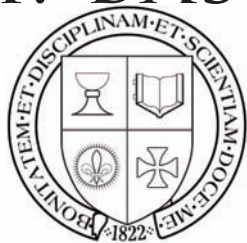


DECEMBER 25, 2024

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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

GOD'S FACE SHINING ON US

“O God, let your face shine on us, and we shall be saved”. In my times of prayer, I seem to keep noticing these words from the Old Testament, including from Psalm 80, which is the responsorial psalm for the 4th Sunday of Advent, and other passages like the Priestly Blessing (Numbers 6.24-26) and Psalm 4. The authors of these passages recognized the power of God's face shining on us, bringing us salvation, blessing, and peace. What is a bit paradoxical is that there are also passages warning that to see God face-to-face would cause one to die (Exodus 33.20), though it did not always happen, like when Jacob wrestled with God, whom he saw, and yet his life was preserved (Genesis 32.30). If death could result, then to see God's face might not be something sought.

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



BASILSTORONTO



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Things changed with the Incarnation, when God became a human being in the person of Jesus, in that little child in the manger in Bethlehem. What was God trying to communicate with us in the birth of Jesus? For one thing, humility. God chose to be brought low, to become vulnerable and accessible to us like never before. God, who had already entered into a covenant with a chosen people, now demonstrated a desire for the whole of humanity to know God in the flesh, to see God face-to-face without fear. There really is not anything less threatening than a baby, especially a sleeping baby, and really nothing much more loveable.

Our annual celebration of Christmas reminds us of how God's face has shone on us in a powerful, yet gentle, way with the Eternal Word becoming flesh. Even though we were not around when Jesus was born or the years that he walked the earth, we can learn about him in the scriptures and share the stories with others. That is not enough, though. God wants people of all times and places to encounter Emmanuel personally. We have the Holy Spirit who introduces us to Jesus, with the hope that we will accept his love and in turn desire to love him and anyone God

places in our lives.

On Christmas Eve this year, Pope Francis kicks off the Jubilee Year of Hope by opening the Holy Doors at St. Peter's Basilica. In the Papal Bull, *SPES NON CONFUNDIT* ("Hope does not disappoint"), he expresses his desire that the Jubilee "be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus" and that we be renewed in the hope "that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God's love". That is the message that Jesus came to share, first as a baby, and now through you and me as the Holy Spirit empowers us to bring blessings to others by reflecting Christ, whose face we are called to show. In the words of Numbers 6.24-26:

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

— Fr. Morgan

OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR

On December 24, 2024, Pope Francis will open the Jubilee Year which will conclude on January 6, 2026. The theme of the 2025 Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope". We look forward to celebrating the Jubilee here at St. Basil's in the year ahead throughout our ministries.

In the Archdiocese of Toronto, all are welcome to join our Archbishop, Frank Cardinal Leo, to open the Jubilee Year with a Solemn Opening Mass at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, at 5 p.m. on Sunday, December 29, 2024. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at the Cathedral before Mass from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. We will be distributing prayer cards for the Jubilee Year next weekend at all Masses.

SHARELIFE

ShareLife has been a supporter of the programs at our own parish, helping us extend care and compassion to the community.

Thanks to the generosity of ShareLife, St. Basil's received a \$5,000 grant that will support our Outreach Ministry, which provides 225 meals to our guests and neighbours each week. This support brings nourishment and hope to those we proudly serve.

Your gift will double in value! From now until year end, your contribution to our parish's ShareLife campaign will be matched by an anonymous donor up to a total of \$500,000. You can donate using a ShareLife envelope, or online at sharelife.org/donate.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 (Christmas Eve)

- Weekday Mass: 7:30 a.m.
- Cancelled: Confessions, 12:10 p.m. Mass, Adoration, Vespers
- Christmas Eve Masses: 7 p.m. and 12 midnight, with Christmas carols sung a half hour before each Mass (6:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, December 25, 2024 (Christmas Day)

- Christmas Day Masses: 9a.m., 10:30a.m., 12noon
- Cancelled: Vespers

Thursday, December 26, 2024 (Boxing Day)

- Weekday Mass: 9 a.m. only
- Cancelled: Vespers
- Office closed

Tuesday, December 31, 2024 (New Year's Eve)

- Weekday Masses: 7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m.
- Confessions: 11:30 a.m.
- Cancelled: Adoration, Vespers
- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Vigil Mass: 5 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 (New Year's Day)

- Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: 9 a.m. and 12 noon
- Cancelled: Confessions, Vespers
- Office closed

THANK YOU!

Parish staff would like to recognize the contributions of the many groups which volunteer their time during the Christmas season. Thank you to the flower team for preparing the floral arrangements and the wreathes, to the those that were part of the decorating and cleaning of the church, to St. Basil's Parish Choir and Schola Cantorum for providing music in our liturgies, and to our liturgical ministers who lend their gifts serving during the liturgy. Thank you as well to volunteers in our outreach ministries that worked hard preparing for special meal services for our patrons, and visiting community members.

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

January 11/12: Building Fund

MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 22-28



SUNDAY FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00am Nicola Ciavarella (✝)
10:30am *Pro Populo*
12:00pm Mary Fraser (✝)
4:30pm Sera D'Amario (✝)

MONDAY

7:30am Jamil, Laure Boulos, Aria Raymond (✝)
12:10pm

TUESDAY

7:30am
7:00pm, midnight *Pro Populo*

WEDNESDAY NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9:00am, 10:30am, *Pro Populo*
12:00pm *Pro Populo*

THURSDAY ST. STEPHEN

9:00am *Pro Populo*

FRIDAY ST. JOHN

7:30pm Peter and Margaret (liv)
12:10pm Peter Korinis (✝)

SATURDAY

5:00pm Luigi Ciavarella (✝)

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Sue Banfield, Rebecca Beaton, Desmond Brownlee, Lori Celik, Steve Chandler, 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.

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