

ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822~FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

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Sacristan

Ben Richards
Sacristan

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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

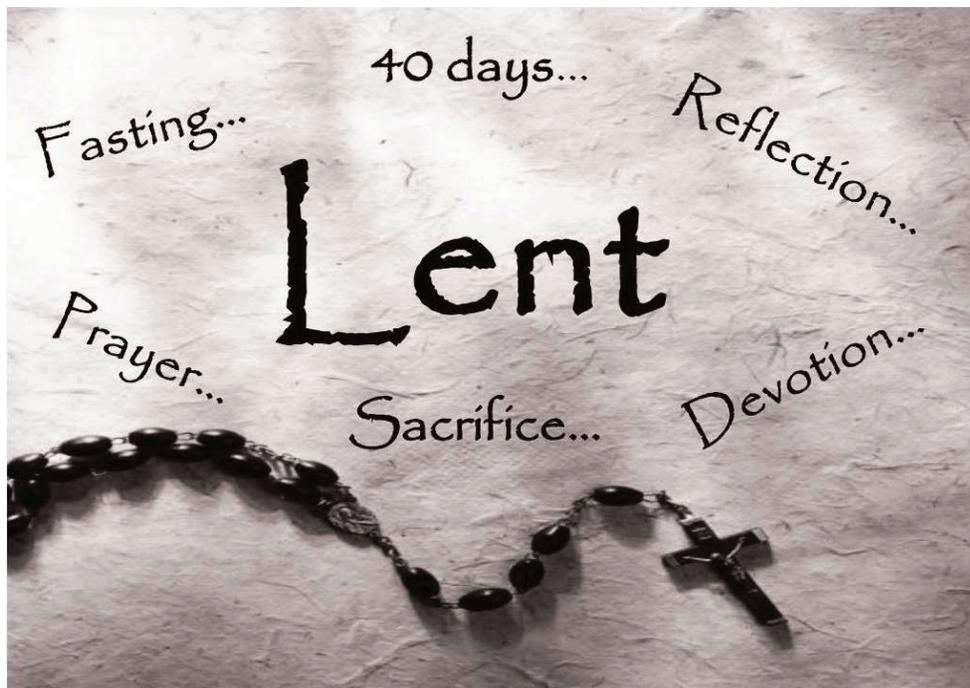
Remaining Rooted in Christ

When the world is in the throes of change and uncertainty, it is easy to feel unsettled. Over the past decade and a half, that personal nervousness has become a more shared experience through the widespread use of social media. It amplifies the good — but it also amplifies our anxieties.

A number of years ago, at my previous parish, I received a phone call while I was out for the morning. My secretary thought it might be an important matter because of who had called. My response surprised her: “I’m going to eat lunch first.” My reasoning, as I explained to her, was simple: if the matter was truly important, it would weigh on my mind while I was eating; and if it was not so important, it could wait until after lunch. As it turned out, the matter was less important than either she or I had thought.

When something truly matters, it is far more effective to act with care than to simply react. With the pace of stimulation we now experience every day, that is much harder in practice. Lent gives us a precious opportunity to slow down and to weigh what is really important. In a world that feels a bit rocky these days, there is an even greater need for steady hands, hearts, and souls.

Just because we live long after Jesus walked the earth does not exempt us from challenging circumstances. The apostles themselves believed that Jesus would usher in an era of peace by driving the Romans out of Judea. Instead, they found themselves navigating the waters of turbulent times.



We are called to embody Christ’s salvation. It is encouraging when we see clear signs that things are moving in a good direction. Equally important, however, is remembering that quietly pouring out our lives in a grounded, faithful way each day can be a sacrifice that bears much good — even when we do not see its effects right away.

While the wider world may seem daunting, nurturing our shared life in the parish and in our families can be the very oxygen we need. Jesus spent the vast majority of His life with a variety of companions. While we often reflect on how His disciples benefited from His ministry and presence, we should also remember that being in the company of others was something deeply natural for Jesus as well.

I suggested in last week’s homily that it could be very fruitful to use what is often called the “Sermon on the Mount” from Gospel of St. Matthew as a daily guide for reflection — specifically chapters 5, 6, and 7. I have also mentioned before that many people have been using the Hallow App, which offers a wide range of guided prayers and reflections that can be helpful as well.

By remaining grounded in Christ, we allow ourselves to be drawn more readily into the divine mystery. May we all have a beautiful and fruitful Lent.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

❖ NOTEWORTHY

Stations of the Cross



The 40 days of Lent is a special time of spiritual renewal in the Church. During Lent the Stations of the Cross will be prayed Friday evenings after 5:00 pm Mass. All are welcome to join in prayer.

February 22, 2026

Lenten Reconciliation Service



Reconciliation Services will take place:

- » Every Saturday from 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm, or by appointment
- » March 21 from 2:30 pm to 4:15 pm
- » March 25 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Lenten Resources

To assist you this Lenten Season please avail yourself of the numerous Lenten resources found on the Archdiocese of Toronto website, www.archtoronto.org/lent. There you will find a Lenten Message from His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo, a variety of Online Retreats and Reflections, Lenten Activities for Families, and much more.



Weekly Mass Intentions

- Saturday, February 21**
4:30 pm ♦ † Preciosa Leonin
- Sunday, February 22**
8:30 am ♦ For the People
11:00 am ♦ Savanna Ryder
- Tuesday, February 24**
5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention
- Wednesday, February 25**
5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention
- Thursday, February 26**
5:00 pm ♦ Fr. Bob O'Brien
- Friday, February 27**
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*	\$ 6,808	\$ 5,995	↑\$ 813
Feb 22		\$ 2,405	
Mth Totals	\$ 13,679	\$ 16,342	↓\$ 2,663

*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.



WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a time of **prayer** and **penance**, when Christ wants to lead us back to our baptismal promises of **dying to sin and of living for God**.

WHEN IS LENT?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues until the afternoon of Holy Thursday. It runs for about 40 days.

WHY 40 DAYS? The "40 days" (not including Sundays) of fasting, prayer, and penitence before Easter reflect Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO DURING LENT?

1. **Turn away from our sins and turn back to God.** Detach from habits and tendencies that are contrary to God's will. Lent is a time of conversion.
2. **Open our hearts to our Father,** so that we may live with Christ for God. Jesus is calling us to be people of praise and prayer, and living signs of his love for all.

"This time of fasting opens the gates of heaven to us. Let us welcome it and pray that when Easter comes we may share the joy of the risen Lord."
LENTEN RESPONSORY

Archdiocese of Toronto www.archtoronto.org
Text from Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' "Living Lent"

This Lent, you are living the Gospel by supporting ShareLife

Lent is a time to open our hearts, to see Christ in those who suffer and to respond with love. When someone in our parish community is struggling—grieving, alone, unsure of where to turn—your gift can transform their life. By supporting ShareLife, you can reach more people, lift more burdens, and remind our brothers and sisters that they are not alone. The first ShareLife Sunday collection is on March 22. Our parish goal this year is **\$55,000**. Please give using a ShareLife envelope or at sharelife.org/donate.

Silent Women's and Men's Ignatian Retreat Weekends

Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre, Pickering, ON

These SILENT retreat begin Friday evening and run to Sunday with lunch. A 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/events/.

- » **Women's Retreat:** An Experience of Sacred Earth - March 13 - 15, 2026
- » **Men's Retreat:** Soul-Making by Grace - March 20 - 22, 2026

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 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

For details and tickets, visit ljhr.ca.

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