



# 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

**Cathy LeBlanc**  
Sacristan

**Lynett Wilson**  
Office Manager

**Jason Lo**  
Bookkeeper

**Ives Alvarez**  
Custodian

**Joseph Angelo**  
Music Director

**Allison Angelo**  
Cantor

**Andrea Cerswell**  
11 am Choir Lead

## 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 10:00 am to 5:00 pm  
(closed for lunch from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm)

## CONTACT

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



### **New Life in Christ: Are You Being Called to Become Baptized?**

This weekend we are beginning our process, known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults ('RCIA'), wherein adults who have either not been baptized, were baptized in a different Christian faith or who wish to complete their Sacrament of Confirmation, commence their journey toward baptism and full reception into the Catholic Church.

The Church sees this journey as essentially one of prayer, that takes what we understand to be revealed by God, in Christ, and allows it to move deeply into every part of our lives. The first phase in this journey is devoted to one of introduction and inquiry ... *'asking how God has called us to a deeper union?'* Beginning this weekend, this initial introduction and inquiry phase will take place over a series of ongoing weekly meetings between now and the autumn, with a break over the summer months.

The next step after inquiry is enrolment; a formal recognition and acceptance of the desire and willingness to be a part of this process. For those not yet baptized ('catechumens'), enrolment puts them on the path towards baptism. For those already baptized ('candidates'), it marks the beginning of their preparation to be fully welcomed into the Catholic Church and to receive the final Sacrament of Initiation, Confirmation.

Once enrolled, participants attend Mass, but are dismissed after the Liturgy of the Word, so they can reflect on the Word of the Lord and be gradually introduced to aspects of Catholic beliefs, practices and traditions.

Next year, the Lenten season will begin a bit earlier than usual, on February 14th, with Easter taking place on March 31st. Lent marks the immediate and most prayerful time of preparation, both for those undertaking this journey of faith and the Church

as a whole, as it journeys towards Easter. On the first Sunday of Lent, our regional bishop, Bishop Robert Kasun, will preside over a ceremony, known as the 'Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion' where catechumens and candidates, if they believe God is calling them, choose to become part of the Elect, by publicly acknowledging their desire to receive the Sacraments while the Church formally ratifies their readiness to do so. This ceremony is followed by the catechumens and candidates, along with the whole parish community, taking part in the three Scrutinies, one each at Masses on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays in Lent. It is a period of increased discernment and coming closer to God, purification of weak and sinful thoughts and enlightenment for a more profound spiritual preparation.

And finally ... at the Easter Vigil ... the rites are celebrated flowing from the announcement of Jesus' resurrection, followed by listening to God's Word about our whole story, from creation all the way up to the Church receiving and living the Good News. All three Sacraments of Initiation are celebrated: Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. After Easter we have a short period of deepening our union with the mystery of God's love.

During these initial weeks of inquiry, anyone interested may join our group at any time as we walk together toward the new life of baptism. Our meetings will take place on Sundays at 9:45 am in the parish basement. If you have any questions, don't be afraid to come and speak to me after Mass or give the office a call.

In Christ,

*Fr. Bob*

# ❖ NEWS

## Parish Collection Summary

April	2023	2022	Diff
Last Wkd	\$ 3,031	\$ 2,557	↑ \$ 474
Mth Total	\$ 18,089	\$ 16,787	↑ \$ 1,303

*Thank you for supporting our parish!*

## Take a tour of St. Paul's Basilica



Curious about the building's architecture and beautiful artwork, the connection to the Irish and the tragic epidemics, or the historic importance of the Parish within Toronto and why it is now a Basilica? Self-guided tour booklets are available or speak to one of the ushers after the 11 am Sunday Mass about a guided journey through the church.

## 4th Sunday of Easter

*ShareLife Sunday and the World Day of Prayer for Vocations*



When you support ShareLife, you help educate our future priests. This past year, you invested in our Church's future by supporting 58 seminarians at St. Augustine's Seminary and Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary.

Thus far we have raised \$18,000 toward our goal of \$46,000. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope or online through our parish website.

Thank you for supporting ShareLife!

## Mass Intentions

*Saturday, April 29*

4:30 pm ♦ † Iona Agnes D'Souza

*Sunday, April 30*

8:30 am ♦ † T. James Brennan

11:00 am ♦ For the People

*Tuesday, May 2*

5:00 pm ♦ † Thomas Grieve

*Wednesday, May 3*

5:00 pm ♦ † Daniel Barbosa

*Thursday, May 4*

5:00 pm ♦ Unannounced

*Friday, May 5*

5:00 pm ♦ Unannounced

## Ignatian Prayer with the hand-illuminated St. John's Bible

*Regis College, 100 Wellesley St. W, Toronto*



Young adults (18-39) are invited to pray with the hand-illuminated images and text of the St. John's Bible, using Ignatian tools for prayer, on Monday, May 8, June 5, July 10 & August 14 from 7 to 9 pm.

The night will begin with a talk about the St. John's Bible, the first complete Bible to be scribed and illuminated by hand in more than 400 years, followed by a time of Ignatian prayer with the Scripture passage in adoration in the Regis College Chapel then conclude with a social in the Student Lounge. To learn more or register for free visit '[regiscollege.ca](http://regiscollege.ca)' or scan the QR code.



## Coffee Social Thank You!

Thank you to all the parishioners who came out and especially to our volunteers who worked wonders to made our first Coffee Social a success! Our next Social Sunday will take place on June 3rd & 4th.

Parishioners who expressed an interest in baking goodies for the monthly event or anyone wanting to volunteer are asked to contact the parish office.

## Consider Donating Online

Setting up a credit card donation online is simple. Tax receipts are issued immediately for a single donation and at the end of the year for a recurring gift. Select the Donate button at '[stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org](http://stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org)' or scan the QR code. Please ensure that "St. Paul's Basilica, Toronto" is selected from the Parish drop down menu when signing up.



## Doors Open Toronto Volunteers

*May 27th & 28th, 2023*



St. Paul's Basilica will be participating in this year's Doors Open event. The parish will be open to the public on Saturday, May 27th from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Sunday, May 28th from 12 pm to 5 pm. We are looking for volunteers to fill the roles of tour guides and greeters. Training will be provided. Please contact the parish office if you are interested in volunteering for this event.

## Catholic Education Week

*"We Are Many, We Are One"*

During Catholic Education Week (Apr 30-May 5), we give thanks for the gift of publicly funded Catholic Education in our province. Catholic schools foster supportive communities where young people can experience the joy of God's love and understand the Christian mission in the world. Together, our parishes, educators and families sow the seeds of faith with the next generation of Catholics, challenging them to live as joyful and faithful disciples. To affirm your support of Catholic education and sign-up for email updates, visit: '[www.togetherinfaith.ca](http://www.togetherinfaith.ca)'

**4th Sunday of Easter**



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