



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 | 🌐 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

A Few Updates

Aside from the things in ministry and parish life that you are beginning to see happening around the parish, we have also been taking steps to deal with various maintenance issues and improvement projects. We have several areas of repair that we are looking at, including the stairs, sidewalks and foundations at various locations on the property. Recently, a water softening system was added to our boilers to improve their efficiency and keep the pipes in good working order. A TSSA inspection of the boilers will have taken place this week as well. We have just had a significant repair made to the standpipe, a pressurized, city supplied, water pipe used by the fire department in the event of a fire. A new valve system and meter has been added to make inspection and servicing of the system much more effective. We intend to use some of our Family of Faith funds to pay for these capital improvements to the building's infrastructure.

The installation of security cameras and Wi-Fi will begin in the next few weeks and hopefully be fully in place by the spring. As you have probably noticed, we took down several over the course of the summer, including two large older ones that had become a safety issue. In the spring we will plant new trees selected from a recommended list of native species provided by the City of Toronto. A new large portable glass whiteboard has been purchased for the meeting rooms in the basement. It can be rolled between rooms and features a writing surface



on each side which can also double as a projection screen.

I have asked our bookkeeper to produce some information to assist me and our Finance Council in budgeting for 2024. We will also prepare an oral report to go along with the physical report on our 2023 operations that will help you to understand the nature of being stewards of this wonderful place. I will say that the contributions you are making represent commitment to the parish for which I am very grateful.

As you may also be aware, St. Paul's is used by various groups from across the Archdiocese. In the last year we have accommodated over 20 school groups for staff meetings and retreats, student Christian service activities and church tours. We have celebrated the Good Shepherd's 60th anniversary, the 175th anniversary of the Loretto Sisters in Catholic Education, the grad Mass for the Catholic University Chaplaincies across the Archdiocese and hosted two concerts

associated with the convention of the Royal Canadian College of Organists. We have had choral concerts by both Catholic and Orthodox groups. This weekend the Sisters of Life are having their annual Advent Mass and next Friday the Toronto Catholic District School Board Staff Arts Group will be putting on their Christmas concert. On February 3rd, 2024, we will soon host the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, a professional choir from Europe sponsored by Soundstreams. Tickets can be obtained on the 'soundstreams.ca' website or by scanning the code.



We will be keeping you updated as time goes on in these and other areas that are part of our varied parish life.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

❖ NOTEWORTHY

Winter Clothing, Toiletries and Food Drive

During the month of December, the parish will collect **CLEAN GENTLY USED** winter clothing, such as, coats, boots, hats, gloves, warm tops and pants. We will also collect **NEW UNOPENED** toiletries, such as, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, bar soap and shampoo as well as **NEW UNWORN** socks. These donations will benefit our neighbours the Good Shepherd Ministries and the Mustard Seed. Please separate clothing from toiletries when dropping off donations in the boxes near the altar.



Advent Cheer Coffee Social

December 16 / 17, 2023 after all Masses

Join us on Saturday, December 16 and Sunday, December 17 in the parish hall, after all Masses, for our Advent Social. Come celebrate this wonderful time of the year in fellowship and cheer! All are welcome! If you wish to help to setup or donate some Christmas themed baked goods, please contact the office.

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 2

4:30 pm ♦ † Patrick Gonsalves

Sunday, December 3

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ Elizabeth Faykos

Tuesday, December 5

5:00 pm ♦

Wednesday, December 6

5:00 pm ♦

Thursday, December 7

5:00 pm ♦

Friday, December 8

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Double the impact of your ShareLife donation

From now until December 31st, all contributions to our parish's ShareLife campaign will be matched up to \$500,000. Though our parish has surpassed our goal by \$6,500, we ask that you continue to donate and double the impact of your kindness by giving at the parish with a ShareLife envelope or anytime at 'sharelife.org/donate'

Parish Collection Summary

	2023	2022	Diff
Last Wkd	\$ 2,507	\$ 1,970	↑ \$ 537
Mth Target	\$ 14,644	\$ 13,153	↑ \$ 1,491

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/' or scan the QR code. Please ensure that "St. Paul's Basilica, Toronto" is selected from the Parish drop down menu when signing up.



Holiday Mass Schedule

Advent Confessions

Dec 16

2:30 pm to 4:15 pm

Dec 20

5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Dec 23

3:00 pm to 4:15 pm

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve - Dec 24

8:30 am & 11:00 am

(Regular Sunday Mass)

4:30 pm Family Mass

(Preceded by Carols)

6:30 pm & 11:00 pm

Christmas Day - Dec 25

8:30 am & 11:00 am

New Year Masses

New Year's Eve - Dec 31

8:30 am & 11:00 am

(Regular Sunday Mass)

4:30 pm

New Year's Day - Jan 1

10:00 am



Little Saints: A Catholic Children's Program

Sundays from 12 pm - 2 pm

Open to all elementary school aged children, each Sunday will focus on a different Saint or a Saint based theme with fun games and arts & craft projects to enhance the learning experience. This is a great way to meet other children, form friendships and learn a bit more about our Catholic Faith. Parents are welcome to stay with their children or sit in on the Alpha program while the children work. Meet in the parish basement after the 11 am Mass. Light snacks are provided. All are welcome!



Christmas Ornament Creations

On **December 17th**, the Little Saints will be creating their very own Christmas ornaments which can taken home or placed on a tree here at the parish.

TCDSB Staff Arts Christmas Concert

Friday, December 8, 2023 at 8 pm

St. Paul's will host the Toronto Catholic District School Board Staff Arts Group this Friday, December 8th for their 50th annual Christmas Concert. Tickets will be available at the door for \$20. All are welcome!

A Christmas Concert by Villa Charities and Coro San Marco

Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7:30 pm; Columbus Centre: 901 Lawrence Ave. W.



Celebrate the festive season with a live performance of holiday music by Coro San Marco. Under the baton of Daniele Colla, pianist Adolfo De Santis, violinist Carina Charmaine Sandejas and talented vocalists, will perform a selection of traditional Christmas music sure to get you in the holiday spirit. For more information or to purchase tickets visit 'villacharities.com/culture' or scan the QR code.



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