

ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822 ~ FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

83 Power Street, Toronto, Ontario M5A 3A8 Phone: 416-364-7588

E-mail: stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org • Website: stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org

STAFF

Fr. Robert O'Brien: Pastor

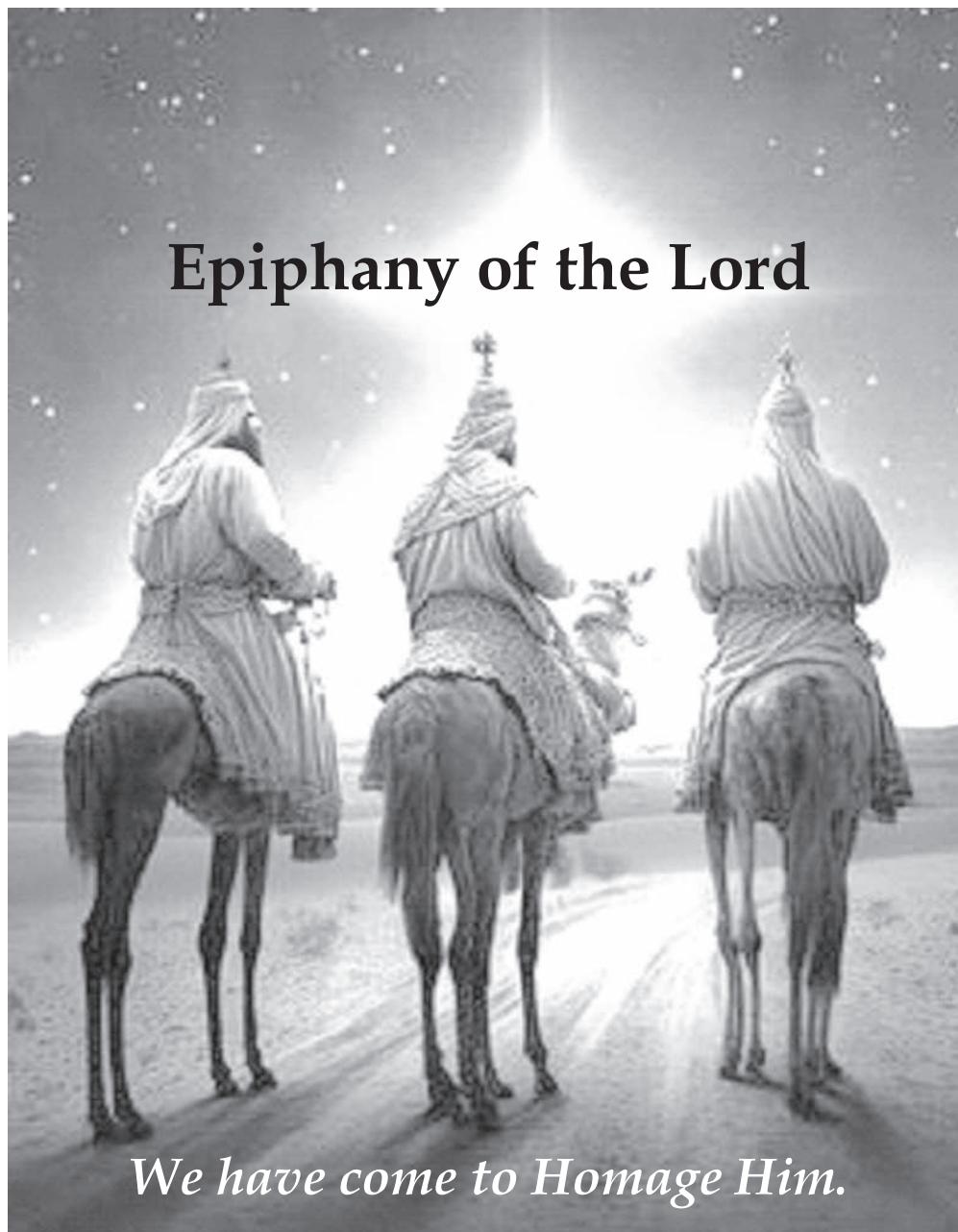
Fr. Keith Wallace: In Residence

Delmalisa Chilombo: Sacristan **Ben Richards:** 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 MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Behold the Prince of Peace

Having just bade farewell to 2025 and now beginning our journey into 2026, I suspect that many of us are hoping for a more peaceful new year than the one we have left behind. Our faith has much to contribute to the spreading of peace in our world.

For a little historical context—one that touches even our own history at St. Paul’s—Pope Pius IX, who reigned in the mid-1800s, wrote a document aimed at fostering peace among the Irish people. He explicitly linked the creation of peace with addressing the horrendous social conditions caused by the Great Famine, when the potato crops failed. Later, Pope Leo XIII, in his foundational document of Catholic social teaching, *Rerum Novarum*, connected peace with the qualities of a society that is just.

Those of us who have been committed to the Church’s social teaching may be more familiar with what has been said since the 1960s. When I was in my teenage years, there were many people deeply committed to a renewed vision of our shared life. It is surely distressing to many today to see more of the world sliding into a closed and defensive posture. In such a climate, the call for peace can begin to feel like little more than a wish in the face of an increasingly acrimonious world.

I wonder whether, in this age of a surplus of information, what we truly need are practical demonstrations of what it means to live in peace. Naturally, we think first of individual acts of kindness and of our own need for ongoing conversion—conversion that allows virtues to shine and diminishes the rougher edges of ourselves. At heart, we all want to be “at home” and at peace.

When we build and support that kind of environment in our communities, especially when it makes us more open rather than more fearful, we begin to spread peace in very real ways.

For several years, I was responsible for coordinating our Catholic presence to prisoners in provincial institutions within our Archdiocese. I will readily admit that providing suitable chaplains was a challenge, and I often wished we could have done much more. Still, that experience taught me a great deal about how the Church regards those who have caused significant harm. While our instinct may be to recoil, Christians are clearly called to uphold a dignity and respect that make room for a new way of living to emerge. Even the word “penitentiary” reflects this conviction: it was coined out of the Church’s belief in the importance—and the possibility—of conversion and change. When we go to confession and receive a penance, the prayer or act issued to us is meant as an aid in our deeper conversion.

There is no doubt that the star which guided the Magi was a beacon of the Prince of Peace, who came not in grandeur, but in simplicity. As we seek, in our own ways, to manifest that same light, let us not underestimate what may seem too simple for the immense task of peacemaking. In 2026, may the world—and especially the part of it that we touch through our own lives—come to reflect the Prince of Peace more fully.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

❖ NEWS

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 3

4:30 pm ♦ † Rose Yeung

Sunday, January 4

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ Patricia Potochniak

Tuesday, January 6

5:00 pm ♦

Wednesday, January 7

5:00 pm ♦

Thursday, January 8

5:00 pm ♦

Friday, January 9

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Parish Collection Summary

	2025	2024	Diff
Dec 7	\$ 6,388	\$ 6,993	-\$ 239
Dec 14	\$ 5,492	\$ 7,008	-\$ 1,516

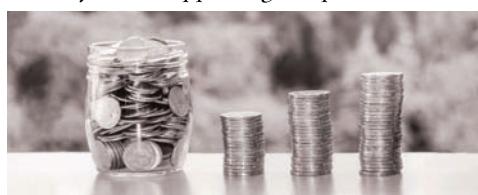
Due to the bulletin publication schedule over the holidays, parish collection summary from Dec 21 to Jan 4 will be provided in the January 11, 2026 bulletin.

Mth Target | \$ 11,880 | \$ 33,390 | -\$ 21,510

Upcoming Special Collections

- **February 1 & March 1** - Preservation Fund
- **March 22** - ShareLife

Thank you for supporting our parish!

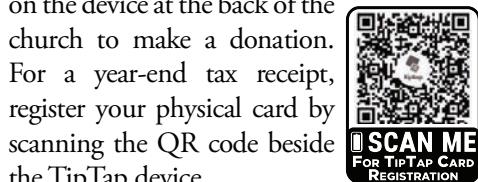


Cashless Donations

With fewer people using cheques or cash, we are pleased to offer several convenient ways to donate:

Online: Scan the QR or visit stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org and select the Donate button. Ensure that "St. Paul's Basilica" is selected from the parish drop-down menu.

TipTap: Tap your card against an amount on the device at the back of the church to make a donation. For a year-end tax receipt, register your physical card by scanning the QR code beside the TipTap device.



Thank you for the Warm Clothing & Toiletry Donations!

Thank you very much to all those who generously donated clothing and toiletries over the past month. Your generous donations will benefit our neighbours the Good Shepherd Ministries and the Mustard Seed in helping those in need.



Young Adults

Join us for our Young Adult Event, in collaboration with the Office of Catholic Youth Spiritus Ministries, on **January 6 from 7-9 pm**. The evening will focus on living out the lives of the Saints and will include dinner, a talk, and communal prayer. No admission or registration is required. For more information, please contact Micah at mmacmullen@archtoronto.org

Youth Ministry

As the school year continues, we are excited to resume our youth ministry programs! Youth in grades 5-8 are invited to our January **EDGE Nights** on **January 9 and 23**, from **6:30-8:30 pm**, in the basement. **LifeTeen** will return on **January 16**, from **5:30-8:00 pm**, and is open to students in grades 8-12 seeking to grow in community and deepen their Catholic faith.

2026 Offertory Envelopes



❖ HOUSEKEEPING

New to our Parish Community?

Welcome to St. Paul's Basilica! If you've recently, or not so recently, joined our parish community, please take a moment to fill out a parish registration form. There are many benefits to registering at the parish. It enables easier and more accurate donation tracking so you receive a tax receipt. It allows us to verify your information if you need a reference or are planning to celebrate or be part of a sacrament in the future. We can even transfer your records to another parish if you move. Forms are available at the back of the church or in the parish office.

Moving / Moved?

If your mailing address has changed we kindly ask that you notify the parish office by phone at 416-364-7588 or email at stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org, so we can ensure our records are up-to-date and there are no delays in issuing tax receipts.

Different Ways to Give

There are many ways to support the parish.

- 1. Envelopes:** To make tracking donations easier, request an assigned donor number and/or pre-printed weekly envelopes. For donation tracking & tax receipts without a donor number **CLEARLY PRINT your full name and address** on the envelope.
- 2. Direct Debit:** Donations can be debited directly from your bank or credit card and directed to a parish or archdiocesan fund.
- 3. Tip Tap:** Simply tap your card on the device amount to donate. For a tax receipt, register your card.
- 4. Securities:** By donating stocks, bonds or mutual funds you can avoid capital gains allowing you to give more.
- 5. Time & Talent:** Donations don't always have to be monetary. Consider volunteering your time or abilities with a parish ministry or event.

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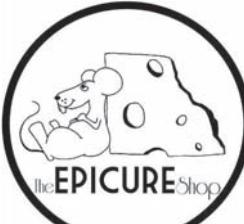
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