



# ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822~FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

## STAFF

**Fr. Robert O'Brien**  
Pastor

**Fr. Antanios Farah, OAM**  
In Residence, Hospital Chaplain

**Cathy LeBlanc**  
Sacristan

**Micah MacMullen**  
Youth Minister

**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

Mass is celebrated at the Good Shepherd Centre - 412 Queen St. East,  
Monday to Friday: 12:00 pm

## CONFESSIONS

Saturdays from 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

## CONTACT

📍 83 Power Street, Toronto, ON M5A 3A8 | ☎ (416) 364-7588

✉ [stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org](mailto:stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org) | 🌐 [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
- ♦ First Communion, Confirmation and RCIA;  
Registration takes place in September
- ♦ Anointing of the sick & Communion to the sick and shut-ins;  
Please call during office hours

## ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

# ❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

## Peace

Already seeing the suffering of so many in wars on virtually every continent, we were greeted in these last two weeks with another litany of violence in Israel and Gaza. Not only is it the innocent who so often pay the supreme price but it is also those already disadvantaged who are pushed further back into more unliveable conditions.

It is easy to say that we are in favour of peace. It is a worthy and pious wish, but we are blind if we do not also see that there are people more than willing to use violence to achieve what they believe to be their worthy ends. Sometimes what we refer to as “politics” means that leaders in far flung places evaluate these events not in human terms but on how the circumstances may or may not advantage them and the people they represent.

As well as identifying with those who have suffered and their surviving family members and friends, we ourselves feel wounded at the failure of that fundamental wish for peace. With our capacities for genuine creativity and for co-operation with all kinds of positive fruits, why are we confronted again and again with violence?



Just as our creative acts can accumulate for good, so can attitudes of hatred, self-justification, fear and anger, accumulate and become explosive.

As we listen to the life of Jesus on earth, He diffuses the human tendency to aggression. “My Kingdom is not of this world.” “Those who live by the sword shall die by the sword.” “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” “Into your hands, I commend my spirit.” “And he breathed on them ...”, “and said, Peace be with you.”

Peace has real content when we are talking about living in a society with a respect for the rule of law, especially when that law aims to be just. It has much more profound content when we consider the renewal of creation by the saving love of Christ. Anarchy and the reward of bad behaviour is already something oppressive and it will make life more so. In this imperfect world of ours we are

destined to have imperfect politics and imperfect leaders, but it is critical that we be part of strengthening the quality of public life, public debate and effective legitimacy of our institutions and those who hold office on our behalf. We may have to defend those who are defenseless and at the same time be willing to give something of ourselves in the cause for peace. Our own motives and emotions need to be tempered by the love God has for each person, who seeks to give life and to save from death.

Needless to say, it is a big challenge in the world and a challenge for the Church not just to proclaim that there is a peace-filled way of living with each other but doing something positive to advance it.

Let us remember and pray for all who have suffered and are suffering from violence whether in Gaza, Israel, in many places in Africa, in the Ukraine and in those places we hear least about.

The psalmist says, “How long, O Lord, until you hear your people’s plea?” *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on us, who are sinners and grace us to receive Your Spirit of peace.*

In Christ,

*Fr. Bob*

## ❖ NOTEWORTHY

### 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](mailto: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 21-22, 2023**

## Weekly Mass Intentions

**Saturday, October 21**

4:30 pm ♦ † Ronald Lichacz

**Sunday, October 22**

8:30 am ♦

11:00 am ♦ For the People

**Tuesday, October 24**

5:00 pm ♦

**Wednesday, October 25**

5:00 pm ♦ Robert & Regina James on their 45th Wedding Anniversary

**Thursday, October 26**

5:00 pm ♦

**Friday, October 27**

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

## Pope Francis Prays for Peace in Middle East



In a statement, Pope Francis has asked for prayers for sustained peace in the Middle East. "I am following apprehensively and sorrowfully what is happening in Israel where the violence has exploded even more ferociously, causing hundreds of deaths and casualties," said the Holy Father. "I express my closeness to the families and the victims." He continued, "I am praying for them and for all who are living hours of terror and anguish. May the attacks and weaponry cease. Please! And let it be understood that terrorism and war do not lead to any resolutions, but only to the death and suffering of so many innocent people. War is a defeat! Let us pray that there will be peace in Israel and in Palestine." "In this month of October dedicated, in addition to the missions, to praying the Rosary, let us not tire of asking through Mary's intercession for the gift of peace in the many countries throughout the world marked by war and conflicts," Pope Francis concludes, "And let us continue to remember the dear Ukraine, which suffers so much every day, which is so battered."

## Registering your child for 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. The First Holy Communion parent meeting will take place this Saturday, October 21st, at 2 pm and the Confirmation parent & candidate meeting will take place next Saturday, October 28th, at 2 pm. Please see the registration package for more information.

## World Mission Sunday Special Collection This Weekend

There will be a second collection this weekend for the Evangelization of the Nations, otherwise known as World Mission Sunday. This is a worldwide collection for the missionary church and it is our opportunity to assist at-need Catholic Communities globally. Offerings are combined with offerings from other Catholics around the world and distributed to missions and dioceses. We are called to share from our abundance with those less fortunate who lack the basic essentials to know, love and praise God. Thank you for your support of this important work.



## Praying for Our Beloved Dead in November

A Book of Remembrance will be available at the front of the church throughout the month of November, when we traditionally pray for the repose of the souls of our beloved. All are welcome to offer prayers for the faithful departed by writing the names of deceased family and friends in the book or by using one of the All Souls Day donation envelopes. These names will be remembered at all Masses throughout November.

## 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 includes a witness of mercy, Scripture reflection, personal prayer, opportunity for Confession, and 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](mailto:toronto@sistersoflife.org).

## All Saints Day and All Souls Day Mass Schedules

On both November 1st, All Saints Day, and November 2nd, All Souls Day, the parish will celebrate Mass at 5 pm and 7 pm.

## Parish Collection Summary

	2023	2022	Diff
Last Wkd	\$ 3,499	\$ 5,711	↓ \$ 2,212
Mth Target	\$ 9,460	\$ 15,724	↓ \$ 6,264

*Thank you for supporting our parish!*

## 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](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.



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