



# 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



Explore life, faith, and  
meaning together.  
#TryAlpha

### Living Out Our Faith: The Fruits of Alpha

Last weekend was the final session of our parish's Alpha program, which has been running after the 11am Mass for the last twelve weeks. This weekend I will be meeting with the group of people who participated in the weekly seminars.

Even before that conversation I can share with you some of the outcomes that already are evident:

1. You may have heard about our “Little Saints” group. They are going to be doing some singing at our coffee social after the 11am Mass next week. It looks like this group will support our movement toward having a children’s choir that sings periodically at the 11am Mass. This group will also provide deeper connection to St. Paul’s School and families there. The older children have already been displaying some leadership

capacity too which is a good sign for the further development of youth ministry and activities at the parish.

2. I will be listening to creative ideas and suggestions to help enliven the parish and enrich our faith lives. The Holy Spirit is sometimes like a gentle breath and sometimes there is also fire, some animation and engagement that reveals the active love of God. I should be able to report very soon on a few ideas that will lead to our next steps.
3. I’ve sensed a desire for involvement and a deep sense of commitment among people in the group. This will help us to strengthen existing ministries and give us the possibility to develop new ones.

More remotely, but also important, is that it is this type of engagement that will lead us to develop a parish pastoral

council. The vision here is for a group of parishioners whose strengths are discerning and facilitating further growth of the parish’s life. This is not a planning committee or an executive committee. It is a group of people who know and understand the breadth of the parish community, and who are aware of some of the gifts and talents within the community. The group can help to lay down seeds and nurture them so that the result is a community that naturally helps and supports everyone’s faith and life. More will be forthcoming. Please pray that we grow well together.

This is an important Advent for us as we see the work of the Spirit bear fruit.

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 Mass*

Join us next weekend, after all Masses, for our Advent Social and celebrate this wonderful time of the year in fellowship and cheer! Following the 11 am Mass the children from our Little Saints program will be performing some songs and decorating our parish hall Christmas tree. All are welcome!

**December 9-10, 2023**

# ❖ NEWS

## Weekly Mass Intentions

*Sanctuary Lamp Burns For:*  
Giuliana Marrelli

*Saturday, December 9*

4:30 pm ♦ † Armando & Antonietta Tiano

*Sunday, December 10*

8:30 am ♦ † Richard Turcotte  
11:00 am ♦ For the People

*Tuesday, December 12*

5:00 pm ♦

*Wednesday, December 13*

5:00 pm ♦

*Thursday, December 14*

5:00 pm ♦

*Friday, December 15*

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

## 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



## 2024 Offertory Envelopes

Offertory Envelopes for 2024 are now available in the front entrance vestibule. The boxed sets are be organized alphabetically by last name. **Please make sure to pick up only the box with your name on it and DO NOT use the 2024 envelopes until the new year begins.**

## Parish Collection Summary

	2023	2022	Diff
Last Wkd	\$ 5,030	\$ 5,119	↓ \$ 89
Mth Target	\$ 5,030	\$ 28,852	↓ \$ 23,821

*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.



## Holiday Office Closure

The parish office will be closed between Friday, December 22, 2023 and Friday, January 5, 2024 for the holidays. Emails and voicemails will be returned once the office reopens on Monday, January 8, 2024. Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

## Double the impact of your ShareLife donation

Until December 31st, all contributions to our parish's ShareLife campaign will be matched up to \$500K. Please continue to donate and double the impact of your kindness by giving with a ShareLife envelope or anytime at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate)

## Little Saints - Christmas Ornament Creations and Tree Decorating

*December 17th, 12 pm - 2 pm.*



On December 17th, the Little Saints are invited to help decorate a tree for our parish hall with their very own Christmas ornament creations and other available decorations. Ornaments created can taken home or left on our parish hall tree.

## Dinner and a Movie: "It's a Wonderful Life"

*December 16, 2023 at 6 pm; St. Patrick's Church Hall, 139 McCaul St., Toronto*



Ignite Young Adult Ministry is hosting a Dinner & Movie event at St. Patrick's Church. Those aged 18-39 are invited to share in a delicious meal, festive film, faith discussion and fellowship with other like minded adults. An optional Mass at 5 pm, dinner will be served at 6 pm, followed by the movie. Show off your festive colours and holiday sweaters or come just as you are. Lots of cookies, hot cocoa and Christmas cheer to share! **Registration is Required by December 11 at [ignite-canada.ca](http://ignite-canada.ca) or scan the QR code.** Donations welcome to offset cost of food.



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