

*Growing
in Spirit,
Community,
and Service*

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franciscans.org

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF
GOD JANUARY 1, 2012

Bonnie News

Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure

Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?

Did you know
That your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered
Will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will calm a storm with His hand?

Did you know
That your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby
You've kissed the face of God.

The blind will see
The deaf will hear
The dead will live again
The lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of The Lamb

Mary, did you know
That your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will one day rule the nations?

Did you know
That your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding is the Great I Am

May the true joy of Christmas
be with you throughout the year.

"Mary, Did You Know" - Sung by Kenny Rogers and Wynonna Judd

GROWING IN *Spirit, Community, and Service*

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Collection - Week of December 18

Collection: \$13,465 Pre-authorized Donations: \$3,311 Weekly Expenses: \$18,103
Thank you for your generous donations.

Flower Offerings

Your generous donations of \$2411 made it possible to beautify our church for the coming of the Lord! We also want to thank all who gave their time and talent to help decorate our church.

Final 2011 Donations & New Online Donation Options

Thanks for your continuing support of our many parish ministries in 2011. To be included in your 2011 charitable donations receipt for income tax purposes, donations must be received no later than **December 29, 2011**. Please note that you can now use your credit card to make offertory contributions online through the Archdiocese of Toronto website www.archtoronto.org. The **Donate Now** button takes you to a page where you can make your donation. In the New Year, there will be additional options for making tribute and humanitarian relief donations online.

YOUTH MINISTRY

The Christmas Story at the Church of the Holy Trinity

We thank *Nadia Stanichevsky* for representing our parish in this incredible Toronto tradition. Nadia's talents were on full display; we appreciate all her efforts and for being a great example of this community to all people, young and old. Thanks also to *John Uehling, Nicole Leithwood, Patricia McDermott* and all who showed their support for Nadia.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Philippines Flood Relief

The Archdiocese of Toronto Development Office is accepting donations to support the humanitarian relief efforts underway following the flash flooding caused by Typhoon Washi. Donations can be made, online at www.archtoronto.org, by phone, 416.934.3411, through the parish, making cheques payable to: *St. Bonaventure, Philippines Flood Relief*.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Ministry Centre Christmas Hours

The Ministry Centre is closed over the Christmas holidays. We will reopen on Tuesday, January, 3. You can contact the friars in case of a life-threatening emergency that requires a priest by calling the emergency phone number that is on the Ministry Centre voice mail system, 416.447.5571, and website www.st-bonaventure.ca.

Prayer Requests

Call Joan Pape 416.444. 6981 or Friar Boniface, 416.447.5571, for private prayer.

GROWING IN *Spirit, Community, and Service*

Christmas – A Time to Remember Loved Ones, Both Here and in Heaven

After the loss of a loved one, the holiday season brings special memories and tender moments of sadness. Yet we trust that, through God's healing touch, Christmases yet to come will once again be filled with hope and joy. May God hold you in love and peace during this holiday season and throughout the coming year.

Let us remember to pray for all our deceased loved ones and members of our parish community, especially those who the Father has called home during the month of December: † Sandra Acero, † Hilliard Conway † Margaret Robson, † Douglas Flute and † Victoria Chan Lueng.

A Christmas Gift for Friar Mark! - Kateri Tekakwitha, First Native North American Saint

As many of you will recall, Friar Mark Steed is the guardian at the Tekakwitha Friary in Fonda, New York. Yesterday, the Holy Father signed decrees acknowledging miracles attributed to the intervention of seven blessed who will shortly be canonised. Kateri Tekakwitha, one of the new blessed, is the first native North American to be raised to the glory of the altars. The process of canonisation began in 1884. She was declared venerable by Pius XII in 1943 and beatified by John Paul II in 1980. As the first native North American to be beatified she occupies a special place in the devotion of her people. Her feast day falls on 14 July.

LITURGY		THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH		COMMUNITY LIFE	
10:00 am	Personal Intention	Monday December 26			
9:00 am	† Charlotte Pinheiro	Tuesday December 27			
9:00 am	† Friars, Sisters & Benefactors of the Order	Wednesday December 28	8:00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous/Francis Room	
9:00 am	† Isobel Cooney	Thursday December 29			
9:00 am	Brian & Joanne Doyle	Friday December 30			
9:00 am 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	† Mary Hallam Reconciliation Personal Intention	Saturday December 31	10:00 am	Al-Anon/ Bonaventure Room	
8:30 am 10:00 am 12:00 pm	Personal Intention Parishioners † Michael Mocak	Sunday January 1			
10:00 am	† Rita Lennon	Monday January 2			
9:00 am	Father Paul Cusack	Tuesday January 3	7:30 pm	Small Faith Group/ Bonaventure Room	
9:00 am	† Edward Levy	Wednesday January 4	8:00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous/Francis Room	
9:00 am	† Lucia Zucchiatti	Thursday January 5			
9:00 am	Vocations	Friday January 7			
9:00 am 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Personal Intention Reconciliation † Molly Gray	Saturday January 7	9:30 am 10:00 am	Christian Meditation/Oak Room Al-Anon/ Bonaventure Room	
8:30 am 10:00 am 12:00 pm	Parishioners † John McAuliffe † Hugh Canning	Sunday January 8	11:00 am	Sunday Coffee	

Sanctuary Lamps: Andrew family

A Christmas Message

Now and here bells everywhere are ringing again. The gift boxes are heaping up. Everybody's saying it: "Christmas Blessings...God bless you at Christmas time...Christmas Peace to you and yours...Merry Christmas." But is there any truth at all to any of this manufactured joy? Or is this, at best, nothing more than an exercise in auto-suggestion: Say it often enough and you'll think it's true, whatever the facts to the contrary.

Christians, after all, at least from one perspective, live a very schizophrenic life. As Paul puts it in one of his letters to the fragile communities of the early church, "Your standards should be different than those around you." But at Christmas time, those standards can get terribly confusing. The Christian standard says that Christ, our Peace, has been born. But look around you. The other standard, the real public norm, the front page of our daily newspapers, says that there is no such thing as peace anywhere.

So, are we simply kidding ourselves when we put up manger scenes in our parks, and weigh our churches down with bark-covered, life-size crèches, and decorate the crib sets under our Christmas trees? Will the world ever really come to peace? In fact, is there really any such thing as peace? And, most of all, what do we have to do with it? What are we singing about? (It depends, I believe, on what you think "peace" means.)

One kind of peace is a state of life that is free from chaos and turbulence, from violence and institutionally legitimated death. That kind of peace happens often enough in history to show us that such a thing is possible. But don't be fooled: that kind of peace can be achieved as easily through force as well as through justice. In the latter, little is gained by it.

But there is another kind of peace. This kind of peace does not come either from the denial of evil or the acceptance of oppression. This kind comes from the center of us and flows through us like a conduit to the world around us.

This kind of peace is the peace of those who know truth and proclaim it, who recognize oppression and refuse to accept it, who understand God's will for the world and pursue it. This kind of peace comes with the realization that it is our obligation to birth it for the rest of the world so that what the mangers and crèches and crib sets of the world point to can become real in us—and because of us—in our own time.

The award-winning foreign film "Joyeux Noël" reminds us of another Christmas Eve. This one in Europe during the bloodiest period in WWI. Knee deep in wet snow and ice that jammed their weapons and froze their souls, two armies—one French and Scottish, one German—faced one another across a barbed-wired field. Hundreds of fallen soldiers had already died on both sides of the rough and blood-soaked land. Then suddenly, the Christmas truce began. The men put down their weapons, ceased for a while to be soldiers, and bowed their heads while they listened to the other side sing Christmas carols.

That is the kind of peace—disarmed, foreign to hate, and receiving of the other—that was born in the manger we remember at Christmas time. That is the kind of Christmas peace we must ourselves seek to be. Then "Merry Christmas" will really mean something.

Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB

OUR MISSION

WE ARE A COMMUNITY of believing people, who have chosen St. Bonaventure's as our spiritual home within the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto.

TOGETHER, inspired by the Franciscan Spirit, we seek to live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our daily lives by becoming a holy people and serving our sisters and brothers for the Glory of God.

OUR VISION

ST. BONAVENTURE PARISH, the Franciscan Friars and Secular Franciscans working together to respond to the spiritual hungers of the community by becoming an oasis of peace, prayer and service; a little bit of Assisi in Toronto.

Parish Ministry Centre 416.447.5571
MON-THURS 9:00 am - 12:30 pm; 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
FRIDAY CLOSED
SATURDAY 9:00 am - 6:30 pm - Limited Services
SUNDAY 9:00 am - 1:30 pm - Limited Services
WEB SITE: www.st-bonaventure.ca

Eucharist
SUNDAY 8:30 am, 10:00 am, 12 noon
SATURDAY 9:00 am, 5:00 pm (for Sunday)
MON-FRI 9:00 am (10:00 am Civic Holidays)

Baptism
Celebrated Sunday afternoons, except during Lent, by appointment. Parents need to be registered in the parish and practice their faith on a regular basis. Download baptism request from web site.

Reconciliation (Confession)
SATURDAY 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm or by appointment

Marriage
Contact the Ministry Centre at least one year before the date you would like to be married. The bride or groom must be a registered member of the parish and both need to practice their faith on a regular basis.

Anointing The Sick
Call for the anointing of those who are seriously sick; preferably before entering the hospital.

Funerals
Download our funeral guide to plan a funeral.

Vocations
Visit Franciscans.org for information on vocations to religious life and priesthood

Justice, Peace & Creation

- The Franciscan presence at the UN www.FranciscansInternational.org
- The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace: www.devpo.org
- Non-judgemental pregnancy advice: Birthright 416.469.1111
- Adoption: www.canadaadopts.com



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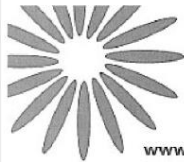
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