre
Coordinator of Outreach & Hospitality:	Hilda O'Connor
Director of Community Engagement:	Michael Pirri

## GROWTH, TRANSFORMATION, AND DISCIPLESHIP

Transformation happens when we choose to let go of our old self and our old ways and embrace our life in Christ. It is a call to be active and engaged disciples – to be different from our secular world. For me, this means building my relationship with the Lord – really getting to know Him. It also rests within our Christian community. We are called to live in communion with each other – ours is not a faith practiced in isolation or an individual route to God. I notice that the more open I am to experiences that bring me closer to God, the better the fruits of my faith, and the greater the sense I am part of the One Body, growing in love.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Mass with the Imposition of Ashes will be celebrated on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am, 12:10pm, 1:30pm, 5:10pm, and 7:00pm. Ash Wednesday is a day of Fasting and Abstinence. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 60. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.



ST. BASIL'S PARISH, TORONTO



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Today's readings encourage us to reflect, examine our lives, correct our path and remedy our failings. In short, this introspective examination asks us to take small steps in our transformation journey into becoming more Christ-like. It also encourages us to grow in faith, friendship and discipleship, as Jesus says, "...everyone who is fully qualified will be like their teacher". If we take the steps to cultivate our faith, it will grow and unite us with Christ more deeply. Our journey is one of transformation and

St. Paul reminds us that our final transformation will happen at the Lord's second coming, and until then we should remain steadfast, excelling in the works of the Lord.

As we prepare to enter Lent this week, let us ask the Holy Spirit to guide our transformation, that we may bear the fruits of faith, hope, and love in our world.

– Gwen Kou

## PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION THIS LENT

*As we enter the Season of Lent during this Jubilee Year, our parish seeks to plant seeds of hope and transformation through our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as a community. What could it look like to prepare our hearts to celebrate the great mystery of Easter? Imagine – a community of faith recommitted to prayer, solidarity, and service – being transformed ourselves so that we can transform the world through our faith in action –growing in loving relationship with Jesus, who empowers us to love our neighbour. Want to join us in this effort? Here are some ways:*

**PRAYER:** Deepen your relationship with God through one of our weekly prayer offerings or special Lenten events. In addition to our regular schedule, we will offer Stations of the Cross every Friday evening in Lent (starts March 7). Young adults are invited to an Introduction to Christian Meditation series on Wednesday evenings (starts March 19, register this week, suggested \$40 donation). The Mary Ward Centre is offering a 5-week Ignatian Retreat in Daily Life on Monday evenings (starts March 10, register this week, this program has a cost). There will also be opportunities for musical prayer and concerts throughout Lent, including one by our Musician-in-Residence on April 11 centred on the Stabat Mater – the hymn to Mary at the foot of the cross. Please save the date for a very special Jubilee-year event: 24 Hours for the Lord, on April 4-5, which will feature abundant time for Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation as an opportunity to draw closer to Christ. One of the essential practices of Lent is to encounter God's merciful love through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which will be offered with extended hours on Saturdays. Parish volunteers also will find opportunities to pray together each week as we serve. Prayer can transform our hearts with God's love so that we may bear good fruit in our world as we draw closer to Christ.

**FASTING:** Fasting is an ancient and meaningful tradition. It encourages spiritual discipline, reminds us of our reliance on God, and opens us up to compassionate solidarity with those who suffer. As a community, we even fast during the liturgy throughout Lent – we do not sing the Alleluia or the Gloria, and the organ postlude and prelude are muted for the season. This liturgical fast is meant to draw our attention to our hunger for the Kingdom of God and the joy of our Resurrection hope in Christ. To give us an opportunity to fast together as a parish, we will serve simple fare at coffee hour on Sundays. We also are encouraged to adopt a personal fast during the season. Consider a fast that draws you closer to those who suffer, makes you more attentive to God's presence, and opens you to transformation of heart. For example, if we fast from purchasing something through Lent (e.g., coffee), we can donate the money we save to support the hungry through the John Ford Food Drive, or we might give up something that is a "distraction" that keeps us isolated (e.g., social media or another habit) and instead dedicate

time to prayer, connecting with community, or service. We could also consider using less water or energy in an effort to care for our common home. Fasting personally, as a family, or a community can transform us as we act with intention and embrace the values of the Kingdom of God, that hoped-for vision for which Jesus lived and died.

**ALMSGIVING:** Lent is a time to recommit to faith-filled action. Consider how your time, talent, and treasure can be a “seed of hope” by getting involved in one of our ministries of hope which serve the vulnerable, like our Outreach Ministries, Ministry to the Sick and Homebound, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Interested in financial or in-kind support? We will be hosting collections at the parish throughout Lent for Bundle- Up Sunday (March 22-23), ShareLife (March 29-30), the John Ford Food Drive (April 5-6). This Lent our parish will be raising funds for our Outreach Meal program to purchase a commercial-grade immersion blender and for a planned community garden that can take shape later this year. Each of us has something to contribute to the common good. Whether it’s at St. Basil’s, in your neighbourhood, or at work, how might you be able to bring hope and love to others through your action? We invite you to take some concrete action this Lent to live out your faith.

*As we each embrace the season of Lent together, we believe that God’s grace will be transforming us, so that we may truly be pilgrims of hope, bearing God’s love in the world. The seeds that are planted through our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving this season will bear fruit in our lives and in our world. Let us together approach the celebration of Easter with hearts ready to receive God’s abundant mercy, love, peace, and joy. This is our hope, as we pray to God in the Jubilee Year Prayer: “May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.”*

— St. Basil’s Parish Staff

## UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

March 23/24: Easter Flowers

## MASS INTENTIONS

MARCH 2 - 8



### SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME VII

9:00am Simon Caummy (\*)  
10:30am Pro Populo  
12:00pm Alice and Jessica (liv)  
4:30pm Ashish Lall (liv)

### MONDAY

7:30am  
12:10pm John Papez (\*)

### TUESDAY

7:30am  
12:10pm Terance Coates (\*), Ignatius Wadya (\*)

### WEDNESDAY ASH WEDNESDAY

7:30am, 12:10pm, 1:30pm, 5:10pm, 7:00pm } Pro Populo

### THURSDAY

7:30am  
12:10pm Julian Daruca (\*), Millicent Kameka (\*)

### FRIDAY

7:30pm  
12:10pm Vocations

### SATURDAY

5:00pm Francesca Caldarolla (\*)

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**, especially, Sue Banfield, Rebecca Beaton, Desmond Brownlee, Lori Celik, Steve Chandler, Yvonne Clarke, Josephine D'amico, Jasper David-Fuchs, Clare DeMello, Maisie Henry, Maryanne Hodges, Bohdanka Kovalska, Elaine Landrie, Margaret LaRose, Cheekon Leong, Luba Leong, Anne McFadden, Margaret-Mary McKenzie, David Martin, Rosy Menezes, Dr. Peter Moran, Paul O'Brien, Robert Rodbourne, Carmelita Salazar, Delaila Salvador, Todd Snow, Federico Sorianosos Jr., John Sytsma, Betty Veit, Eileen Vyphius, Rosalie Wimbs, and Alexander Wu.

**PRAY FOR THE DECEASED.**

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