

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 - 8:30pm)
Sat-Sun (9:00 am - 6:30 pm)



ADMINISTERED BY THE BASILIAN FATHERS

SUNDAY MASSES

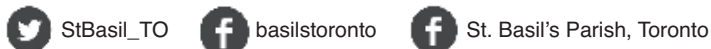
5:00 pm (Sat); 9:00 am; 10:30 am;
12:00 pm; 4:30 pm

CONFESSIONS

Mon-Fri: 11:30 am - 12:00 pm
Sat: 4:15 pm - 4:45 pm

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

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



WEEKDAY MASSES

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

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Mon-Fri: 5:10 pm
Sat: 9:00 am

ADORATION

Thurs: 3:30-5:00pm

DO NOT FEAR THE UNEXPECTED

By Leanna Cappiello

Mary was 'just a small-town girl, living in a lonely world'. Joseph, a humble God-fearing guy, had full intention of marrying Mary... until the news of her being pregnant with someone else's child was made known to him. He planned to break things off with her quietly. He was just trying to do the right thing, to do what was expected of him. Then he was essentially told - in a dream - don't be afraid to marry this girl. The child, though not yours, is of the Holy Spirit. Through this child, God will dwell among us!

... Talk about the unexpected.

The story of Mary and Joseph is contrasted in our readings by the story of Ahaz. Ahaz is a king who is about to be overthrown by an invading army. He is a terribly immoral king,

St. Basil's Parish is home to people of all ages and needs. For those who need hearing assistance, devices are available at the front desk. Simply leave a photo ID to borrow one during your visit.

Mothers are welcome to nurse their children in church or provide them snacks as needed. As Pope Francis has said, Children's voices, even when crying, make "the most beautiful choir of all." 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. We are blessed because you are all here!

PARISH STAFF

Pastor:	Fr. Chris Valka, CSB
Office Manager:	Margaret D'Elia
Sacramental Coordinator:	Emily VanBerkum
Community Coordinator:	Leanna Cappiello
Director of Music:	J.P. Farahat
Assistant Organist:	Michael Pirri
Family Coordinator:	Marilena Berardinelli
Evening Office Assistant:	Stela Tudor

and so decides that he will make a pact with the invaders in order to save himself. However, it requires selling the dignity and independence of the people he is supposed to protect, leaving Isaiah furious.

The error of Ahaz is that he did not trust; he acted only on what he could control. It is the opposite of what we hear in the story about Mary and Joseph, who were told by the Angel, "Do not be afraid". They were told to trust.

Haven't we all heard this before, often in the most bewildering of times? Turns out, we were never alone in that.

Remember that decisions cannot be made out of fear: fear of failure, fear of destitution, fear of loneliness, fear of commitment, fear of anything. Allow the Angel to speak to you in the same way during this sensitive and beautiful time in Advent, "Do not be afraid."

Only in freedom from fear, and at times within the unexpected, can we fully welcome Emmanuel, God among us.

Sunday's Readings:
Isaiah 7.10-14
Romans 1.1-7
Matthew 1.18-24

ADVENT CHALLENGE: WEEK 4

In our first reading this week, we encountered Ahaz - a man who tried to control everything. We also encountered Joseph - a man who trusted that it would all be as God needed it to be.

In this last week before Christmas, many of us find ourselves running around trying to make everything just right.

Your challenge is to leave a few things up to chance - to not control too much. In other words, leave some room for stillness so that you may be ready for the coming of God.

CELEBRATING OUR JEWISH HERITAGE

As part of our ongoing Advent focus, the Parashat Hashavuah known as the "Torah portion" of the week is given a Hebrew name that reflects a significant word or short phrase in the selected verses. This week's Parashat Hashavuah is entitled "Va'yishlach," meaning "And he sent" found in **Genesis 32:4-36:43**.

In this week's Torah portion the story of Isaac's twin sons Esau and Jacob continues: the estranged brothers reunite, Jacob wrestles with an unnamed stranger, Dinah (Jacob's only daughter) is assaulted, Jacob returns home to Canaan, and Rachel and Isaac die. Amidst all of these events, Jacob and Esau's reunion is remarkable. After over twenty years of separation, the two meet again on familiar territory. In Genesis 32:7 Jacob learns, "*Your brother Esau; he himself is coming to meet you, and there are four hundred men with him.*" This message begs the question whether Jacob was about to reunite with his brother peacefully or whether the two and their entourages would engage in a battle. Jacob is distressed by this news. Imagine the scene of this reunion. Is Jacob right to be distrustful or is this a moment to heal old wounds and bitterness? Continue reading where this passage leaves off.

Discussion Questions:

- Have you experienced a moment of reconciliation in your family?
- What feelings or challenges did you experience in the healing process?
- Were the broken relationships mended?

(Take some time to discuss with your family.)

JOHN FORD FIRST SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

The **first collection of 2017** will not take place on December 31/January 1 but will instead run on **January 7/8**. Volunteers will be in the vestibule after all weekend Masses on January 7/8. Please note that due to renovations downstairs and our ability to store pantry items is limited, monetary donations are preferred. Thank you!

CALLING ALL 6-9 YEAR OLDS

We are now accepting registration for children ages 6-9 interested in participating in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. **The program begins Sunday, January 22 from 11:40-1:00pm and includes the children's participation in the Liturgy of the Eucharist (during the 12:00pm Mass).**

For more information or to register your child please contact the program coordinator:
Mariann Dusmore at cgsMariann@gmail.com.

THE BASIL BRIGADE NEEDS YOU!

On **Thursday, December 22 at 5:30pm** after Vespers, join our cleaning and decorating party. Many hands make light work.

No RSVP is required. To get started, please meet Leanna in the vestibule!

We Have Been Chosen

You did not
father this Child,
yet you will be
a father to Him.

What can I say
to comfort you?
I love you.
I have not
wronged you.

This Child
Is a gift,
a gift of Love

And we have been chosen
to cherish this Child
who will bring us
closer to that Love
which has brought Him
to dwell among us.

-Carole Thomas

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY:

Sunday, December 11, 2016 \$6,877.90



MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 18th - 24th

Sunday 9:00am- 10:30am- 12:00pm- 4:30pm-	Fourth Sunday of Advent Juan Carlos Casas (+) Pro Populo Rae, Marie, & Sandra Horrester (+,+,+) Lena Dorff (+)
Monday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	Rody Hannigan (+) Those in the medical profession
Tuesday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	Glennis Jarvis (liv.) Gillian Peters (liv.)
Wednesday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	Fr. Daniel Chui (+) Croline Whellans (liv.)
Thursday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	Peter Suba (+) Theresa Kim (+)
Friday 7:30am- 12:10pm-	Kathleen Davis (+) Amparo Lagdameo (+)
Saturday	Christmas Eve 4:30pm, 7:00pm 12:00am (Christmas Day)

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Mary O'Brien, Claire Fidler, Helen Lau, Gloria Lau, Kam Fung Tem, Angel Martinez, Margaret-Mary McKenzie, Joe Torres, Hilary McCormack, Leslie Beck, Lucille Mirvish, Celerina Agpoon, Bernice Casey, Concha Gaeitereiro, Clare DeMello, Erika Farncomb, Filomena La Rocca, and Joseph Troncone.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED.

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