



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

Exuberant Faith!!

The motto of today's celebration and prayer is a command; "Rejoice!" Do you remember a time you experienced absolute enthusiasm, perhaps as a child? That moment when joy takes over, and even though it's short in time, it seems like its own little eternity. As we grow up, we see things that make us more cautious. That joy, especially in others, can seem superficial or even self-indulgent. And in ourselves, we recognize that our moment of elation is part of a longer and more complicated story. In religion, we can see outwardly joyful people as being too much like salespeople. It can seem sugar-coated.

Is there a different kind of exuberance? St. Paul is always writing about the graciousness of God's gift in Christ. It is awesomeness in the absolute sense. I often wonder, can we ever be exuberant enough to reflect the sheer generosity of the gift? That question tells me that joy can be something very deep that happens amid daily life. Just as Jesus came to us in the middle of the ups and downs of all the people who were alive on earth at the time of His birth.

We can also think about the effect this gift has on us. What happens to us as we allow ourselves to be drawn closer and closer to

Christ? We are better able to love. We are better able to receive love. We are better able to cry, as we learn to journey with others. And YES, we are better able to share JOY as well. In fact, that joy is present in the midst of everything else. It is what helps us to know that we have received real freedom living in Christ.

At the end of each day, we pray part of the Prayer of the Church (the Liturgy of the Hours), the canticle of Simeon from the Gospel of St. Luke:

Now You let your servant go in peace, Your Word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have revealed in the sight of every people, a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.

In this part of the world, we are in the days with the least amount of daylight, but the Good News is shining through any and all darkness there is. On this "Gaudete" Sunday that commands us to rejoice, may we grow deeply to receive and then be changed by the coming of our Saviour. Give us confidence to let the joy of our faith come out of us generously, deeply and naturally! Oh, to live our faith with zip!

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, December 14
4:30 pm ♦ † Antonietta & Armando Tiano

Sunday, December 15
8:30 am ♦ For the People
11:00 am ♦

Tuesday, December 17
5:00 pm ♦

Wednesday, December 18
5:00 pm ♦

Thursday, December 19
5:00 pm ♦

Friday, December 20
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



Double Your ShareLife Donation

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

Parish Collection Summary

	2024	2023	Diff
Dec 1	\$ 6,101	\$ 5,030	↑ \$ 1,071
Dec 8	\$ 6,993	\$ 10,450	↓ \$ 3,457
Dec 15		*\$ 8,530	
Dec 22		\$ 21,328	
Dec 29		\$ 2,682	
Mth Target	\$ 13,094	\$ 48,020	↓ \$ 34,925

* 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.



Holiday Office Closure

The parish office will be closed between Friday, December 20, 2024 and Friday, January 3, 2025 for the holidays. Emails and voicemails will be returned once the office reopens on Monday, January 6, 2025. Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Registration for Sacramental Preparation Now Open

Families with children ready to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation next spring can pick up a registration package from the back of the church or parish office. Information sessions for Confirmation will be held January 9th at 7 pm and January 11th at 10 am. Please note children preparing for Confirmation should attend the meeting along with their parents. Parent meetings for First Holy Communion have already taken place, however we continue to accept registrations. Contact Micah MacMullen at mmacmullen@archtoronto.org for more info.

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.



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.**

Third Sunday of Advent

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