

# ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822 ~ FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

83 Power Street, Toronto, Ontario M5A 3A8

Phone: 416-364-7588 • Fax: 416-366-5617

E-mail: [stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org](mailto:stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org) • Website: [stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org](http://stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org)

## 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



*Father, You revealed Your Son to the nations  
by the guidance of a star. Lead us to  
Your Glory in Heaven by the Light of Faith.*

## ❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



### The Miracles of Revelation

When I was very young, maybe 4 or 5, my dad would sit at the end of the bed and we would discuss which story might be read that night to help me go to sleep. Sometimes I would say to my dad, “Tell me the story of you!” I loved to listen to his description of even the simplest of things. I remember him describing milk delivered by horse and cart. In a time of airplanes and spaceships that seemed like a fantasy world of another kind. I suppose that’s how we look at life “pre-internet” or “pre-cellphone” now too. It was like some kind of veil was being lifted on the mystery of life itself. All these things happened before I was around.

Of course, behind all that was also a desire to know another real and very deep story. The story of me!

And what is the reason for the telling of stories? I think it is because of our longing to be connected, to belong. This is how we know who we are. And it goes back to that sense of our own “beginning”.

The relating of the Epiphany is that kind of story. It goes to our beginnings, literally a birth into a new life that is no longer

corruptible. The star is a light. It broadcasts this new birth. And just as when we were young, we begin to perceive it as we draw nearer to it. As the words reach a little deeper into us each time we hear the story of the journey of the Magi, it reveals the truth of God’s closeness to us and our belonging to God.

Mary and Joseph must truly have wondered what all this meant. The Magi’s homage must have been very unexpected. What was it like for them as the truth of God the Father’s love came more clearly into their souls? What is it like for us when we awaken to the love of God? In moments of prayer? In others? Even in ourselves? How miraculous it is to recognize the sacredness that is ours! It makes us humble, grateful and happy.

We are at the beginning of a new calendar year. I hope that the Christmas season has been a time of deep renewal for each of you. As we welcome Christ each day, may His peace always be with us.

In Christ,

*Fr. Bob*

# ❖ NEWS

## Weekly Mass Intentions

*Saturday, January 6*

4:30 pm ♦ † Rosemary Sullivan

*Sunday, January 7*

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ † Margaret Cassellis

*Tuesday, January 9*

5:00 pm ♦

*Wednesday, January 10*

5:00 pm ♦ † Maureen Sheridan

*Thursday, January 11*

5:00 pm ♦

*Friday, January 12*

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

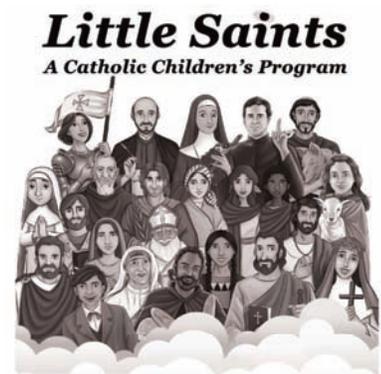
## 2024 Offertory Envelopes



Offertory Envelopes for 2024 are available in the front entrance vestibule. The boxed sets are organized alphabetically by last name. **Please make sure to pick up only the box with your name on it.**

## Little Saints: A Catholic Children's Program

*Sundays from 12 pm - 2 pm*



Our Little Saints program returns on January 14th and is 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!

## Parish Collection Summary

Due to the bulletin publication schedule over the Christmas and New Year's season, our parish collection summary from December 16 to January 7 will be provided in the January 14, 2024 bulletin.

*Thank you for supporting our parish!*

## Thank you for the Warm Clothing & Toiletry Donations!

Thank you very much to all those who generously donated clothing and toiletries over the past month. The amount donated well exceeded previous years and will benefit our neighbours the Good Shepherd Ministries and the Mustard Seed.

## 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.



## Beyond Polarities: Ignatian and Jesuit Sources for a Wounded World

*Windows on Theology Winter 2024 Course - Regis College / Zoom*

*Wednesday's from 11 am to 12:45 pm, January 24, 2024 - February 28, 2024*



Today's Christians are called to walk with a wounded world whose culture has become increasingly uncivil and polarized. Resources drawn from the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius, as well as from the Society of Jesus's reflection on its mission oriented to justice and reconciliation in service of the faith, offer both a path to personal conversion and tools for accompanying our fellow travelers and offering Christ's healing.

This course will be delivered in a hybrid format (in-person at Regis College and online via Zoom). Online participants will receive a Zoom conferencing link before the course begins. To register or receive more information visit '[regiscollege.ca/academics/windows-on-theology](http://regiscollege.ca/academics/windows-on-theology)' or scan the QR code.



## The Source Holy Hour

*January 25, 2024 at 7 pm - St. Peter's Church, Toronto*



The Source Holy Hour, hosted by The Sisters of Life, invites us to unite around the source and summit of our faith - Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, with one hour of Eucharistic Adoration including music by the Sisters and the opportunity for Confession. Take a break from the noise of your daily life and spend time in quiet reflection with Jesus. Then come downstairs to hang out with the Sisters and meet some other awesome people from Toronto. To learn more visit '[sistersoflife.org/the-source-holy-hour](http://sistersoflife.org/the-source-holy-hour)'.

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467 Sherbourne Street (at Wellesley)  
**416-924-1408**  
**Theron Fryer, Manager**  
[theron.fryer@dignitymemorial.com](mailto:theron.fryer@dignitymemorial.com)  
**James Munroe, General Manager**  
[james.munroe@dignitymemorial.com](mailto:james.munroe@dignitymemorial.com)



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