



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
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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

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.

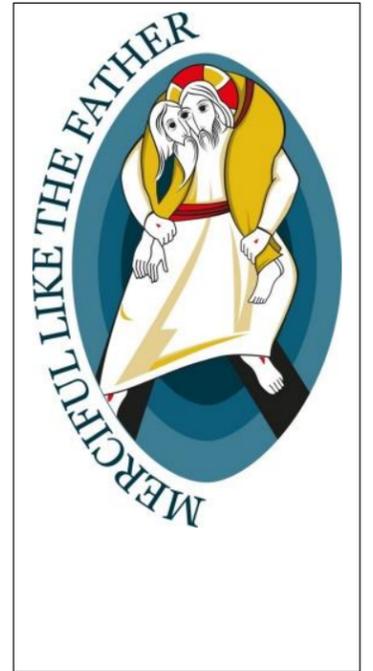
20. Let me say a word now about the connection between justice and mercy. Justice leads to rule of law in society; it also refers to what each person is rightly due. Indeed the law is important to us but we must be careful not to fall into legalism.

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.

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