

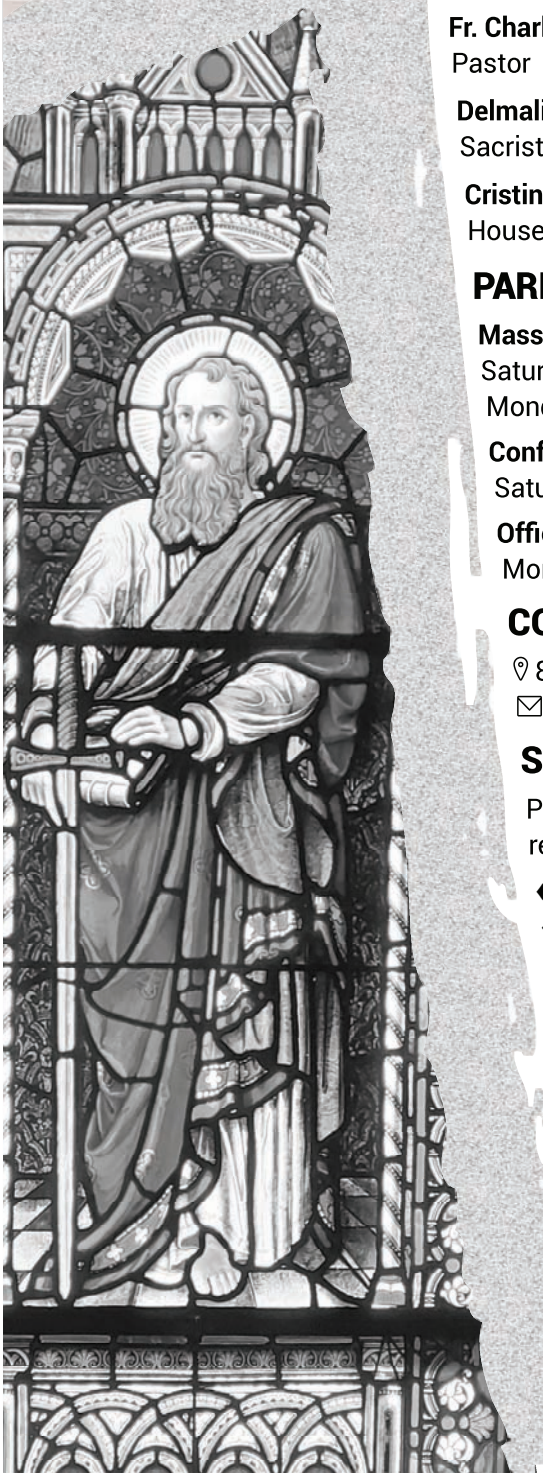

St. Paul's Basilica

Est. 1822~First Catholic Parish in Toronto

STAFF

Fr. Charles Forget Pastor	**Lynett Wilson** Office Manager	**Joseph Angelo** Music Director
Delmalisa Chilombo Sacristan	**Jason Lo** Bookkeeper	**Allison Angelo** Cantor
Cristina Costa Housekeeper	**Rodney Llamera** Custodian	**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

Advent: Getting Ready... for What?



Prior to both the ecclesial seasons of Christmas and Easter we have what could be called "preparation times" when we look to making changes within us in anticipation of the joyful season to be celebrated. These times are a kind of rehearsal for the really real event of being a loyal follower, believer and close friend of the Lord Jesus Christ. Advent, obviously, is one of those times of preparation because, otherwise, I wouldn't be writing about it at all. Yet it deserves not only bulletin space attention but far more important focus as we prepare for Christmas. But that's not the 25th of December kind of Christmas, when all our hectic both joyful and more stressing busyness finally comes to a ready-or-not conclusion, but Christmas that is eight days of unpacking the mystery that is the Incarnation. We'd have to admit that just when the Church begins to celebrate Christmas in its true sense and nature, the world is finished with it because it has already been 'celebrating' a tinsel form of it already for six weeks or longer; the tree's been up for a month or more and we've heard wintery music with the word *Christmas* thrown in to remind us what this season is really not all about. (I've always found it curious that while Jingle Bells, Frosty the Snowman and White Christmas and many others are played continuously during the season of Advent, once December 25th comes you won't hear any of them the following day even though they are more fittingly winter songs – and we all know winter isn't over on December 25th, though I wish… but I digress).

So, at a time when there is much preparation in anticipation of a single day we are being asked to prepare for the coming of Christ in history, mystery and at a time we do not know over these next four weeks of Advent. Yes, Christ came *in history* which is recounted at Christmas at the very core of its meaning, but that coming hit humanity with such force that it was split in two in that even those who do not believe in God still mark their lives according to Jesus' coming 2000 years ago in BC and AD. BC represents 'Before Christ' and previous to the Incarnation all time and historical significance was and is marked by Jesus at the center of all things, while AD (Anno Domini) means Year of Our Lord which tells us that Jesus' coming has split history in two and our progression in days, months and years dates back to His coming to the earth as the Messiah. So, this is rightly the first coming.

Then we are told of the reality that Christ comes to us also *in mystery* in that every day, every moment in fact, calls us into a living relationship with Jesus. Our present life with Jesus is one of experiencing in the relationship His first coming has blessed us with and most especially we experience Him in the mystery of the Eucharist, though it remains a mystery how this is possible, but it is. The Church herself is part of that mystery for she was founded by Christ and is sustained by Him until He comes again at a time and date we do not know. Many signs are observable today which more than suggest this could be a possibility during our life time and this brings us to our final coming of the Lord – in His Second Coming. It is for this Second Coming, as Jesus had promised us, that the Church's very catechism speaks of what will take place at that time:

CCC 675 "Before Christ's second coming the Church must pass through a final trial that will shake the faith of many believers. The persecution that accompanies her pilgrimage on earth will unveil the "mystery of iniquity" in the form of a religious deception offering men an apparent solution to their problems at the price of apostasy from the truth. The supreme religious deception is that of the Antichrist, a pseudo-messianism by which man glorifies himself in place of God and of his Messiah come in the flesh."

In every age man has been and is called to preparation for a life with Jesus in this life and in the fullness of the life that is to come. No one else can promise and deliver on what Christ has revealed to us. To think of Christmas as merely a hectic paced season leading up to a day when we remember that Jesus was born of Mary will leave us with a December 25th singing of *Happy Birthday, Jesus,* and that's it and nothing more in a walk-on part of a man called The Christ. No, what Jesus brought and gives can't be returned to the store nor can we purchase it with our finite money or our wealth. It can only be accepted as pure gift, free of charge by the God who has already in our individual creation, created us for Himself – hardwired us for none other than Him and forever. If we choose not God than we also choose no forever for ourselves. Thus, the importance of preparation in the grace of this season of Advent when we accept again the God of Jesus Christ who came to the earth as one like us and who continues to come to us only upon our openness and welcome of Him into our lives, and who will come again as both Saviour and Judge at the culmination of all things. *(Fr. Charles)*

"ADVENT POEM"

If you want, the Virgin will come walking down the road,
pregnant with the Holy and say,
"I need shelter for the night.
Please take me inside your heart, my time is so close."
Then, under the roof of your soul,
you will witness the sublime intimacy,
the divine, the Christ, taking birth forever,
as she grasps your hand for help,
for each of us is the midwife of God, each of us.
Yes, there, under the dome of your being,
does creation come into existence eternally,
through your womb, dear pilgrim,
the sacred womb of your soul,
as God grasps our arms for help:
for each of us is His beloved servant never far.
If you want, the virgin will come walking down the street,
pregnant with Light, and sing!
- St. John of the Cross

❖ News

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 28
4:30 pm ♦ Thanksgiving for Good Health of Myrna Reyes

Sunday, November 29
8:30 am ♦ † Charles & Giovanna Zuzek
11:00 am ♦ For the People

Tuesday, December 1
7:00 pm ♦ † Josefina Hernandez

Wednesday, December 2
8:30 am ♦ † Odilon Dizon Sr.

Thursday, December 3
8:30 am ♦ Private Intention

Friday, December 4
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*	$ 6,588	$ 6,424	↑$ 164
Nov 22	$ 3,465	$ 2,768	↑$ 697
Nov 29		$ 3,855	
Mth Totals	$ 18,579	$ 21,692	↓$ 3,113

** 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:

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

Holiday Mass Schedule

Advent Confessions

Dec 15
5:00 pm to 6:45 pm
Dec 19
2:30 pm to 4:15 pm

Christmas

Christmas Eve - Thu, Dec 24
(No 8:30 am Mass)
4:30 pm Family Mass
(Preceded by Carols)
6:30 pm

Christmas Day - Fri, Dec 25
8:30 am & 11:00 am

New Year

New Year's Eve - Thu, Dec 31
(No 8:30 am Mass)
4:30 pm

New Year's Day - Fri, Jan 1
(No 8:30 am Mass)
11:00 am



TCDSB Staff Arts 52nd Annual Christmas Concert

Friday, December 4th, 2026, 8 pm at St. Paul's Basilica



St. Paul's is excited to welcome back the TCDSB Staff Arts group for their 53rd Annual Christmas Concert, featuring conductor Anne Bolger, producer Anita D'Mello, a brass quintet and pianist Cristina Parvu. Concert tickets are $20. For more information or to order tickets, visit *'tcdsb.org/o/tsa/'* or scan the QR code.

SCAN ME

St. Michael's Choir School Presents Joyeux Noel!

A Canadian Christmas at Massey Hall! December 12th, 2026, 7 pm at Massey Hall



Experience the wonder of the season through a stirring celebration of the Nativity, showcasing a rich tapestry of sacred choral masterworks, beloved carols, and newly imagined Christmas favourites, all crafted by Canadian musical voices and the distinguished tradition of St. Michael's Choir School. Tickets are now available at *'masseyhall.com'*. Please use Promo Code: MAPLE. For more info call 416-872-4255.

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.

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.

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