



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 | 🌐 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

The Spiritual Life and the “Modern” Self

The deepest truth of spiritual life is that God is speaking to us, God cares for us, God loves us, and God greatly desires for us to be taken over by that love. On one level, we simply have to allow it. But, if you have ever tried to do that, you know it is not easy.

One path to saying yes to God’s love is to pay attention to how this love has appeared, not only in our own lives, but also in the lives of others; some of whom we have known, and some who have trodden the path before us. The idea of seeing everything through our own reflections is not entirely new, but it has become much more “front and centre” as we have been enabled to make more and more individual choices. Love has to be a shared experience. This is why we may sometimes feel a bit of a shock when we suddenly realize we have responsibilities to others. It might be our prospective spouse. It could be a friend whose needs take us outside of our comfort zone. It could be when we realize that love is sometimes work and may not even feel good... but is of absolute importance. Love consoles and it calls us out of ourselves.

I am writing this at the start of the annual spiritual retreat for parish priests. Our retreat director is a Dominican, who reminded us that God is always seeking to make Himself known to us. Following along with this idea is the spiritual reality that we are called to “pray always” (St. Paul to the Thessalonians). It involves some modulation of effort and listening, of praying for praying’s sake, and



paying attention to the emphases and focus points that speak to us. We are called to enter into a mystical relationship that is free of self-deception. It’s something that God is going to complete in us, and for which we will likely never be able to write a satisfying report.

In the less technologically focused times of the past, there was a more immediate recognition of the need we have for one another, and an acceptance that we would not always get our own way. At its best, a communal formation helped our ancestors not only to meet life, but to see the gift of love in a way that our relatively isolated modern world seems ill-equipped to do. It is for this reason that, not only can the known saints, and their writings, be so helpful to us, but also the deep awareness of the texture

of love, and the sharing of love, that comes through our own families.

Instead of being in search of the perfect life, perhaps we simply need to be in search of the life in which we are most alive, receiving most freely, and returning intentionally and deeply the gift we have received.

Jesus breathed on the disciples and then called them to share the Good News. Not only is Christ risen, but that same love that overcomes His death is ours because He has so affectionately given it to us. May we allow that love to speak to us and to change us.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

❖ NOTEWORTHY

Adoration and Social



All are welcome to join us after the 11 am Mass this 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.



May 25, 2025

❖ NEWS

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 24

4:30 pm ♦ Ron & Theresa Hearn

Sunday, May 25

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ † Aileen Menez

Tuesday, May 27

5:00 pm ♦

Wednesday, May 28

5:00 pm ♦

Thursday, May 29

5:00 pm ♦ Angela & Jack McCarthy

Friday, May 30

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Parish Collection Summary

	2025	2024	Diff
May 4	\$ 3,639	\$ 2,238	↑ \$ 1,401
May 11	\$ 5,783	\$ 4,122	↑ \$ 1,660
May 18	*\$ 6,479	*\$ 7,515	↓ \$ 1,036
May 25		\$ 3,808	
Mth Target	\$ 15,900	\$ 17,683	↓ \$ 1,783

* 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.



First Holy Eucharist Congratulations

Our heartfelt congratulations to Kera Ahiabenu, James-Evelyn Angelo, Jeremy Baraka, Francis Caparida, Louis Caparida, River Ivey-Owoso, Alijah Kubi-Clarke, Miles Lalog, Aniyah Martin, Gabriel Martinez, Darlene Mawanda, Roselyn Medina, Meley Mehary, Laura Morales, Oliver Perkins, Emilio Vigilance, Xinyi Xu, and Yuuna Zaminka who are receiving the sacrament of First Holy Communion this Sunday. Many thanks to Micah for his hard work and prayerful dedication to preparing our children for their sacraments.

Free Catholic Estate Planning Webinar

Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 9:00 am

Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services and the ArchTO estate planning team invite you to join this free webinar to learn about how to avoid issues with your Will, Powers of Attorney & Estate Planning as well as Catholic traditions around cremation, burials and funerals. To register scan the QR code, visit qrco.de/WebJune7



Popular Mission

May 25 & June 1, 2025; 2 pm - 3 pm, in front of the parish

Over the next two weekends, we will be hosting the Neocatechumenal Way Lay Association for a Popular Mission. In essence, a Popular Mission is an attempt to bring our faith to the public square, which is what we, as Christians, are called to do in the world through our Baptism. Now more than ever, the church is called to bear witness to God's unconditional love for us. Taking place in front of the parish, the Good News God has for each one of us will be announced with prayer, music, singing, and personal testimonies of people who have experienced Christ's saving grace. Come join us and see that the church is truly alive, as a sign there is hope for this generation through Christ!

Your love can help others thrive

Mental health challenges can impact anyone, whether you're personally navigating them or supporting someone who is. These struggles transcend age and circumstance. Brenda was weighed down by shame, having battled anxiety and depression for decades. Through your support, she found a new perspective at a Catholic Family Services agency funded by ShareLife, where counselling lifted her up and allowed her to see her own worth. Your compassion is instrumental in helping others see themselves as God sees them: loving, important, and enough. Thank you for living the Gospel by helping relieve the pain of those facing silent battles. Thus far we have raised \$23,000 toward our goal of \$55,000. Please give using a ShareLife envelope or at sharelife.org/donate.



Sixth Sunday of Easter

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