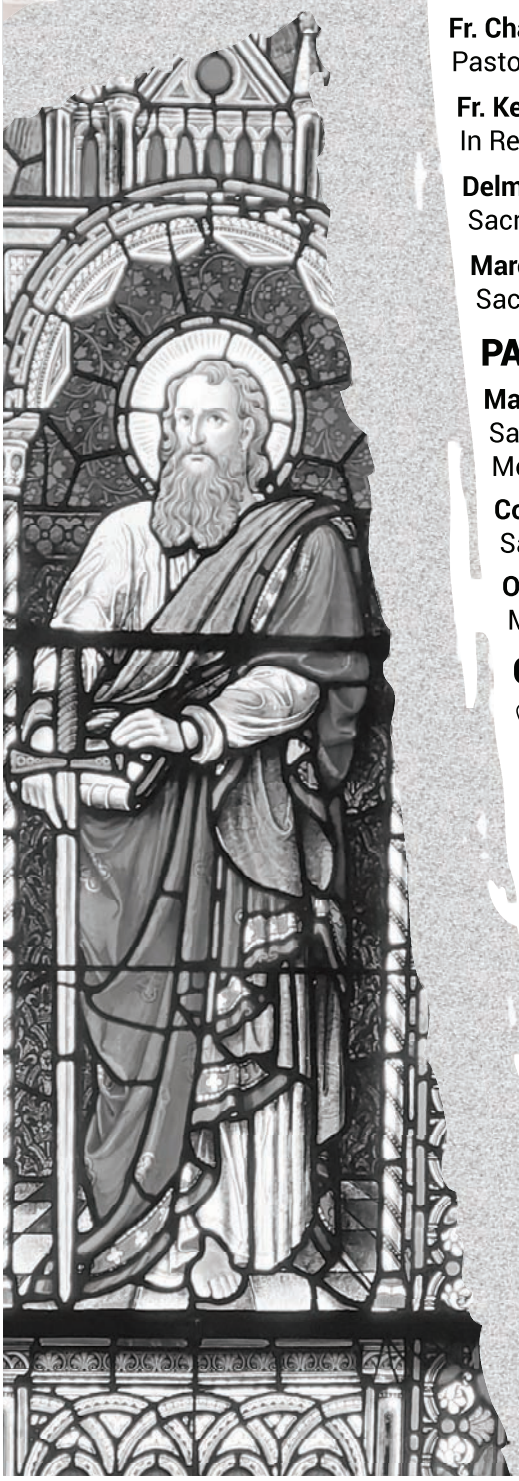




St. Paul's Basilica

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

We Are Not In Control



Whenever we experience the forces of nature personally, and not just according to someone else's account of it, we realize the power that is beyond us and beyond our control. As I am writing this bulletin article, it is Tuesday, and the noisy, gusty winds reveal its awesome power. Various items I the rectory backyard have been blown around or blown over. On reflection, I am humbled by this power of nature and yet know that, when it's all over, it will seem like it was nothing in my mind, a windy day come and gone.

I think we might sometimes treat God and God's power in much the same way. God comes to us, not in the tumult of high winds or crashing thunder or even in the forces of nature but in ear-splitting silence, the still, small voice within. While the forces of nature are truly powerful, they are as nothing compared to the power of God.

> He hurls down hail like crumbs —
> who can stand before his cold?
> He sends out his word, and melts them;
> he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.
> (Psalm 147:17-18)

I am reminded of the passages from the Old Testament First Book of Kings when the prophet Elijah had fled into the desert following the threat of Jezebel to kill him. In the wilderness, Elijah prays to God that he might just fall asleep and die there. But God through an Angel awakens the prophet and provides food and sustenance for him. He sleeps once more but is awakened a second time that he might take the God-given nourishment he needs. Strengthened by the food of God, Elijah begins to journey forty days and nights until he comes to the mount of Horeb and goes into a cave to spend the night… more sleep. It is in the morning that God awakens him with the question, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Twice God asks him and twice the prophet answers that he is afraid because they have killed the prophets, torn down the Lord's altars and have rejected God's covenant. But Elijah is not where the Lord wants him to be and its as if Elijah has to put his foot down again for every time he has put it down in disobedience. But even before God sends him back out by the way that he came to anoint those God desired to serve as his prophets, he instructed Elijah to…

> "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD,
> for the LORD is about to pass by."
> Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was
> splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces
> before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind;
> and after the wind an earthquake,
> but the LORD was not in the earthquake;
> and after the earthquake a fire,
> but the LORD was not in the fire;
> and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.
> When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle
> and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave."

In the Keil Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament, it says:

> "It was in the midst of such terrible phenomena that the Lord had once come down upon Sinai, to inspire the people who were assembled at the foot of the mountain with a salutary dread of His terrible majesty, of the fiery zeal of His wrath and love, which consumes whatever opposes it (see at Exodus 19:16.). But now the Lord was not in these terrible phenomena; to signify to the prophet that He did not work in His earthly kingdom with the destroying zeal of wrath, or with the pitiless severity of judgment. It was in a soft, gentle rustling that He revealed Himself to him."

Elijah experienced the power of the forces of nature and while God had set all of them in place, God wasn't in them. Where was God to be found? In silence. God is in control of all things and has placed all things in our hands. We are the recipients of the great and creating hand of God, and while it is all around us, we know that we are not in control of it. Just as the beauty of creation and a baby's face can bring to mind the handiwork of God, so too do the forces of all that God has created remind us that we are in his hands as our protection and shield.

We can easily sense the power and beauty of God in attending a concert featuring Handel's Messiah or can hear a classical piece that moves the heart and plucks at the strings of that same organ of the body. I think of the moving piece written by Henryk Gorecki, *Symphony of Sorrowful Songs,* in three movements. It is one of the most pleading pieces of music I have ever heard. I met someone who told me that when he heard it on the radio as he was driving on the highway, he felt compelled to pull off the road and just sit there in silence to listen to it. And while the song sings a lament of sorrow, particularly in the composer's mind as he was exposed to the atrocities committed and the death of so many Jews under the Nazi's, it also bears such a stark beauty that touches our senses and brings us to think of the hope always that is ours in God.

It is in the still, small voice within that God speaks to us, not in the tumult of earthquakes, fire and wind. It is in those moments when we realize we are alone but not at the same time, that we may experience the clear voice of God speaking to our inmost being, addressing our sense of seeking and questioning. Yet, even beyond this, the most incredible sense of the presence of God in silence is found when we are thinking nothing but simply just being, showing up in prayer to the Lord and meeting that overwhelming silence with our own. It takes considerable practice and time to shake the dust of the world from our feet in prayer.

Because we are not in control of much in this world, we are not powerless but are powerful in the hands and care of the God of Jesus Christ who loves us. To say, "Thy will be done", is to surrender our all to him in trust. *(Fr. Charles)*



The Voice

There is a voice inside of you
that whispers all day long,
"I feel that this is right for me,
I know that this is wrong."
No teacher, preacher, parent,
friend or wise man can
decide what's right for you –
Just listen to
the voice that speaks inside.
(Author Unknown)

❖ News

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 14
4:30 pm ♦ † Rose Yeung

Sunday, November 15
8:30 am ♦ † Branko Deronja
11:00 am ♦ For the People

Tuesday, November 17
7:00 pm ♦ † Colette Johnston

Wednesday, November 18
8:30 am ♦ Private Intention

Thursday, November 19
8:30 am ♦ Private Intention

Friday, November 20
8:30 am ♦ Private Intention

Parish Collection Summary

	2026	2025	Diff
Nov 1	$ 5,364	$ 5,773	↓$ 409
Nov 8	$ 3,163	$ 2,872	↑$ 291
Nov 15*		$ 6,424	
Nov 22		$ 2,768	
Nov 29		$ 3,855	
Mth Totals	$ 8,526	$ 21,692	↓$ 13,166

** Includes Monthly Pre-Authorized Debit Donations*

Upcoming Special Collections

- ***December 6*** - Preservation Fund
- ***December 13*** - For the Poor

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.

SCAN ME For Online Donations

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

An Advent Sojourn - Watch Now! Only on formed



Enter Advent with intention as we watch and discuss **How to Advent** and **Adventus**. Prepare your heart in the weeks before the season begins, then move through Advent with Scripture, reflection prompts, and journaling in a spiritual pilgrimage toward Bethlehem. Scan the QR code or visit *app.formed.org/app/collections/1510814*

SCAN ME

Upcoming Special Collections

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.

For the Poor

On ***December 12 & 13***, we will take up our annual For the Poor collection. This collection supports charitable works and initiatives that provide assistance to individuals and families living in poverty or experiencing hardship.

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.

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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