



# 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  
Monday: No Mass ♦ Tuesday to Friday: 5:00 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](mailto:stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org) | 🌐 [stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org](http://stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org)

## SACRAMENTS

Please contact the parish office 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

## DONATION OPTIONS

To begin donating via Weekly Offertory Envelopes or Pre-Authorized Monthly Direct Debit, please contact the parish office.

To donate by Credit Card, visit our website or use the Tip Tap Device located near the main entrance. To receive a tax receipt please register your card after your first tap. Information is available near device.

## ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Alyson Sobol, Principal ♦ Tel: (416) 393-5204

## ❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



### Church and Society

A number of years ago a Toronto based Church historian, Dr. Mark McGowan, wrote a biography of our first bishop, Michael Power. The struggles faced by the Church at the inception of the Toronto diocese were not that different from the struggles the Church currently has relating to civil authority. The one big difference between now and then is that in 1842 there was no doubt of the important role religion had in civic life. Bishop Power managed to communicate that the Church intended to cultivate responsible citizenship. It was an uphill battle, not only for recognition, but for the freedom to grow.

Slowly, the Church was allowed to expand. An important aspect of our city's identity over the last few decades has been its willingness to provide a home for immigrants; especially after World War II, when many Italians, Portuguese and other Europeans arrived. The Italians who came were so large in number that the footprint of the Church increased greatly.

Now, in an age when societal values are, at times, more clearly in conflict with our understanding of the truths and implications of our faith, it is challenging to make clear the significant contribution that living our faith is making to society and what difference it could make.

Canada has grown from a population of about 18 million in 1961, when I was born, to 40 million today. Add to this the complicating landscape of social media, and the sheer diversity of voices, and it is not hard to understand that things can get lost in the shuffle. This complexity also applies to religion. These days we have higher numbers of people coming from a greater variety of countries, cultures and faiths. This at least suggests that people of faith need to work together to affirm the value their faiths bring to the larger society.

From our perspective, being rooted in our faith is of supreme value. It is the place from which we gain our identity. Flowing from it is mutual respect, love of

neighbour, and freedom from misdirected ambitions. When we think of the common good, it is not only things that are positive that we can agree on or that have broad utilitarian value, but it speaks to the qualitative conditions that allow people to thrive and exercise mutual care. The fact that our participation in society is not only motivated by faith but shares the love that we know is a gift rather than a possession. This means it can be received by others and grow in them also by grace.

Let us not lose heart at the developments in society that trouble us but gain heart! We have to chip away steadily at any obstacles by cooperating with divine love and grace and bring hope to those who need it. Our citizenship is also a gift not meant for destructive behaviour but for the imitation of the love of Jesus in the here and now.

In Christ,

*Fr. Bob*

## ❖ NOTEWORTHY

### Chalice Child Sponsorship Weekend

*All Masses this weekend, March 1st & 2nd, 2025*



This weekend Canada's largest Catholic Child Sponsorship organization will provide you the opportunity to begin a relationship with a child in the developing world through the benefits of Child Sponsorship. These are children in extreme poverty who need your support to excel in their education and fulfill their God-given potential. Please visit [chalice.ca](http://chalice.ca) to learn more.



### Ash Wednesday Masses

*March 5, 2025 at 5 pm & 7 pm*

Lent is a special time of spiritual renewal in the Church which begins on Ash Wednesday. On Wednesday, March 5th, the parish will celebrate two Masses, at 5 pm and 7 pm, for the distribution of Ashes. During Lent the Stations of the Cross will be prayed Friday evenings after 5 pm Mass.

**March 2, 2025**



# ❖ NEWS

## Weekly Mass Intentions

**Saturday, March 1**

4:30 pm ♦ † Adelina Salita Ramos

**Sunday, March 2**

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ † Aileen Menez

**Tuesday, March 4**

5:00 pm ♦ Magdalene & John

Frances Labrador

**Wednesday, March 5**

5:00 pm ♦

7:00 pm ♦

**Thursday, March 6**

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

**Friday, March 7**

5:00 pm ♦ Timothy Buckman

## 2024 Tax Receipts Mailed

2024 Parish Tax Receipts have been processed, and assuming Canada Post is on time, you will receive them in the mail on or before Friday, February 28th. Please contact the parish office if you do not receive your receipt or if an error is present.

## Announcing the 2025 ShareLife Campaign

As we approach our first ShareLife Sunday collection on March 30, it is essential that we come together in compassion to meet our Parish Campaign goal, addressing the growing needs in our communities.

By reaching this goal, our agencies will continue to:

- offer walk-in counselling to those facing mental health issues
- help victims of domestic violence
- ensure isolated seniors are not forgotten
- distribute food to families in our community
- form priests and deacons who will minister in our parishes

Your support of ShareLife makes these programs possible, among many others. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope or online through our parish website.



## Jubilee of Youth - Calling all young adults (19 - 39 yrs)!

Join Fr. Paul Magyar and the OCY team for a once in a lifetime pilgrimage to Rome, Italy, from July 23rd to August 5th, 2025. Please contact [youth@archtoronto.org](mailto:youth@archtoronto.org) for info.

## Parish Collection Summary

	2025	2024	Diff
Feb 2	*\$ 19,487	\$ 3,709	↑ \$ 15,778
Feb 9	\$ 3,455	\$ 3,324	↑ \$ 131
Feb 16	*\$ 5,995	\$ 4,559	↑ \$ 1,436
Feb 23	\$ 2,405	*\$ 7,207	↓ \$ 4,802
Mth Target	\$ 31,342	\$ 18,799	↑ \$ 12,543

\*Includes a One-Time \$15,000 Donation

\*Includes Monthly Pre-Authorized Debit Donations

**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.



## Annual Manresa Weekend Lenten Retreat for Men

March 14 - March 16, 2025; Manresa Jesuit Renewal Centre, Pickering, ON

The theme is: *The Wisdom of Henri Nouwen: Guidance for the Lenten Journey*. Nouwen was able to help people connect with their vulnerabilities, to grow in trust and intimacy. This retreat will consider common themes in his writing, such as being the beloved of God, giving and receiving forgiveness, growing in hope, and accepting one's limitations; with a focus on providing ways to incorporate these ideas into our prayer lives. For info or to register visit [manresa-canada.ca/events](http://manresa-canada.ca/events).

## 16th Annual Dynamic Women of Faith Conference

Saturday, March 22, 2025, 9 am to 4 pm, at the Old Mill, Toronto

Get inspired, meet like-minded women and discover your mission at the Catholic Moms Group annual Lenten Dynamic Women of Faith Conference. This year's speakers will include Annie Kart, Lisa Canning, Fr. Marcin Serwin OMI, Dr. Stephanie Kafie and Dorothy Pilarski. The conference includes a light lunch and Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Robert Kasun, CSB. To register or for more information visit [DynamicWomenFaith.com](http://DynamicWomenFaith.com).

## Lift Jesus Higher Rally

March 29th, 2025 from 9 am to 5:30 pm; Metro Toronto Convention Centre

Lift Jesus Higher Rally (LJHR) is an annual rally that focuses on evangelizing through uplifting music, testimonials, reflections, Divine Mercy celebration and Eucharistic Adoration.

There will be several inspirational speakers for the Adult rally and for those between 13 and 18, the Youth rally will be supercharged through great music, inspiring skits, fabulous testimonies and talks. Attendees will have the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and The Most Reverend Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto will celebrate Mass. For more information or to purchase tickets visit [lshr.ca](http://lshr.ca).

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