

MARCH 31, 2024

EASTER SUNDAY

# 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.

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.

## 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           |

Every Easter my attention is captured by the first witnesses to the Resurrection. I imagine:

*Brokenhearted women wake before the dawn, and make their preparations in the dark. They set out to the tomb of their beloved friend – their grief is loud, the threat to their life is real, but they know what they have to do: care for the broken body with love and dignity. They move with courage, together. They wonder how they will even roll away the stone at the tomb – how will they love in the face of the weight of oppressive power in this world?*

*And there, at the tomb, they encounter the impossible Good News – the rolled away stone, the empty tomb. The promise that the Beloved One has been raised.*

I imagine their fear, their incredulity, as they race away – unsure whether to speak what they have seen. This weekend, our readings pause us here, in this moment of the unknown. We know it



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is not the end of the story of Good News. We know that it is to these, the distressed, disbelieved, and disposable women disciples that the Risen Christ first appears. It always amazes me every Easter: the Risen One does not come to those in power with a message of vengeance, but rather to these friends, the least and last, and Christ empowers and transforms them to be unafraid witnesses of hope and God's steadfast love.

Today, we gather as friends of Jesus because of those first witnesses who encountered his Resurrection life. We too hope to be so transformed. We celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord not as just a historical event, but as an ongoing reality. This is the truth we are called to be witnesses to: **God is continually bringing life, hope, love, peace, and joy into our world, just as Jesus proclaimed with his life, and no power of death, oppression, violence, and suffering can stop God's work of loving our world.** This is the Good News that compels us to sing with joy: *Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!*

There might be times when we, like these disciples, cannot imagine past the tomb. Yet, our faith tells us that God does, and will bring new life. The first step is to acknowledge the reality of suffering. As Christians, we must become like the courageous women disciples at the tomb, so that we can also encounter the transforming joy and hope of the Resurrection. Can we, like them, draw near to those who suffer, and embody Jesus' Way of compassionate love? I believe we will find that it is precisely in the midst of suffering, vulnerability, and fear that God desires to dwell, and bring transformation, healing, and life-giving love. It is in entering more wholeheartedly and tenderly into the reality of our lives and the context of our world in need that we will encounter the power of the Resurrection, breaking into our midst, bringing new life beyond what we imagined possible.

The good news is that our Church celebrates Easter not as a day, but as a season – indeed

as a lifetime invitation into encountering the transforming love of God. So, let us consider: What “tomb” situations in your life and in our world need God's life-giving presence? How have you encountered God's Resurrection hope in your life in the past? I am thankful for all the ways our parish already witnesses to God's Easter promise as we love and serve our neighbours, and live as a community of faith and belonging. How might God be inviting us as a Church this Easter to partner more deeply in God's life-giving work in our suffering world?

-JoAnn Melina Lopez

## 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. All are welcome! Questions? Contact JoAnn Lopez: [joann.lopez@utoronto.ca](mailto:joann.lopez@utoronto.ca)

## JOHN FORD FOOD DRIVE

The John Ford First Sunday 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 April 6/7**. As always, cash donations are accepted to support the bulk purchasing of these items.

## EASTER GREETING

**Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!**

Several years ago, a Ukrainian Catholic priest said to me, "Christ is Risen!" Then, he awaited my response. Silence. I did not know what to say, so he taught me the response: "Truly He is Risen!" This traditional Easter dialogue speaks to the heart of what we celebrate this weekend. Jesus' death and resurrection opened the way to our sharing in the divine life, a life of profound love.

Nine adults have been journeying for a few months in our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program in response to Jesus' call to be in relationship with him and be baptized in the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Once they are baptized, they are referred to as "neophytes". It is a joy to welcome them as members of our faith community along with seven baptized adults who received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our parish is enriched by their presence. Please join me in helping them feel at home at St. Basil's!

Let us continue to walk with each other, learning from each other and praying for each other throughout this Easter season of 50 days. Just like I needed help learning a traditional Easter dialogue, no matter how long we have been Catholic, the Holy Spirit will continue to work through us, the Church, to make known to the world around us the ways of Christ and the eternal life that he desires for everyone to know and live. Happy Easter! Alleluia!

Blessings,

FR. MORGAN

## EASTER MONDAY

Please note Masses for Easter Monday will follow the regular schedule of 7:30am and 12:10pm. Regularly scheduled confessions will also take place from 11:30am. The parish office will be closed.

## UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

April 13/14: Building Fund

## MASS INTENTIONS

MAR 31 - APR 6



### SUNDAY EASTER SUNDAY

9:00am *Pro Populo*

10:30am *Pro Populo*

12:00pm *Pro Populo*

### MONDAY

7:30am Souls in Purgatory

12:10pm Laudalino (✠)

### TUESDAY

7:30am Jose Torres (✠)

12:10pm Nadia Toufic, Paul Senawe, Avia  
Raymond (✠,✠,✠)

### WEDNESDAY

7:30am

12:10pm Vanessa Evangelista (✠)

### THURSDAY

7:30am

12:10pm Charles Andrew Stanton (✠)

### FRIDAY

7:30pm

12:10pm Therese Rashotte (✠)

### SATURDAY

5:00pm Jan and Stan Tingle (liv)

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**, especially, *Sue Banfield, Rebecca Beaton, Desmond Brownlee, Dora Carbone, Lori Celik, Steve Chandeller, 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, 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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