

# ST. BASIL'S CATHOLIC PARISH

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE



50 St. Joseph Street, Toronto M5S 1J4

[www.stbasiltoronto.org](http://www.stbasiltoronto.org) \* 416-926-7110

Office Hours: Mon-Fri (9:00 am - 1:00 pm; 2:00 pm - 8:30 pm)

Sat-Sun (9:00 am - 6:30 pm)

ADMINISTERED BY THE BASILIAN FATHERS

## SUNDAY MASSES

5:00 pm (Sat); 9:00 am; 10:30 am;  
12:00 pm; 4:30 pm

## WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon-Fri: 7:30 am; 12:10 pm; 5:10 pm

## BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

Please see the parish website or call the main office for details. Weddings require a one year notice.

St. Basil's Parish was founded in 1856 and is the third oldest parish in the city of Toronto after St. Paul's Basilica (1822) and St. Michael's Cathedral (1845).

We are the collegiate church of the University of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto, as well as being the parish church to our parishioners who come to worship here from all over the city.

Since October 2007, we have been the home of the National Televised Daily Mass, reaching people in their homes all over Canada. The Daily Mass is broadcast six days a week on Vision TV, the Crossroads, Television Network and Salt and Light TV.

## PARISH STAFF

Pastor:	Fr. Chris Valka, CSB
Director of Music:	John Paul (J.P.) Farahat
Assistant Organist:	Rashaan Allwood
Office Manager:	Mary Hopper
Community Coordinator:	Leanna Cappiello
Sacramental Coordinator:	Emily VanBerkum

## CONFESSIONS

Mon-Fri: 11:30 am - 12:00 pm

Sat: 4:15 pm - 4:45 pm

### THE SWEETEST BLOOM

John Dalla Costa

If you left St. Basil last week by the western exit you were no doubt as stunned as I was by the trees in full blossom at the gate to Scollard Park. Pausing to wonder at the colour I was struck by the thought that - after a long winter - the trees came back to life by flowering first.

Gardeners may well know this already but for an urban mensch like me it was shocking to realize that seed-making begins the season. As the blossoms disappear the harvest is already forming. All the effort and energy of summer will be in support of the growth of these seeds and their fruits.

The feast of the Ascension marks a similar transition point in the church. With Easter, the dark winter of humanity's exile from God ended, and for forty days the Risen Word blossomed among us, radiating the joyful truth of God's loving presence.

Today with the Ascension that blossoming ends, yet the seeds now bearing the DNA of the Incarnation are set to grow and bear fruit on their own. We, the church, are those seeds.

## ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The mid-twentieth century Jesuit theologian Karl Rahner observed that most Christians are indifferent about the Ascension, experiencing it as a mere milepost on the way between Easter and Pentecost. Forming his theology out of prayerful devotion, Rahner wrote that "it is alarming that we feel no grief" about the Lord's departure. How can we not miss the one who chose us, made us friends, healed our wounds, freed our hearts, held us in embrace, forgave our deepest ugliness, and restored to us the capacity to be in God's love?

For Rahner, the agony of this separation participates in the sweetness of love. And the consolation, of staggering significance for all humanity, is that Jesus has been "taken up" as one of us. At the Transfiguration the apostles glimpsed the Lord's divine nature breaking through in human time. With the Ascension they beheld the Lord's human nature breaking through and being taken up into God's eternity.

How sweet a sight that must have been!

**Readings: Acts 1.1-11; Ephesians 1.17-23 or Ephesians 4.1-13; Mark 16.15-20**



**MONDAY, MAY 18th IS VICTORIA DAY. THERE WILL BE ONE MASS ONLY AT 9:00 A.M. AND NO CONFESSIONS. THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.**

### **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: Building the Children's Atrium**

We are beginning a summer project to build a "Children's Atrium" (a space where 0-6 year olds will learn and be practically catechized). Some materials need to be made, and we need your skills to make them!

If you have a special knack for **woodworking, sewing, knitting/crocheting, painting/drawing/sketching, or crafting** please contact Leanna

at [lcappiello@stbasiltoronto.org](mailto:lcappiello@stbasiltoronto.org), and she will schedule a consultation with you. We have lots of instructions and blueprints to help with the building of these materials, and the Basil's Team is willing to answer any questions you might have!

### **Basil's Book Club**

We are onto our next book study! But this won't be just any book study...

All are welcome to join us in our discussion on *Community: the Structure of Belonging* by Peter Block. Get ready to prepare for and participate in the great feast of Pentecost near the May 24th weekend! We only have few copies left to sell but you could purchase your own copy through Indigo or Amazon and join in the discussion.

### **KEEPING VIGIL FOR PENTECOST**

Pentecost is the birthday of the Church and one of the three major celebrations of our calendar year. . . but too often it pails in comparison to our celebrations during Easter and Christmas, but **NOT THIS YEAR!** You are invited to participate in an Upper Room Experience as we keep vigil for Pentecost on May 23 beginning at 5 pm.

The Rite for the Vigil at Pentecost, given to us by the Church, is very similar to the Easter Vigil. Though it is not as long as the Easter Vigil, it will be longer than the usual Saturday evening Mass. However, we promise to make it worth it as we bring together different musical and lingual backgrounds as part of a celebration of our unity in diversity. So plan to join us for a celebration of the Church!

### **SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE**

From June 1 until the Tuesday after Labour Day, St. Basil's will adopt a summer schedule for weekday Masses. During this time there will be no regular 5:10 Mass during the weekdays. All other Masses will occur as usual. The TV Mass will be filming irregularly during June in order to prepare for their transition to their new location. There is also a great deal of work that will occur in the church as the radiators are removed.

During this time, Fr. Chris will be seeking input from the community about the weekday Mass schedule. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please do not hesitate to speak to him about them.

**AN EVENING AT NOTRE DAME**

**John Paul's reflection on his recent performance:**

There is something surreal about walking out into the organ loft of Notre-Dame Cathedral. The stained glass windows are in clear sight down the nave, the incense from the sanctuary is rising to meet your eye, and you are standing next to the most famous instrument the world over; leading organists have all played here, and its three current principal organists (yes, three!) are legends in their own right. The Great Organ at Notre-Dame is enormous, boasting over 8, 000 pipes spread out over five manuals (i.e. keyboards) and a pedalboard; to put this in perspective, Saint Basil's organ has about 3, 300 pipes over three manuals and a pedalboard!

I was given six hours (spread out over two evenings preceding the Saturday night recital) to prepare myself at the organ. I was locked inside Notre-Dame, after hours, with all the lights off in the church, excepting the lights illuminating the organ. I felt like a kid in a candy shop!

The concert itself featured two works: Nicolas de Grigny's (c. 1672 – 1703) *Pange lingua gloriosi*, and Charles-Marie Widor's (1844 – 1937) *Symphonie Gothique*; one French classical work, and one French romantic. The latter work was premiered almost 120 years to the day of the concert, and so I thought it quite fitting to programme it. As with most concerts, time flies by, and before you know it the recital is over. Fr. James Farge, CSB, was in Paris at the time of the concert. I was lucky to be able to be joined by him in the loft. I felt it very fitting; I was very proud to be able to represent St. Basil's in such a capacity. It was a very powerful experience, and one that I will undoubtedly never forget.

**THE SERRA CLUB**

The Serra Club of Toronto Downtown meets Wednesday, May 20 following the 12:10 Mass for Vocations. Guest speaker is Dr. Moira McQueen on "The role of Women in the Church" Guests are welcome. Call 416-964-8694 to register

**LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY**

Sunday, May 10, 2015 \$ 5,685.44

**LAST EASTERN OTHODOX LITURGY**

will be June 21<sup>st</sup> and will resume again in September.



**May 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Sunday – Ascension of the Lord**

- 9:00 – Louis Corte +
- 10:30 – Pro Populo
- 12:00 – Frank, Monica and Mary Gannon +,+,+
- 4:30 – Marian & Zofia Kupfer +,+

**Monday**

- 9:00 – John Angus +

**Tuesday**

- 7:30 – Jacob Chen +
- 12:10 – Joseph & Evelyn Fernandes +,+
- 5:10 – Mirtha Benitez +

**Wednesday**

- 7:30 – Suzanne Graham +
- 12:10 – Vocations Mass
- 4:00 – Televised Daily Mass
- 5:10 – Televised Daily Mass

**Thursday**

- 7:30 – Mrs. Helena Martin +
- 12:10 – Vince Di Pede (liv.)
- 4:00 – Televised Daily Mass
- 5:10 – Televised Daily Mass

**Friday**

- 7:30 – Gregoria Cavnán +
- 12:10 – Luigi and Lina Ciavarella +,+
- 4:00 – Televised Daily Mass
- 5:10 – Televised Daily Mass

**Saturday**

- 5:00 – Purification Manimbo +


**PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Bohdanna Kovals'kyj, Mary O'Brien, Sharon Han, Doris Marcon, Ancoreta Amigleo, Don Alvaro, Rita Moran, Rev. Kenneth Decker CSB, Clare DeMello, Edna Fernandez, Kenneth Heath and Marina Kazakis.**

**PRAY FOR THE DECEASED.**



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