



ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822 ~ FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

STAFF

Fr. Robert O'Brien
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Fr. Keith Wallace
In Residence

Cathy LeBlanc
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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 | 🌐 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

Imagination and Care for the Other

Every society has its mythologies, although many aren't frequently spoken of. That's one of the reasons why the "debunking" missions some people go on can be quite interesting. Done well, mythology is evocative, and at the same time helps us get at realities we cannot easily summarize, and certainly those which we cannot measure. It's one reason why songwriters are so valued. They can capture something of our human life that helps us see, at least a little, beyond ourselves. Mythologies, of course, can and do sometimes go off the rails. However, a world of absolute sobriety would quickly become depressing, stripping us of so much that is genuinely meaningful.

In North America we especially value our individual freedom. Sometimes, we are unaware of what effect this has on others who may not enjoy the same choices we do. Let's apply a little reasoning as an example. Sometimes I choose things simply because I can. Today, I'm in the mood for vanilla ice cream. Next week it might be chocolate. What's free about this? It demonstrates a lack of external restraint in my ability to choose, since both kinds of ice cream are available.

Now, what if we add that dreaded word, "responsibility", into the mix? From a Catholic point of view, we are beginning to talk about freedom properly. Our life in Christ means that freedom is, ultimately, to be the creature God has made us to be, and the human person who has begun



to live in Christ's New Creation. My ice cream purchase might have been in accord with freedom, or it could have been, in some small way, harmful to it. Though a small act, it still has a moral character.

In my time as a priest, I've interviewed many couples preparing for marriage. For some young adults, the prospect of a lifetime together is the first time they have felt a strong and deep responsibility toward another person. Are their choices being limited when this occurs? Yes, they are. Couples will begin to make choices together; therefore, some individual choices are going to go by the wayside. And, for the sake of children, or parents, or siblings, they may also, quite willingly, make sacrifices out of love. Now, much more is at stake. These are not trivial

choices, and they have a deep moral quality. Not only is what we do in such circumstances important, but how and with what love we do them, which reflects the extent to which we allow divine grace to move through us. This is freedom! We lean on the simple quantity of choices less, and the quality of our choices more.

Is our Christian view of life more sober than the prevailing sensibilities these days? In some ways, resoundingly yes! In other ways, not at all! We are open to the blessings that God gives us, but we need to understand enough of ourselves to become moral agents. Therefore, we shouldn't look at human behaviour as simply a phenomenon; something that humans do. Not only do we have a purpose and identity, but our capacity to glorify both the Creation and the Redemption are magnificently diverse and rich. For us, the revealed Truth of Christ frees us and forms our imaginations to grasp on to life.

One could even say that in this state we have many more choices, and the content of those choices is so much more meaningful, valid, and authentic. As we continue to journey through Lent may we embrace the graces God chooses to show us and grow less attached to the things that impinge on our true freedom.

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 23, 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. 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 22

4:30 pm ♦ † Diesel Vom Burgimwald

Sunday, March 23

8:30 am ♦ For the People
11:00 am ♦

Tuesday, March 25

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Wednesday, March 26

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Thursday, March 27

5:00 pm ♦

Friday, March 28

5:00 pm ♦ † Jesse Carlos

Parish Collection Summary

	2025	2024	Diff
Mar 2	\$ 4,404	\$ 5,585	↓ \$ 1,181
Mar 9	\$ 2,344	\$ 2,268	↑ \$ 76
Mar 16	*\$ 6,500	\$ 3,310	↑ \$ 3,190
Mar 23		*\$ 7,165	
Mar 30		*\$ 10,419	
Mth Target	\$ 13,248	\$ 28,747	↓ \$ 15,499

[‡]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.



40 Days of Lenten Reflection

Join Fr. Eric Mah, a priest from Toronto, as he does a series of one-minute reflections for each of the forty days of Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday. Watch Catholic Latte on YouTube or listen to the podcast available on Spotify, iTunes and Podbean. Scan the QR code for the YouTube playlist or visit catholiclatte.com for podcast links.



Lenten Reconciliation Service

During Lent Reconciliation Services will take place:

- Every Saturday from 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm, or by appointment
- Friday, April 11 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
- Saturday, April 12 from 3:00 pm to 4:15 pm

Adoration and Social



All are welcome to join us after the 11 am Mass on 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 for info.

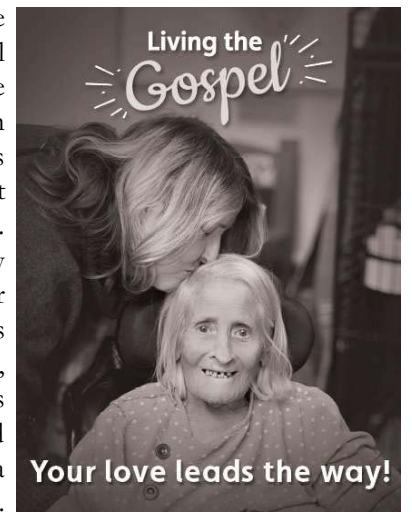
Prayer for Pope Francis



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.

Thank you for heeding the Lord's call to feed the hungry

For many children, the snacks and meals they receive in school may be the only nutritious food they eat all day. Studies show that children can’t learn and thrive when they are hungry. Thanks to you, \$750,000 in Food Security Grants are making a difference across our community. Students receive the nourishment they deserve, and parents are supported in the process. The FoodShare program at ShareLife-funded agency Rosalie Hall “is a lifeline for families,” says their Executive Director, Jane Kenny. “It helps parents provide food for their children, reduces their stress, and allows them to focus on being the best parents they can be.” Thus far we have raised \$2,000 toward our goal of \$55,000. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, 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 or call 905-278-5229.

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