

ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822 ~ FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

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STAFF

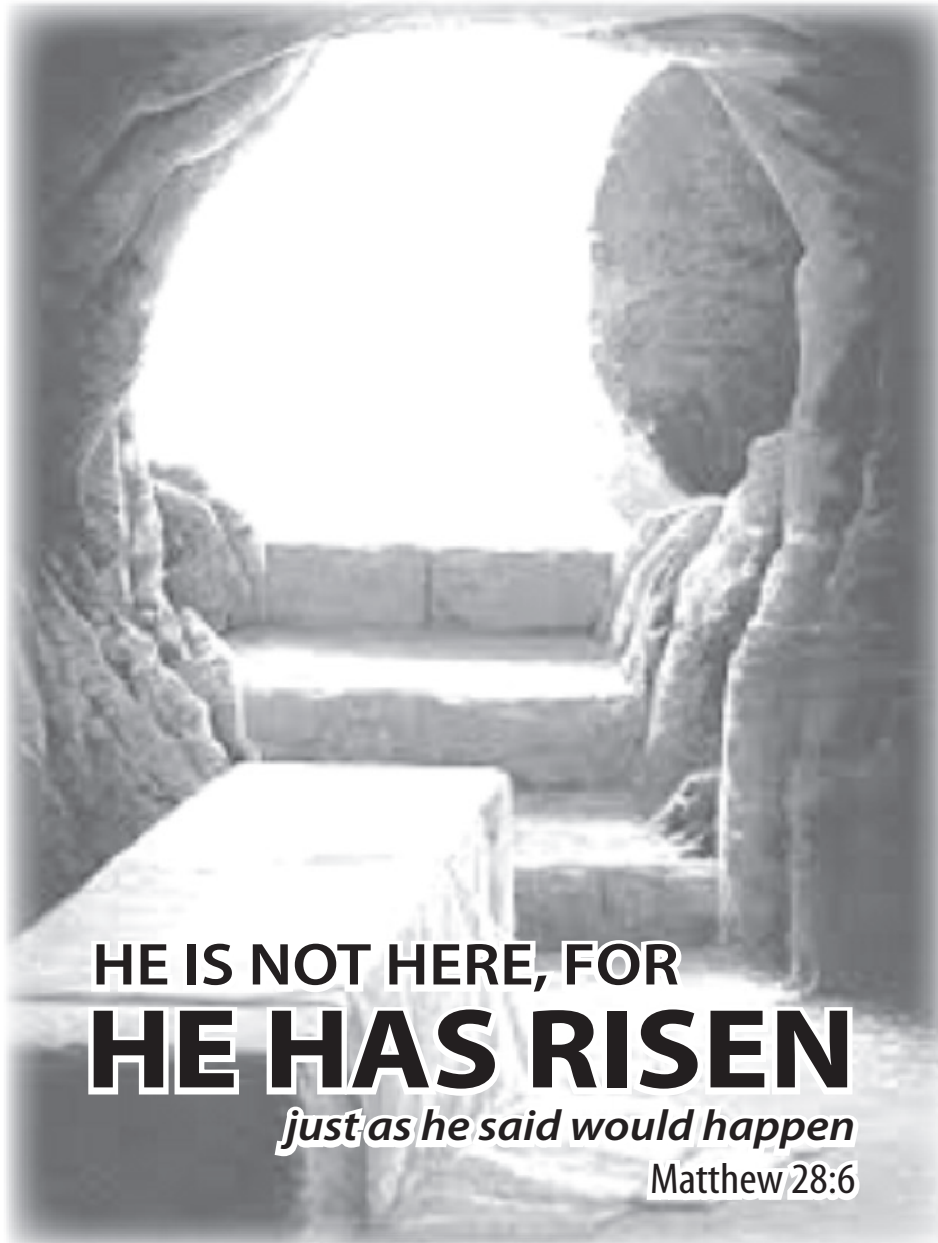
Fr. Robert O'Brien: Pastor

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

Cathy LeBlanc: 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



HE IS NOT HERE, FOR
HE HAS RISEN

just as he said would happen

Matthew 28:6

❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



CHRIST IS RISEN!
Alleluia!

**MAY THE VICTORY OF
THE RISEN CHRIST AND HIS
CONQUERING OVER DEATH BRING
PEACE AND HAPPINESS TO YOU AND
THOSE YOU MOST HOLD DEAR!**

*Wishing you a
Happy and Blessed Easter
from Fr. Bob and the Parish Staff*

The One Gift that Brings Life

People were as questioning in Jesus' own time as we are today. Often, He was indirect when He responded. A big theme that comes up again and again is the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus chooses to give us all kinds of comparisons: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like..."

I want to focus on just one of those comparisons here. The Kingdom of Heaven is like a great feast or wedding banquet. Remember Jesus telling the story of people being gathered from the highways and byways to be welcomed into the wedding? Alas, we have too many places in the world today where people are starving. Feast is far from them. In our city, we have people who are "food insecure", while those of us fortunate enough to be living comfortably take for granted the variety and the relative excess of food available to us all year around.

Food production is cyclical. A co-operative venture between nature and our efforts. A harvest produces an abundance while the wait involves

sacrifice, hard work and with simple meals. The long wait produces a euphoria when a bumper crop comes in. Even today we pour many resources into the meal surrounding a wedding. Easter, like Christmas, is a time when we gather the family or our friends and enjoy the bounty of the table.

The food and the closeness of those we love, serve to give us a strong sense of satisfaction and fulfillment, while opening us up further.

At Easter, Jesus makes the whole world new. While still being realized in history, Jesus is already with the Father, desiring to welcome us. The shards of grace we receive here are truly heaven sent. They are a taste of the feast to come. Today when we hear Jesus say, "Take and eat, this is my body", we receive the body of Christ, risen from the dead! And, when we are sent out today it is the Kingdom of Heaven we are called to share, doing our part to make Christ's new creation present. All of us are called to be saints

and to be joined today with all who believe in Christ.

A hearty congratulations to our newly baptized, Ismael Khan, Ben Richard, Joanna Lorenzana-Batisse, and Geoffrey Ip. Congratulations also to Dawn Moore who has been received into the Catholic Church. It has been a privilege for me to shepherd them a little, while the Holy Spirit has been so generously at work. This is also a very special moment for our other candidates who are moving forward in their journey toward baptism. Please pray that the Spirit may nurture and support them.

I believe we have been very blessed here at St. Paul's by the very much alive faith of so many in our parish family. The Kingdom is budding forth. This feast of God's graces continues now for the next 50 days. May the risen Lord bless us all!

Happy Easter! Alleluia! Alleluia!

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

❖ NEWS

Weekly Mass Intentions

Holy Saturday, March 30

8:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday, March 31

8:30 am ♦ † Carmencita Caes

11:00 am ♦ Consecrate Leeroy, Jude & Jeremy to God

Tuesday, April 2

5:00 pm ♦

Wednesday, April 3

5:00 pm ♦ Gloria & Stanley Kamski

Thursday, April 4

5:00 pm ♦

Friday, April 5

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Parish Collection Summary

	2024	2023	Diff
Mar 3	\$ 5,585	\$ 4,182	↑ \$ 1,403
Mar 10	\$ 2,268	\$ 1,910	↑ \$ 358
Mar 17	\$ 3,310	\$ 6,272	↓ \$ 2,962
Mar 24	\$ 7,165	\$ 2,757	↑ \$ 4,408
Mar 31			
Mth Target	\$ 11,162	\$ 15,121	↑ \$ 3,207

Thank you for supporting our parish!

Office Closed for Easter Holidays

The parish office will be closed for the Easter holidays, between Friday, March 29 and Tuesday, April 2. Regular office hours will resume on Wednesday, April 3.

Donate Online



Credit card or direct bank account debit donations are an easy way to help support our parish. Tax receipts are emailed immediately for a single donation and mailed at the end of the year for recurring gifts. Scan the QR code or visit stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org and hit the Donate button. Check that “St. Paul’s Basilica, Toronto” is selected from the Parish drop down menu when signing up.

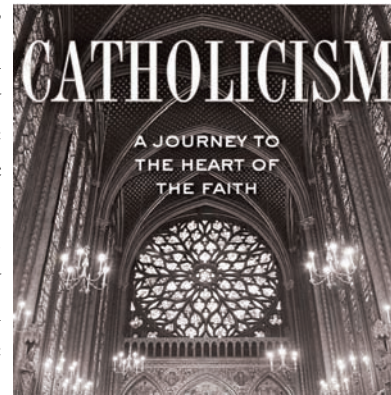


Welcome to Our Neophytes and Newly Received

Our parish community extends a warm welcome and congratulations to our neophytes, Geoffery Ip, Ismael Khan, Joanna Lorenzana-Baptiste, and Benjamin Richard, who were newly baptized and fully initiated into the Catholic Faith during the Easter Vigil. We also congratulate and welcome Dawn Moore who was received into full communion.

Ongoing Catholicism Program

St. Paul’s invites you to attend our “Catholicism” program, happening every Sunday, after the 11 am Mass. Each week, we watch a 30-minute video by Bishop Barron, where he addresses some of the most controversial questions about life and the identity of Jesus Christ. After the video, we discuss the episode over coffee, tea, and light refreshments. The Catholicism program is a great opportunity for you to grow in your faith while getting involved with our Parish faith community. We hope to see you there!



ShareLife: Embrace Jesus' love and compassion through giving

Jesus’ love and example inspire us to extend a helping hand to others, especially those facing the greatest challenges. ShareLife agencies continue to reach out to the most vulnerable members of our community, offering essential services made possible by your compassion and generous contributions. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope or online through our parish website. Thank you for living the Gospel by opening your hearts and sharing your blessings.



Fr. Bob's on Vacation

Fr. Bob will be away on vacation from April 6th to April 27th. During this time Fr. Michael Lehman, Fr. Tony Farah and Fr. Luis Melo will be celebrating the parish Masses. For sacramental (baptism, marriage etc.) inquires please contact the parish office after Fr. Bob returns.



“Pour Out” Adoration Night

April 19, 7 to 9pm; Merciful Redeemer Parish, Mississauga

Merciful Redeemer’s spring Pour Out Adoration Night is here and open to all ages! This evening is inspired by Romans 5:1-11, where St. Paul speaks of how God’s love is poured into our hearts to give us peace, mercy and hope. With Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday having just passed, we will gather together to continue soaking in God’s love as we ponder the incredible mercy He pours unto us. What does God’s overflowing gift of mercy look like? How are we being receptive to this love and mercy? And finally, how do we love Him in return? Join us for a beautiful evening of praise and worship, adoration, prayer ministry, confession, testimony sharing and a talk by Fr. Matt McCarthy! No registration required. All are welcome!

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