

# 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



*Father, You revealed Your Son to the nations  
by the guidance of a star. Lead us to  
Your Glory in Heaven by the Light of Faith.*

## ❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



### The Epiphany: Introducing Jesus!

I will start off my article this week by saying that we have now begun a Jubilee Year throughout the Catholic Church. Every 25 years, following on Jewish tradition, we have a year of Jubilee, a time of forgiveness, mercy and celebration. We have also had “extraordinary” Jubilee years in the fairly recent past both under Pope Francis and Pope Benedict before him. You will read more information about the Jubilee in the bulletin through the course of the year, especially because St. Paul’s is one of the designated churches in the Archdiocese of Toronto for the Jubilee. We will be welcoming people on spiritual pilgrimage throughout the year.

By mentioning that we owe much to our Jewish brothers and sisters I have also introduced something important about the Epiphany. While we celebrate the feast as a sign that the Good News comes to Gentiles as well, the story of the Epiphany has a number of characteristics that root it in God’s self-revelations in the Jewish Scriptures.

First of all, it is good to note that the story of the Magi is in Matthew’s Gospel, not in Luke’s. We put it all together usually when we put up our manger scenes. In Matthew’s Gospel the account of the actual circumstances of Jesus’ birth is very brief. There is much more space devoted to a long genealogy rooting Jesus in the line of the founders and rulers of the Jewish people. The text about the Magi is also much longer than the story of the birth itself.

The offerings reflect Jesus’ sacred identity: **Gold** equals Christ’s kingship; **Incense** equals His divinity; and **Myrrh** equals Jesus’ redemptive suffering. These are echoes of the prophet Isaiah. As Moses was nearly thwarted by Pharaoh and another ruler, Jesus is similarly victorious and the grace and power of God are recognized even by those who are not steeped in it. There are also parallels with earlier events crowned by the fact that Jesus like Moses and the chosen people come out of Egypt.

The Feast of the Epiphany puts Jesus right into the scene of our human lives. Were he to be born now, we would be telling stories of the people and the places we know that had been touched by God’s surprising intervention. Perhaps that’s what we need to do each day. God now comes sacramentally to us and we can allow ourselves to be sacramental signs of the new life we have received. May we present God always with the gifts that show we recognize our King, our God and our Redeemer. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever!

Amen!

In Christ,

*Fr. Bob*

# ❖ NEWS

## Weekly Mass Intentions

*Saturday, January 4*

4:30 pm ♦

*Sunday, January 5*

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦

*Tuesday, January 7*

4:30 pm ♦

*Wednesday, January 8*

11:00 am ♦

*Thursday, January 9*

5:00 pm ♦

*Friday, January 10*

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](http://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.



## Thank you for the Warm Clothing & Toiletry Donations!

Thank you very much to all those who generously donated clothing and toiletries over the past month. The amount donated well exceeded previous years and will benefit our neighbours the Good Shepherd Ministries and the Mustard Seed.

## 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](mailto: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.** If you would like to be assigned a numbered box, please complete a registration form, found at the back of the church, or contact the parish office.

## Youth Ministry Start Dates

After taking a break over the holidays, our EDGE program will restart on Friday, January 24th, Little Saints restarts Sunday, January 26th, and the first Young Adults meeting in 2025 will take place on Tuesday, January 28th.

## ❖ Housekeeping

### New to our Parish 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](mailto: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 support the parish.

1. **Envelopes:** Registered parishioners can request envelopes with assigned donor numbers linked to their records. Visitors who wish to receive a tax receipt should make sure to clearly write names and address on the generic envelopes.
2. **Direct Debit:** Donations can be debited directly from your bank or credit card and directed to the parish or special archdiocesan collections.
3. **Tip Tap:** Simply tap your card on the device amount to donate. For a tax receipt, register your card.
4. **Securities:** By donating stocks, bonds or mutual funds you can avoid capital gains allowing you to give more.
5. **Time & Talent:** Donations don't always have to be monetary. Consider volunteering your time or abilities with a parish ministry or event.

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