



# 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

### Lent: Healing and Conversion

As some of you know, we celebrated the first part of the Rite of Election for our catechumens at the 11am Mass last week, which was completed in the presence of Bishop Kasun at St. Michael's Cathedral later that afternoon. Last Sunday's Gospel recounted Christ's forty days of temptation in the desert. Today we hear about the glory of the Transfiguration. Sewn through these two texts, however, is the reality of Christ's suffering, death and Resurrection; the means of our healing and reconciliation.

What heals us? What makes us whole? It is not some physical item, but rather our relationships that have the potential to make us whole. It can often be a little frustrating when it feels as though some of our relationships brought us suffering in the first place. When we get used by others, are discounted or ignored, we can easily have the wind taken out of our sails. If this happens when we are young or particularly vulnerable the effects can be wider.

For our indigenous peoples, the effect of numerous attempts to eradicate their culture, including residential school programs, in which Catholic religious communities participated, has left in its wake much pain and confusion from which a direction for healing is only gradually being found. There is no "wide scale" fix for this situation except for a change of the kind of relationship that indigenous peoples have with the



rest of us. Like all relationships, these pathways to healing are built over time. In an individual's journey of healing, or of conversion, there is at times a feeling of moving forward and backward at the same time. It is important not to become discouraged because this is often when we are making the most progress.

We proclaim that God loves each and every one of us, and God's love is for the totality of each person. Whatever discipline or tempering of some of our less desirable habits there may need to be, the underlying personal trait can also be a source of good. It can serve as a great prayer for healing: "Help me to give glory to you in all my parts, O Lord." Even our fears or our loneliness, which may be rooted in difficult experiences, can also become a platform from which we begin to find hope. Christ actively loved us while He was suffering and showed us that much more was happening than was evident. With His wounds visible,

the resurrected Jesus says to His disciples: "Peace be with you!" We are shown the love that can sweep up the whole of life and restore its harmony with the Father, the Creator.

Part of healing is our ability to express sorrow for harm done, even if we were personally not the ones who did it. Along with a resolve to be actively engaged in relationships that will help heal and restore trust, we can carry a little of the burden that Christ has carried for us. This is what it means to be penitential. Our spiritual practices are related to our daily lives, both as individuals and as a people in Christ's name. During this Lent let us be committed to universal healing and reconciliation; with our indigenous peoples, in our society, with our neighbourhoods and families.

In Christ,

*Fr. Bob*

## ❖ NOTEWORTHY

### Stations of the Cross



The 40 days of Lent is a special time of spiritual renewal in the Church. During Lent the Stations of the Cross will be prayed Friday evenings after 5 pm Mass. All are welcome to join in prayer.

**March 16, 2025**



### Lenten Resources

To assist you this Lenten Season please avail yourself of the numerous Lenten resources found on the Archdiocese of Toronto website, [archtoronto.org/lent](http://archtoronto.org/lent). There you will find Pope Francis' 2025 Lenten Message, a variety of Online Retreats and Reflections, Lenten Activities for Families, and much more.



# ❖ NEWS

## Weekly Mass Intentions

**Saturday, March 15**

4:30 pm ♦

**Sunday, March 16**

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ Ongoing Health of

Derek Lellie

**Tuesday, March 18**

5:00 pm ♦ † Joseph Blandizzi

**Wednesday, March 19**

5:00 pm ♦ † Otoniel Barbosa

**Thursday, March 20**

5:00 pm ♦

**Friday, March 21**

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

## Prayer for Pope Francis



O merciful and loving God, fountain of all grace and source of eternal healing, be with our Holy Father as he faces this battle with illness. Surround him, O Lord, with boundless compassion and strengthen his spirit so that he may regain the health needed to continue to lead your flock with a father's heart. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Adoration and Social



All are welcome to join us after the 11 am Mass this Sunday, March 23rd, as we host Holy Hour (adoration) in the Church until 1 pm, followed by a social in the parish hall until 2 pm.

## Young Adult Night



We invite all young adults between the ages of 18 and 39 to join us on Tuesday, March 26th at 7 pm for an evening of faith, fellowship and food. Email [mmacmullen@archtoronto.org](mailto:mmacmullen@archtoronto.org) for info.

## Parish Collection Summary

	2025	2024	Diff
Mar 2	\$ 4,404	\$ 5,585	↓ \$ 1,181
Mar 9	\$ 2,344	\$ 2,268	↑ \$ 76
Mar 16		\$ 3,310	
Mar 23		*\$ 7,165	
Mar 30		*\$ 10,419	
Mth Target	\$ 6,748	\$ 28,747	↓ \$ 21,999

\*Includes Easter Donations

\*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' 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.



## You extend the hands of Christ to those in need

ShareLife Sunday is March 30. Our parish goal for this year's campaign is **\$55,000**. Through your support of ShareLife, you extend the hands of Christ to those in need: the poor, the vulnerable, and the marginalized in our community. Because you care, more than 40 agencies provide strength to people of all ages in their weakest moments. You've been there for young parents as they worried about their next meal, isolated seniors yearning for companionship, teenagers seeking guidance in a confusing world, refugees longing to rebuild their lives, and people with special needs striving for dignity and acceptance. Thank you for living the Gospel through your compassion. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope or online through our parish website.



## Lenten Retreat

**April 5, 2025 from 9 am to 3 pm at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga**

Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre will be hosting a Lenten Retreat and Mass on April 5th. The \$50 fee includes coffee/tea with muffins and a hot lunch. To learn more or register email [office@qoa.ca](mailto:office@qoa.ca) or call 905-278-5229.

## A Thank You Message from Chalice



Chalice extends their heartfelt gratitude to Fr. O'Brien and St. Paul's Basilica parish for hosting a Child Sponsorship Weekend on March 1-2. As a result, **11 children** in need were sponsored, in addition to those who are usually sponsored after more time and consideration. On behalf of these children, we give thanks to God that you have revealed His love to them and have given them hope for the future! Chalice envisions a world where all children and families have the means to overcome the cycle of poverty. Please prayerfully consider a call to sponsorship, a unique way to live out your faith by providing hope for a child in need. Please visit [chalice.ca](http://chalice.ca) or call 1-800-776-6855 for more information on our mission or to sponsor a child today.

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