

ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822 ~ FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

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STAFF

Fr. Robert O'Brien: Pastor

Fr. Keith Wallace: In Residence

Cathy LeBlanc: Sacristan Lynett Wilson: Office Manager Micah MacMullen Youth Minister

Jason Lo: Bookkeeper Ives Alvarez: Custodian

Joseph Angelo: Music Director Allison Angelo: Cantor Andrea Cerswell: 11 am Choir Lead



A Thanksgiving Prayer

Heavenly Creator,

*In this season of gratitude and abundance,
we give You thanks for our many blessings
as we pray for all who struggle with hunger and want.*

Be with them in the dark of night, when all hope seems lost.

Keep their faith strong as they await relief.

*And let Your goodness flow through our
hearts and hands as we reach out to one
another in the full, true joy of Thanksgiving in Christ.*

Amen

❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Spiritual Formation

The term *spiritual formation* was one I first encountered when I entered the seminary to discern and prepare for priestly ministry. As I worked my way through the courses and experiences of seminary life, the meaning and purpose of formation gradually became clearer.

We are accustomed to speaking about education, which often evokes the idea of acquiring knowledge and skills that can be measured by some kind of test. Formation, however, goes deeper. It speaks of the transformation and development of the person. It is not enough simply to reproduce a body of knowledge — something more profound is at work. In the process of formation, the real question becomes: Am I being shaped into a life rooted in Christ?

Formation includes what we might call mentoring or apprenticeship, because much of what is most important is passed on in subtle ways — through example, through presence, through relationship — fitting us for the Christian life.

By its nature, this is an area of life to be treated with care. Our goal is not simply to be indoctrinated, nor to adopt some

eccentric view of ourselves or the world. Jesus tells us that He has come to give life — and give it to the full.

The beginning, then, is the desire to be formed by Christ, along with the humble conviction that we will never be a finished work while on this earth. As we celebrate Thanksgiving this weekend, it is a good time to reflect upon and give thanks for those who have, consciously or unconsciously, been missionaries of our formation.

I can think of many wonderful people in my own life's story:

- » A woman who worked quietly in the background and played a part in my being adopted by my parents.
- » An older pastor of mine whose preaching was thoughtful and sensible, and whose example radiated maturity.
- » A young priest with great perceptiveness who showed me understanding.
- » A wise and caring religious sister who encouraged me and taught me what it means to shepherd others.
- » And, of course, as I often mention, my own blood siblings — each a wonderful gift, including a sister who immediately understood me.

All of these speak to essential elements of formation: our need to be known, which lies at the heart of being loved and of loving others.

And I must add that the Holy Spirit sent me to a parish community that quietly lives out welcome and demonstrates a desire to grow in faith. For all of you, this also speaks of those who have been ambassadors of faith in your own lives.

As you give thanks for your families and for the blessings in your lives, please take time to also remember those who have helped to form you spiritually — those whose example and love continue to shape you into the likeness of Christ.

I thank the living God for all of you.

In Christ

Fr. Bob

❖ NOTEWORTHY

Register your child for Sacramental Preparation

Families with children between the ages of 7 and 15, who are ready to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation next spring can pick up a registration package from the back of the church or the parish office. The First Holy Communion parent meetings will take place Sunday, October 19th, at 9:30 am and Monday, October 20th, at 6 pm. Confirmation parent & candidate meetings will take place Sunday, October 19th and November 9th, at 10:15 am. Please see the registration package or email Micah, at mmacmullen@archtoronto.org, for more information.

October 12, 2025

Office Holiday Schedule

The parish office will be closed Monday, October 13th for the holiday. Have a blessed Thanksgiving!



All Saints Day and All Souls Day Mass Schedules

On Saturday, November 1st, the parish will celebrate Mass for All Saints at 10 am. Please note that the Saturday 4:30 pm Mass will be the normal Sunday Vigil Mass. There will not be a separate Mass for All Souls Day. The Sunday 8:30 am and 11 am Masses on November 2nd will be celebrated for All Souls.

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 11

4:30 pm ♦ Theresa Purcell-Hearn

Sunday, October 12

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ † Branko Deronja

Tuesday, October 14

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Wednesday, October 15

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Thursday, October 16

5:00 pm ♦ † Roberto Cruz

Friday, October 17

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Parish Collection Summary

	2025	2024	Diff
Oct 5	\$ 3,417	\$ 3,826	↓ \$ 811
Oct 12		\$ 3,336	
Oct 19*		\$ 6,120	
Oct 26		\$ 2,526	
Mth Target	\$ 3,417	\$ 15,807	↓ \$ 12,391

* 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.



Upcoming Special Collections

World Mission Sunday

The World Mission Sunday collection will be on **October 18 & 19**. This collection is dedicated to the evangelization of nations and assisting at-need Catholic Communities globally.



Parish Preservation Fund

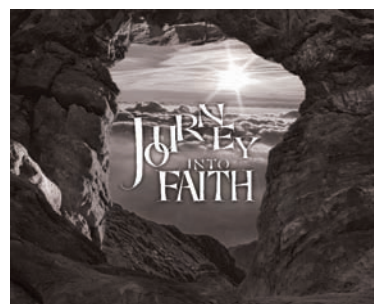
Our monthly Preservation Fund collection will be held **November 1 & 2**. This collection helps cover the ongoing maintenance needed to preserve and care for our beautiful Basilica, ensuring it remains open and welcoming to all.



We thank you in advance for your support, generosity and continued commitment.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Underway

The RCIA program is designed for any non-Catholic adults interested in learning about our Catholic faith and potentially joining through baptism or, for those already baptized in a different Christian denomination, full reception into the faith. RCIA is also for any baptized Catholic adults who wish to further their understanding and involvement in their faith and receive the Sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation and/or Confirmation.



Participants meet weekly to undertake a journey devoted to prayer, inquiry, learning and understanding of God, His love for us, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, culminating in the reception of the Sacraments during the Easter Vigil. Please contact Fr. Bob through the parish office, if you or someone you know is interested in learning more.

Help fill plates with hope this Thanksgiving

This Thanksgiving, gratitude comes with a challenge — families are struggling to put food on the table. ShareLife has pledged \$800,000 through its Food Security Grants to bring warm meals to those who need them most.

Will you share your blessings with our parish's ShareLife Campaign? We have currently raised **\$35,000** 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!



Latest Messages from His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo



**National Day
for Truth &
Reconciliation**



**World Day of
Migrants and
Refugees**



**Cardinal Leo's
Message for
Thanksgiving**



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