

Living the Gospel

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❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Four New Areas for Ministry in the Parish

Traditionally, this weekend is referred to as “Good Shepherd Sunday” because of the Gospel text that is proclaimed. It is a time to pray, especially for priestly vocations. During my years in seminary at St. Peter’s in London, Ontario, the motto there was, *“I will give you shepherds according to my own heart”* (Jeremiah 3:15). Once I became a pastor, I grew more aware that an important part of my ministry was to facilitate the receiving and sharing of the heart of Jesus, within and beyond my parish community. Each parish is different. There are different people. There is a different community history and leadership. Every moment that passes, each new person arriving in the parish, is history is being made. I know there will be shepherds long after me too. I continue to pray so that I may build up St. Paul’s.

Some of you may be aware that we have weddings here pretty regularly. Sometimes the couples come from outside our parish, but I am happy to report that quite often they are our parishioners. We have enough weddings, in fact, that we could consider developing our own marriage preparation course. To get started we would need four couples, ideally at different points along the path of marriage. There is a course



for marriage preparation instructors that usually starts in the fall and would go through until spring. Then, we would be able to start offering the courses by the fall of 2025. That’s one new ministry.

Another hope I to have is a ministry I call, “Marriage Prep Alumni”, which would be an informal group of 2 or 3 events per year for couples in the first five years of marriage. Content would be developed that speaks to the concrete needs to support building a strong, healthy and faith-filled married life. There would be an over-arching theme and a meal together. Each event would stand on its own and couples would be able to choose to come without feeling they had missed something from not being at the previous event. This would take two couples or up to four individuals.

I have found it useful at baptisms to have a couple of people present to welcome families, help them find washrooms, get them seated, assist with the set up and help to operate the lift for family

members who may need it. This simple hospitality goes a long way to sending a signal that baptism is entry into the family of God and into our parish family.

The fourth and final area that I am looking to develop, I dub, “Media Ministry”. With more activities happening this will become more important. Sometimes it will be managing microphones, projectors, sound or lighting. It could extend to supporting a parish Instagram account, taking pictures, video and eventually streaming content. We probably need two people to start.

As we continue in the Easter season, pray for a little discernment in your life about the way you are called to live the Gospel and possibly to support your parish family members in our joint work to honour God and build up the life of the Kingdom.

Please also pray, not only for more shepherds according to the heart of Christ, but pray that we priests will seek to be truly wise in nurturing the life of the Gospel within the scope of our responsibilities. Thank you, Lord, for helping us to treasure our life together in the Church.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

❖ NOTEWORTHY

EDGE Camp

August 17-21, 2024

Established in 2009, EDGE Camp is a Catholic overnight adventure camp for children in grades 5-8. St. Paul’s will be hosting a camp session from August 17-21, 2024, at beautiful Camp White Pine in Haliburton. The cost per child is \$475, prior to May 1st and \$525 after, and includes transportation to and from camp, all meals, activities such as swimming, high ropes, zip line, canoeing/kayaking and much more.

To register visit [‘edgecamp.campbrainregistration.com’](http://edgecamp.campbrainregistration.com), select **EDGE Camp North**, and then select **‘St. Paul’s Basilica’** (not just St. Paul’s). \$100 deposit is due at registration, full payment is due on June 15. For more information, or if cost is an issue, speak to our youth minister, Micah, after Mass or email him at mmacmullen@archtoronto.org.

April 20-21, 2024



EDGE Camp Fundraisers

April 20/21 & 28, 2024

To assist EDGers who would like attend but require some financial assistance, we will be hosting two fundraising events. On April 20-21, after each Mass, we will be having a Bake Sale and on April 28 we will host a pancake breakfast, for \$5 per plate, after the 11 am Mass. Please stop by, pick up something sweet or savory and help ensure that all children attend.

❖ NEWS

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 20

4:30 pm ♦ † Marcel Hampden

Sunday, April 21

8:30 am ♦ For the People
11:00 am ♦ † Roberto Valencia

Tuesday, April 23

5:00 pm ♦ Thanksgiving for
God's Blessing

Wednesday, April 24

5:00 pm ♦

Thursday, April 25

5:00 pm ♦

Friday, April 26

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Full of Grace: A Concert Honouring Mothers

May 10th, 2024 at 7:30 pm

In honour of Mother's Day, on May 10th, 2024, at 7:30 pm, St. Paul's will be hosting a musical performance entitled Full of Grace. Led by artistic director, Mark Wood-Salomon, soloists Andrea Ludwig, Claire Latosinsky, and Anika Venkatesh, accompanist David Simon, and the Together in Worship Canada Choir, will perform works by Sir John Tavener, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Cecilia McDowall, Pérotin, Robert Fleming, John Ireland, Robert Pearsall, and Monsignor Thomas Barrett Armstrong.

Take advantage of discounted prices and group rates by calling the parish office to reserve your tickets. Tickets are \$30 at the door.



Join the Archdiocese of Toronto Delegation

International Eucharistic Congress 2024 – September 8-15 – Quito, Ecuador

The Holy Father has invited Catholics worldwide to participate in the 53rd International Eucharistic Congress. This year's gathering takes place in Quito, Ecuador from September 8-15, 2024. To learn more about the pilgrimage, please visit 'archtoronto.org/iec'. Limited spaces are available for pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Toronto to join with the Canadian delegation. Registration deadline is June 6, 2024 with early bird pricing available until May 6.

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!

Invest in our Church's future by giving to ShareLife

Your kindness and devotion enable St. Augustine's Seminary, along with the Office of Vocations and Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary, to provide an excellent formation for our seminarians as they pursue a life of service. This past year, you invested in our Church's future by supporting 58 seminarians at St. Augustine's Seminary and Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary.

This Sunday, April 21, we celebrate the 61st World Day of Prayer for Vocations. There has never been a better time to support and pray for our seminarians, wherever they may be on their journey. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope or online through our parish website.

Fr. Bob's on Vacation

Fr. Bob will be away on vacation until 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.

Parish Collection Summary

	2024	2023	Diff
Mar 31	\$ 10,419	\$ 5,646	↑ \$ 4,773
Apr 7	\$ 3,989	\$ 7,215	↓ \$ 3,225
Apr 14	\$ 3,478	\$ 6,474	↓ \$ 2,996
Apr 21		\$ 3,031	
Apr 28		\$ 3,195	
Mth Target	\$ 17,886	\$ 25,561	↓ \$ 7,675

Thank you for supporting our parish!

Volunteers for Doors Open

May 25-26, 2024

St. Paul's will be participating in this year's Doors Open event. We are looking for volunteers to help with crowd control and guided tours. Training is available.

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.



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