



# 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

## Keeping the Basilica Beautiful

I realize it's been quite some time since I last shared an update on the physical aspects of our parish, so I thought I'd share a little about what we've been up to and what's coming next.

This past year we took on some much-needed work in the house and office. Last fall we replaced the old boiler and hot water heater in the house with a high-efficiency system that now provides both domestic hot water and heat. Then, in the spring, when we had the air conditioning units inspected, we discovered dangerous mould and an outdated coolant that is no longer considered environmentally safe. This gave us the opportunity not only to replace the existing slim units but also to add new ones where needed.

As a result, three of the four suites in the house now have their own units, each with independent temperature control for cooling—and supplemental heating when required. This has proven especially helpful given the international composition of our clergy and seminarians, where comfort needs and preferences can vary among housemates. We also took the opportunity to add a unit in the sacristy, which has long been sweltering in summer since its windows are sealed shut.

Looking ahead, there are a few projects on the horizon that I'd like to highlight: lighting repairs and bulb replacement, painting sections of the fence, addressing the flashing around the church chimney as well as capping the chimney at the house, and possible roofing repairs to both the house and church.

The LED bulbs in the church pendant light fixtures are reaching the end of their service life. A few bulbs have already failed—some even literally breaking apart from heat damage. Fortunately, advances in bulb technology will allow us to replace them with more reliable options and select a colour of light that better complements the artwork in the church. In addition, the stage lighting that illuminates the sanctuary needs servicing. Several bulbs are out, and some of the transformers that regulate the power supply will require replacement.

Because much of this work is at significant heights, custom scaffolding will be necessary, which will unfortunately add to the cost. However, while the scaffolding is in place, we also plan to investigate replacing the six outdated and inaccessible smoke detectors mounted high on the ceiling arches along the side aisles.

Finally, work on the chimneys will likely require the use of a cherry picker to safely reach the affected areas, as well as get a better view of the condition of the roof tiles.

Beyond these immediate projects, there is also some potentially significant exterior work that will need attention. Repairs are needed on the stairs leading up to the office, sections of the walkway that have begun to heave, and the front steps where cracks and spalling have developed. We will also need to address foundation and basement waterproofing to protect the integrity of the building.

Looking further ahead, one of the most substantial projects will be the eventual replacement of the church's heating system. I have



asked the Archdiocese to partner with us on a building condition report that will help guide decisions on this and other long-term needs. At present, our heating is supplied by a low-pressure steam system powered by six ganged mid-efficiency boilers. While steam has the benefit of requiring no pumps, it is water-intensive, causes radiators to swing from room temperature to boiling, a potential safety concern, and offers limited flexibility.

Transitioning to a hot water system could open the possibility of cooling the building on summer nights and, importantly, allow for future integration of geothermal sources to reduce reliance on gas and electricity. However, this would be a major investment: replacing the existing steam boilers with a modern commercial unit will cost in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, while converting to a hot water system would be considerably more. We will certainly need expert consultation before charting the best course forward.

St. Paul's is an important part of the story of the Archdiocese and of the City of Toronto. For that reason, caring for this church and its buildings is more than just maintenance—it is stewardship of a sacred place that belongs to all of us. Thank you for your ongoing support as we care for the physical needs of our parish.

In Christ,

*Fr. Bob*

# ❖ NEWS

## Weekly Mass Intentions

**Saturday, September 6**

4:30 pm ♦ † Cathy LeBlanc

**Sunday, September 7**

8:30 am ♦ † Daniel Christopher Cuneo

11:00 am ♦ For the People

**Tuesday, September 9**

5:00 pm ♦ † Werner Schidder

**Wednesday, September 10**

5:00 pm ♦ † Michel Ndizeye Gatsimbanyu

**Thursday, September 11**

5:00 pm ♦

**Friday, September 12**

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

## Parish Collection Summary

	2025	2024	Diff
Aug 31	\$ 4,104	\$ 3,293	↑ \$ 811
Sep 7		\$ 2,661	
Sep 14		\$ 3,317	
Sep 21*		\$ 6,786	
Sep 28		\$ 3,016	
Mth Target	\$ 4,104	\$ 19,072	↓ \$ 14,968

\* 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 'tip tap' 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 'tip tap' device. An information sheet is available next to the 'tip tap' device.



## Get Involved!

We are inviting parishioners to consider getting involved in different parish ministries. The parish depends on and is grateful for the support of our parishioners through their time and talents. Please consider volunteering for one or more of our ministries, such as Ushers / Ministers of Hospitality, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Ministers for Sick and Shut-ins, Altar Servers and Counters. If interested please contact the parish office. Training will be available.



## Advertise with us



Liturgical Publications, the company that prints our parish bulletin free of charge, is currently setting up the advertisements for our bulletin to begin running this fall. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service with us. To learn more contact Liturgical Publications directly at 905-624-4422.

## Youth & Young Adult Ministries Kickoff Dates!

Youth Ministry programs resume this month, including a new program for high school students and a new Alpha Series alongside the Little Saints. Contact Micah at mmacmullen@archtoronto.org for info.

- **Edge Opening BBQ (Gr 5-8)** - September 12th at 6:30
- **Young Adult Ministry** - September 17th at 7 pm
- **Lifeteen (H.S.)** - September 19th at 6 pm
- **Alpha (Adults) & Little Saints (Gr 1-8)** - September 28th at 12:30 pm



## From the heart of the Church – Food Security Grants to fight hunger



Photo by cottonbro studio: pexels.com

As food insecurity worsens across the GTA, ShareLife, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto (CCAT), and two generous anonymous donors, have pledged a combined \$800,000 in Food Security Grants for 2025—building on previous commitments of \$500,000 in 2023 and \$750,000 in 2024. Living the Gospel means caring for those who are hungry and vulnerable every single day. This is why we need your help to reach our parish goal. We have currently raised **\$33,965** towards our suggested goal of \$55,000. Please help fight hunger through sharelife.org/donate or by using a ShareLife envelope. Thank you for your kind generosity!

## Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada:

*Supporting Bishops in Their Pastoral Mission Across the Country*

The Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada will take place on the weekend of September 27 and 28. This annual initiative is an important opportunity for the faithful to actively support and assist the Bishops in their ministry of accompanying, teaching, guiding, sanctifying, and caring for the Church in Canada. Please support the collection. We thank you in advance for your generosity and continued commitment.



**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**



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