

Ministry Centre Holiday Hours

Sunday, December 24 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
Monday, December 25 Closed
Tuesday, December 26 Closed
Wednesday, December 27 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Thursday, December 28 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Friday, December 29 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Saturday, December 30 2:00 pm – 6:30 pm
Sunday, December 31 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
Monday, January 1st, 2018 Closed
Tuesday, January 2nd, 2018 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Ministry Centre Contacts - (416-447-5571)

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Associate:

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Deacon:

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St. Clare Inn Office:

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Toronto, ON. M3C 2K9
416-690-0330
info@stclareinn.org; www.stclareinn.org

Franciscan Ministries:

1320 Leslie Street, Suite 200
416-690-5611

St. Anthony of Padua Mission Aid:

1320 Leslie Street, Suite 100
Toronto, ON., M3C 2K9
416-690-9904

St. Bonaventure Catholic School

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

Catholic Cemeteries Archdiocese of Toronto:

4950 Yonge St. Suite 206, North York ON., M2N 6K1
416-733-8544
www.catholic-cemeteries.com

RIGHT AT HOME Parishioner
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THE FRANCISCAN CHURCH OF ST. BONAVENTURE

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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 25, 2017
The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord



“Do not be afraid; for see ~ I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: you will find a Child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ~ Luke 2: 11 - 12

On behalf of the friars – Tom R., Mark, Boniface, David, Tom P., myself and the Staff at St. Bonaventure Parish, I want to wish you all a Merry and Blessed Christmas!

Friar Peter Knaapen

Christmas and New Year Mass Schedule

The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24th
4:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th - 10:00 am only

Feast of the Holy Family

New Year's Eve

Saturday, December 30th - 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 31st

8:30 am, 10:00 am and 12:00 noon

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

New Year's Eve

Sunday, December 31st - 5:00 pm

New Year's Day

Monday, January 1st - 12:00 noon only

Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 6th - 5:00 pm

Sunday, January 7th

8:30 am, 10:00 am and 12:00 noon

Weekday Liturgy:

Monday to Friday, 9 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday, 4 pm

Sunday Liturgy:

Saturday Vigil, 5 pm

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

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

Prayer Network: Members pray daily for intentions held in confidence. Contact Patricia Floros at 416-444-0424

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

Psalm 96: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Psalm 97: A light will shine on us this day: The Lord is born for us.

Psalm 98: All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Mass Intentions

Dec. 24 Sunday		
Christmas Eve :	4:00 pm	Int. of Parishioners
	7:00 pm	Int. of Parishioners
	10:00 pm	Int. of Parishioners
Dec. 25 Monday	10:00 am	Int. of Parishioners
Dec. 26 Tuesday	No Morning Mass	
Dec. 27 Wednesday	9:00 am	Alex Chan
Dec. 28 Thursday	9:00 am	†Percival & Charlotte Pinheiro
Dec. 29 Friday	9:00 am	†Laurence Higgins
Dec. 30 Saturday	5:00 pm	Int. of Parishioners
Dec. 31 Sunday	8:30 am	†David Backus Simon
	10:00 am	†Pauline & Norman Morton
	12:00 pm	Joan Pape
New Year's Eve	5:00 pm	Int. of Parishioners
Jan. 1 st , 2018 Mon.	12:00 pm	†Peter Glowczewski

Prayer Intentions

Sanctuary Lamp: †Balbino Borac
Vigil Lamp: James & Martha Shortt
For the Sick: Lucy DiBona, Emily Chan, Keith David, Cathy Valenti, Clement Leung, Roger Payette, Teresita Peiris, Michael Morra, Pat O'Connor, Fr. George D'Souza, Carlos Goncalves, Lili Draws, Dorothy Lord, Vivienne Brown, Mary Digregorio
For the Deceased: Michael McCallister, Dawna Colson

Stewardship: A Way of Living

December 17 Offertory Collection

Thank you for your generous donations.

Regular Collection: \$ **10,232.65**

Flowers for Christmas: \$ **118.00**

Pre-Authorized Giving: \$ **2,926** Donate Now: \$ **328**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Acceptance of God's Will

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:38)

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a-16 – The Lord's promises to David

Romans 16:25-27 – Doxology

Luke 1:26-38 – The annunciation of the Lord

Adults: How do you open your heart to what God wants for you? How do you follow the pathway that leads to happiness?

Greetings,

Christmas brings so many people to our Church. It is always wonderful to see so many people come to celebrate this great feast and to hear once again the Gospel account of our Saviour's humble birth in Bethlehem. This bulletin is our humble way of sharing with you some of the things that occur in our Parish. We hope you take the time to read it and hopefully participate in some of our faith development or outreach programs. Please remember "you are always welcome" here at St. Bonaventure.

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, December 25

Ministry Centre is closed

Tuesday, December 26

Ministry Centre is closed

Wednesday, December 27

7:00 pm Alcoholic Anonymous/Francis Room

7:00 pm Grasp/Oak Room

Saturday, December 30

9:30 am Christian Meditation Group/Oak Room

9:30 am Al-Anon Group/Bonaventure Room

Sunday, December 31

No Sunday Coffee

Monday, January 1st, 2018

Ministry Centre is closed

December 25 ~ Nativity of the Lord

His own did not accept him (John 1:10-11)

Isaiah 52:7 – 10 – The one who brings glad tidings

Hebrews 1:1 – 6 – God speaks through his Son

John 1: 1 – 18 – In the beginning was the Word

Adults: If Jesus were to be born today, do you think you would accept him and follow him? Why or why not?

Kids: What could you and your family do for others during the next week to celebrate the birth of Jesus?

2017 Tax Receipts

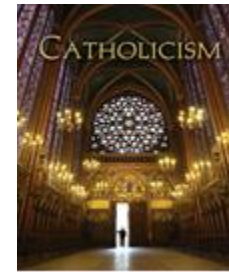
2017 donation tax receipts will include all donations received by December 31st, 2017. Please ensure that any cheques dated Dec. 31 are put into the Sunday & New Year's Eve Masses. Please remember to update your address and telephone number for our records.

Any Family of Faith donation must be dated and received by Dec. 31 to be included for 2017 tax receipts. They are processed by the Archdiocese.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity to the Parish. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

2018 Offertory Envelopes

The 2018 offertory envelopes are available for pick up. Please notify the Ministry Centre of any changes to your address and telephone number.



Catholicism is a groundbreaking Documentary Film Series created and hosted by **Bishop Robert Barron**. In breathtaking and high-definition cinematography, the truth, goodness, and beauty of Catholicism are illustrated in an epic multimedia experience. We will be viewing the last five of Bishop Barron's topics in the new Year. Each topic is about 45 – 55 minutes long. **The series is at 7:00 pm in the St. Bonaventure Church Main Hall on the following evenings.**

February 7 – A Body Both Suffering and Glorious – The Mystical union of Christ and the Church What is the Church? Bishop Barron presents the reality of the Church as "one, holy, catholic

and apostolic".

February 14 – Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven – The mystery of the liturgy and the Eucharist

Bishop Barron explores the ancient practices of the Church's worship that endure to this very day, and the supreme act by which we commune with God. Considered by the Catholic faith to be "the source and summit" of its identity and mission, the Eucharist is the central practice of the Church's culture.

February 28 – A Vast Company of Witness – The Communion of Saints

Bishop Barron gives consideration to some of the Church's greatest heroes, and demonstrates how their extraordinary examples display both the passion and creative potential of the Catholic Church. Highlighting Katharine Drexel, Therese of Lisieux, Edith Stein, and Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Bishop Barron tells the story of the Church as a vast company of witness who are called by Christ to be a Communion of Saints.

March 7 – The Fire of His Love – Prayer and the Life of the Spirit

"Prayer is the lifting up of the mind and the heart to God." On pilgrimage to the places where the great saints and spiritual masters lived, Bishop Barron explores the different types of prayers: contemplation; adoration; petition; and intercession.

March 14 – World Without End – The Last Things

Explore the Church's conviction that life here and now is preparation for an extraordinary world that is yet to come – a supernatural destiny. Bishop Barron presents the Catholic vision of death, judgment, heaven, hell and purgatory.

Ministry with maturing Adults

This ministry supports the wholistic faith life and spiritual journey of persons in the second half of life. This includes those transitioning into retirement, those experiencing a new summons of these vibrant years and the elders in our community.

The goals for this ministry include creating opportunities for developing caring and supportive relationships; participating in the ministries of the parish and outreach on behalf of the wider community. Programmes are offered on faith and spirituality; on topics related to health challenges of the aging years and specific courses that encourage healing, spiritual growth and insight into the 'vocation' of the second half of life.

As Christians we are called forth into the fullness of the spiritual journey not just for our personal growth; it is ultimately to be in service of Love – for the sake of the whole human community and of all creation.

Good News from 2017

~ The winter and fall series of 12 presentations included topics on contemplative prayer; inter-generational connections with the Cyber-Seniors program at Senator O'Connor High School; the spirituality of de-cluttering and awareness of tending our legacy for future generations. The primary emphasis is on the journey of aging with grace and wisdom.

~ We had two popular courses offered by St. Bonaventure parishioners: Ginny Doty gave a 7-week program on Forgiveness; and Gisela Cote facilitated a 10 week course on "Life Story/Life Review"

~ We presented a wonderful evening with guest speaker Katharine Lochman, curator of the successful Mystical Landscapes at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

~ The Summer Book and Movie Club, offering two events each month for June, July and August. This relaxed, informative, friendly environment was full of creative energy. We will offer this club again in 2018.

New Events for 2018 - Our new winter program from January to May is available; please take the flyers home and let your friends in St. Bonaventure's and other parishes know they are most welcome to attend any or all the presentations that appeal to them.

- The first 3 topics concern health related matters, which touch each of our lives. "Dementia and Alzheimer's Fostering Compassionate Presence" a very informative and supportive session.
- "Creating Circles of care" offers an approach and explores how to be supportive of the care needs of the ill and the dying and their caregivers.
- The third topic introduces us to the practical how-to of "Advanced Care Planning"

Our Hope – That we preserve in deepening our spiritual life, that we reach out with loving kindness to one another, to all creatures and to all creation.



When the CSFB started 14 years ago St. Bonaventure Church was there to help and it remains so to this day. Located in the Church of the Ascension, 33 Overland Drive. It serves about 500 persons each week. Many parishioners have volunteered in different areas of this service to the community. No person in need of food is ever turned away. All are welcome as we endeavor to treat participants and volunteers with respect and dignity. We have no government assistance and no paid staff. We operate solely on donations from the community. Churches in the area supply food as St. Bonaventure parishioners do each week. For this we are truly thankful. During advent parishioners have been amazingly generous in their response to the "giving Tree". All this goes directly to the clients who come to our door seeking help. During the past few years the need at CSFB has grown so we are looking for volunteers to help in various areas of this ministry.

To learn more please visit our website:
www.communitysharefoodbank.ca

Theology and Tea

T & T will resume again in the new year on Thursday, January 18th after the 9:00 am Mass, with future dates to be posted. Come and join Friar Mark for some time to ponder and enjoy our relationship with God. The sessions are open to all parishioners and their friends...The tea and coffee will not be offered in the new year, but the Theology will energize your spirit...Much peace for a good new year.

Christian Meditation Group at St. Bonaventure Parish

The Christian Meditation Group of St. Bonaventure's Parish meets on Saturday morning at 9:30 am in the Oak Room of the Parish Hall. The Group was established in 1984 by Josef Erdle, a parishioner. Christian meditation is coming to the silent awareness of the indwelling Christ. We offer our hearts and minds to God, using a mantra or prayer word to help us overcome distractions which draw us away from the present moment, with which we discern the presence of God within us. We practice this form of contemplative prayer in stillness and silence, using talks and music to help us prepare. We meditate for 20 minutes at our sessions and follow this with discussions as appropriate. Meditation can also reduce stress, improve concentration, increase happiness, slow the aging process, improve cardiovascular health, and many more. You need not have any experience in meditation to attend the group.



May Saint Francis' love and appreciation for the humility, poverty, and love symbolized by Jesus' birth in a manger in Bethlehem inspire us to embrace with gratitude the simple pleasures life puts before us.

May the coming of God among us as the Babe of Bethlehem help us to trust in God's love for us and for each human being.

May the incarnation of God's Son impress upon each of us God's nearness and understanding, no matter what "poverty" or "humble" circumstances we might find ourselves in.

Peace and All Good



The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a national organization rooted in gospel values calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God. The St. Bonaventure Council signed its charter in 1956 and has just celebrated its 60th anniversary as a member council.

The objects of the League include spiritual development (individual and collective), promoting the teachings of the Catholic church, enhancing the role of women in church and society, recognizing the human dignity of all people everywhere and contributing to the understanding and growth of religious freedom, social justice, peace and harmony.

The St. Bonaventure Council endeavors to apply the objectives of the League in all their projects and events. Annual membership dues are \$25 and in 2017 we had 125 paid members. St. Bonaventure's CWL meet monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 7 pm during the Fall and Spring, and on the 4th Sunday at 1:15pm during the Winter. For more information about the League and to explore the joys of membership, please visit www.cwl.ca



The Knights of Columbus – St Francis Council 5080 was first established in 1961 to assist the local communities and the Parish by collectively donating volunteer hours, financial assistance by way of organizing programs in promoting faith, charity and assistance. We volunteer over 5,000 hours and donate anywhere from \$3,000 to \$5000 on an annual basis supporting various charities.

We serve the parishes and communities of St. Bonaventure in North York and Our Lady of Fatima in Scarborough. In addition to family, community, church and youth, we organize activities such as serving breakfasts, cooking hamburgers/hotdogs and serving the hungry through community organizations.

We assist the State Board in the Annual Charities Lottery, assist Special Olympics, conduct basketball free throw within several schools to foster friendly competition among youth, collect clothing for the needy and volunteer at the Good Shepherd Ministry. If you or any men you know who wish to be a part of the Knights of Columbus please contact the Parish Office, email kofccouncil5080@outlook.com or call at 647-243-4588.



St. Bonaventure Baseball League is a spring baseball league and has been around for 60 years. Players range in age from JK to Grade 8. Last year, we had over 160 players registered, with waiting lists for all divisions. While the majority of the players are from the parish, it is open to all children in the local community. Our motto is community, fair play, respect, learning and fun.

Our youngest players (JK to Grade 2) participate in the T-Ball division. The next division is our Rookie Ball division (Grades 3 to 5), where players hit balls pitched by their coaches. The eldest division is our Softball division (Grades 6 to 8). At this level, players play games that are closest to the regular game with players pitching to opponents and umpires calling balls and strikes.

SBBL also has umpires who are generally former players now in high school. They are paid a stipend for each game and are provided with training. High School youth are also provided with the opportunity to earn volunteer hours by becoming youth coaches. They help the adult coaches with running the practices and with the games.

Each team needs two adult coaches. In past few years, it has been a struggle to get enough coaches to help. The weekly commitment time is one 75 minute practice, one 2-3 hour game (depending on the division), and 30 minutes for emailing and co-ordination. The season runs from mid-April to the end of June. It is a wonderful league and a great way to meet your fellow parishioners. Experience is not necessary, nor do you have to have children playing in the league.

Our end of season Finals Day is a picnic and fair open to the whole parish. The championship games for each division are played and trophies awarded.

The Prayer Network is a group of parishioners who pray daily for all the prayer requests received by the Network. Nearly 30 parishioners are members of this group which began in 1994. All prayer requests are kept in confidence and no names are included when requests are passed onto the Network. We gratefully receive requests for prayer in thanksgiving when our prayers are answered. Be sure to contact the Network when you seek prayer support for yourself or for someone else. If you would like to become a member of the Prayer Network, please contact Julie Flood at 416-391-0238.

ST. CLARE INN



Each day countless homeless women living on the street struggle with mental health issues. St. Clare Inn offers them hope.

Opened in 2007 by a group of volunteers from our community and a handful of Franciscan Friars from St. Bonaventure, St. Clare Inn is a unique program dedicated to helping homeless women with diagnosed mental health issues. It is a 5-bedroom house where women are given a safe and comfortable space in a home-like setting with professional support and guidance to manage their own mental health. The ability to register for government support, to manage their health care needs, to re-learn some basic life skills, to explore courses for future employment and to give back to the community through weekly volunteering are all part of the individualized one-on-one programming at St. Clare Inn. Please consider being part of this mission and support St. Clare Inn and your community at large. Visit us at www.stclare.org



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is an international lay Catholic organization whose mission is: **To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.** The Society's mission implies that as Vincentians, we see Christ in anyone who suffers and help in all possible ways.

Our Conference of St. Bonaventure welcomes volunteers who assist in holding poor boxes after weekend Masses and those who enjoy friendly visiting in pairs to distribute grocery gift cards. We hold clothing drives (Bundle Weekends) in April, July and September. Our Conference averages about 15 visits per month and meets 6-7 times a year for prayer, reflection and discussion. There is also room for volunteers who have artistic and creative skills as well as a preference for administrative duties. For more information please contact the Church Office.

Casseroles for Good Shepherd Centre: As part of St. Bonaventure's "Community Outreach" we participate in the "Provide-a-Meal" program which helps feed the hungry men and women who rely on the Good Shepherd Ministries in downtown Toronto for their daily food. The Good Shepherd kitchen serves 1200 or more meals and snacks every day. The casseroles we provide are a needed and appreciated supplement to the meals prepared 'in-house'.

Currently about 50-60 parishioners make an average of 60 casseroles a month, using a recipe and pans supplied by Good Shepherd Ministry. The recipe 'Spanish Rice' is quick and easy to cook. It must be frozen at home, then delivered to St. Bonaventure Ministry Centre for monthly pick-up. More cooks are always needed – participation can be on monthly, Bi-monthly, or occasional basis. If you are interested in this worthwhile and satisfying project please contact Eva Trace at 416-447-3040.



Dr. Simone's Canadian Food For Children

St. Bonaventure's collects bulk food staples (rice, pasta, soap, sugar, cooking oil, canned fish, etc.) on a once monthly basis solicited in the church bulletin and/or announced at mass. Also, shoes, clothing, medicines, medical devices, and school supplies are contributed and stored in a storage room in the Parish Centre. These items are then driven to Dr. Simone's CFFC warehouse by St. Bonaventure volunteers where CFFC volunteers pack them for shipping to approved, vetted destinations (schools, missions, etc.) in more than 20 developing countries. Already in 2017 more than 300 containers of goods have been shipped. Dr. Simone and his wife were challenged to start this ministry by Mother Theresa, and they have been awarded the order of Canada for their service to the world's less fortunate. Dr. Simone's warehouse is at Dixie Road and Lakeshore Blvd. There are only one or two trips a month and the trips are made in the morning since the warehouse closes at noon. Volunteers drivers are always welcome and needed for this ministry for possibly only 4 or 5 trips a year.

