

# ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822 ~ FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

83 Power Street, Toronto, Ontario M5A 3A8 Phone: 416-364-7588

E-mail: [stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org](mailto:stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org) • Website: [stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org](http://stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org)

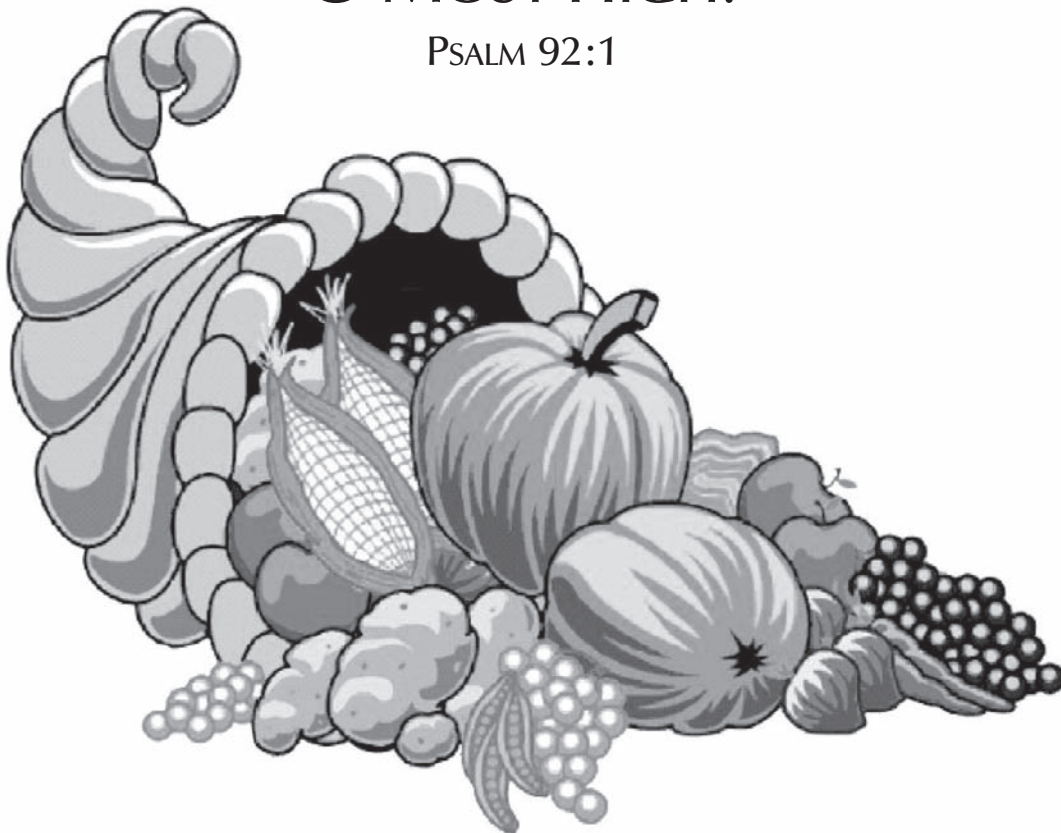
Fr. Charles Forget: Pastor

## Mass Times

Saturday: 4:30 pm Sunday: 8:30 am & 11:00 am  
Monday: No Mass Tuesday: 7:00 pm Wednesday to Friday: 8:30 am

IT IS GOOD TO GIVE THANKS  
TO THE LORD,  
TO SING PRAISES TO YOUR NAME,  
O MOST HIGH!

PSALM 92:1



A Happy Thanksgiving  
to you all!

## ❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

### 'The Times, They Are A Changing'

In 1964, singer Bob Dylan wrote and sang the song *'The Times They Are A-Changing'*. That song became popular when I was just 5 years old, yet I'd have to say that I have not witnessed as much sweeping and rapid change in all my life as I have in the past decade.

We all know and experience the reality that with the passing of time comes change – in our bodies and in our minds, in our families and neighbourhoods, and all around us. But in most cases, the change that comes with our own growth is subtle. However, the changes I am speaking about are anything but subtle and, in fact, are more in-your-face changes that have come upon the world in rapid succession.

So often, when people speak of a perceived threat from a new idea, particularly one with moral and ethical implications, they refer to the slippery slope, which holds that one thing leads to another and that passive acceptance of a relatively small thing can eventually lead to the realization of a larger issue, possibly even if the major change wasn't intended or foreseen. So often, though, we do see the eventual reality of what implementing one thing will lead to and can therefore speak out against it. The changes I speak of are so well known and so visible, and have come along with such great speed that one could hardly believe they are now a present part of our world.

We can see how the slippery slope of the sexual revolution of the sixties has led to the high and growing divorce rate, which has also spurred the idea that if marriage is disposable, then so are children, even when they are most vulnerable in the womb. Worldwide, from January 1st of this year to today – Tuesday, October 6, 2026 as I write this bulletin article, people have opted to kill their children in the womb to a total of 34 million and counting, roughly two children per second. It remains unseen and largely unspoken of, and when it is referred to by our politicians, entertainers and media, they use other words to cleanse and sanitize it, like "women's health care" or "reproductive rights", etc. Murder, too, now has many different names, it would seem.

In Canada we have been faced with the specter of Euthanasia which, our then Cardinal Archbishop, Thomas Collins, called a coming "Maelstrom". At a Mass held on May 12, 2022 at Ottawa's Notre Dame Cathedral, during his homily, His Eminence mentioned Edgar Allan Poe's story *"The Descent into the Maelstrom"*, wherein is described a great whirlpool that sweeps to destruction at the bottom of the sea anyone unfortunate to be caught in it, as a fitting image for the current situation on Doctor-Assisted Suicide in Canada (M.A.I.D.) The Cardinal said that, "On February 2015 the Supreme Court tossed out prohibitions against assisted suicide and euthanasia, saying that such prohibitions "unjustifiably infringe" Charter rights (section 7) of the individual, which are the rights to "life, liberty and security of the person."

Four years ago, our then Cardinal Collins called euthanasia not only "evil," but a "scourge," warning that Canadians "need only look to the countries of western Europe that have gone before us down this dark path to see what is in store."

All of the aforementioned issues, which pose a real threat to the world as we know it, are not signs of progress but a great and real regression into a society without God. It disguises itself as being all-embracing and accepting of persons but in reality, shouts, "God, we don't want you nor do we acknowledge you."

I will close with this sobering and eventual outcome that is the result of humans ignoring or changing God's laws:

*"And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind and to things that should not be done. They were filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice. They know God's decree, that those who practice such things deserve to die—yet they not only do them but even applaud others who practice them."*  
(Rm. 1:28-29a,32)

Cardinal Frank Leo, who became a Cardinal in 2023 and the Archbishop of Toronto, wrote this year in a letter to the participants in the annual March For Life in Ottawa 2026: The call of Christ is not a suggestion among many; it is a summons that demands a response of the whole person – mind, heart, and will (Mt 22:37) 'This has profound implications for issues such as abortion, in vitro fertilization (IVF), artificial conception, and euthanasia. Each reflects a broader cultural tendency to place human control at the center of life's beginning and end (Evangelium Vitae, 22). Abortion asserts a right to decide whether a life is worthy of continuing (CCC 2270; Didache, 2, 2). IVF, while often motivated by a deep desire for children, treats human life as a product rather than a gift to be received (Donum Vitae, II.B.5) and tears asunder the miracle of life (cf. Maximus, Ambiguum, 42). Artificial birth control denies a crucial dimension of the profound meaning of married sexuality and harms the unity the couple is called to nourish, as it undermines the total, mutual gift of two persons in its integrity, separating, as it were, the unitive and procreative ends of marriage. Euthanasia (M.A.I.D.) presents death as a solution to suffering, suggesting that some lives are no longer worth living (Iura et Bona, II; CCC 2277).

Last Sunday, the Gospel presented the Church with Jesus' parable about the vineyard, given to God's people yet squandered through sinful lives, and how their love of life wasn't a love for all life. In my homily, I addressed the sanctity of life, all life under God, and the fact that the Bible makes clear that our lives don't belong to us – they belong to God. I spoke of both abortion and M.A.I.D. in what St. John Paul II called a 'culture of death'. I shared a story from one of the Sisters of Life, Sister Bethany Madonna, speaking at the U.S. March for Life a few years ago and a heartening story of how one woman, who wasn't herself open to abortion but told the Sisters that she would never try to dissuade another woman from having one, and how this same woman through her pregnancy with her own child, persuaded another woman who was planning to abort her child, to have her 'girl' and call her after her own name. At all three Masses, a few people walked out as I gave the homily. Yes, the 'culture of death' has captured many. (Fr. Charles)

## Weekly Mass Intentions

**Saturday, October 10**

4:30 pm ♦ Thanksgiving for the  
Pinto Family

**Sunday, October 11**

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ † Susana Noboa

**Tuesday, October 13**

7:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

**Wednesday, October 14**

8:30 am ♦ Private Intention

**Thursday, October 15**

8:30 am ♦ Private Intention

**Friday, October 16**

8:30 am ♦ Private Intention

## Parish Collection Summary

|            | 2026     | 2025      | Diff       |
|------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Oct 4      | \$ 5,300 | \$ 3,417  | ↑\$ 1,883  |
| Oct 11     |          | \$ 4,198  |            |
| Oct 18*    |          | \$ 6,361  |            |
| Oct 25     |          | \$ 3,489  |            |
| Mth Totals | \$ 5,300 | \$ 17,465 | ↓\$ 12,165 |

\*Includes Monthly Pre-Authorized Debit Donations

### Upcoming Special Collections

- **October 11** - Preservation Fund
- **October 18** - World Mission Sunday
- **November 1** - 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](http://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.



## Tallis Choir: Music for the Mysteries of the Rosary

**Saturday, October 17, at 7:30 pm; St. Paul's Basilica**

On October 17, St. Paul's will host the Tallis Choir as they open their 50th season with an exploration of the mysteries of the Rosary, as interpreted by great masters of the Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century. Visit [tallischoir.com](http://tallischoir.com) for information and ticket sales.

## 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 on Monday, October 12th for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Have a wonderful long weekend!



## Young Adult Ministry Event

Our next *Young Adult* event will take place on **October 15th at 6:30 pm**. We invite those aged 19 to 39 (or those young at heart!) to join us in prayer, fellowship, and faith discussion. For information on upcoming events, use the QR code to join our WhatsApp group.



## Upcoming Special Collections

### World Mission Sunday

The World Mission Sunday collection will be on **October 17 & 18**. This is a worldwide collection for the missionary church and it is our opportunity to assist at-need Catholic Communities globally.

### Parish Preservation Fund

Our monthly Preservation Fund collections will be held this weekend, **October 10 & 11** and **October 31 & November 1**. This collection helps cover the ongoing maintenance needed to preserve and care for our beautiful Basilica, ensuring it remains open and welcoming to all.

We thank you in advance for your support, generosity and continued commitment.



## 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](mailto:holycrossinquiry@cc-fs.ca)

**27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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