



ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822 ~ FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

STAFF

Fr. Robert O'Brien
Pastor

Fr. Keith Wallace
In Residence

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 the autumn
- ♦ 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

The Power of Attention

Last weekend was the Santa Claus parade. Society is getting to be in the Christmas mood. Certainly, the retailers, whether in stores or online are primed. Black Friday and Cyber Monday read like a litany, shouting: “More!”. Traffic jams are getting “jammier”. Our psyches are picking up on the nervous energy.

Yet, the most important thing we will share with each other this Christmas is ourselves. To love and to be loved requires attention. A child learning to stand or to walk looks fixedly at their parent while the parent beams and says encouraging words. This mutual attention turns into the momentary universe for both of them. What a graced opportunity to see and share the purity of love! How many times a week do we have the opportunity to give someone focused attention?

We also need to give ourselves attention. I don't want to be so inward-looking that I end up ruminating, just going over and over the same things. That can be hard to take. It is a real benefit, however, to pause long enough to understand what I am feeling. I may or may not know why, but acknowledging the emotion, can help me to be more present to others. I may realize that some of my perceptions come from my own distractions. I can also learn to come to terms with myself, so that I accept that patience and God's grace along the way will quietly change things in me. In turn, that helps me to receive from others in a richer way and I become freer to respond deeply.

Consider a little less time with headphones on or scrolling through social feeds. Even what seems like remote attention can be valuable. Do you notice the other people on the subway or the streetcar? Even though there is no explicit communication you can be grounded there in a way that lets others know that you are content to be there. Some people are so isolated that their ride on the streetcar or the subway might be their most “social” interaction



for the week. Is not presence to one another an important way that we seek to transform the culture? It is certainly a way to soften the ground for the possible reception of the Good News that Christ's love is at the door of every heart.

How important time and attention are! If this was your major commitment in Advent, giving your attention to God in prayer, both speaking and listening and doing the same with your neighbour and even with yourself, I have no doubt that celebrating the coming of the Saviour will be a transformative experience.

I pray that each of us may be present to Christ anew this Christmas and that we will prepare for it by taking the time and giving the attention to one another that the Lord Himself gives to each of us.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

❖ Housekeeping

New to our St. Paul's Community?

Welcome to St. Paul's Basilica! If you've recently, or not so recently, joined our parish community, please take a moment to fill out a parish registration form. There are many benefits to registering at the parish. It enables easier and more accurate donation tracking so you receive a tax receipt. It allows us to verify your information if you need a reference or are planning to celebrate or be part of a sacrament in the future. We can even transfer your records to another parish if you move. Forms are available at the back of the church or in the parish office.

Moving / Moved?

If your mailing address has changed we kindly ask that you notify the parish office by phone at 416-364-7588 or email at stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org, so we can ensure our records are up-to-date and there are no delays in issuing tax receipts.

Different Ways to Give

There are many different ways to donate to the parish.

1. **Envelopes:** If you use the visitor's envelopes and wish to receive a tax receipt, *please ensure that your name and address are clearly written*. Registered parishioners can request envelopes with assigned donor numbers linked to their records.
2. **Direct Debit:** You can sign up to have your donation debited monthly directly from your bank account or credit card. You can choose where to direct your donation within the parish or request an additional amount be debited for months with special archdiocesan collections.
3. **Securities:** By donating stocks, bonds or mutual funds you can avoid capital gains allowing you to give more.
4. **Time & Talent:** Donations don't always have to be monetary. Consider volunteering your time or abilities with a parish ministry or event.

❖ NEWS

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 30

4:30 pm ♦ † Maria Gucciardo Di Gesù

Sunday, December 1

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ † Aileen Menez

Tuesday, December 3

5:00 pm ♦ † Aileen Menez

Wednesday, December 4

5:00 pm ♦

Thursday, December 5

5:00 pm ♦

Friday, December 6

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Holiday Mass Schedule

Advent Confessions

Dec 20

5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve - Dec 24

4:30 pm Family Mass

(Preceded by Carols)

7:00 pm & 11:00 pm

Christmas Day - Dec 25

8:30 am & 11:00 am

New Year Masses

New Year's Eve - Dec 31

4:30 pm

New Year's Day - Jan 1

11:00 am



Winter Clothing, Toiletries and Food Drive

During 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.



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

Parish Collection Summary

	2024	2023	Diff
Nov 3	\$ 4,804	\$ 4,006	↑ \$ 798
Nov 10	\$ 2,924	\$ 2,716	↑ \$ 208
Nov 17	*\$ 6,663	*\$ 7,014	↓ \$ 351
Nov 24	\$ 2,572	\$ 2,507	↑ \$ 65
Mth Target	\$ 16,963	\$ 16,244	↑ \$ 719

* Includes Monthly Pre-Authorized Debit Donations

Thank you for supporting our parish!

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.



Advent Reflections

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) presents an online weekly video series titled "Journey through Advent." English reflections will be led by Archbishop Leo and are available at archtoronto.org.

2025 Offertory Envelopes

Offertory Envelopes for 2025 are now available in the front entrance vestibule, organized alphabetically by last name. **Please double check that the box you pick up has your name and DO NOT begin using the 2025 envelopes until January.**



TCDSB Staff Arts Christmas Concert

Friday, December 6th, 2024, 8 pm at St. Paul's Basilica

St. Paul's is excited to welcome back the TCDSB Staff Arts group for their 51st Annual Christmas Concert featuring conductor Anne Bolger, producer Dawn Burke and pianist Cristina Parvu. For more information or to order tickets, pick up an order form at the back of the church, visit tcdsb.org/staffarts or scan the QR code.



First Sunday of Advent

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