

March 25, 2018

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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

St. Paul's Bloor Street

227 Bloor Street East
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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NEWCOMERS



WELCOME LUNCH

April 22 at 12:15 p.m. | Cody Hall

New to St. Paul's? You're invited to our Newcomers Welcome Lunch. Come get to know other newcomers, ask questions, and find out more about us over a delicious lunch. To RSVP, contact Sandra Seaborn at ext. 226 or sseaborn@stpaulsbloor.org.



Easter Tribute Flowers Are Due Today

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.

Holy Week at St. Paul's

Palm Sunday

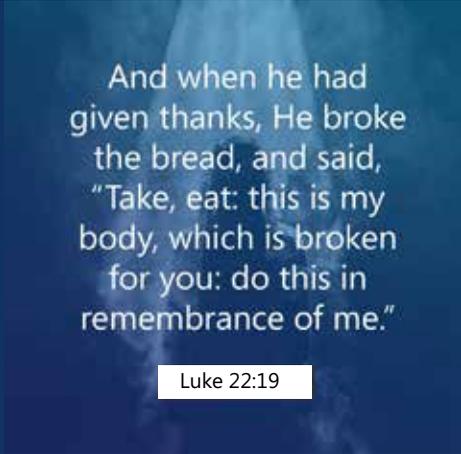


They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

John 12:13

Holy Week begins **today** with Palm Sunday or the Passion of Our Lord. We commemorate the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. It is customary to have a blessing of palm leaves which includes the reading of a Gospel account of how Jesus rode into Jerusalem humbly on a donkey, and how people placed palms on the ground in front of him. Immediately following this great time of celebration, Jesus begins his journey to the Cross.

Maundy Thursday

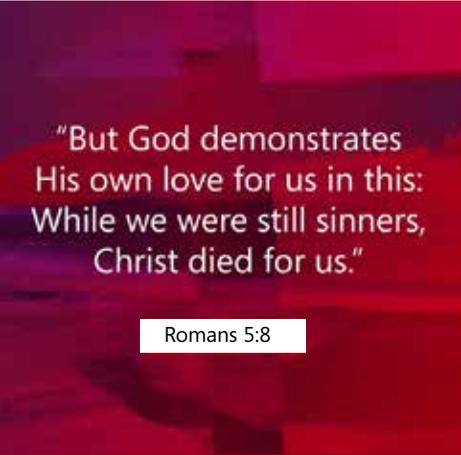


And when he had given thanks, He broke the bread, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: do this in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:19

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus with his Twelve Apostles, the institution of the Eucharist or Holy Communion. At the end of the service, silence reigns. All removable furnishings or decorations are removed. The lights are dimmed, the music is funeral in tone and then silence, the silence of Good Friday. Join us for our Maundy Thursday service on **March 29 at 7 p.m.**

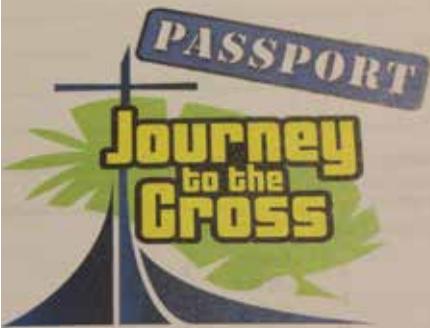
Good Friday



"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

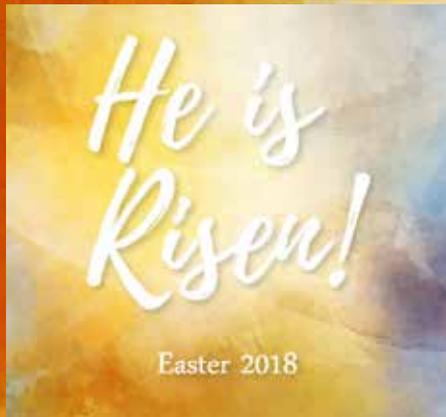
Romans 5:8

The Good Friday service involves a dramatic reading of the Passion account from the Gospel of Mark. This service has eight different readers, and the congregation all takes part. The service concludes with the Solemn Intercession, a very focused and powerful prayer that keeps our eyes, minds and hearts focused on the Cross. The Church mourns for Christ's death, reveres the Cross, and marvels at his life. Join us for our Good Friday Service on **March 30 at 11 a.m.**



Journey to the Cross for Children and Youth

On March 30, we invite children and youth to experience Easter like one of Jesus' first disciples. Children will pick up a passport and go on a guided tour around the building to visit some amazing places. Our youth will be in costume to host each stop on the journey. From the donkey they encounter at the beginning of the tour to the empty tomb at the close, the journey will tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Join us in the **Dalton Room (second floor) at 10:45 a.m. on March 30** to meet your Tour Group. Childcare is available for children three and under.



Easter Sunday is the great experience of Jesus' triumphant resurrection from the dead. Despair has turned to hope. Death has been defeated by life. The broken are being made whole. Christ is Risen!

The church is decorated with beautiful spring flowers. The music is magnificent. We worship the living God. The atmosphere is one of celebration. Join us on **April 1 at 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.** as we celebrate Easter Sunday.

Easter for Families

Children and youth are invited to celebrate with their families and the St. Paul's community in church. Childcare is available for children three and under during our April 1 services. During the service children up to Grade 5 will be invited to come to the Children's Ministry area to learn more about Easter. Children are invited to join us for a large indoor Easter egg hunt after both the 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.



Want to learn more about connecting to a small group?



We are working hard to connect people to both existing and new small groups, which includes training new leaders. Due to demand, this takes a little time. We hope to get people connected to small groups in the weeks following Easter.

In the meantime we invite everyone who has signed up or is interested to hear more, to come to an information session on **Sunday, April 8 following the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services** in Cody Hall. There you will learn more about how small groups change lives, meet small group leaders, and potentially get added to a forming or existing group.

Interested in leading a small group?

For those who have had small group experience and might be interested in small group leadership, or who are current leaders, we are offering a two-part training and discernment workshop on **Saturday, April 7 & 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** You will engage in practical teaching and discussion on the 'how-to's' of leadership, including vision and purpose, group dynamics, preparing and leading a discussion, and more.



For more information and to register, contact Mark Regis at ext. 230 or mregis@stpaulsbloors.org

Refugee Sponsorship



In 2016 and 2017, St. Paul's sponsored the relocation of a Syrian refugee family. The process involved prayer, raising funds, gathering and training a committed group of volunteers. After several months of preparation, less than a week's notice was given before the arrival of the family to Canada. In that week, members of the church were able to furnish and provide temporary accommodation.

Over the course of the year of formal support, the adults were connected with English as a Second Language learning opportunities and the children integrated into the public school system. Healthcare issues, including dental concerns were addressed. The St. Paul's core committee also provided financial and vocational coaching as well as emotional care.

Two years after their arrival, the family has grown, with a fourth child born in mid-January. They have established a strong group of friends and are happy here in Toronto.

The process to sponsor another family or individuals is now being considered. As a parish, we are discerning if there are enough people willing and able to serve in such a capacity. On March 11, twenty people gathered to hear from members of the previous sponsorship team. There was candid and warm conversation about the commitment, challenges and joys of sponsorship.

If you are interested in learning more or would like to be involved if we proceed, please contact Sandra Seaborn, at ext. 226 or email sseaborn@stpaulsbloor.org.

Wednesdays With God

Wednesdays With God recently began a new Bible Study series focused on N.T. Wright's study of the Gospel of Luke. Each session runs from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the Dalton Room and includes questions and time for reflection. Study guidebooks are available for \$10.00. Lunch is available for \$8.00 (ordered in advance). For more information, email Shelley Tidy at shelley.tidy@rogers.com or leave a message at the office.



World and National Issues

- For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground, and for all places in the world where war rages on.
- For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy.

The Global Church

- For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus, for grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death, and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them.
- For those just starting to follow Jesus and those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross.
- Everyone gathered today to worship in the Diocese of Kootenay in southeastern British Columbia.

In Our Own Church

- We pray for the following members of our St. Paul's community: Meredith, Steve, Caleb, Noah, Maya, Ena, Harston, Diana, and Monty. 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.

During Holy Week

On this Palm Sunday, true and humble King, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen.



Palm Sunday Palms

We thank the members of the Chancel Guild for the lovely palm decorations.

Our thanks also to everyone who helped make the palm crosses for distribution today.



Office Closures

Please note the office will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

What's Happening This Week

Sunday, March 25 - Palm Sunday

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

Monday, March 26

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

Tuesday, March 27

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 28

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*
Prayer Time for Alpha - 6 p.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*
Alpha - 6:30 p.m. | *Cody Hall*

Thursday, March 29

CBS Women's Bible Study - 9:30 a.m. | *Music Room*
Maundy Thursday Service - 7 p.m. | *Sanctuary*

Friday, March 30

Journey to the Cross for Children & Youth
- 10:45 a.m. | *Dalton Room*
Good Friday Service - 11 a.m. | *Sanctuary*

Sunday, April 1 - Easter Sunday

Easter Services - 8:15 a.m. | *Chapel of the Good Shepherd*
9:30 a.m. **the bridge** | *Sanctuary*
11 a.m. | *Sanctuary*
Easter Egg Hunt for Children
- 10:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m. | *Foyer*

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

Celebrate The
Resurrection of Jesus
next Sunday!



Join us for
Easter Sunday services at
8:15 a.m, 9:30 a.m. or 11 a.m.

Stay Connected! Follow us @stpaulsbloor

