

ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822 ~ FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

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STAFF

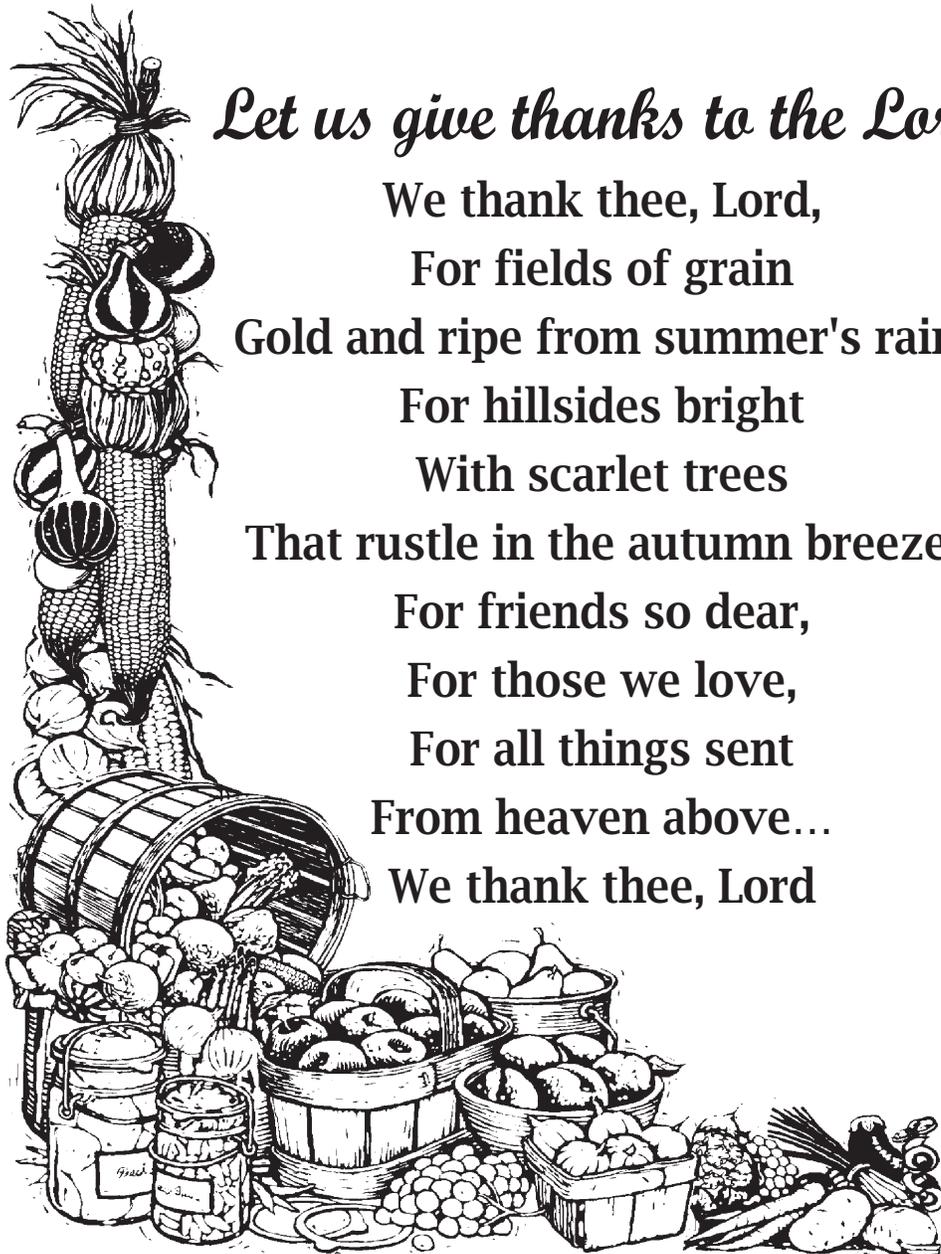
Fr. Robert O'Brian: Pastor

Rev. Antanios Farah, OAM: In Residence. Hospital Chaplain

Cathy LaBlanc: Sacristan Lynett Wilson: Office Manager Micah MacMullen Youth Minister

Jason Lo: Bookkeeper Ives Alvarez: Custodian

Joseph Angelo: Music Director Allison Angelo: Cantor Andrea Cerswell: 11 am Choir Lead



Let us give thanks to the Lord

We thank thee, Lord,

For fields of grain

Gold and ripe from summer's rain,

For hillsides bright

With scarlet trees

That rustle in the autumn breeze,

For friends so dear,

For those we love,

For all things sent

From heaven above...

We thank thee, Lord

❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Life as a Gift

As I have shared before, my dad went off to war at the age of 27. He was fortunate that he did not see action until June 7, 1944. When he came home, he struggled to find his way. He took a degree at McMaster University in Hamilton and then turned to finding his life's work. Now he was 36 with quite a bit of mileage on him because of the war and the fact that he had done factory work before that from the age of 16. He tried teaching ... and then the seminary for a year ... and after that he started working for a life insurance company. Eventually he switched to general insurance and did a lot more work to be able to write his actuarial exams. He married my mom at age 47.

I was young when he was in his 50's and couldn't understand his gratitude for being able to enjoy the most basic things of life. I was thinking more about what we didn't do or didn't have. I am so grateful now that he was patient and persevered in his vision of what was truly important.



We can sometimes use gratitude to excuse things that do really need to change. On the other hand, we often overlook gratitude and see only the glass half full. One thing is sure, without gratitude, the world and our life become much grittier. We become blinded to the little miracles and revelations of love and beauty that are splattered all over life.

In an age of unprecedented opportunity, our desire for control and our fear of risk seem to expand. But this is a kind of deception. Life can't have a warranty program. To love with the whole of our

being and to welcome love with the whole of our being we have to loosen our grip.

Children, grandparents, and those who need us are gifts, each with their own infinite value. In taking into your soul, this Thanksgiving, the gifts so freely shared by God with you may your gratitude allow the beauty, goodness and love you have received and which you give also to multiply a hundredfold.

A blessed Thanksgiving!

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

❖ NOTEWORTHY



Thanksgiving Food Drive

This is the final weekend that the parish will be collecting non-perishable food on behalf of the Good Shepherd Ministries. Most needed are canned foods such as tuna, tomatoes, tomato sauce, beans, soups and vegetables. Dry goods needed include cereal, granola bars, bagged rice, condiments, tea and coffee. Boxes for food are available at the front of the church through thanksgiving weekend. You can also donate financially by scanning the QR code or visiting goodshepherd.ca/donate.



Everyone is Welcome to Try Alpha

Every Sunday from 12 pm to 2 pm, until December 10th, in the Parish Basement

The parish is currently hosting an Alpha series every Sunday, after the 11 am Mass, until December 10th, in the parish basement. All parishioners are welcome. If you are interested in joining or learning more, please speak to Micah at the back of the church or email mmacmullen@archtoronto.org.

What is Alpha? Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith.

Who's it for? Alpha is for anyone who's curious. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open environment.

No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you want.

How does it work? Alpha runs for 7-12 sessions. Each session includes food, a short talk and discussion where you can share your thoughts and ask questions. There's no pressure, no follow up and no charge. Donations towards food costs are appreciated.

Alpha

October 7-8, 2023

Parish Collection Summary

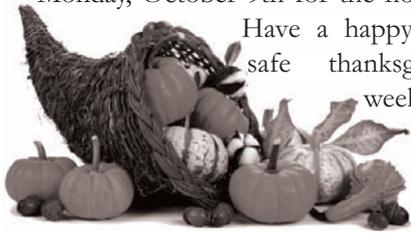
	2023	2022	Diff
Last Wkd	\$ 3,511	\$ 2,733	↑ \$ 779
Mth Target	\$ 3,511	\$ 15,724	↓ \$ 12,213

Thank you for supporting our parish!

Thanksgiving Holiday Closure

The parish office will be closed on Monday, October 9th for the holiday.

Have a happy and safe thanksgiving weekend!



Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 7

4:30 pm ♦ † Desmond Nugent

Sunday, October 8

8:30 am ♦

11:00 am ♦ For the People

Tuesday, October 10

5:00 pm ♦

Wednesday, October 11

5:00 pm ♦ † Sir Henry "Harry" Hyde Hodson

Thursday, October 12

5:00 pm ♦

Friday, October 13

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Donate Online



Don't carry cash or even own cheques?

Want to collect miles or points on your credit card? A single or monthly donation through your credit card is a great option. 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' or scan the QR code. Please ensure that "St. Paul's Basilica, Toronto" is selected from the Parish drop down menu when signing up.



Sacramental Preparation

Families with children ready to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation next spring can pick up a registration package from the back of the church or the parish office.

Renew Toronto Young Adult Conference

*Saturday, November 4, 2023 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Dinner & Social until 11 p.m.)
Canada Christian College (300 Water St., Whitby)*



Renew Toronto is a conference for all young adults ages 19-39 taking place on Saturday, November 4, 2023 at Canada Christian College. The day includes keynotes by Jackie & Bobby Angel, worship lead by Steadfast Worship, various workshop speakers, Confessions, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and fellowship. This conference offers unique opportunities for students, young adult professionals, and young couples. Renew your heart. Renew your call. Renew our community. *Registration ends October 13, 2023.* For more information and to register, visit 'renewtoronto.org' or scan the QR code.



ShareLife: Ensure no one goes hungry this Thanksgiving

We all feel it: the rising cost of living is hurting families, forcing many to seek food assistance for the first time. Through our parish's support, ShareLife is committing over \$500,000 to support food banks and meal programs throughout the Archdiocese. Please support the fight against hunger at 'sharelife.org/donate' or by giving at our parish using a ShareLife envelope. Thank you for reaching out with the hands of Christ to feed the hungry.

Humanitarian aid for Morocco and Libya

The Archdiocese of Toronto will accept donations and channel funds through our Catholic partners in Morocco to support relief efforts underway. Those wishing to help may do so in the following ways:

- Online at the Archdiocese of Toronto website - 'archtoronto.org' or by phone at 416-934-3411
- Through the parish, making cheques payable to: St. Paul's Basilica – Morocco Earthquake - Humanitarian Relief

Currently, our Catholic partners are not present in Libya to coordinate relief efforts and as such we are unable to accept donations to aid those affected by the flooding at this time. For those wishing to offer support to the people of Libya, please consider a gift through the Canadian Red Cross, online at 'redcross.ca' or by phone at 1-800-418-1111.

Please continue to pray for those who have died, for those who are missing or displaced because of these tragic disasters in both Morocco and Libya and for all who are working hard to provide relief and rescue in both locations.

Healing After Abortion: Day of Prayer and Healing for Women



The Sisters of Life are hosting a Day of Prayer and Healing, on October 28th, 2023, for women seeking healing after abortion. The day is an opportunity to experience the loving mercy of God and the joy of healing in Christ, in a confidential and sacred space. It will include a witness of mercy, a Scripture reflection, personal prayer, opportunity for Sacramental Confession, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. There is no fee for the day, lunch will be provided. For times and locations please contact the Sisters of Life at 416-463-2722 or toronto@sistersoflife.org.

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