

DECEMBER 1, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# 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@stbasiltoronto.org

ADMINISTERED BY THE BASILIAN FATHERS

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 1:00pm  
Sunday: 8:15am - 1:15pm

## SUNDAY MASSES

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

## WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday - Friday: 7:30am; 12:10pm

## VESPERS (EVENING PRAYER)

Monday - Friday: 5:10pm

## ADORATION

Tuesday: 3:00pm-6:00pm

## CONFESSIONS

Monday - Friday: 11:30am - 12:00pm  
Saturday: 4:30pm - 5:00pm

## BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, AND FUNERALS

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

## PARISH STAFF

Pastor:	Fr. Morgan V. Rice, CSB
Office Manager:	Margaret D'Elia
Director of Faith Formation	JoAnn M. Lopez
Director of Music & Principal Organist:	Dr. John Paul Farahat
Assistant Organist	Adrian Ross
Musician-in-Residence:	Dr. Lindsay McIntyre
Coordinator of Outreach & Hospitality:	Hilda O'Connor
Director of Community Engagement:	Michael Pirri

In our children's Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program we have a song about Church's liturgical calendar: "*Purple is for preparation, White is for celebration,*" we sing, pointing to the reality that every great feast is preceded by a time of preparation. As our liturgical colour shifts to purple this week and we enter the season of Advent, we should ask: **for what are we preparing?**

Certainly, we are preparing for Christmas and the celebration of the Mystery of the Incarnation – God coming to dwell with us in the flesh in the person of Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah. Our first reading gives us a glimpse into the yearning for this Promised One. In today's Gospel, Jesus also points to his Second Coming at the end of time, the *parousia (adventus)* which I wrote about a few weeks ago. We trust that in the fullness of

Since 1856, St. Basil's Parish has been home to people of all ages and needs. We are blessed because you are all here!

Mothers are welcome to nurse their children in church or provide them snacks as needed. If you need to, feel free to walk with your child in the back of the church or in the hallway off the side aisle.



ST. BASIL'S PARISH, TORONTO



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time God will transform this world with abiding presence. While we live in-between these two moments we also have opportunities to welcome Christ into our hearts and recognize God's presence in places, faces, and experiences that we encounter daily. This is what St. Paul urges the Thessalonians to do as they live their faith. These three "Comings of Christ" that we find in today's scripture – in the flesh (historical), in glory (future), and in our hearts (present) – is what the Season of Advent prepares us for as we approach the celebration of Christmas.

We live in a world that is already fully into a version of Christmas. The lights are up, parties are in full swing, Christmas music and movies are streaming, and the Santa Claus Parade has already come and gone. Advent is gobbled up by the race towards Christmas tables and gifts and the frenzy of finals and completing assignments. Our Gospel challenges us to not become "weighed down" by either excessive celebration or anxiety, but instead to live with a recognition that our "redemption is drawing near." While I don't mean to be a curmudgeon about Christmas, I wonder what it would look like to take Advent seriously as a time of preparation for Christ's presence. Is there a spiritual practice that you want to take on, or to enter with greater intentionality? Consider our weekly prayer opportunities or special Advent events. Can we pray as a parish that God might strengthen us in holiness and help us abound in love? What would transform in our lives personally and communally if we committed this Advent to recognizing Christ's presence in each person and every moment?

*-JoAnn Melina Lopez*

## PARISH ENVELOPES

The 2025 parish envelopes are available at the back of the church beginning this weekend. If you'd like to register and receive a box of envelopes, or are not able to find your envelopes, please speak with Margaret in the parish office at (416) 926-7110 or [office@stbasiltoronto.org](mailto:office@stbasiltoronto.org)

## SING TO THE LORD: A VESPERS MUSIC WORKSHOP

Monday December 2 at 4:30pm

Come learn how to chant Vespers (Evening Prayer)! We're happy to offer a special Advent instalment in our Vespers Music Workshop series, on Monday, December 2. Join us as we learn how to sing the hymn for Vespers in Advent. This workshop will take place at 4:30pm in Ardèche Hall, with Vespers following at 5:10pm in the sanctuary.

All are welcome! Email our Assistant Organist, Adrian Ross, for further information at [assistantorganist@stbasiltoronto.org](mailto:assistantorganist@stbasiltoronto.org)

## SACRED BEGINNINGS COLLECTIVE

Are you and your spouse expecting, expecting to be expecting, or knee-deep in diapers? We're excited to invite married couples to join the Sacred Beginnings Collective at St. Basil's!

We're building a community of couples supporting one another as we seek to love God, our spouses, and our kids more deeply. Families meet once a month, in St. Basil's Macrina Hall, and you can choose between a morning or evening session (9-10:15 am, or 5-6:15 pm). Our next gathering is on Sunday, December 8. Email Catherine and Brendan at [cath.s.steven@gmail.com](mailto:cath.s.steven@gmail.com) or check out our website to register.

## PREPARE OUR HEARTS: AN EVENING OF TAIZÉ PRAYER

December 11, 7:00pm

Join us on Wednesday, December 11, at 7:00pm at St. Basil's for an Advent Taizé prayer service, where we will reflect together on preparing to encounter Christ. This ecumenical and meditative prayer form includes music, scripture, prayers, candlelight, and silence, to draw us into the mystery of the Incarnation. All are welcome! Questions? Contact JoAnn Lopez: [joann.lopez@utoronto.ca](mailto:joann.lopez@utoronto.ca)

## SUNDAY MISSALS

The new liturgical year begins at Advent and the new Sunday Missals are now available for purchase at the parish office for \$10.

Get yours now before they sell out!

## ADVENT RETREAT: ENTERING THE SACRED STORY

Saturday, December 14, 2024

9:30am to 3:00pm

Registration: [www.stbasiltoronto.org](http://www.stbasiltoronto.org)

Join the Mary Ward Center and St. Basil's Parish for an Advent day of reflection on Saturday, December 14 from 9:30am to 3:00pm. Meditating on the Incarnation, we will reflect on God's love active in Jesus and in our own story. Our time together will include Mass, prayer, presentations, spacious silence, art, and small group conversation.

Join us to prepare for the joy of Christmas, when we will celebrate the once and future Coming of Christ. Registration required by Tuesday, December 10. Contact JoAnn Lopez with questions ([joann.lopez@utoronto.ca](mailto:joann.lopez@utoronto.ca))

## USMC SCHOLA CANTORUM

December 9, 7:30pm

All are warmly invited to the University of St. Michael's College Schola Cantorum's Advent Concert on Monday, December 9 at 7:30pm at St. Basil's Church. The concert features the Oratorio de Noël by Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921), a lush and lyrical meditation on Christ's birth, in a setting for organ, soloists, and chorus. The St. Michael's Schola will be joined by singers from Professor Mia Bach's Third Year Oratorio Class at the Faculty of Music, and St. Basil's Director of Music, Dr. John Paul Farahat, on organ. The program is rounded out by a romantic choral anthem, Peace on Earth, by American female composer Amy Beach (1867-1944). Admission is free, with donations gratefully accepted.

## UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

Nov 30/Dec 1: Christmas Flowers

Dec 7/8: Building Fund

## MASS INTENTIONS



### DECEMBER 1 - 7

#### SUNDAY FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00am Fe Nidoy (✙)

10:30am *Pro Populo*

12:00pm John and Margaret and the Hay Family (liv)

4:30pm Joseph and Angela LaForgia (✙,✙)

#### MONDAY

7:30am Victor Baggao (✙)

12:10pm Dorothy Kekely (✙)

#### TUESDAY St. Francis Xavier

7:30am

12:10pm Julieta Capuyan (✙)

#### WEDNESDAY

7:30am Lutgarda Abarca (✙)

12:10pm James Robert and Valerie Crilly (✙,✙)

#### THURSDAY

7:30am

12:10pm Giovanna Mavinic (✙), Jennifer Anne Godhue Harboruk (✙), Tony and Tessi Lopez (liv)

#### FRIDAY

7:30pm George and Koula O'Brien (✙,✙)

12:10pm Luigi, Lina, Michael, and Len Ciavarella (✙,✙,✙,✙)

#### SATURDAY

5:00pm Peter Moran (liv)

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**, especially, Sue Banfield, Rebecca Beaton, Desmond Brownlee, Lori Celik, Steve Chandeller, Yvonne Clarke, Josephine D'amico, Jasper David-Fuchs, Clare DeMello, Maisie Henry, Maryanne Hodges, Bohdanka Kovalska, Elaine Landrie, Margaret LaRose, Cheekon Leong, Luba Leong, Anne McFadden, Margaret-Mary McKenzie, David Martin, Rosy Menezes, Dr. Peter Moran, Paul O'Brien, Robert Rodbourne, Carmelita Salazar, Delaila Salvador, Todd Snow, Federico Sorianosos Jr., John Sytsma, Betty Veit, Eileen Vyphius, Rosalie Wimbs, and Alexander Wu.

**PRAY FOR THE DECEASED**, especially, Januz Niemczyk.

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