

Living the Gospel



"We believe that every human being is unique and priceless. We hold that human life must be respected at every stage of its development from the first mysterious moment of conception to the declining days of advanced age."

– Archbishop Philip Francis Pocock,
A Declaration on Behalf of Life, March 19, 1976

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ShareLife Sunday Collection: March 21/22

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❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Getting Ready for Holy Week

We are now entering the final week of Lent before Holy Week, the most solemn time of the year. While the Easter Bunny may reign supreme in the shops, our focus remains on walking with Christ, Our Lord.

There is a deep richness to this season, and it can begin right in our homes. When you bring your blessed palms home, you might form them into a cross or place them on a crucifix. Though the palms carry something of the starkness of the Passion, they are also a sign of the truth of the salvation we have received through Christ.

Many cultures observe beautiful traditions during these sacred days. On Holy Thursday, some share a meal of lamb, echoing the Passover meal that Jesus shared with His apostles. On Good Friday, it is customary for people to visit several churches in prayer. And when Easter finally arrives, a joyful feast is certainly fitting. You may also have your own family or cultural traditions that help mark these holy days.

The public worship we celebrate together during Holy Week not only expresses our devotion but also helps to conform us more closely to Christ. Next weekend's Palm Sunday liturgy draws us into Jerusalem, where we experience both the adulation

of the crowd and the stark reality of Christ's abandonment. Through it all, He remains faithful in love, entrusting Himself completely to the Father.

If you are able, I encourage you to attend the Chrism Mass on Tuesday of Holy Week at 11:00 a.m. at St. Michael's Cathedral. There, the priests renew their promises, and the holy oils—the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens, and the Sacred Chrism—are blessed and consecrated. These oils will be used throughout the coming year in the sacraments of healing and initiation.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m. on Holy Thursday is the liturgy that gives meaning to all that follows. At the Last Supper, Jesus institutes the Eucharist and begins to reveal the depth of His self-gift as He enters His Passion. We depart in silence, often spending time in prayer at the place of repose, recalling the Garden of Gethsemane.

A profound stillness then settles over us as we enter Good Friday. At the solemn liturgy, celebrated at 1:00 p.m. and again at 3:00 p.m., we hear the Passion according to St. John, venerate the Cross, and receive Holy Communion. Additional opportunities for prayer include the Stations of the Cross at 5:30 p.m. and Tenebrae at 7:30 p.m.,

a moving service rooted in the Office of Readings.

Holy Saturday is marked by silence and waiting. Since Holy Thursday night, the tabernacle stands empty, the sanctuary lamp is extinguished, and the altar remains stripped. We are invited into a deep stillness, watching and waiting.

That silence is finally broken as the Easter Vigil begins with the lighting of a new fire and the Paschal Candle, the first sign of the Resurrection. Our catechumens and candidates will be present as we listen to the great story of salvation, from creation to Christ. Following the homily, the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation will be celebrated. We will then welcome our newly initiated brothers and sisters as they take their place among us and receive the Eucharist for the first time.

I encourage you, if you are able, to enter fully into the celebrations of Holy Week this year. The Lord will surely make it a fruitful and grace-filled time for us all.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

❖ NEWS

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 21

4:30 pm ♦ For the People

Sunday, March 22

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ Chanda & Mark

Tuesday, March 24

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Wednesday, March 25

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Thursday, March 26

5:00 pm ♦ Vincent Deronja

Friday, March 27

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Parish Collection Summary

	2026	2025	Diff
Mar 1	\$ 5,227	\$ 4,404	↑\$ 823
Mar 8	\$ 4,010	\$ 2,344	↑\$ 1,666
Mar 15*	\$ 6,640	\$ 6,500	↑\$ 140
Mar 22		\$ 2,496	
Mar 29		\$ 3,351	
Mth Totals	\$ 15,877	\$ 19,094	↓\$ 3,217

*Includes Monthly Pre-Authorized Debit Donations

Upcoming Special Collections

- **April 3**- Needs of the Church in the Holy Land (Good Friday)
- **April 5**- Easter Sunday
- **April 12**- Preservation Fund
- **April 19**- Youth Summer Activities
- **April 26**- 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.



Lenten Reconciliation Services

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

Holy Thursday / April 2

(No 5:00 pm Mass)

Mass of the Lord’s Supper - 7:30 pm
Adoration until 10:00 pm

Good Friday / April 3

The Lord’s Passion - 1:00 pm & 3:00 pm
Stations of the Cross - 5:30 pm
Tenebrae Service - 7:30 pm

Holy Saturday / April 4

(No 4:30 pm Mass)

Easter Vigil - 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday / April 5

8:30 am & 11:00 am

With a dimly lit church, a rarely seen candle holder, and somber tones, Tenebrae (Latin for “darkness” or “shadows”) is a unique and moving service. Adapted from medieval Roman Catholic practices dating back to the 9th century, it marks the days of Holy Week through Scripture readings, music, and the extinguishing of candles, one by one.

On **Friday, April 3, 2026, at 7:30 pm**, we invite you to experience the Tenebrae service sung by Alumni of the St. Michael’s Choir School, set to music composed by the school’s founder, Msgr. John Edward Ronan. This solemn liturgical service is open to all. A free-will donation will be gratefully accepted.

Celebrating the special Jubilee year of St. Francis



His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has invited all Catholics to mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi with the celebration of a special Jubilee Year. Information regarding our diocesan celebrations may be found in the Latest News section of [‘archtoronto.org’](http://archtoronto.org) or by scanning the QR code.

ShareLife Celebrates 50 Years | ShareLife Sunday is this weekend

Today is ShareLife Sunday. Special collections will be taking place this weekend on March 22. 2026 marks 50 years since Archbishop Philip Pocock made a bold and compassionate decision that would shape our community for generations: the founding of ShareLife. Building on a legacy of charitable giving in the Archdiocese of Toronto that stretches back to 1927, Archbishop Pocock launched ShareLife in 1976—an appeal rooted in the belief that every life matters, at every stage. Today, his vision lives on through more than 40 ShareLife-funded agencies providing unconditional care to people in need—regardless of religion, background, or circumstance and through people like you who make their work happen. Thus far we have raised \$5,000 toward our goal \$55,000. Please give using a ShareLife envelope or at [‘sharelife.org/donate’](http://sharelife.org/donate).



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