

MARCH 23, 2025

LENT III

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

MEANING IN SUFFERING

In the last three years, three immediate family members have suffered from cancer. One passed away within weeks of diagnosis, one is in remission, and one is in chemotherapy. Each time, my response was swift and predictable. I thought, "God has forgotten about us. He is probably dealing with the war overseas". "He doesn't care about any of his creation." "This must be punishment for that thing that I did."

The meaning I was making was not just an intrusive thought, but rather the same devil that we read about at the beginning of Lent who whispered to Jesus in the desert

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



STBASIL_TO

that there is no bread. The angels will not come. God has abandoned you. The devil transforms suffering into a temptation. He detaches us from God. He divides us. He tells us that God is limited. Indifferent. Spiteful.

This is a temptation I know all too well. But today's scripture reading provides us an alternative explanation. We learn of a God of infinite power, not bounded by any name, but described as "I AM WHO I AM." He took the form of "a bush, [that] though on fire, was not consumed." Why is this significant? It says that his love for one person does not compete with or consume his deep love for us! This is a God who, instead of cutting down the fig tree without fruits, leaves it for another year to "cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it." A God who calls out to Moses, who was not some influencer or billionaire, but rather a "nobody" tending sheep in the mountains of the Sinai Peninsula.

Does this sound to you like a limited, indifferent, and spiteful God? Or do we hear that "The Lord is kind and merciful" and that he "observed the misery of [the] people" and that he knows us by name? Last week Fr. Morgan reminded us that one of our best comforts in suffering is knowing that someone is with you. Who is that "someone" for you?

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.

Ultimately, we are faced with two profoundly divergent stories of suffering to believe in. One story says that God has abandoned us and the other says God is with us. One encourages us to drift away from God while the other calls us to cling to him to guide us through this desert as Pilgrims of Hope.

The story I choose doesn't take away my suffering. Suffering is crazy painful. That said, our readings this week remind us that God is all-powerful and all-loving. Yet this same God allowed the Israelites to wander in the desert. Allows the Pope to suffer. And in a few weeks, we will remember that God allows his only son to undergo one of the cruelest forms of execution while his mother watches on. How can we reconcile an all-powerful, all-loving God that permits that? As we move closer to Easter, let us pay attention to how God's plan unfolds after the Passion, and experience that God remains with us each step of the way.

– Christopher Lau

SHARELIFE

Thank you for heeding the Lord's call to feed the hungry!

For many children, the snacks and meals they receive in school may be the only nutritious food they eat all day. Studies show that children can't learn and thrive when they are hungry. Thanks to you, \$750,000 in Food Security Grants are making a difference across our community. Students receive the nourishment they deserve, and parents are supported in the process. The FoodShare program at ShareLife-funded agency Rosalie Hall "is a lifeline for families," says their Executive Director, Jane Kenny. "It helps parents provide food for their children, reduces their stress, and allows them to focus on being the best parents they can be."

Our 2025 goal is \$105,000. Give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope or online at sharelife.org/donate.

WITH ONE ACCORD WEBINAR

The biennial *With One Accord* Webinar will take place on Saturday March 29 on the subject of *The Feminine in the Parish: Ministries of Possibility*. We hope to see you there!

The details and registration link are available at www.magdalacolloquy.org/webinar.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

Friday, April 4 - Saturday, April 5

Join St. Basil's and St. Mike's Campus Ministry for a special time of prayer, service, and community in celebration of the Jubilee Year. Beginning on Friday evening with Vespers, and ending with Saturday evening Mass, we will devote ourselves at St. Basil's and at home to encountering Christ's merciful love.

Featuring Eucharistic Adoration, Liturgy of the Hours, Scripture, Zoom prayer, Praise and Worship, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we will be keeping the church open overnight for prayer as a community. Sign up through our website (<https://www.stbasilortoronto.org/>) to receive event updates, or through our form here: <https://forms.office.com/r/Q5E5cPj9jr>. Questions? Contact JoAnn Lopez: joann.lopez@utoronto.ca

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Saturdays 1-3pm, starting April 26

Are you a Catholic youth between the ages of 12 to 18? Join a community of exploration, prayer, reflection and conversation that prepares you for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday, June 21, at the 5pm Mass. Our program for those in grade 7 and up includes seven required sessions, held weekly on Saturday afternoons from 1-3pm at St. Basil's Catholic Parish, starting April 26 (no session on May 17, Victoria Day Weekend). Register by April 20 here: <https://forms.office.com/r/bjzZy9RvQx> Questions? Contact: joann.lopez@utoronto.ca

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

March 22/23: Easter Flowers

MASS INTENTIONS

MARCH 23-29



SUNDAY LENT III

- 9:00am Pamela Buklis (✱)
- 10:30am *Pro Populo*
- 12:00pm Vivian Kwok and Winnie Man (liv)
- 4:30pm Michael Gough (✱)

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

- 7:30am Joan Frances & John Damian Rabot(✱,✱)
- 12:10pm Mary Morelli (✱)

WEDNESDAY

- 7:30am Dolores Ciuro (✱)
- 12:10pm Italina Gazza (✱)

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

- 7:30pm
- 12:10pm Anna Nacinovich (✱)

SATURDAY

- 5:00pm Faye Girodat (✱)

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.

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