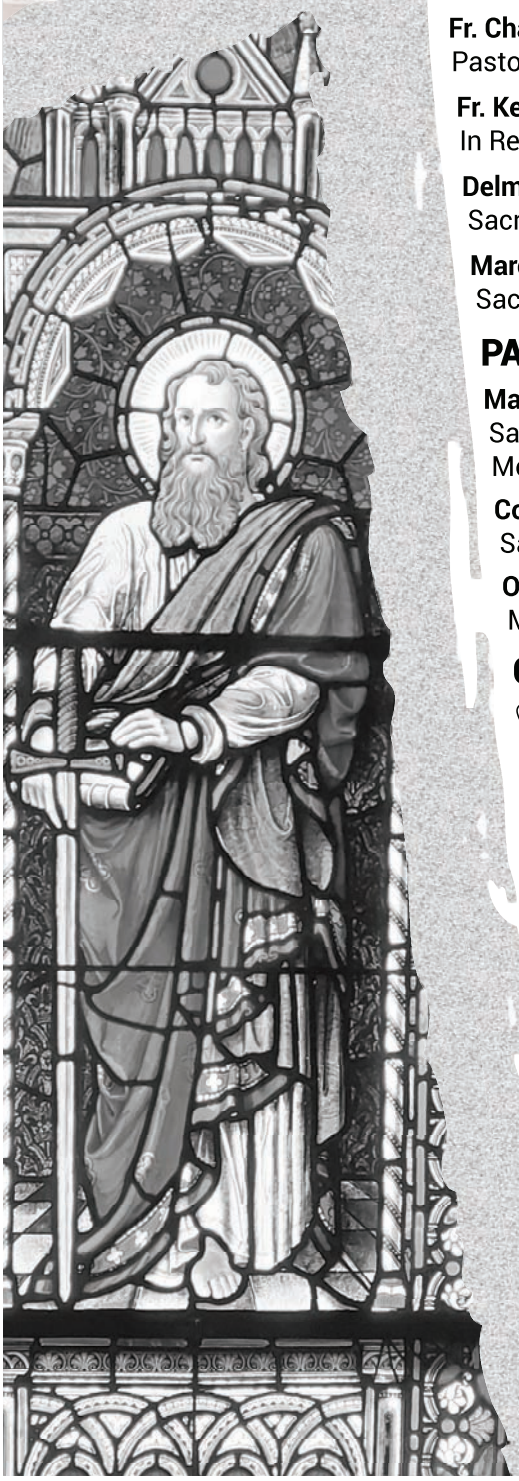




St. Paul's Basilica

Est. 1822~First Catholic Parish in Toronto

STAFF

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

Praying for the Dead

The Sacrifice for the Dead

Many Christians might believe that there are no biblical references supporting praying for those who have died, thinking it would be futile since their lives are over and they will be judged based on their actions in the body. In other words, 'It's too late for them." However, two books in the Catholic and Orthodox Bibles, 1 Maccabees and 2 Maccabees, address the topic of praying for the dead. Protestant scholars do not consider these books and five others as inspired, viewing them as having historical value but not including them in the canon of Scripture. Nonetheless, it is both fascinating and explicit that the Bible does support the teaching that we should and must pray for the dead, as shown in the Second Book of Maccabees, 12:32-46. It recounts a battle where the Lord heard Judas' prayer to God for help, resulting in only a few Jews being killed. When Judas and his soldiers went to gather and bury the slain, they found that some had amulets hidden under their tunics—images of pagan idols, which were, of course, forbidden for the Jewish people to wear. Judas understood that these men fell because they had betrayed their trust in the God of Israel, who would grant them victory over their enemies. They praised and thanked the Lord for His intervention, recognizing that the Lord had revealed His knowledge to them—knowledge He already possessed as God. God sees and knows all. So, what did they do in response? They prayed for God's forgiveness for the souls of those Jews who had betrayed God and sinned against Him by relying on false, pagan gods.

Why would they do this? Why pray to God for His forgiveness for those who had died? Were they not already judged in the sense that God permitted their deaths on the battlefield because they relied on false idols instead of the One God the Jews worshipped? And if this praying for the dead Jews who were slain in battle by the enemy went against God, why would they think God would forgive them, let alone listen to their prayers that He do so through Judas and his men? No. It was not offensive to God that they prayed and interceded for those who had sinned and died in their sin.

"After the feast called Pentecost, they lost no time in marching against Gorgias, governor of Idumea, who opposed them with three-thousand foot soldiers and four-hundred horsemen. In the ensuing battle, a few of the Jews were slain.

A man called Dositheus, a powerful horseman and one of Bacenor's men, caught hold of Gorgias, grasped his military cloak and dragged him along by main strength, intending to capture the vile wretch alive, when a Thracian horseman attacked Dositheus and cut off his arm at the shoulder. Then Gorgias fled to Marisa. After Esdris and his men had been fighting for a long time and were weary, Judas called upon the Lord to show himself their ally and leader in the battle. Then, raising a battle cry in his ancestral language, and with songs, he charged Gorgias' men when they were not expecting it and put them to flight.

Judas rallied his army and went to the city of Adullam. As the week was ending, they purified themselves according to custom and kept the sabbath there. On the following day, since the task had now become urgent, Judas and his men went to gather up the bodies of the slain and bury them with their kinsmen in their ancestral tombs. But under the tunic of each of the dead they found amulets sacred to the idols of Jamnia, which the law forbids the Jews to wear. So it was clear to all that this was why these men had been slain.

They all therefore praised the ways of the Lord, the just judge who brings to light the things that are hidden. Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out. The noble Judas warned the soldiers to keep themselves free from sin, for they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen. He then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

Judas Maccabeus led the Jewish people in war against their enemies and, as noted above, recognized that their great victory was due to God, not their own efforts. Judas, as leader, instructed his soldiers after the battle not to give in to sin, mindful of those fallen Jews who had trusted in pagan idols (the wearing of amulets) and had died. Yet, even for those who had been killed for offending God, could and should be prayed for. They collected money to send for a sacrifice to be made on behalf of the dead. Today, at every Mass, we pray for the dead, both for those who died as Christians believing in Jesus and for all those whose "faith is known to God alone". *(Fr. Charles)*

A Prayer for Someone Who Has Died

Lord, I give You (name). You knew them before I did, and You love them more than I could. Thank You for the years You gave us, for everything they were to me, and for the ways they showed me Your love. Forgive them whatever needs forgiving, and bring them home to Your presence, where there are no more tears. Give them rest, and give me hope that I will see them again. Amen.

A Prayer for a Mother or Father Who Died

Father in heaven, I pray for my mother (or father), (name), who gave me life and raised me. Thank You for their love, their sacrifices and even their failings, which made me who I am. Receive them into Your mercy, and let them rest in Your peace until the day we meet again. Amen.

A Prayer for Someone Who Just Died

Lord, (name) died today. I can't take it in yet. Please receive them with mercy and let them rest in peace. Be with everyone who loved them tonight, especially the ones who were there at the end. And help me get through the next few days. Amen.

A Prayer for a Child Who Died

Father, my child (name) is with You now, and I don't know how to live with that. Hold them for me. Keep them safe and at peace with You. When I can't find any words, please take my tears as my prayer. Amen.

❖ News

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 31
4:30 pm ♦ † Jullianne Gabriel

Sunday, November 1
8:30 am ♦ All Saints / For the People
11:00 am ♦ All Saints / For the People

Monday, November 2
7:00 pm ♦ All Souls of the Faithful Departed

Tuesday, November 3
7:00 pm ♦ † Mary Ann Meagher-O'Neill

Wednesday, November 4
8:30 am ♦ Private Intention

Thursday, November 5
8:30 am ♦ Private Intention

Friday, November 6
8:30 am ♦ Private Intention

Parish Collection Summary

	2026	2025	Diff
Oct 4	$ 5,300	$ 3,417	↑$ 1,883
Oct 11	$ 4,868	$ 4,198	↑$ 670
Oct 18*	$ 6,238	$ 6,361	↓$ 122
Oct 25	$ 3,407	$ 3,489	↓$ 82
Mth Totals ‡	$ 19,813	$ 17,465	↑$ 2,348

** Includes Monthly Pre-Authorized Debit Donations*

‡ In response to our current financial position, the parish received several one-time donations totaling more than $5,000 this month. These are excluded from the above totals to preserve next year's comparison. We are very grateful for the generosity and support of these donors.

Upcoming Special Collections

- ***November 15*** - Shepherds' Trust Fund
- ***December 6*** - 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.

Daughters of St. Paul Book Fair

November 7 & 8, 2026, at each Mass



The Daughters of St. Paul will visit our parish next weekend, November 7 & 8, before and after all Masses, with a display of Catholic books and faith formation resources to help you and your family grow in faith. Come out and meet the sisters as they share their mission of communicating Christ with their lives and with all forms of media.

The Daughters of St. Paul are based in Toronto and operate the Pauline Books & Media Centre. To learn more about them or place a special order, visit *paulinestore.ca* or call 416-781-9131. We invite you to stop by and meet the sisters!

Upcoming Special Collections

Shepherds' Trust

The annual Shepherds' Trust collection will be held ***November 14 & 15.*** This collection supports the needs of elderly and disabled priests so they can lead a dignified life after many years of ministry.



Parish Preservation Fund

Our next monthly Preservation Fund collection will be held on ***December 5 & 6.*** 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.

❖ Noteworthy

Fr. Charles' Installation & Welcome Reception

November 1st, 2026 at the 11:00 am Mass

Join us this Sunday, November 1, 2026, as we welcome Bishop Kasun for the official installation of Fr. Charles Forget as the new Pastor of St. Paul's Basilica!

Following the 11:00 a.m. Installation Mass, all parishioners are warmly invited to the parish hall for light refreshments and a welcome reception. We look forward to celebrating this joyous occasion with you!

Offertory Envelope Boxes & Donation Numbers

We are beginning preparations for the 2027 offertory envelope boxes. Many parishioners regularly use the pink or blue guest envelopes in the pews. If this applies to you, consider registering for numbered offertory envelopes or a parish donation number. This makes it easier to record your donations and issue year-end tax receipts, while saving you from writing your name and address each week. Contact the office or fill out a parishioner registration form found near the entrances.

All Souls Day & Praying for Our Beloved Departed

Monday, November 2 - 7 pm Mass

November is traditionally a special time for remembering and praying for our beloved departed, giving thanks for their lives and entrusting them to God's loving care. The parish will have a **Book of Remembrance** in which parishioners may write the names of deceased family members and friends for whom they wish the parish to offer prayers. All names entered in the book will be remembered at every Mass throughout the month of November.

On Monday, November 2, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day), the parish will celebrate a special Mass at 7 pm to pray for all our beloved departed.



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