



ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822~FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

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Sacristan

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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

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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

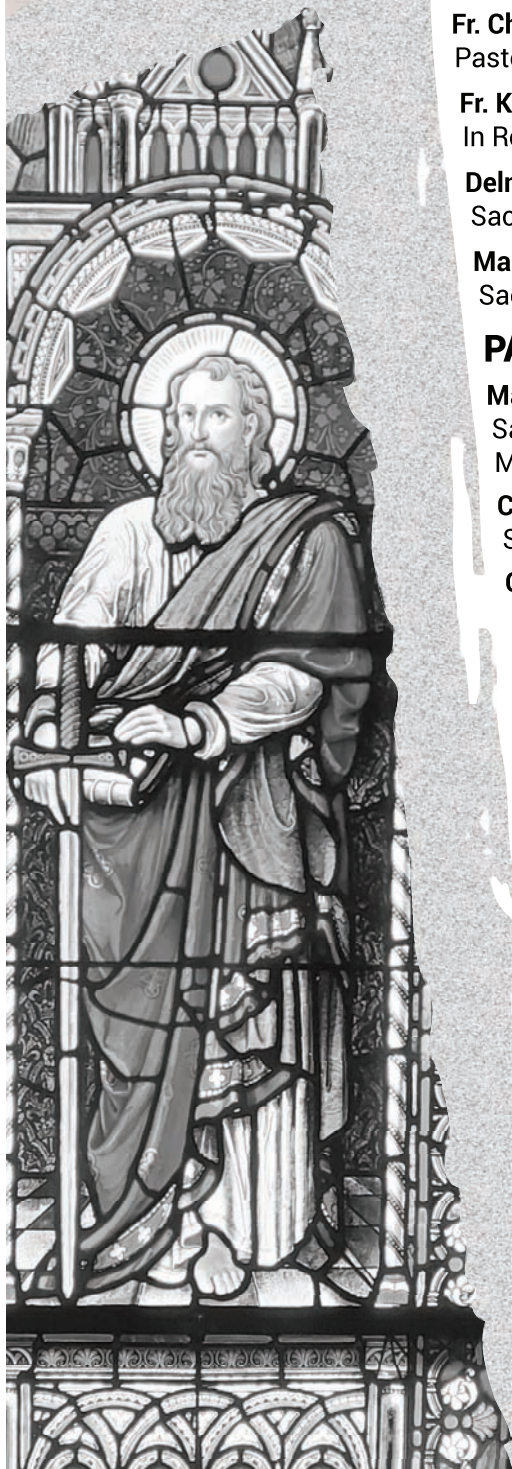
To begin donating via Weekly Offertory Envelopes or Pre-Authorized Monthly Direct Debit, please contact the parish office.

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.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

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

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



❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

A Formidable Weapon: The Rosary



At a time when it seems everything gets its special day, week or even month, October has long since been the month when special emphasis has been placed on focus of

the Rosary as a form of prayer in the Church for Catholics and all Christians. It seems almost too simple to be powerful and yet, as never before, Catholic exorcists, one by one, are calling people to pray the Rosary every day, for in the face of evil, trouble, discord or any calamity, the 'Beads', as they have often affectionately been called, have such a power of intercession.

The Rosary originally began with 150 beads for 150 Our Father's in imitation of the number of Psalms in the Bible. Then they were used to say 150 Hail Mary's, and then the mysteries of the life of Christ were added and the Rosary, largely under the Dominicans, became how we know it and use it every day.

I call it chain-driven prayer. A series of beads strung together, beginning with a crucifix, some initial prayers and then five Our Father's leading five sets (decades) of the Hail Mary, each culminating with the Glory-Be and the Fatima prayer. The final prayer, Hail Holy Queen completes this beautiful and rhythmic chain of prayer. The Rosary is also used today to pray the Divine Mercy, another power prayer tool and prayer form, with special emphasis on the great mercy of God that is so timely and specific to our time, this time in history when that powerful mercy is so desperately needed, though we certainly do not deserve it. Through the revelations of Jesus to St. Faustina the world has both been told that God chooses to be merciful to us sinners but also warns that this time of His great mercy will end. Therefore, we are given a tremendous grace to respond to God by turning away from our sins in repentance and running to and abiding in that great mercy that is beyond all price.

The Rosary can be prayed alone, as it most often is all around the world, day or night, or it can be prayed as a group, in teams, aloud or in silence. If you cannot sleep it is a positive way to pray for the world, the Church, the country or your family and friends and the myriad needs in all our lives. I have personally always preferred to pray the Rosary alone as I can take time to actually stop and reflect on each of the mysteries in the various sets of mysteries, originally the Sorrowful, the Joyful and the Glorious, but now, since St. John Paul II, we have also the Luminous Mysteries.

It's interesting to note that while it is mainly Catholics who are associated with the prayer of the Rosary, many other Christians have adopted as part of their prayer life and, in fact, a beautiful book about the Rosary was written by a British Methodist minister, Neville Ward, called, Five For Sorrow, Ten For Joy, first published in 1971. This book looks at the long-held practice of the Rosary which has come out of the worldwide use of beads to mark prayer:

"Since earliest times Christians have used pebbles, a string of knots, or beads on a cord to keep track of their prayers, and prayer beads can be found in virtually every major religious tradition in the world. Anglicans and other Protestants have also begun to use the rosary to help refresh a life of prayer--it creates a rhythm that helps wean us from our distractions and focus our attention so that we can more readily move into God's presence. As the beads and prayers recede into the background, the mysteries that make up the rosary come into our minds and hearts like religious pictures or icons."

I often personally have found the Rosary to be an instrument of peace as the rhythm of the prayers brings calm whether prayed in the midst of a busy, noisy day or in the still of the night. Often enough, particularly over the past two and a half years of not only the pandemic but all that is not good which continues to pour out from it and continues into the day-to-day of our unfolding and seemingly godless future, I have found such great solace in praying the Rosary, often awakened in the middle of the night or, mysteriously enough, just before 3 am, to get up and pray. If you desire heaven, heaven will tap you on the shoulder, gently awaken you, and instruct your heart to pray for the much that is the needs of this weary world and often enough, our own weariness in it. For prayer is not just something to do but in fact is everything and the answer to every situation, particularly when we wonder what we as individuals can do in such overwhelming circumstances.



I have two dogs but once had three. Sometimes when I'd pray the Rosary, I'd slowly walk through the house from room to room on the main floor of the rectory while two of my dogs take up a position and place of sleep in one of the rooms. But not Finnigan, my now 9-year-old Shephard/Beagle mix. He follows me. Sometimes I will feel a wet ball being pushed into my hand by his mouth, gently calling me to play instead of pray, but he soon stops and just wanders from room to room and down the hall behind me as I hold my Combat Rosary in my hand and pray either aloud or in silence. In the picture (right) you can see a statue of the Blessed Mother holding Jesus and a Rosary while St. Dominic looks on, along with a dog, sitting, looking at Jesus.

And just when you might think this article on the Most Holy Rosary has 'gone to the dogs', it serves as a reminder that the Rosary is really the ordinary which leads to the extraordinary, and a dog so fittingly depicts this everyday sort of ordinariness with the extraordinary that is Jesus and His Mother. If you are a Catholic who has heard about the Rosary all your life but never took it up as a powerful form of prayer, I urge, with the Church – Pray the Rosary (Fr. Charles)

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 3

4:30 pm ♦ † Ken Perry

Sunday, October 4

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ † Michael Puk

Tuesday, October 6

7:00 pm ♦ † Sr. Eileen Power, CND

Wednesday, October 7

8:30 am ♦ Private Intention

Thursday, October 8

8:30 am ♦ Private Intention

Friday, October 9

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	\$ 2,998	\$ 3,446	↓\$ 448
Mth Totals†	\$ 18,050	\$ 18,048	↑\$ 2

* Includes Monthly Pre-Authorized Debit Donations

† This month, in response to our current financial position, the parish received several one-time donations totaling more than \$8,000. These donations have not been included in the above totals so as not to affect next year's comparison. We are very grateful for the generosity and support of those who made these donations.

Upcoming Special Collections

- **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.

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.

Office Holiday Schedule

The parish office will be closed Friday, October 9th and Monday, October 12th for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Have a wonderful long weekend!

Statue Tour Stop Cancellation

The planned October 20th tour stop at St. Paul's for the Canadian statue of Our Lady of the Cape has unfortunately been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

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!

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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