

MARCH 9, 2025

LENT I

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

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

Have you ever felt the urge to be on retreat? The deep desire for peace and quiet, for a simple schedule, and the physical (and mental) space to rest and contemplate? I wonder if you've ever felt that same yearning for Lent? A time to prepare and contemplate—to reflect. Our Lenten desire for accompaniment are echoed in the Psalm this weekend: “Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.” It is in our weaker moments that we are reminded how great our need is to feel the presence of Christ, and of others in our lives.

Some translations say Christ went into 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



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for forty days, and others say he went into the wilderness. The Greek term (*erēmos*) is related to wasteland or lonesome/solitude. It's the same word to describe where John the Baptist was. I think this offers us a different perspective on the Lenten journey. This is as much a time of retreat and renewal after Jesus' baptism as it is a time of trial for him. I am sure there were challenges, both physical and spiritual; there were also probably moments of retreat. He may have even retraced his own steps into the Jordan river where he was baptized not long before.

The temptation of satan during this time in the wilderness is right before Jesus' ministry—a seemingly penultimate test before he embarks of the journey which inevitably leads to his death on the cross. At the end of today's Gospel reading, it mentions that satan had planned to return at a later time; the Gospels do not mention any further direct interaction Jesus has with satan. Instead, they refer to satan as the one who takes makes us forget the Gospel: "These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them." (Mark 4.15)

The same is true for us today: satan is the one who would make us forget about the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving and opt instead to do nothing this Lent.

Lent is a time for simplicity, restraint, and reflection. Our practices of giving something up (or taking on a new positive habit) are meant to challenge us with the ultimate goal of bringing us closer to God—to *hear and proclaim* the Gospel. Fasting gives us opportunity to reflect on our privilege, and allows us to make considerations for others who do not have as much as us. If we are not presented with the opportunity to give alms by making sacrifices, we lose the dimension of gratitude and our Lenten practices can become shallow struggles which often result in us drifting into a spiritual desert.

Satan knows that we can be weak and be persuaded to take the easy way out; in fact, he seeks the opportunity to come to us at our weakest—in our spiritual desert. How wonderful would it be for us to turn this time in our Lenten wilderness to a time of retreat, renewal, and refreshment.

– Michael Pirri

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.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! 24-HOURS FOR THE LORD

April 4 to Saturday, April 5

Join St. Basil's and USMC 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 in Lent.

SHARELIFE

Your love is a guiding light during Lent

Maria, a 64-year-old newcomer to Canada, arrived seeking a fresh start but found herself struggling to find both stable employment and affordable housing. Through your support of ShareLife, she received personalized guidance at Catholic Crosscultural Services that helped her secure both a job and a home. She found stability and peace of mind, giving her the strength to embrace her new life.

Now, she's a guiding light for seniors, helping others access the support that changed her life. This Lent, you can walk the same path as a testament to resilience and the transformative power of community.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope or online at sharelife.org/donate.

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 To receive the Zoom link, please register: <https://tinyurl.com/StBasilFaithSharing>

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

March 22/23: Easter Flowers

MASS INTENTIONS

MARCH 9-15



SUNDAY LENT I

9:00am Lina Ciavarella (✱)
10:30am *Pro Populo*
12:00pm Vivian Kwok and Winnie Man (liv)
4:30pm Julie Khayatt (✱)

MONDAY

7:30am
12:10pm Lindsay and Julia Nelson (✱,✱)

TUESDAY

7:30am
12:10pm Chan Shee and Joseph Ayow (✱,✱)

WEDNESDAY

7:30am
12:10pm James Robert and Valerie Crilly (✱,✱)

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

7:30pm
12:10pm Aurora Oliva (liv)

SATURDAY

5:00pm Len Ciavarella (✱)

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, *Sue Banfield, Rebecca Beaton, 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, 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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