

FEBRUARY 16, 2025

ORDINARY TIME VI

# ST. BASIL'S



# CATHOLIC PARISH

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

50 St. Joseph Street, Toronto M5S 1J4  
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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
Lay Pastoral Associate	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

## DARE TO BE BLESSED

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus begins his sermon by telling us to view poverty, hunger, and weeping as blessings, and of richness, fullness, and laughter as reasons for woe. It's an uncomfortable start, especially for a reader living in modern Canada, where most of us enjoy a higher standard of living than nearly anyone who would have been listening to Jesus preach that day.

Many of us are strangers to true hunger, and while few people actually think of themselves as rich, the truth is most of us today have a lot to lose. We focus on maintaining what we have, on staying full, on what makes us laugh. So much of our energy goes into remaining satisfied,

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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remaining where we are.

But Jesus challenges that satisfaction in today's reading as He exposes the spiritual poverty of accumulation. His words force us to acknowledge the pangs of spiritual starvation that remain even when our bellies are full. And in doing so, Jesus blesses us with the blessing He gave the multitude on the level place.

Like with so many of His teachings, here Jesus sets our understanding and our priorities straight by turning them on their heads. He wants us to grow in faith and spirit and charity, which is so much harder when we feel as though we have further to go down than to go up.

Jesus shows us how much more blessed we are when our energy is focused on doing God's will rather than on accumulating earthly riches. But in our world of plenty, there is still plenty of poverty, hunger, and weeping, and Jesus blesses us with an invitation to become blessings ourselves, by doing something about it.

Taking Jesus up on that offer isn't always easy. It's uncomfortable to lift ourselves out of our comfort and satisfaction to live out teachings that run counter to what power and institutions teach us to value. When we do that in His name, we stand firm and rooted against the flow of a society that so often puts gain above giving, and contempt above compassion.

That's why we need Jesus' last blessing in today's reading most. When we stand up for the hated, the excluded, and the reviled, we also stand with them. When we share in the scorn reserved for those who are immigrants, or experiencing homelessness, or queer, or trans, or people of colour, or disabled, or otherwise marginalized, we're standing with Jesus.

– *Mark and Vanessa Grant*

## ADORATION ON FEBRUARY 25

Please note that regularly scheduled Adoration will **not** take place on Tuesday, February 25.

### SERRA CLUB

**Wednesday, February 19, 2025 after 12:10pm Mass**

The next meeting of the Downtown Toronto Serra Club, drawing members from numerous Toronto parishes, will take place on Wednesday, February 19, 2025. in the St. Basil's Parish Hall following the 12:10 p.m. Mass. The guest speaker will be Sr. Teresa Morrison, a Missionary Sister of the Precious Blood. Sr. Teresa will share more about her vocation story and pastoral work, both here at home and around the world. Guests and those interested in learning more about Serra International are most welcome.

### THIERRY ESCAICH IN CONCERT

**February 28, 2025 at 7:30pm**

On Friday, February 28, at 7:30pm, St. Basil's welcomes the Faculty of Music and France-Canada Distinguished Visitor in Music, Thierry Escaich, organist, composer and improviser. A renowned contemporary composer and performer and professor of organ at the Conservatoire National Supérieure de Musique et de Danse de Paris, M. Escaich was recently named titular organist of the organ at Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris. This concert is free admission.

### BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

Join us for an hour of reflection and faith sharing on Zoom every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. We pray with the Sunday scriptures as we grow in relationship with the Word and community. Come to one, some, or all sessions: no preparation required other than a willingness to reflect and share. All are welcome!

Questions? Contact JoAnn Lopez: [joann.lopez@utoronto.ca](mailto:joann.lopez@utoronto.ca) To receive the Zoom link, please register: <https://tinyurl.com/StBasilFaithSharing>

## FAMILY DAY

Please note that on Family Day (Monday, February 17) only one Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am. Regularly scheduled confessions and vespers are cancelled on that day. The church will close at 1:00pm.

## WINDOWS ON THEOLOGY

Join Sister Gill Goulding, CJ, for a series of engaging tea-time conversations over Lent, delving into the theological foundations of the 2023-24 Synod on Synodality and how we can carry forward the synodal journey beyond the October 2024 session. With her tea in hand, Sister Gill will guide participants through the Synod's roots in Vatican II, explore the key themes of recent Synodal Assemblies, and invite reflection on how we, as the body of Christ and a synodal Church, can embrace the synodal process in our everyday lives.

- March 12, 2025: A Re-appropriation of Vatican II
- March 19, 2025: The Voices of the People of God
- March 26, 2025: Synodal Assemblies I & II and Their Key Questions
- April 2, 2025: The 21st Century Synodal Church
- April 9, 2025: How do we continue the process?

This course is offered as a hybrid course. Participants who wish to attend in-person will gather in Regis College St. Joseph Chapel. Participants who wish to attend virtually will use the Zoom link provided a few days in advance of the first meeting. Register at [www.regiscollege.ca](http://www.regiscollege.ca)

## ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Please note Mass will be celebrated at the following times on Ash Wednesday: 7:30am, 12:10pm, 1:30pm, 5:10pm, and 7:00pm.

## UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

February 22/23: Society of St. Vincent dePaul

## MASS INTENTIONS

### FEBRUARY 16 - 22



### SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME VI

- 9:00am Tyler Sabapathy (✝)  
10:30am Pro Populo  
12:00pm Alice and Jessica (liv)  
4:30pm Barbara Markiewicz (✝)

### MONDAY

- 9:00am Francis, Mary, and Monica Gannon  
(✝,✝,✝)

### TUESDAY

- 7:30am Ginger Chung (liv)  
12:10pm Paul Darragh (✝)

### WEDNESDAY

- 7:30am  
12:10pm Vocations

### THURSDAY

- 7:30am Kathleen and John Angus (✝,✝)  
12:10pm

### FRIDAY

- 7:30pm  
12:10pm Stefan and Anna Papez (✝,✝)

### SATURDAY

- 5:00pm Olga Trevizan Lucic (✝)

**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.**

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