

Week Day Liturgy: Monday to Friday, 9:00 am
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturday, 4:00 pm
Sunday Liturgy: Saturday Vigil, 5:00 pm
Sunday, 8:30 am, 10:00 am
and 12 noon

Ministry Centre Hours
Monday to Thursday: 9 am to 4:30 pm
Friday: 9 am to 3 pm
Closed for lunch: 12:30 to 1:30 pm
Saturday: 2 pm to 6:30 pm
Sunday: 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

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

Associate Pastor: Friar Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.
Ext. 233, frpeter@st-bonaventure.ca

Deacon: Sal Badali
deaconsal1994@hotmail.com

Parish Manager: Connie Durante
Ext. 224, connie.durante@st-bonaventure.ca

Lay Pastoral Associate: Greg Beath
Ext. 258, gregb@st-bonaventure.ca

Minister, Maturing Adults: Maureen McDonnell
Ext. 550, maureen@st-bonaventure.ca

Pastoral Assistant: Nimfa Chua
Ext. 222, nimfa@st-bonaventure.ca

St. Clare Inn Office:
1320 Leslie Street, Suite 200
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

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

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.

Offertory Envelopes for the first quarter of 2020 will be mailed out next week by bulk mail directly to your home. For a sample of the envelopes, please check the bulletin boards. Please let us know if you have moved or there are changes to your phone number. If you are currently not receiving Offertory envelopes and would like to receive envelopes by mail, please contact the office at 416- 447- 5571. Thank you for your cooperation!

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

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

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

THE FRANCISCAN CHURCH OF ST. BONAVENTURE

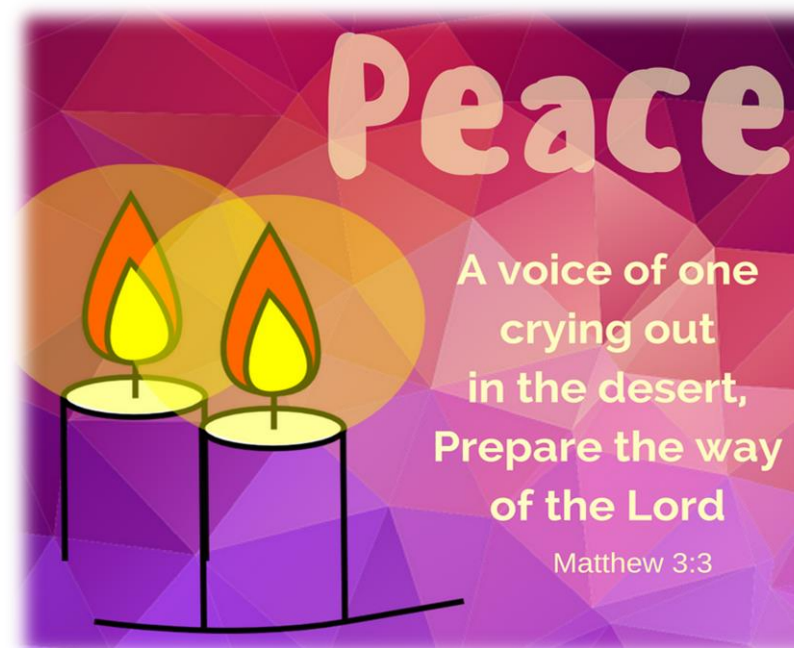
1300 Leslie Street, Toronto, ON., M3C 2K9
Telephone: 416-447-5571 Fax: 416-447-4082
Website: www.st-bonaventure.ca



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 8, 2019
Second Sunday of Advent



Pope Francis summed up John the Baptists' vocation in three key words: "Prepare, discern and diminish."

John was a man who *prepared* the way for Jesus without taking any of the glory for himself. ... When asked if he was the Messiah, John replied that he was just "a voice" who had come "to prepare the way of the Lord."

The second vocation of John the Baptist was to *discern*, among so many good people, who was the true Messiah. When John saw Jesus passing by, he said to the disciples, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." The third vocation of John the Baptist is to *diminish* himself so that the Lord may grow in the hearts of others.

... As Christians we too must prepare the way of the Lord, we must discern the truth and we must diminish ourselves so that the Lord can grow in our hearts and in the souls of others.

Pope Francis' homily, Santa Marta Chapel, June 24, 2014
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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

Advent Days of Confessions

From December 15 – 21, 2019, each parish in the Archdiocese of Toronto will be holding a Day of Confessions. This week let us make the journey into the heart of our relationship with God. Take a long, loving look at the ways of God calls us to grow. Take this challenge and hold it in readiness for the rich blessing that is manifest in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Confession here at St. Bonaventure will be on Friday, December 20th from 9:30 to 10:30 am; 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm and 7:00 to 8:00 pm

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 72~ Justice shall flourish in His time,
and fullness of peace forever.*

Mass Intentions

Dec. 09 Monday 9:00 am †Alicja Karwowska
 Dec. 10 Tuesday 9:00 am Special Intentions
 Dec. 11 Wednesday 9:00 am †Nick Pasalis
 Dec. 12 Thursday 9:00 am †Thelma Domingo
 Dec. 13 Friday 9:00 am Brothers, Sisters and
 Benefactors of the OFM
 †Shuk Chun Wong
 †Cyril Peres
 †Paul McDonald
 †Alwyn D'Souza
 †Viola Hrivnak
 †Alison O'Connor
 Dec. 14 Saturday 5:00 pm †Shu Moon Cheng
 Dec. 15 Sunday 8:30 am †Aquilino Cueto
 10:00 am †Alice Castelino
 12:00 pm Intentions of the Parishioners

Prayer Intentions:

Sanctuary Lamp 1: †Eriberto Fresno Taban-Ud
 Sanctuary Lamp 2: †Norma Paler Azcona
 Vigil Lamp: Andrew Family
For the Sick: Fr. Boniface Reinhart, 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, Kay Corner, Dorothy Lord, Neil McDonald, Jurie Cuapero Marcos, Denise Baranecki, Estela Gabriel, Nathan Aramburu and Mary Jane Coronado

Stewardship: A Way of Living

December 1st, 2019 Offertory Collections

Thank you for your generous donations.

Regular Collection \$ **8,054.75**
 Maintenance Fund \$ **3,305.45**
 Pre-Authorized Giving \$ **2,926.00**
 Donate Now \$ **328.00**

Second Collections:

December 25 ~ Christmas Offering

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.

Casseroles for the Good Shepherd Centre

This month's deadline is **December 22, 2019**. 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**. (to get your pan and recipe).

Secular Franciscan Meeting

The Secular Franciscan meeting will be **Monday, December 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm, Francis Room.**

Christmas, Christmas time is near! Come join the **Seraphim and Cherubim Chorus** singing the Christmas songs you love as part of their **'All You Need Is Love'** concert series. Never a typical Christmas concert and always full of surprise tunes and reimagined classics. Join us at **St. Bonaventure's on December 13th at 7:30 pm.** Tickets available at the Ministry Centre and online at www.seraphimandcherubim.ca

This Week in Our Parish Hall

Monday, December 9
 6:30 pm Sparks & Brownies/Francis Room
Wednesday, December 11
 1:30 pm Writing Circle-with Gisela Cote/Oak Room
 7:00 pm Alcoholic Anonymous/Francis Room
 7:00 pm GRASP/Oak Room
 7:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Meeting/Bonaventure Room
Thursday, December 12
 9:30 am Theology and Tea/Francis Room
 7:00 pm Al Anon Business Meeting/Oak Room
 7:00 pm Knights of Columbus General Meeting /Bonaventure Room
Saturday, December 14
 9:30 am Al Anon/Bonaventure Room
 9:30 am Christian Meditation/Oak Room
 10:00 am IPC Photo Directory-Photo Day/Francis Room
Sunday, December 15
 1:00 pm St. Bonaventure School-Gingerbread build/Main Hall

News from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." Each Advent we are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our hearts, in our family and in the lives of those in need.

Is there a family/person you know who needs assistance? Please encourage them to call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at **416-447-5571 Ext. 570** and leave a confidential message, so that together we can help the less fortunate celebrate Christmas. Thank You!

CWL ~ Allocation of Flea Market Funds

The CWL is donating the total sum of **\$12,540**, made at the Flea Market, to the following groups/organizations: **St. Clare Inn, St. Bonaventure Parish Maintenance Fund, Community Share Food bank (North York), St. Bonaventure Parish (Sunday Coffee & Parish Needy), Covenant House, Birthright (Toronto), Women's Resource Centre Mattawa, Ontario, Rising Angels, Development and peace, St. Francis' Table, Catholic Mission in Canada, St. Michael's Scholarship Fund (CWL Diocesan), St. Vincent de Paul Society, Women's Inter-Church Council of CDA (World Day of Prayer), St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Franciscorp, Enowah – Sister Hazel (South African Schools).** A small amount of the funds are placed on reserve for the CWL Operating Costs for 2020. Many thanks to our members and parishioners for your support in helping the CWL achieve our mission.

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

Other dates for the 2020 Winter Programme:

March 10, March 31, April 21 and May 12

For more information: Maureen@st-bonaventure.ca or call Maureen McDonnell at 416-447-5571 Ext 550

The **Knights of Columbus** are selling **Raffle Tickets** for a **Christmas Crèche after all Masses until December 15**. Tickets are 1 for \$5.00 or 3 for \$10.00. Final draw will be held after the 10:00 am Mass during coffee time in the Parish Hall on the 15th of December. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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.

Giving Tree

Bring the spirit of Christmas to someone in need. We invite you to take a gift tag from our 'Giving Tree'. The back of the gift tag will indicate the type of gift needed. We appreciate you returning your gift on December 15 at the latest. Your gifts will support those who seek help through the Community Share Food Bank, the City Street Outreach, residents at Greenview Lodge Nursing Home.

Regis College Public Courses

Two new Windows on Theology continuous learning courses are now open for registration at Regis College. **Understanding Sacred Space: Exploring Western Religious Architecture and Ecological Wisdom: Righting Our Relationships With Each Other and the Earth** are open to all interested members of the public. To learn more or to register, visit regiscollege.ca/WOT or call **416-922-5474**.

And Now, A Word from Our Pastor

This week we mark the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady (December 8) – God's gift of freedom from sin given to Mary from the first moment of her life. Words trying to explain a mystery falter, but poetic words celebrating a mystery may touch the heart. And so, a poem for the feast:

Beloved Mother of us all,
 To-day we remember
 That, of all earths millions,
 You, Mary, in the womb,
 Were shining, whole,
 And Godward-turned.
 You only, O Morning Star,
 Lighted the clouds of sin and waiting.
 You only, Immaculate Ark,
 Glided above the depths of the primal curse;
 For You were to bear safely over those waters
 Emmanuel, Your little Son,
 from whose baby hand
 Streams the rainbow up which we climb to God.
Sister St. Francis, S.S.J.

Congratulations to *Dea Allaraj, Austin Kevin Howes, Millicent Elizabeth Howes, Renzo Efren Mirando, Ryker Toquero and Ryder Toquero* who were given new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and welcomed into God's Holy People through Baptism.

A Warm Bed for Jesus

Girls and boys, please help us to 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. Thanks.



Theology and Tea

The next T&T will be **Thursday, December 12 and 19 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.

