

ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822 ~ FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

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STAFF

Fr. Robert O'Brien: Pastor

Fr. Keith Wallace: In Residence

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



Feast of the Holy Family

❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Goals in a New Calendar Year and with the Holy Family

The change in the calendar year is a time when collectively we go through a kind of catharsis. We “get rid” of some things and embrace new ones. People often look at goals. Some of them are practical. Famously or maybe notoriously, we think about working out or changing our diets. Spiritually, our big catharsis time is really Lent, the period before Easter, but this new calendar year can be a time when we re-envision our lives, letting go of something of our struggles in the past year and building lives aimed at being fruitful in the long run, in life and for the Kingdom.

I was in the grocery store recently and happened to hear a bit of a phone conversation where someone was proffering that if another person was not “upwardly mobile” it was their own fault. What a limited goal! The best result of that would be, “See, I am really good!”

It seems to me that a goal that invites us to love better, to give more freely and happily and to rejoice in the gifts of life will be much more fruitful and lead to a kind of contentedness that money can’t buy. Our goals reflect the perception we have of our identity and that’s why we want to consider where our heart really is. We do live in a world with all sorts of materiality and we need to be practical but also remember the world itself is a gift. How we use it has a cumulative effect, and for us who have faith we need to reflect our real identity as children of the Father and adopted sisters and brothers of Jesus in what we do.

Today we celebrate the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They lived very practical lives for years together. Jesus grew into the use of the carpenter’s bench before he came to announce the closeness

of God the Father. Joseph put his heart through his hands in providing not only for his family but for those who benefited from his services. Mary revealed herself to Jesus by being available and responsive to God’s will, at every stage of Jesus’ earthly life, including life at home. The Gospels tell us often of Jesus’ readiness to be in social situations, so we can speculate that the Holy Family shared an hospitable home, welcoming family and friends and doing their part in the community.

Perhaps it is on the horizon of heart and home that our best resolutions for 2025 might be chosen. May each of our homes and our families be true dwellings for Christ this year.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

❖ NEWS

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 28

4:30 pm ♦ † Josefina Cayman Espeleta

Sunday, December 29

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ † Maria Cristoforo

Tuesday, December 31

4:30 pm ♦ Private Intention

Wednesday, January 1

11:00 am ♦ Private Intention

Thursday, January 2

5:00 pm ♦

Friday, January 3

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Parish Collection Summary

Due to the bulletin publication schedule over the Christmas and New Year's season, our parish collection summary from December 22 to January 5 will be provided in the January 12, 2025 bulletin.

Thank you for supporting our parish!

Cashless Donations



With fewer people using cheques or cash, here are some new ways to donate!

Online at stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org or scan the QR code or and hit the Donate button. Check that "St. Paul's Basilica, Toronto" is selected from the Parish drop down menu when signing up.

Tip Tap - Simply tap your card on the 'tiptap' device, located at the back of the church, to donate. If you would like to receive a tax receipt at the end of the year, you can register your physical card by scanning the QR Code next to the 'tiptap' device. An information sheet is available next to the 'tiptap' device.



Holiday Mass Schedule

2025 New Year Blessings!

May God be with you and your families through this New Year and fill your lives with comfort, love and cheer.

May this day and the days ahead, hold many blessings for you and yours.

Happy New Year!

Fr. Bob and the Parish Staff



New Year Masses

New Year's Eve - Dec 31

4:30 pm

New Year's Day - Jan 1

11:00 am



Holiday Office Closure

The parish office is closed 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

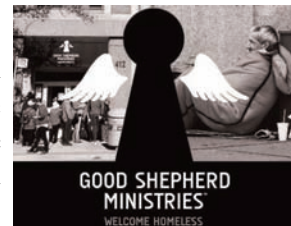
Families with children ready to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation next spring can pick up a registration package from the back of the church or parish office. Information sessions for Confirmation will be held January 9th at 7 pm and January 11th at 10 am. 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.

2025 Offertory Envelopes

2025 Offertory Envelopes are now available in the front 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.**

Help for the Homeless

Help Good Shepherd Ministries offer food, shelter, and care to the poor and homeless. Your gift makes a difference this Christmas and throughout the year. To donate, please call 416-869-3619 ext. 277, visit goodshepherd.ca, or email donations@goodshepherd.ca. Thank you!



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.

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