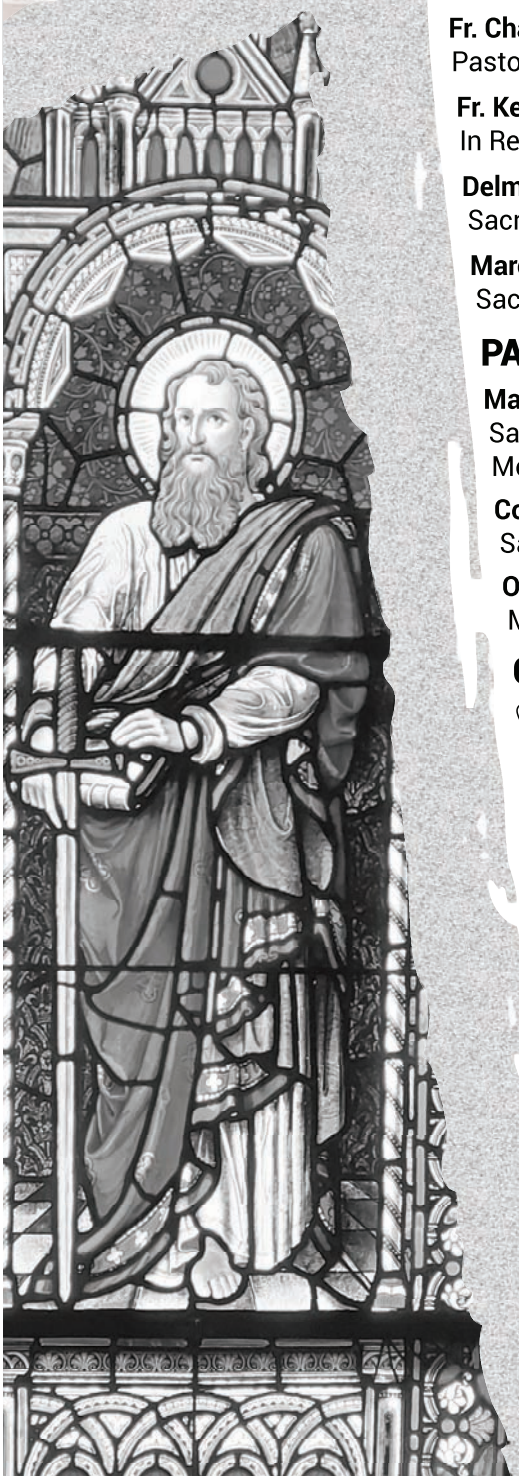




St. Paul's Basilica

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

'She Won't Let Go'

Elderly Couple Hold Hands for the Last Time While Being Hospitalized Together

(from Epoch Times, by Louise Chambers, Oct. 26, 2025)



An elderly couple, both 91, demonstrated the pinnacle of love in their 69-year marriage when they were both hospitalized at the same time. Their beds were placed side by side, and their hands were clasped together until the very end.

High school sweethearts Virginia Stevens and Doyle Thomas Stevens were both admitted to the Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) in Nashville, Tennessee, for unrelated health emergencies. Mr. Stevens was eventually transferred to the palliative care unit, but when kind staff acknowledged that the couple wanted to be together, they moved Ms. Stevens's bed right next to his.

In a heartwarming act, Ms. Stevens placed her frail hand in her dying husband's and never let go.

The couple's daughter, Karen Kreager, said both her parents "lit up" when her mother entered her father's hospital room.

"He was awake when she came in," Ms. Kreager told VUMC Voice. "His eyes were open. He wasn't communicating a lot—just in small whispers. But he knew that she was there and that she was going to be right beside him."

Through it all, she didn't let go and kept holding his hand.

Holding her husband's hand helped her too. She said: "It just gave me peace that I wouldn't have to worry about him. He was going to be with me." Mr. Stevens, who had Alzheimer's disease and was living in an assisted living facility with his wife was recently admitted to VUMC with labored breathing and dangerously low blood pressure. Doctors diagnosed aspiration pneumonia and sepsis. When illness took over his body and no treatment seemed to be effective, he was moved to the medical center's palliative care unit. The very same morning, Ms. Stevens had a fall and her concerned son called an ambulance although she said she was fine.

She was admitted for six broken ribs, a spinal fracture, and an injured hip. Ms. Kreager had joked with her mother, "Really, we think that you just needed to check on Dad, and that was your ride."

When VUMC staff noticed the extended family's struggle, bouncing between the palliative care unit and the trauma intensive care unit to check on each elderly relative, they decided to get the couple together. Ms. Kreager was grateful to be able to "focus on both of them at the same time," but most of all that they could share the same room.

For Dr. Mohana Karlekar of VUMC's adult palliative care program, bringing the Stevenses together reminded her of why she does what she does.

"We take care of people–husbands, wives, mothers, fathers–not patients," she said. "I watched Mrs. Stevens tease her grandson, and her grandson and granddaughter in turn tease her back, feed her yogurt and drinks, and just rejoice in each other's company. ... It is a reminder to me about how each of us should remember that taking just a little time can be so impactful, and that we should do this more often."

Mr. and Ms. Stevens spent 69 years in a happy marriage and shared the same Christian faith. They moved around while Mr. Stevens was enlisted with the U.S. Army. They raised two children, founded numerous businesses in the transport industry, and retired to Franklin, Tennessee, to be closer to their grandchildren and their great-grandchild.

Side by side in their hospital beds, the couple reminisced about vacations to their Florida beach house, Christmas holidays, and tables adorned with Lebanese treats, an homage to Ms. Stevens's heritage.

On Sept. 8—a day before his 69th wedding anniversary—Mr. Stevens passed away peacefully with his wife and loving family by his bedside. Nine days later, on Sept. 17, Ms. Stevens passed away.



The beautiful story above speaks of the reality that as we live, so we die. Living in loving relationships is the call of Christ to everyone: *"Love one another as I have loved you."* (Jn. 13:34) During November, the Universal Church remembers all the dead—those we have known and loved, as well as those who have loved us—who have died in this world. We should embody this reality now, not waiting for death, but actively dying to this world and the distractions that pull us away from life with Christ.

Why is it essential that we remember all who have died? Because doing so means we especially remember them in prayer, asking for the eternal good and happiness of their souls, for the mercy of God, and for them to see the beautiful face of Jesus forever. We do so carefully, not assuming that anyone who has died went straight to heaven; in fact, we should not assume but pray again and again for their eternal souls. If they are in purgatory, their time there will be short, aided by the prayers of the living on earth (the Church militant). The souls in purgatory can pray for us, and we can and must pray for them, since they cannot pray for themselves. All who have died are in need of our intercession before God on their behalf as this is the love we ought to show them before God that we desire they be granted mercy, forgiveness of their sins and the highest glory to be with Christ.

I have often said at funerals over the last few years that the 'homework of those who gather and mourn the death of someone is not to merely remember them but to also pray for them. To remember only another is to reduce a person, made in the image and likeness of God, to be nothing more than a memory. No. We are human beings given rational souls that desire God both now and forever. Pray for all souls. *(Fr. Charles)*

❖ News

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 7
4:30 pm ♦ † Robert Busby

Sunday, November 8
8:30 am ♦ For the People
11:00 am ♦ For the People

Tuesday, November 10
7:00 pm ♦ † Aurora Dizon

Wednesday, November 11
8:30 am ♦ Private Intention

Thursday, November 12
8:30 am ♦ Private Intention

Friday, November 13
8:30 am ♦ Private Intention

Parish Collection Summary

	2026	2025	Diff
Nov 1	$ 5,364	$ 5,773	↓$ 409
Nov 8		$ 2,872	
Nov 15*		$ 6,424	
Nov 22		$ 2,768	
Nov 29		$ 3,855	
Mth Totals	$ 5,364	$ 21,692	↓$ 16,329

** Includes Monthly Pre-Authorized Debit Donations*

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:

SCAN ME For Online Donations

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.

SCAN ME For TipTap Card Registration

Daughters of St. Paul Book Fair

November 7 & 8, 2026, at each Mass



The Daughters of St. Paul will be at our parish this weekend 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.

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.

Collection Counting Ministry Needs Volunteers!

Help support our parish by joining the Collection Counting Ministry! Volunteers serve 1–3 Sundays per month following the 11 am. Mass, with each session lasting approximately 1–2 hours. Training will be provided to successful applicants. Background screening is required. Interested? Please contact the parish office for more information.

Free Catholic Estate Planning Webinar

Saturday, November 14 2026 at 9:00 am

Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services and the ArchTO estate planning team invite you to join this free webinar to learn about how to avoid issues with your Will, Powers of Attorney & Estate Planning as well as Catholic traditions around cremation, burials and funerals. To register scan the QR code, visit *'qrco.de/WebNov14'*

SCAN ME

Workshop for Altar Servers

November 21st, 2026 ; 1 pm - 2 pm

Any young person who has made her/his First Communion is invited to consider becoming an Altar Server. There will be training sessions for ***NEW*** and ***CURRENT*** altar servers on Saturday, November 21 from 1 pm to 2 pm in the Church. Parents should attend with their young person.

Offertory Envelope Boxes

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. 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 to register.

World Youth Day Mass

November 21, 7 pm; St. Thomas More Parish

Join young adults ages 19–39 from across the Archdiocese for a special World Youth Day Mass with His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo on Saturday, November 21, at 7 pm, at St. Thomas More Parish in Scarborough. Celebrate Christ the King through faith, prayer, and fellowship. Free admission; no registration required. Bring a friend! Video link: *https://bit.ly/WYDMass2026*

Praying for Our Beloved Departed

The **Book of Remembrance** will remain beside the Sanctuary throughout November. Parishioners are invited to enter the names of deceased family members and friends for whom they wish the parish to pray. All names entered will be remembered at every Mass during the month.

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