

FEBRUARY 9, 2025

ORDINARY TIME V

# 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

*"I like you very much. Just as you are."* Do you remember Mark Darcy (played by Colin Firth) declaring this to Bridget Jones over 20 years ago, in the film based on the book inspired by *Pride and Prejudice*? Mid-way through the movie, our insecure protagonist is stunned by the idea that she could be loved just as she was.

How often are we similarly surprised by the idea of our belovedness? Some days our unworthiness feels louder than the voice of God's love. We can get too focused on our inadequacies, imperfections, and sinfulness. We say "if only I was a better, more faithful, more trusting, less sinful person, then I would be worthy of God, or have a part to play in God's plan." Surely, we think, someone better must be available to answer God's call.

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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We can consider ourselves in good company then, with Isaiah, Paul, and Peter, whom we meet in our scriptures today. Each of them has an awe-inspiring encounter with God's presence, and responds first with fear and a focus on their limitations. Yet, none of them remain stuck in their sense of inadequacy. For God's love is relentless, and God's grace is always being poured out to heal, encourage, strengthen, and send us out. Peter, Paul, and Isaiah allow their encounter with God to form and transform their lives. Perhaps their "yes" came from trusting that it is no longer up to them to strive alone, but that God will be their constant companion and partner in the mission to which God is calling them. Can we have the same trust and hope in God's grace, which has been and is being poured out for us?

During each Mass we are reminded that God desires to draw near to us in our imperfections. First as we gather, we ask for forgiveness and then sing God's glory ("Lord have mercy...Glory to God..."), and right before we come forward to receive Christ's presence, we again declare our imperfection and our trust in God's grace ("Lord I am not worthy...but only say the word..."). This pattern of the Mass reminds us that our faith is not focused on how bad and inadequate we are, but on the generous, gratuitous, abundant love of God. God wants to come and dwell with us. The first step is our willingness to move past our fear and failings, and simply receive God's love.

Like Peter in today's Gospel, Jesus is coming to encounter us in the midst of our daily lives, and might ask us to try again, or to let something go, or to come and follow in a new way. Will we have the courage and trust to say yes, first to encounter God just as we are, to allow grace to enter and transform our lives, and then to participate in God's mission of love in our world?

– JoAnn Melina Lopez

## MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

On the second Sunday of February each year, the Archdiocese of Toronto celebrates Marriage Sunday. In 2025, it will be celebrated this weekend. This occasion highlights the importance of the institution of marriage rooted in faith, affirms couples who strengthen our faith community through their witness, and complements World Marriage Sunday celebrations that take place across North America. Married couples are invited to pray this special prayer together:

*We praise you, O God,  
we bless you, Creator of all things,  
who in the beginning created us that we might  
form a communion of life and love.*

*We also give you thanks for graciously blessing  
our family life so that it might present an  
image of Christ's union with the Church.*

*Therefore, look with kindness upon us today,  
and as you have sustained our communion  
amid joys and struggles,  
renew our Marriage covenant each day,  
increase our charity,  
and strengthen in us the bond of peace,  
so that we may for ever enjoy your blessing.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## 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>

# 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.

## 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)

## UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

February 8/9: Building Fund

## MASS INTENTIONS

FEBRUARY 9 - 16



### SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME V

9:00am

10:30am *Pro Populo*

12:00pm Mary Le Noir Kierans (✱)

4:30pm Joseph and Rose Marie Cirra (liv)

### MONDAY ST. SCHOLASTICA

7:30am Rev. Joachim Ciuro (✱)

12:10pm John Papez (✱)

### TUESDAY

7:30am

12:10pm Astrid Serafica (✱), Frankie Leung (✱),  
Graham Beange (liv)

### WEDNESDAY

7:30am

12:10pm Toufic, Nadia, Grace, and Paul  
Seenawe (✱,✱,✱,✱)

### THURSDAY

7:30am Juan Blackwell (liv)

12:10pm

### FRIDAY

7:30pm Corazon, Vicente, and Dante (✱,✱,✱)

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

### SATURDAY

5:00pm Wlodek and Lukasz (✱,✱)

**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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