

Ministry Centre Holiday Hours

Sunday, December 22	9:30 am – 1:30 pm
Monday, December 23	9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Tuesday, December 24	9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Wednesday, December 25	Closed
Thursday, December 26	Closed
Friday, December 27	Closed
Saturday, December 28	2:30 pm – 6:30 pm
Sunday, December 29	9:30 am – 1:30 pm
Monday, December 30	9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Tuesday, December 31	9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Wednesday, January 1, 2020	Closed

Ministry Centre Contacts - (416-447-5571)
Pastor: Friar Dennis J. Mason, OFM Conv.
Ext. 234

Associate Pastor: Friar Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.
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Lay Pastoral Associate: Greg Beath
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Minister, Maturing Adults: Maureen McDonnell
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Pastoral Assistant: Nimfa Chua
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416-690-0330
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Franciscan Ministries:
1320 Leslie Street, Suite 200
416-690-5611

St. Anthony of Padua Mission Aid
1320 Leslie Street, Suite 100
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416-690-9904

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
416-447-5571 Ext. 570

St. Bonaventure Catholic School
1340 Leslie Street, Toronto ON. M3C 2K9
Phone: 416-393-5263 Fax: 416-393-5117

Advent Mealtime Prayer When We Light the Advent Wreath



Week 1 ~ Father, St. Paul spoke Your Word and said: "The day is near." As You bless our food, bless our hearts. May Your Holy Spirit stir up eagerness in our hearts as we prepare to celebrate God-with-us on Christmas Day. Amen.

Week 2 ~ Father, St. Paul spoke Your Word and said: "Welcome one another." As You bless our food, bless our hearts. As we prepare to welcome Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem, may Your Holy Spirit help us to welcome others with kindness. Amen.

Week 3 ~ Father, St. James spoke Your Word and said: "Be patient." As You bless our food, bless our hearts. As we draw close to Christmas, may Your Holy Spirit help us to be patient with one another and patient with ourselves. Amen.

Week 4 ~ Father, Isaiah the Prophet spoke Your Word and said: "The Lord will give you a sign." As You bless our food, bless our hearts. May Your Holy Spirit open our eyes and our hearts to see signs of Jesus in the lights, the songs and the prayers that surround us. Amen.

Baptism of Infants: One Sunday every other month. Request forms are on the website, at the back of the church or at the Ministry Centre.

Marriage: Contact **Friar Dennis** or **Friar Peter** at least one year before the desired date. Couples need to participate in a Marriage Preparation Course.

Pastoral Care: Ministers of the Eucharist bring Communion to the homebound. Contact the Ministry Centre to make arrangements.

Religious Life: Discerning a call to the consecrated religious life please see one of the friars.

Spiritual Direction: Contact Friar Mark at friarmsteed2015@gmail.com

Prayer Network: Members pray daily for intentions held in confidence. Contact **Ellen Brock** at [647-622-5689](tel:647-622-5689)

Funeral: Please contact the Ministry Centre and we will assist you in planning the liturgical services.

THE FRANCISCAN CHURCH OF ST. BONAVENTURE

1300 Leslie Street, Toronto, ON., M3C 2K9
Telephone: 416-447-5571 Fax: 416-447-4082
Website: www.st-bonaventure.ca



YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT ST. BONAVENTURE

GROWING IN SPIRIT, COMMUNITY AND SERVICE
Inspired by St. Francis we seek to live and proclaim the gospel in our daily lives, responding to the spiritual hungers of the community and becoming an oasis of peace, prayer and service.

December 22, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Advent



FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy Grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Imagine what it must have been like for Joseph to hear Mary's extraordinary tale of her mysterious pregnancy. Joseph was "a righteous man." He believed in, longed for, the coming of the promised Messiah of whom Isaiah speaks in the first reading. Then to be asked to accept that God was about to fulfill that promise in such an unforeseen and scandalous way? And yet Joseph, awakening from a dream, welcomed the unexpected into his life.

Today's readings confirm that God comes to us in ways that can confuse or challenge us. At this time of year, we might expect to encounter God in cozy family gatherings and beautiful liturgical celebrations. We might not recognize him in the shivering street person or the eccentric relative everyone wants to avoid.

Our celebration of Christ's coming at Christmas is an invitation to open ourselves to new possibilities and new ways of seeing God. May we, like Joseph, welcome Him with open and generous hearts... in whatever guise he appears.

Teresa Whalen Lux,
Regina, Saskatchewan

And Now, A Word from Our Patron Saint

Any person who has seen many days of life can love God better than a scholar of theology.

St. Bonaventure

Christmas and New Year Mass Schedule

The Nativity of the Lord – Christmas Eve
Tuesday, **December 24th** – No 9:00 am Mass
Masses at 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm

The Nativity of the Lord – Christmas Day
Wednesday, **December 25th** – No 9:00 am Mass
Masses at 10:00 am and 12:00 noon

Feast of St. Stephen, The First Martyr
(Canada: Boxing Day)
Thursday, **December 26th** – Regular 9:00 am Mass

Feast of the Holy family
Saturday, **December 28th** – Vigil Mass, 5:00 pm

Sunday, **December 29th** – Regular Sunday Masses
8:30 am; 10:00 am and 12:00 noon

Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Tuesday, **December 31st** – Regular 9:00 am Mass
New Year's Eve Mass – 5:00 pm

New Year's Day
Wednesday, **January 1st, 2020** – 10:00 am only

Psalm 24~ Let the Lord enter. He is the King of glory.

Mass Intentions

Dec. 23 Monday	9:00 am	Jessielly Capucao
Dec. 24 Tuesday	4:00 pm	Intentions of the Parishioners
	7:00 pm	Intentions of the Parishioners
	10:00 pm	Intentions of the Parishioners
Dec. 25 Wed.	10:00 am	Intentions of the Parishioners
	12:00 nn	Intentions of the Parishioners
Dec. 26 Thursday	9:00 am	†Mary Margaret Badali
Dec. 27 Friday	9:00 am	†Percival & †Charlotte Pinheiro
		†Pablo & †Rose Sare
		†Marialuisa Feruglio
		†Kevin Haverty
		†Diego Rodricks
Dec. 28 Saturday	5:00 pm	Intentions of the Parishioners
Dec. 29 Sunday	8:30 am	†Edmond Odette
	10:00 am	†Cathy Valenti
	12:00 pm	†David Tomcik

Prayer Intentions:

Sanctuary Lamp: †Pablo and †Rose Sare

Vigil Lamp: Borac, Nobleza and Salvador Families

For the Sick: Fr. Boniface Reinhart, Joan Pape, Anita Baker, Sam Agu, Nirmalee De Silva, Yuk Ling, Michael Morra, Ebherhardt Leithner, Sean Morra, Michelena Oakes, Margaret Fernando, Margaret Wood, Alfonz Pavli, Raymund Fung, Dorothy Lord, Neil McDonald, Jurie Cuapero Marcos, Denise Baranecki, Estela Gabriel, Nathan Aramburu and Mary Jane Coronado

For the Deceased: Jeffrey Meadows and Henry Tuero

Stewardship: A Way of Living

December 15th, 2019 Offertory Collections

Thank you for your generous donations.

Regular Collection	\$ 9,105.95
Flowers For Christmas	\$ 141.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 530.00
Pre-Authorized Giving	\$ 2,926.00
Donate Now	\$ 328.00



December 31 is the charitable giving tax deadline

Reminder!

December 31st is the deadline for donations to be included in your 2019 tax receipt. Thank you for your on-going support!

City Street Outreach

The early winter weather has placed great need on the homeless in the city. They need blankets, sleeping bags and coats. If you can help, please drop off any items you can spare at the Ministry Centre. For more information visit citystreetoutreach.com.

This Week in Our Parish Hall

Monday, December 23

6:30 pm Sparks & Brownies/Francis Room

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Ministry Centre – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Ministry Centre is Closed

Thursday, December 26 – Boxing Day

Ministry Centre is Closed

Saturday, December 28

9:30 am Al Anon/Bonaventure Room

Sunday, December 29

10:00 am Feast of the Holy Family/Main Hall

News from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest.

Your gift to our poor boxes brought light into the darkness surrounding the heart of those living and facing financial insecurity and need – bringing them a measure of your caring and the joy of Christmas. Thank you!

Theology and Tea

The next T&T will be **Thursday, January 23rd, 2020** after the 9:00 am Mass in the Francis Room. All are welcome, bring a friend and spirit of holy adventure to explore and appreciate God's presence in our world and in one another.

The winner of the **Knights of Columbus' Christmas Crèche** held last Sunday, December 15th was Dan Fellin but graciously decided to have another ticket pulled and it was won by **Dennis Mendonca**.

Knights of Columbus Sock Drive

During the season of Advent, the Knights of Columbus will be collecting new unused warm socks. These items will be donated to the needy. Please place all your donated items in the supplied boxes located at the rear of the Church. Your kind generosity is greatly appreciated.

The **Knights of Columbus** will be distributing Parish Prayer Cards on December 28th and 29th for the Feast Day of the Holy Family. Furthermore, the Knights will be serving coffee with light refreshments and donuts in the Parish Hall after the 10:00 Mass.

Casseroles for the Good Shepherd Centre

This month's deadline is **December 22, 2019**. January 26, 2020 is next month's deadline. Drop off your casseroles at the Ministry Centre. If you can spare some time to make a casserole each month, contact **Eva Trace** at **416-447-3040**.

Community Life

Nurturing our Spirituality in the Second Half of Life

Seeking a More Contemplative Way of Life



2020 Winter Programme

Tuesday Mornings; Coffee & Treats 9:30 to 11:45 am
Dates and Programme Topics:

- January 14** ~ The Art of Christian Meditation-Why is contemplative living in the second half of life so important?
By Maureen McDonnell
- January 28** ~ What are some Meditation/Contemplative practices for deepening our relationship with the Divine? By Maureen McDonnell
- February 11** ~ An Artistic and Spiritual Pilgrimage with Henri Nouwen – By Katharine Lochnan
- March 03** ~ Contemplating the wisdom of Sr. Nuala Kenny – By Maureen McDonnell
- March 10** ~ Exploring obstacles to and challenges in maintaining a contemplative practice in everyday life.
By Odilie Gaudet and Maureen McDonnell (Spiritual Directors and Retreat Facilitators)
- March 31** ~ Understanding the Contemplative Dimension of Christianity. By Kathy Murta, interfaith facilitator at the Loretto Mary Ward Centre
- April 21** ~ Orfe Eco-Art: Join our Journey of Discovery. By Orfe Millan
Orfe strives to teach children and adults love for our beautiful planet and create, through different artistic techniques and the use of recycled materials, magical and wonderful worlds, as they explore and discover the potential of their creativity.
- May 12** ~ Franciscan Contemplative Tradition – Br. Ignatius Feaver, O.F.C., Cap.
And luncheon – A Celebration of Community

There is no monetary cost for this program. For more information: Maureen@st-bonaventure.ca or call Maureen McDonnell at 416-447-5571 Ext 550

And Now, A Word from Our Pastor

We've purchased the gifts- to honor Jesus, the Gift of the Father.

We've set up the tree- to recall Jesus' Cross, the Tree of Life.

We've strung the lights- to recognize Jesus, the Light of the Word.

And we've arranged the creche- to remember Jesus Emmanuel, the God Who is with us.

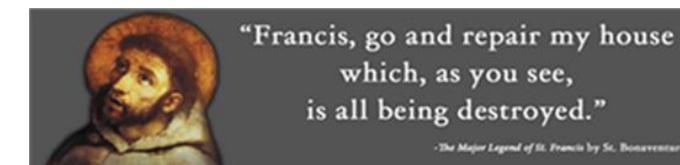
Advent has prepared us. The celebrations are about to begin.



A Warm Bed for Jesus

Girls and boys, please help us prepare for Christmas. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Mary laid Him down in a wooden manger. It must have

been uncomfortable. During Advent, please help us to prepare a comfortable, warm bed for Jesus. **Each week take a piece of straw and bring it to the manger near the altar.** Put it in the manger and tell Jesus something good you did during the week – like "I said a prayer for my Grandma," or "I cleaned my room." Your piece of straw will help Jesus to rest comfortably in a warm bed. Thank you.



'Vocation Seeds'

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 22, 2019

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife... When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." Are you willing to respond as Joseph did? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, visit www.franciscans.org; www.vocationtoronto.ca or speak with one of the friars.

Passageways ~ original art by Mary Edwards (our parishioner) displayed at Don Mills Public Library, 888 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto. December 2 – 31, 2019. Contact Edwards_mt@hotmail.com for purchasing information.

