



ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822~FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

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Fr. Robert O'Brien
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Sacristan

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Fr. Keith Wallace
In Residence

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 or by appointment

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



Honouring Family in the Midst of Winter

Having a holiday set in the heart of winter has become something of a gift for us in Ontario. It arrives just when the season can feel long and unbroken, offering a pause in the cold months. More importantly, it invites us to reflect on something essential: family. Family lies at the center of our lives. It is often the place where love is learned and tested, where forgiveness is practiced, and where reconciliation becomes possible. It is also the place from which we step out into the wider world. Parents slowly learn the art of letting go, while children grow into adults who walk alongside them, ideally with mutual care and support.

For many of us, family life also carries its share of weight and complexity. There is history, and sometimes hurt, that does not disappear easily. Yet with time, prayer, and honest reflection, we may come to see one another more fully — as human beings striving, imperfectly, toward what is good and true.

When I was young, I gave little thought to the earlier lives of my parents. I did not consider what shaped them or what they carried. My father left school as a teenager to work in a steel mill so his family could survive. Years later, he went off to war. My mother, the eldest child, took on responsibility early, helping to care for her siblings while her own parents struggled through the years of the Great Depression and the Second World War. She later worked for the federal government and, in time, cared for her parents as they aged.

As a child and teenager, all of this felt distant — almost like another world. Now, as I approach my mid-sixties, I realize how close that history truly was. When I was adopted in 1964, the

war had ended less than two decades earlier, and the Depression was not so far behind. How much did my parents endure simply to meet the demands of daily life? More than I ever understood at the time. While I may once have judged them by the standards of a parenting guide, I now see their strength and resilience with much clearer eyes. I only wish I had recognized this while they were still with me. In many ways, I feel closer to them now than ever before.

Each of us has been given sacred time within our families. That time may have been gentle and affirming, or it may have been marked by struggle and challenge — often a mixture of both. Still, it is something we can honour, learn from, and hold with gratitude.

If you are younger and reading this, I encourage you to look more deeply at your parents and caregivers. Try to understand their story. Pray for them. If you are older and reflecting on years gone by, remember that Christ smooths both valleys and hills, and that the path of peace He offers remains a sure hope, even when family life has fallen short of our ideals.

As you enjoy this long weekend, take time to be present to one another. Cherish the moments you share, and give thanks for the love that is offered and received.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 14

4:30 pm ♦ † Rose Yeung

Sunday, February 15

8:30 am ♦ Thanksgiving for Vanier Family

11:00 am ♦ For the People

Tuesday, February 17

5:00 pm ♦ † John Nagy

Wednesday, February 18

5:00 pm ♦ For the People

6:00 pm ♦ For the People

Thursday, February 19

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Friday, February 20

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Parish Collection Summary

	2026	2025	Diff
Feb 1	\$ 4,126	\$ 4,487	↓\$ 361
Feb 8	\$ 2,745	\$ 3,455	↓\$ 710
Feb 15*		\$ 5,995	
Feb 22		\$ 2,405	
Mth Totals	\$ 6,871	\$ 16,342	↓\$ 9,471

*Includes Monthly Pre-Authorized Debit Donations

Upcoming Special Collections

- **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.



Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th

Mass on February 18, 2026 at 5 pm & 6 pm



Lent is a special time of spiritual renewal in the Church which begins on Ash Wednesday. On Wednesday, February 18, the parish will celebrate two Masses, at 5 pm and 6 pm, for the distribution of Ashes. During Lent the Stations of the Cross will be prayed Friday evenings after 5 pm Mass.

Family Day Office Schedule

The parish office will be closed on Monday, February 16th for the Family Day Holiday. Have a wonderful long weekend!



ShareLife Turns 50: Announcing the 2026 ShareLife Campaign

2026 marks the 50th anniversary of ShareLife. As we prepare for our first ShareLife Sunday collection on March 22, let us come together to help reach our Parish Campaign goal and continue supporting young mothers, connecting seniors with resources, fighting hunger, and more. Your support of ShareLife makes all this possible.

New Beginnings Intro Programs

Catholic Family Services of Toronto will be offering two online introductory programs through their New Beginnings Ministries.

» Bereavement Program

Wed. Feb. 25 - Mar 18; 7 - 9 pm

» Separated / Divorced Program

Thu. Feb. 26 - Mar. 18; 7 - 9 pm

To learn more or to register contact Arcangelo Limanni at alimanni@cfstoronto.com

Lift Jesus Higher Rally

March 14, 2026 from 9 am to 5:30 pm; Metro Toronto Convention Centre

Lift Jesus Higher Rally is an annual event focused on evangelization through uplifting music, testimonies, reflections, a Divine Mercy celebration and Eucharistic Adoration. The Adult Rally features inspirational speakers, while the Youth Rally (ages 13-18) offers great music, skits, testimonies and talks. The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Mass will also be available. For details and tickets, visit ljhr.ca.

Silent Women's and Men's Retreat Weekends

Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre, Pickering, ON

Women's Ignatian Retreat: An Experience of Sacred Earth - March 13 - 15, 2026

Discover the rich ecological dimension of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius through prayer, reflection, and contemplation of God as loving Creator and the ever-present Christ as they call for an environmental conversion in this time of global crisis. Together participants will be invited to deepen their relationship with God, one another, and the Earth, in a spirit of trust, gratitude, and joy. All are welcome.

Men's Ignatian Retreat: Soul-Making by Grace - March 20 - 22, 2026

Explore a renewed and hope-filled understanding of purgatory as a place not only of purification, but of growth and healing through God's grace. Through talks, prayer, and reflection, participants will be invited to recognize how God is at work in the ordinary—and sometimes difficult—experiences of daily life, drawing us into deeper awareness of divine love and a more generous response to it.

These SILENT retreat begin Friday evening and run to Sunday with lunch. The suggested offering is \$280 per person which includes two nights' accommodation, meals, spiritual direction and retreat program. For more information or to register visit manresa-canada.ca.

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