

MARCH 3, 2024

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

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

When I was in university, I went bowling with friends for a charity fundraiser, and received an award – a full-size bowling pin emblazoned with my lackluster achievement: Lowest Individual Score (in the whole bowling alley)! Others may have been ashamed at this very public spotlight on a failing, but I had long learned to laugh at my lack of athletic ability – so I wryly displayed the award in my dormitory for all to see my weakness.

I think that there's some parallel between my "biggest loser" award, and the foolishness of the Cross that St. Paul refers to in the Second Reading. Two millennia after Christ's life, death, and resurrection, we are so used to the symbol that perhaps it has lost its meaning for us. Crucifixion was the brutal capital punishment used to annihilate opposition to the Roman Empire, and instill fear in those living under their oppressive regime. To invite people to faith by proclaiming Christ crucified would certainly be more absurd than my proudly declaring I was the worst bowler. To the world, the suffering

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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Messiah seems like an utter defeat. Jesus does not meet contemporaneous Jewish expectations of a Messiah: he did not overthrow the brutal colonizing Empire. Instead, Jesus lovingly absorbs, exposes, and disrupts its violence in the Cross. Even in his Resurrection, he is no hero who exacts revenge and vanquishes his enemies, but instead empowers his followers to become courageous witnesses of God's transforming love. For the Greco-Roman context, the Crucified One is a joke, with neither scholarly pedigree nor secret sage wisdom. Jesus defies all our expectations of God and King. Yet, along with St. Paul, we who have been transformed by God's love can still proudly proclaim Christ Crucified and Risen.

Jesus' Life, Death, and Resurrection reveal God's strength. The Good News that Jesus lived and died for was this: God is bringing the world back into right relationship – so that we all may be united in love of God and love of neighbour. Jesus called the last, the least, and the lost into transformation of heart that leads to the Kingdom of God. Jesus embodied a different kind of power through God's merciful way that brings liberation, justice, and peace. Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection reveals God's strength: God is decisively on the side of the oppressed, the abandoned, the despised, and the disposable, and death does not have the last word. God's Reconciling Love cannot be stopped, not even by death. Jesus embracing vulnerability may seem like "weakness" but God's life is stronger than anything that the powers-that-be can use to destroy.

This week, let us allow Jesus and his Cross to confront us anew. Consider: Are there idols or versions of God that we need to drive out of our hearts? How has the Cross of Christ transformed your life? Have we (personally and as a Church) embraced God's "foolish" and "weak" ways of mercy, compassion, vulnerability, forgiveness, inclusion, hospitality, and solidarity? Are we willing to be fools for love when it comes to

living kingdom values in this world, even if it means letting go of the world's definitions of power, prestige, strength, wisdom, stability, and security? How can you more fully respond to the central commandment to wholeheartedly love God and your neighbour?

For Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, we celebrate the Scrutinies with the Elect (preparing for baptism). At these Masses we experience different readings and special prayers. We pray that the Elect may be freed from any obstacles to their embrace of Christ, and for them to be strengthened in faith before their baptism. As we continue in our Lenten journey, let us pray for the Elect, and ask that God will transform us all, that we may embrace the Cross of Christ, so that God's wisdom and strength can be revealed in our lives.

-JoAnn Melina Lopez

BUNDLE UP WEEKEND

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is collecting gently used clothing and footwear the weekend of **March 9-10**. 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!

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.

EXCURSION: ROM EXHIBIT

Saturday, March 16, 2:00pm

Lent is a time of preparation for the joy and hope of Easter. We reflect on the truth that we shall die, and that our Saviour, Jesus Christ, died and rose again, opening for us the way to resurrection life. Join parishioners on the afternoon of Saturday, March 16 to visit the current exhibit *Death: Life's Greatest Mystery* at the Royal Ontario Museum, which explores our understanding of and relationship to death across cultures. Refreshments in the parish hall will follow the visit to the ROM. Participants purchase museum tickets on their own, but explore the exhibit together. Registration required, more information on the St. Basil's website at www.stbasiltoronto.org/lent

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generous support of the John Ford Food Drive this weekend. Hunger is a serious issue affecting many people in our community, and our faith calls us to respond to serve our neighbours. Our 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.

Thank you also to St. Joseph's College School students who donated homemade cookies for the Thursday snack services. Your support means a lot to us and will make a big difference in the lives of those we are helping.

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

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

March 9/10: Easter Flowers

MASS INTENTIONS

MARCH 3-9



SUNDAY LENT III

9:00am Norma King-Wilson (✱)
10:30am *Pro Populo*
12:00pm Vivian Kwok and Winnie Man (liv)
4:30pm

MONDAY

7:30am Erika Scheigerlehner (✱)
12:10pm Marichu Ras (✱)

TUESDAY

7:30am
12:10pm Robin D'Souza (✱), Norma Mañebo Reyes (✱)

WEDNESDAY

7:30am
12:10pm Teresa Henriques (liv)

THURSDAY

7:30am
12:10pm Purita Villanueva (✱)

FRIDAY

7:30am Dr. Peter Moran (liv)
12:10pm Gracinda Santos (liv)

SATURDAY

5:00pm Lina Ciavarella (✱)

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, especially, Raffelina Burgener.

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