



The Family of Faith campaign is underway!

In addition to providing the resources to support our own parish needs, the campaign will address critical priorities that will benefit Catholics all across the Archdiocese of Toronto:

- Developing leaders through Catholic formation and engagement
- Restoring St. Michael's Cathedral
- Investing in our youth, young adult ministry and campus chaplaincies
- Funding to aid existing church properties with extraordinary maintenance needs to keep them safe and secure
- Helping to continue to build new churches throughout the archdiocese

The Family of Faith campaign will help our parish, too. The parish will retain 25 percent of all money raised. If we exceed our goal, we will keep 75 per cent of every dollar above our goal. With the parish share of the money raised, we plan to focus on faith formation and expand ministry to the youth and maturing adults.

We hope that each parishioner will prayerfully consider their response to the needs of the Church, here and throughout the archdiocese. Please continue to pray for the success of our campaign!

We have raised \$466,000 or 48% of our goal of \$960,000.

Copies of the pastoral plan, the campaign brochure and our parish case are available at the back of the church.

Stay in touch with the campaign at www.ourFamilyofFaith.ca



FRANCISCAN CHURCH
Of St. Bonaventure
1300 LESLIE STREET
TORONTO, ON, M3C 2K9
TEL: 416.447.5571
FAX: 416.447.4082
www.st-bonaventure.ca
DECEMBER 13, 2015

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

I am bringing you
good news of great joy.

Luke 2.10



Christmas Liturgies

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Children's Mass with Nativity Pageant
During the mass we recall the first Christmas with the re-enactment of the Nativity.

4:15 pm Mass in the Parish Centre

7:00 pm Mass

9:30 pm Festival of Carols and Poems

10:00 pm Evening Mass

Christmas Day

10:00 am Mass

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT ST. BONAVENTURE

WEEKDAY LITURGY: Monday to Friday, 9 am

SATURDAY: 9 am

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 9 am

RECONCILIATION: Saturday, 4 pm

SUNDAY LITURGY

Saturday Vigil: 5 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am, 10 am, 12 noon

MINISTRY CENTRE HOURS

Monday to Thursday: 9 am to 4:30 pm

Friday: 9 am to 3 pm

Closed 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

Saturday: 2 pm - 6:30 pm

Sunday: 9 am - 1:30 pm

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS — 9AM

Monday Dec. 14

†Fr. Noel Laganson

Tuesday Dec. 15

†Jesus & Jose Jalos

Wednesday Dec. 16

†Ceriaca L. Balleza

Thursday Dec. 17

Personal Intentions

Friday Dec. 18

Rubin, Mrike & Bardhok

Saturday Dec. 19

†Balbino Borac

†Edmond Odette

†Pacifico & Josefina Magale

†Jane Wren,

†Joseph Markson,

†Leo Furlan, The Friars

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. Dec. 19

5:00 pm

Special Intentions

Sun. Dec. 20

8:30 am

Parishioners

10:00 am

†Alice Castelino

12:00 pm

†John Young

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Sanctuary Lamp: Josepina Lim

Vigil Lamp: Nasturzio Family

For the Sick: Mildred Cope, Francisco Jimenez

PASTORAL CARE: Ministers of the Eucharist bring Communion to the homebound. Contact the Ministry Centre to make arrangements.

PRAYER NETWORK: Members pray daily for intentions held in confidence. Contact: Lois Theriault at 416-447-7466

Private Prayer: Contact Friar Boniface at 416-447-5571 ext. 500

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday, December 14

11:15 am St. Bonaventure School-Latin Club/BR

6:15 pm Sparks/Bonaventure Room

6:45 pm Brownies/Francis Room

7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice/Church

Tuesday, December 15

7:30 pm Bible Study Group/Oak Room

Wednesday, December 16

6:30 pm GRASP Group/Oak Room

7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous/Francis Room

7:30 pm Family Choir Practice/Church

Friday, December 18

11:15 am St. Bonaventure School-Latin Club/BR

Saturday, December 19

9:30 am Al-Anon/Bonaventure Room

9:30 am Meditation Group/Oak Room

LITURGY

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Fridays of Advent, Following the 9 am mass concluding at 10:30 am with Benediction.

Day of Confessions

"So often, our own sins and failings seem to be an obstacle in encountering the love of our Lord, preventing us from taking the steps towards authentic and renewed conversion. Yet Jesus came not to call the righteous, but sinners. He is the Good Shepherd who seeks out the lost, the Physician who comes to heal the sick. And one of His first acts after the Resurrection was to entrust to the Church the power to forgive sins in His name. To encounter the Love of God, a focus on the Sacrament of Reconciliation and with Divine Mercy is essential." ~ Thomas Cardinal Collins

From **December 13 to 19, 2015**, each parish in the Archdiocese of Toronto will be holding a **Day of Confessions**. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at our parish in this unique way on **Friday, December 18 from 9:30-10:30 am, 12-1 pm, and 6:30-7:30 pm**, when one of the Friars will be present during these times to celebrate this Sacrament of God's mercy. The opportunity to celebrate this Sacrament is also available every Saturday between 4-4:45 pm.

FAITH FORMATION

The Blessing of Our Children and Youth

Last weekend, many children celebrated their First Reconciliation. 56 children have been prepared to celebrate this sacrament of mercy and forgiveness. In the New Year, they will begin to prepare to celebrate their First Communion. The parish also enrolled 78 youth to prepare for Confirmation. Please pray for these children and youth as they continue to discover God's transforming love and goodness in their lives.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Marriage Sunday 2016

In 2016, the Archdiocese of Toronto will celebrate Marriage Sunday at the parish level on weekend of February 6/7. Cardinal Collins has also announced a special archdiocesan-wide gathering to honour married couples that will take place on Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 4:30 pm at St. Andrew Kim Parish in North York.

His Eminence extends an invitation to all married couples, in particular those who will celebrate their 25th, 40th or 50 + wedding anniversary anytime throughout 2016. To ensure special reserved seating for honoured couples, pre-registration is required, visit www.archtoronto.org/marriage

Part IV of our summary of Pope Francis’s The Face of Mercy: The Papal Bull announcing the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy (December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016)

We must learn to forgive and become instruments of mercy. Our motto, Merciful like the Father, leads us to throw open our hearts and our doors and become compassionate toward others.

15. So in this holy year, we will open our hearts to those on the fringe of society. We will heal wounds, not cause them. We will avoid indifference and take the first step toward those most in need of our mercy. Let us open our eyes to see the wounds of the world, to see those deprived of dignity and recognize their cry for help!

I want everyone to reflect deeply on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy throughout this year. Let us teach them to our children and to each other.

We ourselves will be judged on how merciful we have been toward others. If we have shown mercy to the hungry, the homeless, the prisoner, and the lonely, then judgement will go well for us. As St. John of the Cross put it, “as we prepare to leave this life, we will be judged on the basis of love.”

16. The Gospel of Luke offers another element that will help us live this Jubilee with vigor. Jesus rose to read in his hometown synagogue, according to Luke 4. He read from Isaiah the Prophet, “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to those in captivity; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

This “year of the Lord’s favor” is what we now enter into as our Jubilee. Let us address poverty once and for all. Let us proclaim liberty to those bound up in selfishness. Let us restore sight to those too blind to see human indignity. And let us do this cheerfully!

17. Let us make Lent 2016 a special time of allowing God to embrace us with his mercy once again. He never tires of taking us back, like the Father of the prodigal son. Let us make our Lenten fast one which frees the oppressed, tends to the homeless poor, and offers food to the hungry.

Toward this end, I want to see every diocese implement *24 Hours for The Lord*, an initiative which draws people to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacrament is a vital part of our Jubilee year. I never tire of calling confessors to be authentic signs of God’s love. We become such a sign when we realize first and foremost our own need for forgiveness and mercy. And let us also reach out to

Who is included in this “fringe of society” in your community, whether or not they are Catholic?

Mt 25:31-45

Words of Light and Love, 57 (St John of the Cross)

*Isaiah 61:1-2
Luke 4:16-19*

Think about ways we can further make the parish a place of mercy and healing

“Fast for the sake of others.”

*Day of Confession: Reconciliation for all in the parish. Dec 18 9:30 - 10:30 am
12 - 1 pm
6:30 - 7:30 pm*

The great mystic, John of the Cross, ends one of his most famous instructions with this poem:

To reach satisfaction in all
desire its possession in nothing.
To come to possess all
desire the possession of nothing.
To arrive at being all
desire to be nothing.
To come to the knowledge of all
desire the knowledge of nothing.
To come to the pleasure you have not
you must go by the way in which you enjoy not.
To come to the knowledge you have not
you must go by a way in which you know not.
To come to the possession you have not
you must go by a way in which you possess not.
To come to be what you are not
you must go by a way in which you are not.

That, and that alone, is a recipe for joy.



CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF MERCY THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO

The Holy Father has asked that special indulgences be available for the Faithful throughout the Year of Mercy. The Holy Doors of Mercy in the Archdiocese of Toronto open on **Sunday, December 13, 2015.**

How to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence:For those able to make a pilgrimage to one of the Jubilee churches in Rome, that is certainly an option. Otherwise, Cardinal Collins has designated seven churches within the Archdiocese of Toronto as Jubilee Churches, each with a Holy Door of Mercy. Going through one of these Holy Doors is a spiritual journey that shows, as the Holy Father said, "the deep desire for true conversion."

In addition to passing through a Holy Door, each pilgrim is to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, receive the Holy Eucharist while reflecting on God's great gift of mercy, make a profession of faith (recite either the Apostles' or the Nicene Creed), and pray for the Holy Father and for his intentions (an Our Father and a Hail Mary are recommended).

Indulgences may be obtained for the dead by the carrying out of these same acts by the Faithful with the intention of offering the indulgence for someone who is deceased.

And finally, for all Catholics, this jubilee indulgence may also be obtained when a member of the Faithful personally performs a spiritual or corporal work of mercy.

Designated churches for the Jubilee with a Holy Door of Mercy:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • St. Paul's Basilica
83 Power Street, Toronto | • St. Theresa's Parish
2559 Kingston Rd., Scarborough |
| • St. Patrick's Parish
131 McCaul St., Toronto | • The Martyrs' Shrine
16163 Highway 12 West, Midland |
| • Merciful Redeemer Parish
2775 Erin Centre Blvd., Mississauga | • Marylake Shrine
13760 Keele St., King City |
| • St. Anthony of Padua Parish
940 North Park Dr., Bramalea | • St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish (Chapel Doors)
4260 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga |
| • St. Patrick's Parish
11873 The Gore Rd., Brampton | |

A MEDITATION ON JOY BY RON ROLHEISER, OMI

Every year on the third Sunday of advent, the church asks us to do a meditation on joy. That seems a curious thing to ask, though it becomes less curious when we actually reflect on the nature of joy. What is joy?

Few things are as misunderstood as is the notion of joy of itself that wouldn’t be serious except that in this case we are often left chasing the wrong things in life.

Too often we confuse joy with good cheer or with a certain rallying of the spirit that we try to crank up when we go to a party or let off steam on a Friday night. We tend to think of joy this way: There is ordinary time in our lives, when duty, work, emotional and financial burdens, tiredness, worries, and pressure of all kinds keep us from enjoying life and from being as cheery and pleasant as we would like. We think of ordinary times in our lives as keeping us from joy - the grind, the routine, the rat-race, the work-week - and so we look forward to special times, weekends, nights out, vacation times, social times, celebrations, and parties where we can break the routine, break out, enjoy ourselves, and experience joy.

Joy then is identified with the boisterous good cheer we try to crank up at parties or the lack of pressure and the freedom from burdens that we feel when on vacation. But is this joy? It can be, though often isn’t. The loud robust cheer that we enter into at parties is often little more than a desperate effort to keep our depressions at bay, a form of denial. That’s why the good cheer dissolves so quickly when we go home and why, three days after returning from vacation, we are again just as tired and in need of a vacation as before.

What is joy? Joy can never be induced, cranked up, or made to happen. It’s something that has to find us precisely within our ordinary, duty-bound, burdened, full-of-worries, and pressured lives. This is joy: Imagine walking to your car or to the bus after a day’s work, tired, needing some rest. But, just as you reach your car or the bus-stop, you fill with a sense of life and health; in some inchoate way, all jumbled together, you feel your body, mind, soul, gender, sexuality, history, place within a family, network of friends, city, and country, and this feeling makes you spontaneously exclaim: “God, it’s good to be alive!” That’s joy.

And as C.S. Lewis puts it, it has to surprise you. You can’t find joy, it has to find you. That’s its real quality. You can go to a party and say, “Tonight I’m going to have a good time, if it kills me!” It might! Indeed parties and letting off steam have their place. You might even find good cheer at a party or find a good distraction and these can be needed therapy and a good respite from hard work. But neither is joy.

Joy is always the by-product of something else. As the various versions of The Prayer of St. Francis put it, we can never attain joy, consolation, peace, forgiveness, love, and understanding by actively pursuing them. We attain them by giving them out. That’s the great paradox at the centre of all spirituality and one of the great foundational truths within the universe itself: The air that we breathe out is the air we will eventually breathe back in. Joy will come to us if we set about actively trying to create it for others.

If I go about my life demanding, however unconsciously, that others carry me rather than seeking to carry them; feeding off of others rather than trying to feed them; creating disorder rather than being a principle of peace; demanding to be admired rather than admiring, and demanding that others meet my needs rather than trying to meet theirs, joy will never find me, no matter how hard I party or try to crank up good cheer. I’m breathing the wrong air into the universe.

those standing outside our walls. Embrace them as the Father did his prodigal son.

18. Also during Lent 2016, I plan to send out what I am calling *Missionaries of Mercy*. These will be priest confessors empowered to pardon even those sins normally reserved to the Holy See. It is my hope that local dioceses will organize “missions to the people” which will be open to all who seek mercy. We want to invite back all those who desire to live in God’s love.

19. May this message of mercy reach everyone, and may no one be indifferent to it. I include especially the men and women taking part in organized crime, those who have made money their god, and those who participate in corruption, greed, and wrongdoing.

To those people I say, “This is your moment of grace.” Return to the Father; he waits to embrace and forgive you. Please accept this invitation to conversion.

20. Let me say a word now about the connection between justice and mercy. Justice leads to rule of law in society; it also refers to what each person is rightly due. Indeed the law is important to us but we must be careful not to fall into legalism.

Jesus himself addressed this. To those who objected to his open love for all, he suggested a meditation on mercy. Love triumphs over law in Jesus’ teaching. Paul is an example of this. He had spent his life enforcing the law - that is, until he met Jesus. His conversion turned his view of that law upside down. *Mt 9:13*

Likewise for us. When people come to us with “legal” issues with the Church, we often offer them only legal solutions. But a more merciful solution is what we seek to offer instead.

21. Offering us mercy instead of judgment is God’s way of reaching out to us in the midst of our wrongdoing and selfishness. Such divine mercy helps us look deep within to find our true person there, a person created by a loving God and destined also for love in God.

During the time of the Old Testament prophet, Hosea, the people of Israel were sinful and unfaithful. According to justice, God had every right to destroy and punish them. But instead, God offered them only his endless mercy. “How can I give you up?” God asked. “...my compassion grows warm and tender.” *Hosea 11:8-9*



STEWARDSHIP — A WAY OF LIVING

December 6 Offertory Collection

Thank you for your generous donations.

Regular Collection: \$10,299

Pre-Authorized Giving: \$3,175 Donate Now: \$449

Maintenance Fund: \$5,083

2016 Offertory Envelopes are available for pickup. Please remember to notify the Ministry Centre of any changes to your address and telephone number.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Giving Tree

Bring the spirit of Christmas to someone in need. We invite you to take an “ornament” from our Giving Tree. The back of the ornament will indicate the type of gift needed and whether the gift is to be wrapped. We appreciate you returning your gift as soon possible so that we can ensure all requests for help are answered-December 12/13 at the latest. Your gifts will support those who seek help through the St. Vincent de Paul Society, residents at Thompson House Retirement Home, Greenview Lodge Nursing Home and The Community Share Food Bank.

News from the St. Vincent de Paul Society

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” ~ Winston Churchill

Thank you for all that you give to our neighbours in need.

A Celebration for Friar David Suckling

Sunday December 27, Main Hall, after 10 am Mass
Please join us for Cake & Coffee in honour of Friar David’s retirement. All are welcome!

Parking Lot Safety

During this busy time, please exercise caution and safety in the parking lot and at the entrance driveway. Please do not speed, block the fire route or the accessible parking spots. Do not leave your vehicles unlocked and keep packages out of sight. Remember to watch out for others especially children.

Secular Franciscan Meeting

There will be a Secular Franciscan meeting Monday, December 21st at 6:30 pm, Francis room.

Knights of Columbus Sock Drive

The knights welcome donations of new, unwrapped socks and underwear for the guests at the Good Shepherd Centre. Please place your sock donations in the box marked “Advent Sock Drive” at the back of the Church.



Annual Christmas Concert

Come join the Seraphim and Cherubim Chorus’ singing the Christmas songs you love as part of their ‘*Baby, It’s Cold Outside*’ concert series. A mix of old favourites and twists on classics, with a bit of Disney flare! Please join us at St. Bonaventure on December 19th at 7:30 pm. Advanced tickets available on line at www.seraphimandcherubim.ca Proceeds in support of Romero House.

Christmas Cakes in Support of Pro-Life Organization

This year we are again selling Christmas cakes in support of Campaign Life Coalition. The 1.5 lb bar cake for \$15.00. The 2 lb round cake in a beautiful Christmas tin for \$25.00 (see posters at the back of the church).

Place your order with Joan Pape at 416-444-6981. Orders will be accepted until Saturday, December 12. The cakes will be available in the weekend of December 19th and 20th after all the masses.

Casseroles for the Good Shepherd Centre

The deadline for this month’s casseroles is Sunday, December 27. If you can spare a few hours to make a casserole each month, contact Eva Trace at 416-447-3040.

Knitting for the Homeless

Anyone who is interested to knit over the Christmas holidays for our homeless neighbours you can pick up some yarns and needles at the Ministry Centre. And return your finished product on January 31st, 2016.

Mihaela Moraru
Sales Representative, CNE
416-890-8366
homes@sellwithmihaela.com
EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO A REAL ESTATE DISCOUNT.
Not intended to solicit clients currently under contract.

Signature CATERING INC.
For All Your Catering Needs!
Call: 416 562 7801 or e-mail: info@signaturecatering.ca
www.signaturecatering.ca

Rosar-Morrison Funeral Home & Chapel
Alex and James Munroe - Managing Directors
467 Sherbourne Street, Toronto M4X 1K5 **416-924-1408**

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES - ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO
Central Business Office: 4950 Yonge Street, Ste 206
416-733-8544

HOLY CROSS Thornhill 905-889-7467	MOUNT HOPE Toronto 416-483-4944	Mausoleum, Creamation, Monument Lots and Shrine Sections
--	--	--

www.catholic-cemeteries.com

Bonnie's EVENT CATERING
416-854-0711 **www.bcatering.ca**
“Delicious Food at Great Prices”
Bonnie Duarte - Parishioner

MARK CHEATLEY
Broker

Parishioner
www.markcheatley.com
Bus/Pager: 416-462-1888 mark@markcheatley.com Client Line: 416-441-1081
Fax: 416-462-3135

joseph flowers
416-444-9871 or 416-444-9851
www.josephflowers.com
Making Your Life Bloom
808 York Mills Rd at Leslie (Longo's Plaza)

1070 Millwood Road (across from Loblaws)
751 Kipling Avenue
Sal Badali John Badali
Parishioners

R.S. KANE FUNERAL HOME
6150 Yonge Street, North York, ON
416-221-1159
CANADIAN INDEPENDENT
www.rskane.ca
Calvert Catering
Social and Corporate Catering
416.755.5244
Over 50 Years of Service - Quality - Commitment
www.calvertcatering.com

ELEANOR SHANNON Travel Consultant
TRAVEL PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL
Call Direct 416.447.3990 eshannon@tpi.ca
www.eleanorshannontravel.ca
4 ROBERT SPECK PKWY., MISSISSAUGA, ON L4T 1S1 905.896.6946 TICO REG. O1576226

Coles Catering
Reliability Since 1847
Specializing in Funeral & Church Receptions
Receive a 10% discount when you mention this ad
www.colescatering.ca 416-755-4344

For all your Plumbing and Drain Needs, call

SAL the PLUMBER
at North York Plumbing
Metro Lic. 1384 Brebeuf Alumnus
416.225.3967
CELL: 416.200.3562

LODHIA JEWELLERS
Custom Jewellery & Repair Specialist
170 The Donway West Suite 113 Don Mills, Ontario M3C 2G3
Joshna Lodhia Bala Lodhia
416.441.2856

HERITAGE FUNERAL CENTRE
O'Connor Bros & Ralph Day Chapels
Serving our community for 15 years.
Glen L Day
Owner & Parishioner
416-423-1000
50 Overlea Blvd.
www.heritagefuneralcentre.ca

Paul O'Connor Funeral Home Ltd.
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED
1939 Lawrence Avenue East (East of Pharmacy)
(416) 751-7890