

ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822 ~ FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

STAFF

Fr. Robert O'Brien
Pastor

Delmalisa Chilombo
Sacristan

Ben Richards
Sacristan

Micah MacMullen
Youth Minister

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

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✉ 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



Holy Week is Here

Last week, I outlined some of the liturgies of the sacred Paschal Triduum. This week, I would like to offer a few simple suggestions.

The fundamental invitation is this: to accompany Jesus. It may be expressed in small additions to your daily prayer routine:

1. At 3:00 p.m. each day, quietly recite an *Our Father*, recalling the hour at which Jesus breathed His last.
2. Touch the crucifix in your home and offer a brief prayer of thanksgiving.
3. Invite one of the saints closely associated with the Cross to help you enter more deeply into Christ's love—for example, St. Francis of Assisi, St. John of the Cross, St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, or Padre Pio.
4. Keep a simple minute of silence, honouring Christ's sacrifice for us.

This is a marvellous week to invite God to write upon our hearts. The saints often speak of this as “abandonment”—a turning of ourselves over to Christ. Just as He commended Himself to the Father, so we, too, can commend ourselves into His hands.

After Mass on Holy Thursday, we enter into a kind of “Grand Silence.” While this may include an outwardly physical quiet,

it is above all an interior stillness. It is an opportunity to gently set aside those things that distract or interrupt us. This spirit continues until the Easter Vigil reaches the proclamation of the Resurrection—around 9:30 p.m. to be exact, when the New Testament readings begin and the focus turns to the Resurrection and the gift of new life.

And then, it is as though a switch is flipped.

We move from silence to celebration. Our Christian cheer—“Alleluia!”—returns, sung again and again, throughout the eight-day Octave of Easter, and carried forward through the whole of the Easter season. In a land of plenty, we can sometimes lose the depth of true celebration. Perhaps this is a moment to be intentional about with whom we celebrate. The joy of the Resurrection is meant to be shared—so share it!

Christ's first words to the apostles at Easter are: “Peace be with you.”

As we journey with Christ, may we come to that place where His word to us is also, “Peace.”

In Christ,

Fr. Bob

❖ NOTEWORTHY



† Rev. Edward “Ted” Joseph Smith

August 8, 1947 - March 21, 2026

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Father Ted Smith, former Pastor of St. Paul's Basilica, who died peacefully on Saturday, March 21, 2026. He was 78 years old and in his 51st year of the priesthood, having been ordained on May 30, 1975.

Father Ted served as Associate Pastor at St. Paul's Basilica, St. Martin de Porres Parish, and Our Lady of Sorrows Parish. He

later served as Administrator and then Pastor of St. Ambrose Parish, before returning to St. Paul's Basilica as Pastor in 2015, a role he held until his retirement in 2021.

Father Ted was interred at Holy Cross Cemetery in Thornhill on March 25, 2026. Please keep him, and all who mourn his passing, in your prayers. The parish will offer the 11:00 am Mass on April 26, 2026 for the repose of his soul.

March 29, 2026

❖ NEWS

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 28

4:30 pm ♦ † Fr. Ted Smith

Sunday, March 29

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ Health & Safety of
Raymond Keyes

Tuesday, March 31

5:00 pm ♦ † Hilda Tipay Marquez

Wednesday, April 1

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Holy Thursday, April 2

7:30 pm ♦ For the People

Good Friday, April 3

1:00 pm & 3:00 pm ♦ For the People

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	\$ 2,832	\$ 2,496	↑\$ 336
Mar 29		\$ 3,351	
Mth Totals	\$ 18,709	\$ 19,094	↓\$ 385

*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.



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.

Office Closed for Easter Holidays

The parish office will be closed between Thursday, April 2 and Tuesday, April 7. Regular office hours will resume on April 8. Have a blessed Easter long weekend.

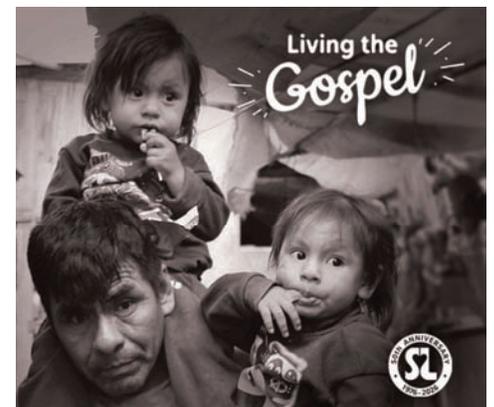
Celebrating the special Jubilee year of St. Francis



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* or by scanning the QR code.

With your support of ShareLife, despair turns into hope

When Eulogio learned his wife was pregnant—not just with one baby, but with twins—his joy multiplied. He dreamed of raising David and Emmanuel with the same love and care he had given his firstborn, determined to provide them with a warm home and a future full of possibility. But then, a devastating accident cost Eulogio his job, leaving his family without a reliable way to put food on the table or keep warm in the bitter cold. The weight of hunger and uncertainty grew heavier each day. Because of your kindness, ShareLife and Canadian Food for Children were able to step in, ensuring this family had food to sustain them. But there are more families in need. With your gift to ShareLife, you can enable more fathers like Eulogio to hold their children close and carry the strength to face tomorrow. Please give using a ShareLife envelope or at sharelife.org/donate.



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

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