

MARCH 16, 2025

LENT II

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
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

EMBRACING THE CROSS

During the Horizons of Hope series on palliative care, I reflected on how little our culture is willing to talk about death. We are afraid to acknowledge that death is a natural part of human existence. This can leave us isolated or fearful in the face of our own suffering, or that of our family and friends.

At the same time, we have become desensitized to the violent and horrific deaths experienced daily by children, women, and men around the world and in our city. Violence and systemic oppression have become normal. We change the channel or scroll past it on our newsfeeds –

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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numb, overwhelmed, and disempowered.

Theologian Dorothee Söelle describes another kind of death, “death by bread alone,” where we are so satiated and saturated with material products that we exist in a state of living death, isolated and falsely independent, without purpose. We no longer see anything, or anyone, as gift. This existence – devoid of genuine relationships and filled with anxiety and loneliness – means we are numb to our own death-like living and the violent deaths of others, whom we do not mourn because we do not believe we are connected. I wonder if this is what St. Paul meant when he said that some live as enemies of the Cross, hyper-focused on the material world.

What is the cure for our attitudes towards death? Our readings challenge us to embrace the Cross of Christ. For St. Paul our hope is grounded in the Cross and Resurrection. At the Transfiguration, the voice of God urges the disciples to listen to Jesus, who, immediately before the mountaintop experience and again after, predicts his own suffering and death and tells his friends that the path of discipleship includes the cross.

As we witness through Jesus’ incarnation, life, ministry, teaching, and especially through his death and resurrection, God has decisively chosen life over death. God chooses embrace, not exclusion. God chooses the way of humility and interdependence. God chooses to lift up the lowly and the vulnerable. God transforms death into life. God opposes every force which disconnects us from God and one another. Death is not the end of the story for Christians.

Embracing the Cross means we do not need to fear natural death. We no longer need to avoid everything that reminds us of our finitude. We can stop numbing ourselves or turning our back on those who suffer and die. We can actively choose

to side with life. We can challenge the systems and structures that bring about unnatural death – like poverty, war, violence, oppression, isolation, and discrimination.

To follow Jesus as a disciple, to listen to him, means to embody his commitment to life and opposition to the forces of death. This Lent, may our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving shake us out of our fear of death, and prepare us to more wholeheartedly embrace the Cross of Christ, in which we find our hope and transformation.

– JoAnn Melina Lopez

SERRA CLUB

The next meeting of the Downtown Toronto Serra Club, drawing members from numerous Toronto parishes, will take place on Wednesday, **March 19, 2025 in the St. Basil's Parish Hall following the 12:10 p.m. Mass.** The guest speaker will be Carissa Douglas, mother of 15 children ages 1 to 22. She is the Author and Illustrator of the Little Douglings Catholic children’s book series and the Dougling Adventures junior fiction novels. Guests and those interested in learning more about Serra International are most welcome.

INTRODUCTION TO MEDITATION

Introduction to Christian Meditation for Young Adults (age 18-45)

4 Wednesdays, starting March 19, 7:30-8:45pm
Registration required: <https://bit.ly/4wkIntro>



Looking for prayer and stillness in the new year? Join a four-week introductory series on Christian Meditation for Young Adults (18-45), offered by Jose Cuervo, MPsy, MTS. Learn this contemplative way of Christian prayer, practised by the 4th century Desert Fathers and Mothers. Sessions take place in Ardèche Hall. Suggested donation \$40.

SACRED BEGINNINGS

Are you and your spouse expecting, expecting to be expecting, or knee-deep in diapers? Come join us! We're a community of couples that are striving to grow in love for God, our spouses, and our kids. Families have been gathering on the second Sunday of each month, downstairs in Macrina Hall, from 9 - 10:15 AM for kids' activities and the opportunity to pray and reflect together.

Our final gathering is on Palm Sunday, April 13. More details are available on our registration form on the parish website. Feel free to email the organizing couple (Catherine & Brendan) at cath.s.steven@gmail.com if you have any questions.

USMC SCHOLA CONCERT

Monday, March 17, 7:30pm

All are welcome to a Lenten concert at St. Basil's presented by the St. Michael's Schola Cantorum, directed by Dr. Christina Labriola, on Monday, March 17 at 7:30 pm.

Together with a consort of instruments led by Christopher Verrette and four wonderful soloists, the Schola will present an uplifting and hopeful setting of the Requiem by Neapolitan Baroque composer Niccolò Jommelli (1714-1774).

Admission is free, with donations gratefully accepted.

BUNDLE UP WEEKEND

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is collecting gently used clothing and footwear the weekend of March 22/23.

A truck and volunteers will be present before and after the Saturday and Sunday Masses. Please ensure that your donations are clean and in good condition. We thank you for bringing your items on the designated weekend, as there is no dedicated storage space in the church. God bless you for your generosity!

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

March 22/23: Easter Flowers

MASS INTENTIONS

MARCH 16-22



SUNDAY LENT II

9:00am Nora Paraguya (✝)
10:30am *Pro Populo*
12:00pm Adele O'Connell (✝)
4:30pm Carmelita Salazar (✝)

MONDAY

7:30am
12:10pm Francis, Monica, and Mary Gannon (✝, ✝, ✝)

TUESDAY

7:30am
12:10pm

WEDNESDAY St. Joseph

7:30am
12:10pm Vocations

THURSDAY

7:30am
12:10pm Juan Blackwell (liv)

FRIDAY

7:30pm
12:10pm Luigi, Len, Lina, and Michael Ciavarella (✝, ✝, ✝, ✝)

SATURDAY

5:00pm Claudette Wingell (✝)

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Sue Banfield, Rebecca Beaton, Annabelle Brossard, 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, Delaila Salvador, Todd Snow, Federico Sorianosos Jr., John Sytsma, Betty Veit, Eileen Vyphius, Rosalie Wimbs, and Alexander Wu.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED, especially, Carmelita Salazar.

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