

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

ORDINARY TIME XXIII

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

EMBRACING THE YEAR OF PRAYER

In the life of a parish, especially a collegiate parish like St. Basil's, September, not January, marks the beginning of the year. It's an exciting time as the campus comes alive with students and parishioners return from summer holidays. There are signs of it this weekend as we welcome back the choirs and coffee hour. It's a wonderful time of year, and so many exciting opportunities await us!

Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be marked as a "Year of Prayer" in preparation for the Jubilee Year, which he will initiate by opening the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on December 24. He wrote, "I am happy to think that the year preceding the Jubilee event, 2024, will be dedicated to a great 'symphony' of prayer. First of all, to recover the desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and adore him". It is an opportunity to promote the centrality of individual and community prayer during this year. For resources and more information about the Year of Prayer and the Jubilee Year, I invite you to check out the Vatican website iubilaeum2025.va. There's even an app you can download!

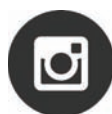
One of the richest ways to pray is with scripture, entering into dialogue with the Word of God. Consider today's Gospel describing Jesus' opening the ears and releasing the tongue of a

man who is deaf and has a speech impediment. Pope Benedict XVI said, "At the centre of today's Gospel (Mk 7.31-37), there is a small but very important word. A word that — in its deepest sense — sums up Christ's whole message and all his work... The word is 'Ephphatha', which means 'be opened'... There is an inner closure that affects the person's inmost self, which the Bible calls the 'heart'. It is this that Jesus came to 'open', to liberate, so as to enable us to live to the full our relationship with God and with others. This is why I said that this small word, 'ephphatha — be opened', sums up in itself Christ's entire mission. He was made [human] so that [human beings], rendered inwardly deaf and mute by sin, might be able to hear God's voice, the voice of Love that speaks to [their] heart, and thus in [their] turn learn to speak the language of love, to communicate with God and with others" (Angelus, 9 September 2012).

One way to foster an openness to God during our lifelong journey of discipleship is by participating more fully in the "great symphony of prayer". In the spirit of the Year of Prayer, I invite you to join me in committing to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ by encountering him through individual and communal prayer. Please check out the rest of this bulletin for some of the prayer opportunities available at the parish, including a new bulletin series entitled



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“Faith in Focus”, which invites us to reflect on the Eucharist using excerpts from the Vatican resource “Teach Us to Pray” prepared as a guide during the Year of Prayer.

Also, please mark your calendar for October 18-22 for what might be the first of its kind: a parish exchange between St. Basil’s and the Basilian parish of St. Anne in Houston, Texas. We have titled it, “Uplifted Hearts: A Basilian Celebration of Music, Mass, and Mission”, during which “ambassadors” from St. Anne’s will share with us their talents to help us encounter Jesus through music and preaching. In November, John Paul Farahat and I shall complete the Basilian parish exchange by offering an organ concert and preaching at St. Anne’s.

May the many prayer opportunities available to us cultivate in us an attentiveness to God and our neighbour so that we might “be open” to the life of joy, peace, and hope that God desires for the entire human family.

Blessings,
Fr. Morgan

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

You are invited to join our Out of the Cold Christian Meditation Group which meets every Monday from 12:45pm to 1:30pm, starting Sept. 9, 2024 in Ardèche Hall. No previous experience necessary. All are welcome. No registration needed.

This provides the opportunity to experience the practice of this simple and ancient form of Christian contemplative prayer in a small group.

Its aim is to bring the distracted mind to silence and stillness, and rest in the presence of God.

For more information, go to WCCM.org or patakav@yahoo.ca.

FAITH IN FOCUS

In this new bulletin series, we reflect on excerpts of Church documents that invites us to deepen our life of faith. For the next few weeks, we will be reading sections on The Eucharist featured in “Teach Us to Pray” (2024) published for the Year of Prayer, to prepares us for the 2025 Jubilee Year.

September 8: “The Sunday celebration of the Lord’s Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the life of the Church (Cf. CCC 2177) and the parish in that it is “the source and summit of all Christian life” (Dogmatic Const. Lumen Gentium, no. 15), memorial of Christ’s Passover and fulfillment of his sacrifice for the salvation of humankind: the highest point of prayer, lived in a communal manner, gathering the entire assembly around the table of Jesus’ body and blood.” (Teach Us to Pray, p. 23)

Do you experience the Eucharistic celebration as “the source and summit” of your life of faith? This week, as you approach Mass, ask God to help you to be attentive.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Are you or someone you know considering becoming a Catholic? Curious about the Catholic Church? Consider joining us for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), a year-long process of exploration, prayer, reflection, study, and conversation that leads to full Christian initiation in the Roman Catholic community through Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. This program serves adults including:

- Those who have never been baptized
- Those baptized in another Christian denomination
- Those baptized Roman Catholic as children who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Interested in finding out more? Make an appointment with JoAnn Lopez, the Director of Faith Formation. Contact JoAnn at joann.lopez@utoronto.ca

COFFEE HOUR & CHOIRS RETURN

This weekend, we warmly welcome back our Parish choir at the Sunday 10:30am Mass, as well as the St. Basil's Schola Cantorum at the Saturday 5:00pm and Sunday 4:30pm Masses.

Our parish coffee hour also resumes this weekend following the 10:30am Mass.

SING TO THE LORD: A VESPERS MUSIC WORKSHOP SERIES

Come learn how to chant Vespers (Evening Prayer)! Join us for 4 workshops where we'll gradually learn how to sing Vespers, building on what we learn from week-to-week. Each workshop will take place at 4:30pm on the dates below, with Vespers following at 5:10pm in the sanctuary.

Workshop dates:

- Monday September 23: Singing the Magnificat, the Song of Mary
- Monday September 30: Simple Tones for the Psalms
- Monday October 7: Hymn Melodies for Vespers
- Monday October 21: Singing the Readings and Responses

All are welcome! Email our Assistant Organist, Adrian Ross, for further information at assistantorganist@stbasiltoronto.org.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

Join us for an hour of reflection and faith sharing on Zoom every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. (resumes this week!)

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

September 21/22: Society of St. Vincent dePaul

MASS INTENTIONS

SEPTEMBER 8-14



SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME XXIII

9:00am

10:30am *Pro Populo*

12:00pm Vivian Kwok and Winnie Man (liv)

4:30pm Maura Walshe (✠)

MONDAY

7:30am

12:10pm John Papez (✠)

TUESDAY

7:30am

12:10pm Jacinta Cruz (✠), Leonor Santos Agulto (✠), Derek Keveney (✠)

WEDNESDAY

7:30am

12:10pm Julia and Lindsay Nelson (✠,✠)

THURSDAY

7:30am

12:10pm Juana Adriano (✠)

FRIDAY ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

7:30pm Marilyn and Marg Guest (✠,✠)

12:10pm Luigi, Lina, Michael, and Len Ciavarella (✠,✠,✠,✠)

SATURDAY

5:00pm Lana Hockey (✠)

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Sue Banfield, Rebecca Beaton, Desmond Brownlee, Lori Celik, Steve Chandeller, Josephine D'amico, Jasper David-Fuchs, Clare DeMello, Maisie Henry, Maryanne Hodges, Bohdanka Koval's'ky, Tyler Koval's'ky, Elaine Landrie, Margaret LaRose, Cheekon Leong, John Lorenzo, Margaret-Mary McKenzie, David Martin, Rosy Menezes, Joan Mills, 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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