

ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822~FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

STAFF

Fr. Robert O'Brien
Pastor

Rev. Antanios Farah, OAM
In Residence. Hospital Chaplain

Lynett Wilson
Admin / Communications

Jason Lo
Bookkeeper

Cathy LeBlanc
Sacristan

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 4:30 pm ♦ Sunday: 8:30 am and 11:00 am
Tuesday to Friday: 5:00 pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays from 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm
(closed for lunch from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm)

CONTACT

83 Power Street, Toronto, ON M5A 3A8 ♦ Tel: (416) 364-7588
Fax: (416) 366-5617 ♦ Email: stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org
Website: stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org

SACRAMENTS

Please contact us for more information on preparing for and receiving a Sacrament at St. Paul's Basilica.

- ♦ Baptism; Two months in advance
- ♦ Marriage; Registered parishioners at least one year in advance, For all other marriage inquiries please contact the parish office
- ♦ First Holy Eucharist, Confirmation and RCIA;
Registration takes place in the fall
- ♦ Anointing of the sick & Communion of the sick and shut-ins;
Please contact the parish office

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Alyson Sobol, Principal ♦ Tel: (416) 393-5204

❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Feast of the Ascension: Thank you St. Paul!

We can thank St. Paul for giving us so many images of the work of salvation. For example, he describes there being one great act of giving birth (Romans 8:22). We have been reading St. John's Gospel during the week and Jesus has said clearly to the apostles that it is to our advantage that the Advocate (the Holy Spirit) come.

How can this be? How can knowing Christ by faith be "better" than being with Him on earth? We can begin with the Gospel. The togetherness of the Father and the Son is that infinitely "right" relationship that speaks of the perfection of creation. It begins there and the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, impels creation into the great "sigh" of giving birth. Giving birth for us is not easy. It is fraught. Even with modern medicine we tread carefully and try to be prepared.

Jesus' return to the Father ushers in the next step on the way to the completion of His saving work. With the coming of

the Holy Spirit, we begin living this new creation, joined to Christ. Shot through all of St. Paul's writing is the fact that we no longer live simply in this world (in the flesh) but now live "in Christ." The fact that we need to slow down and listen with the heart to become aware and capable of acting on this truth should prod us to desire the grace to act on this reality in everything. St. Paul, again, tells us that we can overcome our weakness by relying on Christ and not ourselves, by allowing that God can and does accomplish what we do not perceive. As much as we may be weighed down by our sins and look sometimes too much at our faults, we can also miss the power of the graces that God showers on us, not for our own good but for the good of others. That's when we are involved in that great act of giving birth and the Kingdom is really "budding forth" as experienced both in the Eucharist and in our lives nourished by Christ.

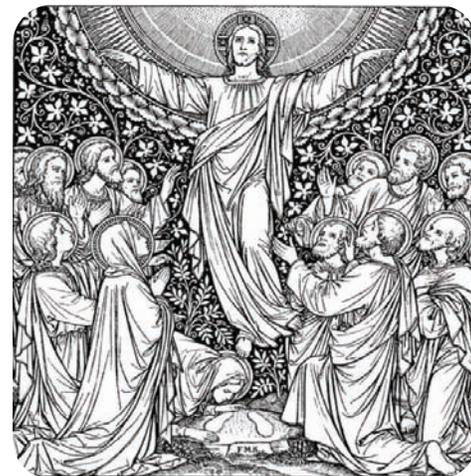
In his own story, St. Paul gives us very realistic images of the Christian life. Life goes anything but smoothly for him and while he is confident in his faith, he is by

no means someone simply caught up in ecstasy. He meets the communities in which he proclaims and nurtures the faith very realistically meeting the downs with as much vitality as the ups.

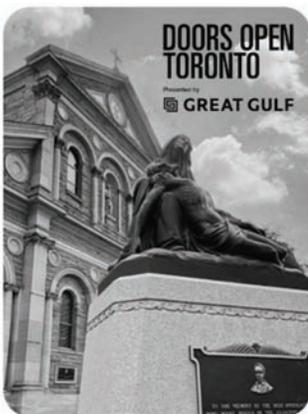
Through the intercession of St. Paul may the coming Solemnity of Pentecost strengthen and encourage us to generously give of ourselves for the completion of the work of salvation.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob



❖ EVENTS



Doors Open Toronto: May 28 & 29, 2022

St. Paul's Basilica will be participating in this year's Doors Open event!

The Basilica will be open to the public this weekend; **Saturday, May 28th from 10 am to 1 pm and Sunday, May 29th from 12 pm to 5 pm.**

Curious about the beautiful artwork, the tragedy of the Irish or the building's history? Why is St. Paul's a Basilica and how can you know that you are in a building of importance? Explore St. Paul Basilica with a guided tour of the magnificent interior including the four major paintings in the sanctuary and the side apses which were finished in 1893. Access an up-close view of the all-wood organ which was installed in 1898 by R.S. Williams & Son, Toronto, and is the only one of its kind in North America. Explore the stained-glass windows that were installed a year later as well as the Stations of the Cross which were installed in 1901. View the scenes of the life of St. Paul which were painted on canvas in 1911. The angels behind the altar were created with the same technique in the

1920s. Take a walk around the church grounds starting with the campanile (bell tower), erected in 1905 which contains the bell from the original church. The bronze Pieta on the front lawn was installed in 1933 as a memorial to Bishop Power and parishioners who died during the typhus epidemic in 1847.

Please contact the parish office if you are interested in volunteering for this event. Other nearby locations also participating are: Little Trinity Church, Enoch Turner Schoolhouse, Daniels Spectrum, Toronto's First Post Office, St. Lawrence Hall, The Market Gallery and many more. To learn more about Doors Open please visit their website toronto.ca/doorsopen or scan the QR code.



Scan for more info

❖ NEWS

Become a Board Member for the Society of Sharing: Inner-City Volunteers



The Society of Sharing: Inner-City Volunteers, a ShareLife member agency, is currently seeking Board Members who are enthusiastic and motivated to share their expertise and skills. All experience is valued and welcome but particularly those with experience and knowledge in Fundraising, Human Resources, Law, Social Services, and Health Care. Board Members are required to attend monthly board meetings, special

events, and be part of one of the board committees. If you are interested, kindly forward your resume and cover letter by email to info@societyofsharing.org or submit by mail to:

Society of Sharing: Inner-City Volunteers
Nominating Committee
25 Linden Street, Room 208
Toronto ON M4Y 1V5

For further details, please visit our webpage at www.societyofsharing.org

Please Get Involved!

We are inviting parishioners to consider getting involved in different parish ministries. We are currently seeking volunteers for Children's Liturgy and Sacramental Preparation Instructors, Ushers and Ministers of Hospitality, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Ministers for sick and shut-ins and Altar Servers.

Workshops for each ministry will be held in the upcoming weeks. The parish depends on and is grateful for the support of our parishioners through their time and talents. Please consider volunteering for one or more ministries. If interested, please call the parish office at 416-364-7588 to sign up.

Ascension the Lord May 29, 2022



ShareLife and World Communications Day

On this World Communications Day, your support of ShareLife is improving the lives of Deaf people in our community.

"It truly means the world to members of vulnerable populations whom we serve. You help remove barriers faced by Deaf adults, youth, children, infants, and their families. You are a partner in transforming lives." – Kelly MacKenzie, Executive Director, Silent Voice

Our third ShareLife Sunday collection is next weekend. Our parish goal for this year's campaign is \$50,000. Thus far we have received \$15,773. Please give generously during the special collection or at sharelife.org.

Hike & Prayer – Belonging



Join in this Saturday, June 4th, for Hike & Prayer, hosted by the Ministry for Social Justice, Peace, and Creation Care – Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto.

The "hike" takes place along the lake, focusing on what it means to "belong" to Earth. Taking moments to pause, reflect and, of course, pray together. Bring your binoculars for some bird-watching too!

Afterwards, there will be a bonfire gathering with storytelling, sharing, and s'mores.

The "hike" begins at Ontario Place – 955 Lake Shore Blvd. W., at 9:30 am. For more details and to register, look up event listings at archtoronto.org or scan the QR code



Scan for more info

Weekly Mass Intentions



Saturday, May 28

4:30 pm ♦ † Patrick Hogan

Sunday, May 29

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ † Albert Hinkson

Tuesday, May 31

5:00 pm ♦ Manuela Puziarski

Wednesday, June 1

5:00 pm ♦ † Mamerto Byan

Thursday, June 2

5:00 pm ♦

Friday, June 3

5:00 pm ♦

Change in Mailing address

If you have moved recently, please remember to notify the parish office by phone or email to ensure that you receive your tax records and mailings.

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