



**FOR ASSIGNMENT EDITORS
MEDIA ADVISORY:**

Restoration prevents media presence at Cathedral for Christmas

Alternative churches available for coverage of Christmas celebrations

TORONTO (December 20, 2013) As Catholics across the Archdiocese of Toronto prepare to celebrate Christmas and local newsrooms plan their coverage for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we would like to alert you to a temporary change in our ability to accommodate cameras and journalists.

Recognized as the Mother Church of the archdiocese and home parish of Cardinal Thomas Collins, journalists and camera crews often include St. Michael's Cathedral in downtown Toronto as part of their Christmas coverage. This year, however, restoration of the interior of the cathedral balcony, ceiling and basement has hampered our ability to host working media during Christmas celebrations.

In an effort to provide alternative locations for media crews, two neighboring parishes in downtown Toronto have offered to welcome working media crews. Locations and Mass times are listed below.

St. Basil's Parish

50 St. Joseph Street
(off Bay St., north of Wellesley St.)
Toronto ON M5S 1J4
Christmas Eve – midnight
Christmas Day – 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., Noon

St. Paul's Basilica

83 Power Street
(off Queen St., east of Parliament St.)
Toronto ON M5A 3A8
Christmas Eve – 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m., midnight
Christmas Day – 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.

Note: To respect the sacred nature of Mass, we ask that working media identify themselves to a church representative and follow the protocols they provide.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and happy New Year.

The Archdiocese of Toronto is Canada's largest diocese, stretching from Toronto north to Georgian Bay and from Oshawa to Mississauga. It is home to 1.9 million Catholics and 225 churches, with Mass celebrated in more than 30 languages each week.

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