



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

Ives Alvarez
Custodian

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

An Important Season in Our Calendar: The Fall is When we Put our Best Foot Forward

I am coming up on a year here at St. Paul's already. The first year for pastors is almost always exploratory – we are trying to get to know our people and start sniffing where the Holy Spirit might wish to lead. It is also a time to lay foundations for future developments. These things have been true here, but in a modified way with the pandemic colouring the situation significantly.

I feel I am just meeting people and I have big questions about how many other parishioners are out there whom I have yet to meet, hoping that a day will arrive when all parishioners feel comfortable to gather at the parish.

On the horizon this fall will be the hiring of a youth minister. The role will be one that will positively affect a wide range of areas in parish life. The core responsibilities, initially, will be focused on deepening our relationship with the school and supporting students and their families in a meaningful way. We will also look to develop youth programming that will appeal to families in the parish whose children are not necessarily at St. Paul's School.

Part of the role of the youth minister will be to be present at weekend Masses and be available to get to know people and help in the process of engaging more people in ministry. Having a clear set of initiatives to support young adults is also important. There will be some structured events and we will connect to the wider activities across the Archdiocese and especially in the downtown area.

We had a good experience in the spring beginning to catch up on First Communion and Confirmation. These programs will be back in the fall with registration late in September. Currently we are referring most adults who are enquiring about becoming Catholic to St. Michael's, but this year I certainly have the goal of developing our own RCIA team.

We have already begun to have weekday Masses, Tuesday through Friday, at five in

the afternoon. With the Eucharist being the center and the source of our life, hopefully, this year we will look to have Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction on some occasions at least. I have also made enquiries about what is expected of us liturgically as a basilica. There are a number of things most of which feature praying for the Holy Father. I will look to introduce them over time.

The hall and meeting rooms are just about painted, and the flooring will be going in soon. I am expecting that we will have coffee and cookie socials between the 8:30am and 11am Masses. Our sacramental review sessions also fit in that time slot. As more events happen, I would love to see weekends when all the rooms are in use!

As you may know, a significant part of the parish's revenue has been coming from the many weddings that are conducted here. I have some concerns. The first is that in the past number of years many couples who approach the parish neither live nor worship at the parish, nor do they subsequently do so after the wedding. My own pastoral experience is that this time of preparing for married life is critical as this is when couples are envisioning their lives and beginning to implement those visions. They are going from an idealized vision to reality. It's good! It's important! As a result, I usually spend four interviews with each couple taking time to look at and listen to the substance of that commitment that will comprise their giving and receiving of the sacrament. The result I've seen over the years is that this is very fruitful. Many couples start on the journey of developing an adult faith that they can happily take responsibility for. So, I am reticent to compromise this pastoral attention. Secondly, St. Paul's is not only a treasure for us at the parish. St. Paul's is an important place that locates the roots and something of the identity of the Archdiocese of Toronto. It would be wonderful to share that. My thought is to develop a retreat program that lay movements, prayer groups, Catholic organizations and even pilgrimage groups from other parishes could take advantage of. This would be a way to reach out while



also providing some of the additional revenue the parish needs to operate.

The Finance Council will meet in the fall as well to review the parish's finances and share with you the blessings and the challenges. I will say, coming out of the pandemic, we need the confidence to invest in our future. As you can see, more and more people are living in the area and the more we prepare ourselves to engage with one another, the more we can support each other in living the Christian life. And that should bear fruit on the balance sheet as well if we do our homework.

Once we have had our celebration with Cardinal Collins next month, the focus will be on expanding involvement in every area of parish life. In time, that will lead us also to develop a parish pastoral council which will be a facilitating group, not an executive committee. The council will be a group that helps to discern what gifts we have among us and how those could be applied to needs.

The last thing I want to mention is that I will also be looking for specific things that invite informal participation of any and all parishioners. I heard recently about a tradition of decorating a Christmas tree. Perhaps we could have a couple of Sundays when we go downstairs to make ornaments that we can use at home and share on a tree in the parish. These little "sacramentals" and rituals we do together become an important part of the fabric of our faith life.

Thanks for having the patience to read all of this. I hope you have your creative juices flowing as well and that we hit the ground running in the fall!

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

Welcome Visitors!

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all who attend Mass with us each weekend as visitors to St. Paul's Basilica Parish. We are happy to have you with us. Please introduce yourself to Fr. Bob O'Brien at the end of Mass.

We would like to extend a warm and caring invitation to you to join our parish. We look forward to having you become a member of our faith community. Each individual member of our Parish is an important part of the Catholic Family. The gifts of faith from the Lord are strengthened and deepened by our Communion in Jesus Christ. The celebration of the Eucharist is the heart of our parish life. Come share your



“faith”, your time and your talent in one of our wonderful ministries. Contact our parish office to register at 416-364-7588 or stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org.

If you are already a registered parishioner we would like to thank you for all your support!

Summer Bulletin Schedule

During the summer months the parish bulletin will be published on alternating weekends. The next bulletin will be issued on August 28th. The schedule will resume as normal in September.

Church Bulletin Advertising

Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in September 2022 and supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 905-624-4422.

Annual Mass for the Faithful Departed



Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services – Archdiocese of Toronto invites all families within the Archdiocese of

Toronto to participate in the Annual Mass for the Faithful Departed on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at 7 pm. For information on Cemetery locations and Celebrants for this year's Annual Mass visit catholic-cemeteries.com or scan the QR code.



Remember the Parish while away on vacation

Have a safe and enjoyable summer holiday. While you are away, the parish will continue to celebrate daily and Sunday Masses. Sadly, the bills do not take a holiday and still need to be paid for your Parish Church. Please continue to support your Parish Church throughout the summer. Happy Holidays!!!



Annual Education Mass



After a two-year hiatus, the Annual Education Mass returns to St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica on Wednesday, August 31 at 6:30 p.m.

All educators are invited. Scan the QR Code for details and ticket purchase.

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 13

4:30 pm ♦ For the People

Sunday, August 14

8:30 am ♦ Annabelle McDonough on her 12th Birthday

11:00 am ♦ † Paul Ferrer

Tuesday, August 16

5:00 pm ♦

Wednesday, August 17

5:00 pm ♦ † Christian Chuquihuara

Thursday, August 18

5:00 pm ♦

Friday, August 19

5:00 pm ♦



Sanctuary Light Burns For:

Amanda Di Meo
Giuliana Marrelli
Teresa Tiano

Saturday, August 20

4:30 pm ♦ † Maria Van Thi Nguyen

Sunday, August 21

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ † Julia Mercuriano & † Ercole Mercuriano

Tuesday, August 23

5:00 pm ♦

Wednesday, August 24

5:00 pm ♦

Thursday, August 25

5:00 pm ♦

Friday, August 26

5:00 pm ♦

Mass Intention Scheduling

Mass Intentions are accepted for all parish Masses, contingent on availability.

The offering for a scheduled / announced date is \$20 per Mass and \$10 per Mass for an unscheduled / unannounced intention.

To schedule a Mass Intention, please contact the office at 416-364-7588 or stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org.

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