

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

LENT II

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

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

“For I am convinced that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8.38) This verse, which follows immediately after the passage from today's second reading, hangs framed in my office. It is my ministry mission statement, at the heart of my work and vocation – to proclaim God's boundless love to all people.

It might be hard to believe in this love when we hear the readings this week, which always make me wonder: does God demand the death of the beloved child? For context, Abraham lived in a time where human sacrifice was common. On one level, the first reading teaches us that God does not desire human sacrifice, but faithful trust. As we reflect, we see that Abraham can truly discern this because he is absolutely attuned to God's Word, and so, even with a knife in his hand, he can pause, hear God's call, respond “here I am!” and change course. This reminds us of the need for continual prayer, listening, and discernment in our lives. Another layer is that Abraham has a

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.

We respect your decision to remain masked or unmasked.



ST. BASIL'S PARISH, TORONTO



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great faith in God's prior promise of uncountable descendants. He displays faithful resurrection hope – believing that God could bring life even out of death (Hebrews 11.8-19). Abraham trusts in God's promise, even in the face of obstacles and adversity.

Obstacles and adversity are also what Jesus has been telling his disciples about before the Transfiguration. Repeatedly throughout Mark's Gospel, Jesus predicts that he will suffer and die, and his disciples reject this possibility. We might wonder: did Jesus come into this world only to suffer and die? The Transfiguration invites the disciples (and us) to see Jesus' vocation more fully. Just as at his Baptism, we hear God proclaim Jesus as the Beloved Son. The Transfiguration reminds me of this truth: Jesus does not come to this world simply to die, but to proclaim and embody God's mission of love and mercy. Unfortunately, in our broken world, this wholehearted commitment to God's love all too often leads to suffering and death. Jesus did not enter into the journey seeking death for its own sake, but he was faithful to responding to his identity as the Beloved One, and following the path of love wherever it leads. It is love that calls, and love that sustains the journey.

At our own baptisms, and throughout our lives, God is proclaiming our belovedness to us, and calling us to partner in God's mission of uniting all creation in this love. We too are empowered by the Spirit to proclaim the truth of God's abundant love, and follow where this love leads us with hope and trust. As followers of Christ, we must stand in solidarity with those who suffer, and challenge the forces of this world that alienate, destroy, and dehumanize – even if this means joining Christ in bearing the painful consequences of this mission. With our ancestors in faith, we can trust and live the truth that even in great suffering, there is nothing that can separate us from God's love.

Lent then, is not about suffering for suffering's sake, but about freeing us to receive and give love and fully participate in God's abundant life. One

way to do this is to heed God's voice in the Gospel: "This is my Beloved Son. Listen to him." Spend some time in quiet prayer and friendship with Jesus, perhaps at Tuesday afternoon Adoration. This Lent, may God teach us how loved we are, and how to wholeheartedly follow Jesus' way of love in our context today. May the Spirit empower us all with the grace, faith, and hope we need to be able to bear witness in our world to the promise that nothing can separate us from God's love.

-JoAnn Melina Lopez

JOHN FORD FOOD DRIVE

Hunger is a serious issue affecting many people in our community, and our faith calls us to respond to serve our neighbours. This food drive supports our Outreach Ministry through monetary contributions as well as donated items that can be used for our meal service or distributed directly to our patrons. To make our food drive a success, we are requesting specific food items that are in high demand. These should be unopened items with a longer shelf life (far from expiration dates).

We are looking for: Canned meats and fish, Canned or dry lentils and beans, Rice, Pasta, Barley, Oats, Nut butters (peanut, almond, soy, etc), Canned or jarred stew, Canned or jarred pasta sauce, Canned vegetables and fruit.

We will be collecting these donations **before and after Mass on the weekend of March 2/3**. As always, cash donations are accepted to support the bulk purchasing of these items. Your support means a lot to us and will make a big difference in the lives of those we are helping. Together we continue to make a positive impact in our community.

PARKING NOTICE

Please do not park on the paving stones in front of the church as this is a designated fire route; your vehicle may be towed or ticketed if parked illegally. Be sure to always obtain a parking permit from the parish office.

LENTEN RETREAT

“I Believe...”: A Lenten Day of Reflection,
Saturday, March 2, 2024, 9:30am to 4:00pm

Meditating on the Creed, we will reflect on God's love, the Paschal Mystery, and our call to be a community of disciples guided by the Spirit. Our retreat day will include prayer, presentations, silence, small group conversation, and will end with an opportunity for Reconciliation before the Saturday evening Mass.

We are currently at capacity; but you can add your name to the waiting list at stbasilontario.org/lent

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

Tuesdays at 7:00pm

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/StBasilFaithSharing>

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

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

Lent includes many opportunities for deepening of prayer, giving alms, and fasting. Consider taking part in some of our Lenten Offerings, listed below.

Vespers (Evening Prayer): Celebrated Monday-Friday at 5:10pm.

***Eucharistic Adoration:** Takes place on Tuesdays from 3:00pm to 6:00pm.

***Stations of the Cross:** Takes place on Fridays at 5:30pm, immediately following Vespers.

Bundle-Up Weekend: A truck will be on site the weekend of **March 9 and 10** to collect gently used clothing.

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

February 24/25: Society of St. Vincent dePaul
March 9/10: Easter Flowers

MASS INTENTIONS

FEB 25 - MAR 2



SUNDAY LENT II

9:00am Dora Lobo (✝)
10:30am *Pro Populo*
12:00pm Raheel Caummy (✝)
4:30pm Tony Saturno (liv)

MONDAY

7:30am
12:10pm Mary Ann Sebastian (✝)

TUESDAY

7:30am
12:10pm Linda Maud Morrison (✝), Marichu Ras (✝), Fr. Augustine Thompson (liv)

WEDNESDAY

7:30am Ginger Chung (liv)
12:10pm James Robert and Valerie Crilly (✝,✝)

THURSDAY

7:30am
12:10pm Len Ciavarella (✝), Giuseppe Florio (✝),
Mary Kreis (✝)

FRIDAY

7:30am
12:10pm *Vocations*

SATURDAY

5:00pm Dr. Peter Moran (liv)

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Sue Banfield, Rebecca Beaton, Desmond Brownlee, Dora Carbone, Lori Celik, Steve Chandeller, Mary Jane Cowan, Josephine D'amico, Jasper David-Fuchs, Clare DeMello, Maisie Henry, Maryanne Hodges, Elaine Landrie, Margaret LaRose, Margaret-Mary McKenzie, David Martin, Rosy Menezes, Dr. Peter Moran, Januz Niemczyk, Francis O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Robert Rodbourne, Delaila Salvador, Girolamo Scoppio, Todd Snow, John Sytsma, Betty Veit, Eileen Vyphius, and Alexander Wu.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED.

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