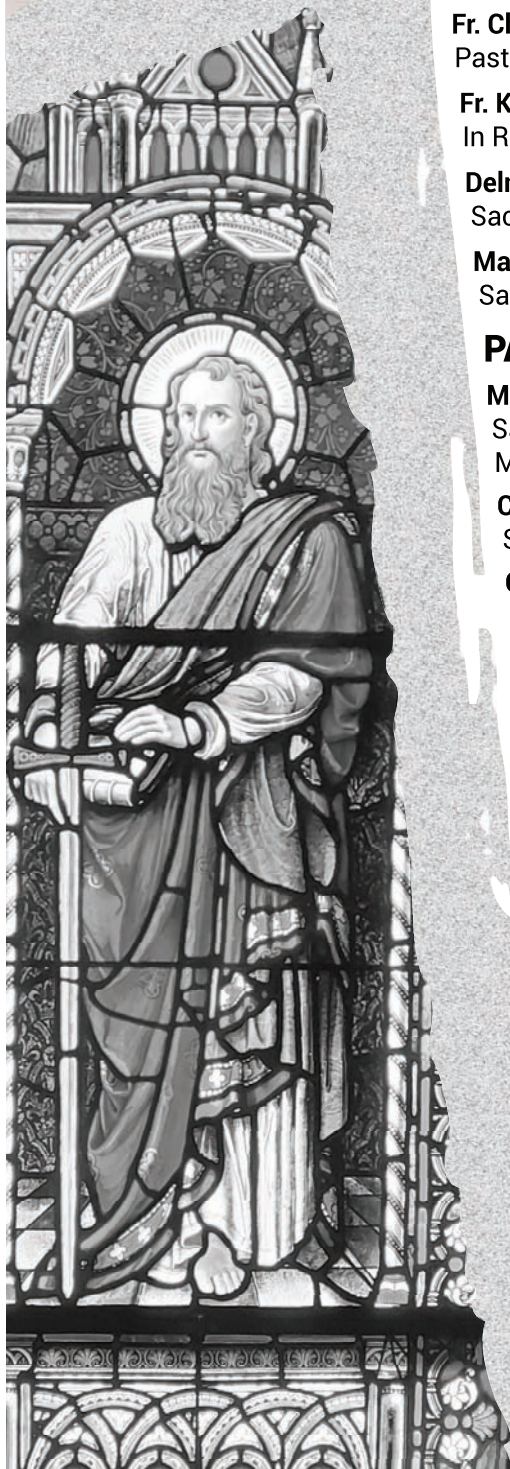




ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822~FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

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Fr. Charles Forget
Pastor

Fr. Keith Wallace
In Residence

Delmalisa Chilombo
Sacristan

Mareike Achenbach
Sacristan

Lynett Wilson
Office Manager

Jason Lo
Bookkeeper

Rodney Llamera
Custodian

Joseph Angelo
Music Director

Allison Angelo
Cantor

Andrea Cerswell
11 am Choir Lead

PARISH SCHEDULE

Mass Times

Saturday: 4:30 pm ♦ Sunday: 8:30 am and 11:00 am

Monday: No Mass ♦ Tuesday: 7:00 pm ♦ Wednesday to Friday: 8:30 am

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.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

St. Paul's Catholic Elementary School; ☎ (416) 393-5204

Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services; ☎ (416) 733-8544

❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

The Mystical Eucharistic Experience of a Catholic Priest Video

Last Sunday, I mentioned in my homily the viral video about the story of an American diocesan priest in Minnesota, Fr. Brent Bowman, who had an experience during the Eucharistic prayer that left him weeping for some time during the consecration of the Blood of Christ at a Mass in the parish church for the Chesterton Academy school next door. As Fr. Bowman was holding the chalice and began to say the words of consecration, he began to weep and tremble, and you could see his hand shaking. It was all he could do to hold the chalice and when he had completed the words of consecration, he set the chalice of the Blood of Christ on the altar, genuflected and remained in a kneeling position behind the altar as he tried to regain his composure.

A few days later, Fr. Bowman explained in a letter what had happened.

“To clarify up front, my experience was NOT what the Catholic Church considers a “Eucharistic miracle.” The forms of bread and wine retained their accidents (i.e., their appearance and taste) during this entire experience. Never did I see real blood or human flesh with my eyes.

My experience was this:

During the consecration prayer over the wine at the altar, as I spoke the words, I was given what I believe to be internal knowledge of the power of these words being spoken and the reality of their effect to the point that I had difficulty speaking. With each word, I became more physically overwhelmed as seen in the video. At the same time, I was given sensory knowledge of the weight of God’s power coming down upon the altar, and I felt the heaviness of Jesus’s substantial presence in the chalice in my hands. The chalice became too heavy to hold as I felt it pulled down to rest upon the altar. I felt my hands fixed to the chalice of the Precious Blood, and I could not physically move it. Attempting to elevate the Precious Blood, which I was not able to do for a period of time, I believe I was given grace to understand more deeply the bittersweetness of Our Lord’s Passion and how much blood Christ shed for the immense weight of all our sins. I believe I experienced this weight in the chalice. This spiritual

experience emotionally and physically overwhelmed me as evident in the Mass recording. Lastly, private spiritual encounters with God like these are completely unmerited gifts and signs of God’s abundant love for all his people. They are not necessarily signs of any person’s holiness.

I pray this brief testimony moves all our hearts to contemplate more deeply the mysteries of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and the Precious Blood.”

As Fr. Bowman mentioned in his statement letter on his personal mystical Eucharistic experience, his physical manifestations are not necessarily signs of his holiness or any special merit on his part. Catholic teaching on private revelation holds that the faithful are not bound to believe another person’s experience because it is just that – personal. While those who watch the video may see Fr. Bowman emotionally moved both in a portion of his homily and at the consecration of the Blood of Christ, outside of what he has told us above, we didn’t experience what he did. The revelation and the experience were his and his alone, outside of what he told us he experienced. Sometimes you will hear people on talk radio claim that there is no such thing as revelation because none of us saw Jesus, which is flatly false. God is known, and everything we know about God, He Himself has made known and revealed to the world. Religion is often portrayed as somehow going from man to God – and this could happen. But true religion, as found in the Catholic Church, goes from God to man. Christ revealed Himself as the long-awaited Messiah. He showed, largely in his three-year public ministry, that He was God by what He said, did, taught, and the signs He showed, the miracles He performed, and the authority with which He spoke. These were the proofs that He was God in the flesh.

When someone has a private revelation which may or may not be from God, you have to believe the person actually saw what they saw. But with Christ, you believe the Source of all revelation – Jesus Himself. I believe Fr. Bowman’s experience is both true for him and for us all. Jesus, in the Eucharist, is for real. (Fr. Charles)

❖ NOTEWORTHY

First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion Registration

Catholic parents seeking the sacraments of First Reconciliation (confession) and First Holy Communion are invited to a Parent Information/Registration meeting at St. Paul’s on **Saturday, October 17th, at 3 pm** in the parish hall. Parents will receive information about the sacraments and register their children for both at the same time.

The 4 classes will be held on specific Saturdays in October and into November. Parents are asked to bring to the meeting:

- A copy of your child’s Catholic baptism certificate (not the original) is required. Registration is not possible without proof of baptism.
- A completed Registration Form (available at the back of the church)
- A \$50 donation to St. Paul’s Basilica helps us to defray costs.

Please be advised that only children with a Catholic baptismal certificate are eligible for the sacraments in the Catholic Church. For any questions, please call the parish office.

September 27, 2026

Save the Date - October 20th

The well known Canadian statue of Our Lady of the Cape (Cap de Madelaine) will be on tour in the month of October (the month of the Most Holy Rosary) and will be coming here to St. Paul’s Basilica on Thursday, October 20. Further information will be given when we receive specific times for the Mass, the Rosary and the Crowning of the statue. The Our Lady of the Cape is a historic image kept at Canada’s national shrine in Cap-de-la-Madeleine in Quebec. In 1888 the image of Our Lady demonstrated a miracle when its eyes appeared to open.

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 26

4:30 pm ♦ † Sr. Eileen Power, CND

Sunday, September 27

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ † George L. Knapp

Tuesday, September 29

7:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Wednesday, September 30

8:30 am ♦ Private Intention

Thursday, October 1

8:30 am ♦ † Clarissa Fabros

Friday, October 2

8:30 am ♦ Private Intention

Parish Collection Summary

	2026	2025	Diff
Sep 6	\$ 4,326	\$ 4,950	↓\$ 624
Sep 13	\$ 4,077	\$ 3,458	↑\$ 620
Sep 20*	\$ 6,649	\$ 6,194	↑\$ 455
Sep 27		\$ 3,446	
Mth Totals	\$ 8,403	\$ 18,048	↓\$ 2,996

* Includes Monthly Pre-Authorized Debit Donations

Upcoming Special Collections

- **September 27** - Needs of the Canadian Church
- **October 4** - Indigenous Healing & Reconciliation
- **October 11** - Preservation Fund

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.



Thanksgiving Food Drive Ongoing until October 11, 2026

Until October 11, the parish will be collecting non-perishable food on behalf of the Good Shepherd, who help provide meals for the homeless and at-risk individuals in our community. Most needed are canned foods such as tuna, tomatoes, tomato sauce, beans, soups and vegetables. Dry goods needed include cereal, granola bars, bagged rice, condiments, tea and coffee. Boxes for food will be available at the front of the church through thanksgiving weekend. You can also donate financially by visiting goodshepherd.ca/donate.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The RCIA program welcomes non-Catholic adults curious about the Catholic faith, offering baptism or full reception for those baptized in a different Christian denomination. It also supports baptized Catholics seeking deeper faith understanding and Sacraments like Eucharist, Reconciliation, or Confirmation. Participants meet weekly for prayer, inquiry, learning about God's love and the Catechism, leading to Sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Contact Fr. Charles via the parish office for more information.

Indigenous Healing & Reconciliation Fund Collection

October 3/4, 2026 Special Collection

As part of our ongoing commitment to support healing and reconciliation, the Archdiocese of Toronto has made a commitment to provide funds in support of programs and initiatives that respond to the various needs that exist among Indigenous Peoples both locally and throughout the country.

The Indigenous Healing & Reconciliation fund is part of a national effort announced by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. To date, the fund has raised more than 86% of its \$30 million target as pledged by the Canadian bishops and dioceses throughout Canada. The archdiocese has allocated \$4.5 million of its \$6 million pledge to charitable initiatives supporting healing and reconciliation. The collection on the weekend of October 3/4 provides an opportunity for the faithful to contribute to this important initiative. For more information or to donate online please visit: archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation. Thank you for your generosity!

Altar Linen Ministry

The parish is currently looking for volunteers who enjoy washing and ironing to assist with the weekly laundering of linens used during Mass. Training on the proper procedures for handling the linens will be provided. If you are interested in helping, please contact the parish office or speak with Fr. Charles after Mass.

Join The Knights of Columbus

If you want to help those in need, serve our parish, grow in faith, or get exclusive insurance for your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you. Join Council 1388 for free at ontariokofc.ca, enter 1388 as your preferred council. More info at kofc.org or contact Gian at gian.a.mele@gmail.com.

Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services Pre-Planning Seminar

October 24, 2026, at 9 am; Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery & Funeral Home, Thornhill

Planning ahead is one of the most thoughtful and compassionate decisions you can make for your family. Join us for an informative seminar designed to help you understand your options and make confident, faith-informed decisions.

Learn about:

- Funeral and burial options
- Planning in advance to ease burden on loved ones
- Catholic teachings on cremation
- Flexible payment options (including 0% financing options)

You must RSVP to attend at 905-889-7467 ext. 1 or by email at holycrossinquiry@cc-fs.ca

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