

Living the  
**Gospel**

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## **ST. PAUL'S BASILICA**

**EST. 1822 ~ FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO**

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## ❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

### A Little About the Church

When Pope Benedict XVI resigned the papacy, in 2013, the transition to a new pope felt somewhat different compared to now. As surprising as the resignation was, psychologically we were looking ahead to the changeover to a new pope. Conversely, when Pope John Paul II died in 2005, after having served since the autumn of 1978, his absence was strongly felt. At present we are experiencing a similar sense of absence. The Diocese of Rome is vacant (Sede Vacante).

Collectively, the College of Cardinals is responsible for the Universal Church. Technically, the heads of the various departments are currently without a job, until assignments are made by the new pope. In the Eucharistic Prayer we make no mention of the pope until he is elected. We unite ourselves to our local bishop only.

This highlights a few things about the nature of our life together in the Catholic Church. The Universal Church is made up of local churches, each one led by a successor of the apostles. In addition, we also have the existence of Catholic churches of different rites, for example, the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Maronite, Melkite, Chaldean, Byzantine Slovak, Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankar churches also have bishops in Canada.

The ministry of the successor of St. Peter is centred on the unity of the Church. Ordinarily, when we pray for the pope during the Eucharistic Prayer, we not only



express our deep prayer for him personally, but we acclaim our communion with him. While there are many aspects of the Church that appear to us to be “top down”, this is a time when we might reflect a little more on the bottom-up aspect. Our bishop relies on the cooperation of his priests and the priests are sent to serve communities of believers. In the six parishes I have served, plus the one I grew up in, I have always found different characteristics in each community. If you have moved around parishes in your life, you may have seen this as well.

In each community, the faith is being lived in its own distinct way. There are signs of differing needs to support the life of the Gospel. There are challenges to strike the right notes to help one another incorporate the life of faith. Whether from the lips

of Pope John Paul or Pope Benedict or Pope Francis, the mission to help others to encounter Christ also puts us in the forgiving, repairing and healing business. What our parish is like and what it does, then, is a critical part of the life of the Church more widely.

As we pray that the Holy Spirit provide for us a new Holy Father who is ready to shepherd our lives in Christ fruitfully, let us also pray that our capacity to care for our brothers and sisters around the world may help us to be in communion with the work of the Universal Church.

In Christ,

*Fr. Bob*

## ❖ NOTEWORTHY

### Adoration and Social



All are welcome to join us after the 11 am Mass on Sunday, May 25th, as we host Holy Hour (adoration) in the Church until 1 pm, followed by a social in the parish hall until 2 pm.



### St. Paul's Summer Day Camp

*Weekdays from July 7 - August 1; 9 am - 3 pm (extended care available)*

St. Paul's is once again running a four-week summer day camp for children in grades 1 to 7. The camp focuses on helping children learn about our Catholic faith while providing fun opportunities to meet new friends and participate in a variety of activities including games, arts & crafts and sports. Each week will feature prayer, games and sports, a field trip and a drama production open to families and friends. The weekly cost per child is \$130, plus extra for extended care. Full four week registration and family discounts available. For more information please reach out to our youth minister, Micah, at [mmacmullen@archtoronto.org](mailto:mmacmullen@archtoronto.org).



# ❖ NEWS

## Weekly Mass Intentions

**Saturday, May 3**

4:30 pm ♦

**Sunday, May 4**

8:30 am ♦ † T. James Brennan

11:00 am ♦ For the People

**Tuesday, May 6**

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

**Wednesday, May 7**

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

**Thursday, May 8**

5:00 pm ♦

**Friday, May 9**

5:00 pm ♦ Emmanuel Bermejo

## Parish Collection Summary

	2025	2024	Diff
<b>Apr 6</b>	\$ 4,712	\$ 3,989	↑ \$ 723
<b>Apr 13</b>	\$ 4,354	\$ 3,478	↑ \$ 877
<b>Apr 20*</b>	\$ 11,337	\$ 6,793	↑ \$ 4,545
<b>Apr 27</b>	\$ 3,348	\$ 3,954	↓ \$ 605
<b>Mth Target</b>	\$ 23,752	\$ 18,213	↑ \$ 5,539

‡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.



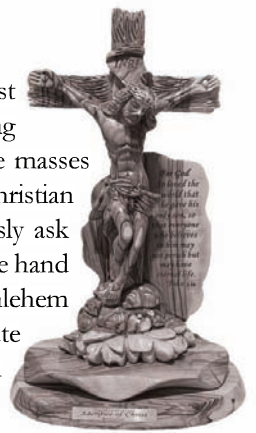
**Tip Tap** - Simply tap your card on the 'tiptap' device, located at the back of the church, to donate. If you would like to receive a tax receipt at the end of the year, you can register your physical card by scanning the QR Code next to the 'tiptap' device. An information sheet is available next to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



## Handicraft Holy Land Christians

**May 10 - 11, 2025; After each Mass**

Next weekend we will welcome our special guest Jonelly from Sebastien Cardinal's team representing "Handicraft Holy Land Christians", who after all the masses will briefly address the issues and concerns regarding the Christian presence in the Holy Land. Christians in the Holy Land graciously ask your support through conscience prayers and will have many unique hand carved olive wood religious art pieces made by these families in Bethlehem available for purchase after every mass. Proceeds of the sales generate much needed employment for our Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem. "May God Bless you for your generosity, for you help and for your prayers." To learn more visit 'HolyLandChristians.ca'.



## Catholic Education Week - May 4-9, 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope"

This week we give thanks for the gift of publicly funded Catholic Education in our province. Catholic schools foster supportive communities where children can experience the joy of God's love and understand the Christian mission in the world. As we celebrate this Year of Jubilee, as pilgrims of hope, let us journey with our parishes, educators and families to sow and nurture the seeds of faith with the next generation of Catholics, encouraging them to live lives of holiness and Christian witness as one body in Christ. To indicate your support of Catholic education and sign-up for email updates, visit: 'togetherinfaith.ca.'

## A Day With Mary – Registration Open

**May 31, 2025 from 10 am to 4 pm; Villanova College, King City**



Online registration is now open for **A Day With Mary** taking place May 31 at Villanova College in King City. During this Jubilee Holy Year, spend a day with our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Hope and deepen your devotion to her through a keynote address by Dr. Josephine Lombardi, a number of inspiring witnessings and Holy Mass presided over by His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo. This family-friendly event will have music, food, fellowship, children's catechesis and activities – something for everyone. For more information and to register, visit 'archtoronto.org/mary'.



## ShareLife: Living the Gospel by providing for those in need

On the second ShareLife Sunday, we call upon your compassionate hearts to support your vulnerable brothers and sisters in need. More people than ever are turning to our agencies for help. The kindheartedness of ShareLife supporters like you enables access to essential programs and services, such as the treatment program and transitional housing at St. Michael's Homes. For Jack, your support was transformative. After moving to start a physically demanding job, he suffered a knee injury which ultimately left him unemployed and addicted to pain medication. Thanks to your empathy, Jack had a safe space to overcome his addiction and gained the power to build himself back up. We ask you to share your blessings through the parish or at sharelife.org/donate. Thank you for living the Gospel!



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