

ST. BASIL'S CATHOLIC PARISH

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE



50 St. Joseph Street, Toronto M5S 1J4

www.stbasiltoronto.org * 416-926-7110

Office Hours: Mon-Fri (9:00 am - 1:00 pm; 2:00 pm - 8:30 pm)

Sat-Sun (9:00 am - 6:30 pm)

ADMINISTERED BY THE BASILIAN FATHERS

SUNDAY MASSES

5:00 pm (Sat); 9:00 am; 10:30 am;
12:00 pm; 4:30 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon-Fri: 7:30 am; 12:10 pm; 5:10 pm

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

Please see the parish website or call the main office for details. Weddings require a one year notice.

St. Basil's Parish was founded in 1856 and is the third oldest parish in the city of Toronto after St. Paul's Basilica (1822) and St. Michael's Cathedral (1845).

We are the collegiate church of the University of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto, as well as being the parish church to our parishioners who come to worship here from all over the city.

Since October 2007, we have been the home of the National Televised Daily Mass, reaching people in their homes all over Canada. The Daily Mass is broadcast six days a week on Vision TV, the Crossroads, Television Network and Salt and Light TV.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor:	Fr. Chris Valka, CSB
Director of Music:	John Paul (J.P.) Farahat
Assistant Organist:	Rashaan Allwood
Office Manager:	Mary Hopper
Community Coordinator:	Leanna Cappiello
Sacramental Coordinator:	Emily VanBerkum

CONFESSIONS

Mon-Fri: 11:30 am - 12:00 pm

Sat: 4:15 pm - 4:45 pm

RENEWING OUR BAPTISM

By Fr. Chris Valka, CSB

This Sunday, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, which has been a popular topic for Pope Francis. I have lost count of the number of times he has asked us to rediscover our own Baptism date and celebrate its anniversary as we do our birthdays.

Of course, most of us were Baptised when we were quite young and thus its significance is often lost on us as. However, even though it was not necessarily our choice, it is one of the definitive dates in our lives. The question we must each answer is why?

The best answer I can give you is to go read the Book of 1 Peter. It is only five chapters long, and it contains the basic instructions for Christian living – that is living out our Baptism. It also contains my favourite verses: Chapter 3:15-16 says, "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks for a reason for your hope, but do so with gentleness and reverence. . ."

It is through our Baptism that such a sanctification occurs, and the more often we remind ourselves of that, the better. It is the primary reason we moved the Baptismal font to the back of this church. For those of you who have been around a while, you

will remember that it has only been since Easter that the font has been in its current location permanently. Prior to Easter, it was kept in a corner and rolled out as needed, but it is through these waters that we come into the church, and so it needs to be at the entrance! *(One day, I hope to have a permanent font with flowing water as it is a more appropriate symbol and reminder of the daily renewal of our faith as a constant, refreshing occurrence, but we aren't quite there yet. . .)*

However, it is not just the waters of new life that wash over us at Baptism, but also anointing with Sacred Chrism. In the Rite itself, we hear that just as Christ was anointed priest, prophet and king, so are we anointed so that we may share in His everlasting life.

Similar to Pope Francis, this is a point I think we need to rediscover: that regardless of our life status, we are ALL called to live as priests, prophets and kings. Obviously, this means we have to think about these roles beyond the traditional manner we understand them. In all cases, we have to think about what they do and not just who they are.

The primary role of a priest is to sacrifice and mediate for others. It means that in your work and family life, you are called to offer your life, time and energy for the sake of others.

The primary role of a prophet is to witness to God; specifically, to name God in all aspects of life. It is not enough to live justly or with good morals, but to create a space for God to be known in the world.

The primary role of king is to serve and protect, according to the authority given to him. Good kings (or queens) do not rule; rather they serve. This is what we are all called to do, according to the authority given to us by the Holy Spirit.

At the end of the day, your baptism is not an event of your past, or a passive requirement for membership. It is something we renew each day by actively belonging to the Christian community, as it is known to us in our local parishes.

READINGS: Isaiah 55.1-11; 1 John 5.1-9; Mark 1.7-11

RCIA AND MARRIAGE PREPARATION

RCIA will resume January 14th at 7 PM. Please continue to pray for all our catechumens and candidates on their journey. Our next round of Marriage Preparation will also begin on January 14th for couples getting married at St. Basil's this year. Please keep these couples, also, in your prayers.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The 2015 offertory envelopes are available for pickup at the back of the church. Please provide your name and address on at least the first 2 donations you make. Please do not use old envelopes.

CHANGE IN WEEKEND PARKING ON ST. JOSEPH STREET.

While parishioners are still able to park on St. Joseph Street weekends as they have been previously; there is a slight change. There are now signs in the area immediately east and west of the entrance to St. Basil's on the North side of the street and east of the entrance on the South side of the street; the signs are marked "NO STOPPING". Please avoid parking in this small area or you will be fined.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

If you have a child in grade 2, it is time to consider enrolling them in St. Basil's First Communion program! This program begins on Sunday, February 1, 2015 and runs every week until the date of the First Communions on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at the 12:00pm mass. Classes run from 1:15-2:15pm. There will not be a class on February 15 or March 15 to accommodate Family Day and the March Break. When students meet with myself, parents will be meeting with Fr. Chris for an enriched program based on the children's catechesis also from 1:15-2:15pm on Sundays. Special participation in the 12:00pm mass is encouraged! Please contact Emily should you have any questions or would like to enrol (liturgy@stbasiltoronto.org).

FOLLOW US

Please follow St. Basil's on our website at stbasiltoronto.org, on twitter @StBasil_TO and on facebook – St. Basil's Church, Toronto

QUOTABLE POPE FRANCIS

Let us pray today for all those who are persecuted for their Christian faith.



January 11 – 17, 2015

Sunday – Baptism of the Lord

- 9:00 – William Luca +
- 10:30 – Pro Populo
- 12:00 – Griffin Keeley +
- 4:30 – Foong Yen Chong +

Monday – St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

- 7:30 – Liza Martin +
- 12:10 – Margaret Cahill +
- 5:10 – Peter Heng & Mary Ng +, +

Tuesday

- 7:30 – Robert, Melba Valdez & family (liv.)
- 12:10 – Monica Gannon +
- 5:10 – Heng Ah Kum +

Wednesday

- 7:30 – Kevin Hill +
- 12:10 – Antonio Lagdameo +
- 4:00 – Televised Daily Mass
- 5:10 – Televised Daily Mass

Thursday

- 7:30 – Teresa Zbiciak (liv.)
- 12:10 – Margaret Cahill +
- 4:00 – Televised Daily Mass
- 5:10 – Televised Daily Mass

Friday

- 7:30 – Agpalza family (liv.)
- 12:10 – Luigi and Lina Ciavarella +, +
- 4:00 – Televised Daily Mass
- 5:10 – Televised Daily Mass

Saturday – St. Anthony

- 5:00 – Frank, Monica and Mary Gannon +, +, +

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially Ancoreta Amigle, Don Alvaro, Rita Moran, Rev. Kenneth Decker CSB, Clare DeMello, Edna Fernandez, Kenneth Heath, Marina Kazakis, Eric Christensen, and Hilary McCormack.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED, especially Rev. Dan Chui, CSB.

PIANO CONCERT: JAN. 23, 2015 @ 7:30 PM

FRIDAY: Piano and clarinet duo Adam ukiewicz and Peter Stoll perform a varied programme including Schubert's *Arpeggione Sonata* (abbreviated transcription by Jack Brymer), Schumann's *Violin and Piano Sonata no. 1* (transcription by Stephen Korody-Kreutzer), as well as the recent work, *Follow me*, by Canadian composer John Beckwith.

Admission is free, donations will be directed towards the music program of Saint Basil's.

Interested in a new Children's Education Program?

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation/development of children from birth through adolescence, established in the Archdiocese of Toronto more than thirty years ago.


As the area around St. Basil's continues to welcome more young families, we are learning what we can do as a parish to meet the needs of young children so that they may have an experience of God's love.

Please come and join Kathleen Ennis (Coordinator, CGS Office, Archdiocese of Toronto) and other interested Parishioners of St. Basil's on. . .

Thursday January 15, 2015, 7:00 pm - 8:30 PM in the Chapel underneath the Church.

Together we will hear about this particular approach with children and explore the variety of ways in which the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd may be offered and nurtured as a way of serving the families of St. Basil's, St. Michael's, St. Patrick's and the other downtown parishes. As well, the possibility of an upcoming adult formation course to be held at St. Basil's will be outlined.

If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Chris at the parish office at 416-926-7110. You may also contact Kathleen Ennis at 416-934-3400, ext. 511.



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