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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

St. Paul's Bloor Street

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Toronto, ON M4W 1C8

Phone: 416-961-8116

Email: mail@stpaulsbloor.org

Office Hours

Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sanctuary Hours

Sundays: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Parking

Parking is free on Sunday mornings at the Manulife building located on the north side of Bloor Street at the top of Ted Rogers Way. To gain access to Manulife's parking, press the intercom button and inform the security attendant you are attending a service at St. Paul's.

Charitable Number
119194942RR0001

www.stpaulsbloor.org

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Organ Concert

Join us **today at 3:00 p.m.** for a free one-hour organ concert featuring Gerald Loo, Peaker Organ Scholar.

Pick up a card at St. Paul's Central for more dates. For more information contact Thomas Bell, Music Director, at ext. 233 or email music@stpaulsbloor.org.

5 ways to stay updated with the latest events, news, and stories from St. Paul's:

- 1 Website** - check the "Calendar" on our website for the latest events and to find out when programs and courses are starting.
- 2 Community News** - To subscribe to our Community News email, fill out a Connection Card and check the email newsletter subscription box.
- 3 Social Media** - Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for photos, videos, stories, and daily encouragement.
- 4 What's Happening** - pick up this weekly newsletter at St. Paul's Central or view it online at: stpaulsbloor.org/whats-happening
- 5 St. Paul's Central** - If you have any questions, speak to a volunteer at the kiosk in the Atrium.



Water is a powerful symbol of life. Our bodies can hang on for a long time without food, but without water it's another story. 100 hours is about all you have left without water. Water is life.

In baptism, we take water and ask God to bless it. We pour it gently on the head of the person being baptized. It is one of the many places in our worship where we use symbols – like bread and wine – to bring meaning beyond words.

What is baptism? At its heart, baptism is an opportunity to say 'yes' to the new life that Christ offers us. The apostle Paul tells us in Romans, *"just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."* (Romans 6:4)



We too may live a new life! Consider the media around big lottery winners and those who have narrowly escaped death. There is often great excitement about the possibility of a new life. Who doesn't dream at least occasionally of a life that looks quite different from the one they are living?

Are we hungry for this new life that God is offering? For some people the answer is a resounding yes! But others may be wary of what new life with Jesus might entail, and shrink back from the gift being offered.

It is fair to say no one knows exactly where your Christian journey began, and we don't know where the road ahead might take you. Jesus does promise he came to ensure His followers, *"have life, and have it to the full."* (John 10:10)

This promise of a full life is not a promise of a problem and worry-free life. Instead, we have the assurance Jesus will be 'with us always' no matter where we end up.



At St. Paul's, we offer baptism to children and adults 3 times a year. We baptize as part of our Sunday worship services and welcome the newly baptized into our community. We offer Alpha as a preparation step for adults, and our 4-week Stepping Into Faith course for families with children. Talk to a member of our team, or sign up for our spring 'Stepping into Faith' course at stpaulsbloor.org-stepping-faith.



Small groups set aside time from busy schedules to enter into welcoming community, where you learn about faith through engaging the Bible together and praying with one another. It's a place where you develop real friendships while you grow deeper in relationship with Jesus.

Wendy shares what her small group meetings are like



"Our weekly afternoon meetings start with a social time, enjoying snacks and catching up on each other's news. Newcomers are warmly welcomed.

We then study a scripture passage, seeking to learn more about God, our relationship with Him, and practical applications for our daily lives. There is continuity from week to week as we work through a book of the Bible. A study guide provides questions that promote discussion, enabling us to share insights and learn from one another. Everyone is free to join in or listen quietly, as they prefer.

After singing a hymn, we spend time praying for one another, our families and friends. This helps us to form caring and supportive relationships that extend beyond our meetings." - Wendy Rothwell

Joining a small group is simple - connect with us and we'll help you find a group that fits you best. To learn more and to join, visit stpaulsbloor.org/small-groups or contact Mark Regis at ext 230 or mregis@stpaulsbloors.org.

Palm Cross Day

Join us for fun and fellowship as we learn to make palm crosses. We will be making palm crosses in Cody Hall on **Friday, March 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

They will be distributed at St. Paul's on Palm Sunday.

Please bring scissors, an apron and lunch. We will provide instructions, tea, and coffee.



Celebrate

Easter

at St. Paul's!

Pick up an Easter invitation from St. Paul's Central and give it to someone you want to celebrate Easter with.

stpaulsbloor.org/easter

Palm Sunday | March 25
8:15 a.m. / 9:30 a.m. / 11 a.m.

Maundy Thursday | March 29
Communion Service - 7 p.m.

Good Friday | March 30
Journey to the Cross - 11 a.m.

Easter Sunday | April 1
8:15 a.m. / 9:30 a.m. / 11 a.m.



Are you interested in learning more about Refugee Sponsorship?

You are invited to come **Sunday, March 11, from 12:15 p.m. to 2 p.m.** in Cody Hall to learn more about our refugee sponsorship initiative.

In 2016, St. Paul's sponsored a Syrian family's relocation to Toronto. We worked with AURA and received a family via the Blended Visa Office-Referred program. Come and learn how this came about from some of our parish members who formed the core team.

For more information, or to RSVP, contact Sandra Seaborn at ext 226 or email sseaborn@stpaulsbloor.org



Have questions about life, faith, meaning, and God?

Are you, or do you know, a person in Grade 6 to 12, who has questions about life, faith, meaning, and God?

Encourage them to sign up for Alpha Youth - starting **March 21 at 6:30 p.m** in Cody Hall. Dinner is provided and there will be activities in the Gym and Youth Room, following each session from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Alpha Youth involves a weekend retreat at Ontario Pioneer Camp from April 27 to April 29. The cost is \$150 and bursaries are available. To register online, visit stpaulsbloor.org/alpha-for-youth or contact Ian Koiter at ext 295 or ikoiter@stpaulsbloor.org.



Pilgrim: The Bible Starts Next Sunday!

To register, visit stpaulsbloor.org/pilgrim

The Pilgrim course, beginning **next Sunday at 12:15 p.m.**, explores life as a Christian. It unpacks the basic message and teaching of the faith, and shows how to pray and live like Jesus. It is reflective and conversational.

Come as you are to participate in a way that is comfortable, whether sharing openly in conversation or listening quietly. All questions are welcome in this formative experience of learning and reflection.

This week we are praying for...

World and National Issues


- We pray for the courage to give up that which draws us away from you, a willingness to share our lives with each other, and the will to give ourselves to Jesus.
- Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and the passion to seek peace.

The Global Church

- Give your Church the daring to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to your mission in the world.
- Everyone gathered today to worship in the Diocese of Fredericton in New Brunswick.

In Our Own Church

- We pray for the following members of our St. Paul's community: Femi, Greg, Marianne, Amelie, Olivia, Marlon, Alexis, Malik and Anika. We pray for your love, grace and mercy to sustain them.
- Give us perseverance to build St. Paul's as a community of learning and trust through our small group ministries.



The Flowers Today

The flowers in the Church are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of:

High Table:

Richard and Marian Warren
given by friends.

Easter Tribute Flowers

Honouring a loved one with an Easter tribute flower is a wonderful way to share in decorating the church for Easter.

If you would like to contribute, complete the information on the memorial flower envelope in the pew or at St. Paul's Central. Place it on the offering plate, or in the office mailbox. Tributes can also be completed online at stpaulsbloor.org. Click on the "Donate" button at the top right corner. Be sure to include the names you wish to remember. Tributes begin at \$20 per entry. Donations must be submitted no later than **Sunday, March 25.**



What's Happening This Week

Sunday, March 4

Organ Concert - 3 p.m. | *Sanctuary*

Monday, March 5

GriefShare - 5:30 p.m. | *Library*

ESL Cafe - 7 p.m. | *Sanctuary*

Tuesday, March 6

Winchester Group - 10 a.m. | *Library*

Holy Communion - 12:10 p.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*

Christian Meditation - 1 p.m. | *Room 206*

DivorceCare - 7 p.m. | *Library*

Wednesday, March 7

Little Sunbeams Parents and Tots - 9:30 a.m. | *Nursery*

Wednesdays With God - 12 p.m. | *Dalton Room*

Lunchtime Alpha - 12 p.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*

Bridge Music Rehearsal - 6 p.m. | *Sanctuary*

Prayer Time for Alpha - 6 p.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*

Alpha - 6:30 p.m. | *Cody Hall*

Youth Group - 7 p.m. | *Youth Room*

Marriage Course - 7 p.m. | *Great Hall*

Thursday, March 8

CBS Women's Bible Study - 9:30 a.m. | *Music Room*

Choir Practice - 6:30 p.m. | *Music Room*

Friday, March 9

Music for Health - 10 a.m. | *Gym*

GriefShare - 1:30 p.m. | *Library*

Saturday, March 10

Alpha Day - 9 a.m. | *Cody Hall*

Prayer Time for Alpha - 9 a.m. | *Room 212*

Sunday, March 11

Pilgrim: The Bible - 12:15 p.m. | *Room 106*

Refugee Sponsorship Meeting - 12:15 p.m. | *Cody Hall*

Every Sunday

Worship Services

8:15 a.m. | *Chapel of the Good Shepherd*

9:30 a.m. **the bridge** | *Sanctuary*

11 a.m. | *Sanctuary*

Prayer Ministry

10:20 a.m. & 12 p.m.

St. Paul's Chapel

Nursery

beginning at 9:15 a.m. | *2nd Floor*

Children's Ministry

9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. | *2nd Floor*

Youth Group

9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. | *Youth Room*

Prayer Groups

10:20 a.m. | *Room 7*

10:50 a.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*

Community Lunch

12:15 p.m. | *Great Hall*

\$8 per person

Next Sunday's Preaching Passage

Matthew 16:13-18

**Topic: Confessing Jesus as
Saviour
with Bishop Stephen**

Are you missing out on our
Community News? To subscribe, fill
out a Connection Card and check the
email newsletter subscription box.