

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.
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deaconsal1994@hotmail.com

Parish Manager: Connie Durante
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Lay Pastoral Associate: Greg Beath
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Minister, Maturing Adults: Maureen McDonnell
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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

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 have been mailed out 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

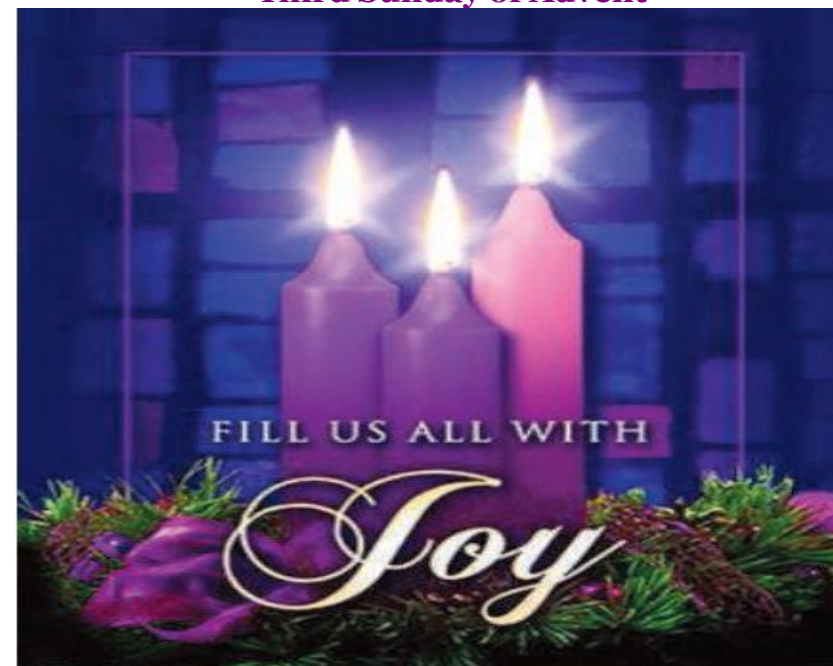
1300 Leslie Street, Toronto, ON., M3C 2K9
Telephone: 416-447-5571 Fax: 416-447-4082
Website: www.st-bonaventure.ca



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 15, 2019
Third Sunday of Advent



John the Baptist might have expected a mighty one and was confused at the gentle, healing Jesus. Pope Francis invites us into the cell of John the Baptist to look into his soul, which was weighed down not only by chains, but by "the shackles of doubt." Does God always come into your life the way you expect?

John the Baptist suffered in prison—let us say the word—the interior torture of doubt, saying: "And he invited his disciples to ask Jesus: 'But tell us, tell us the truth: are you he who is to come?' because that doubt made him suffer. 'Was I mistaken in proclaiming someone who isn't who I thought?' The suffering, the interior solitude of this man. 'I, on the other hand, must diminish, but diminish thus: in my soul, in my body, in everything...'"

...Let us ask the Lord for the grace of humility that John had, ...the grace that there be always space in our lives for Jesus to grow and that we abase ourselves, to the very end.

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 146~ Lord, come and save us.

This Week in Our Parish Hall

Community Life

Mass Intentions

Dec. 16 Monday 9:00 am †Angelina Morrow
 Dec. 17 Tuesday 9:00 am †Epemaca Sulay
 Dec. 18 Wednesday 9:00 am Myrna Mantaring
 Dec. 19 Thursday 9:00 am †Angelina Morrow
 Dec. 20 Friday 9:00 am The Friars
 †Fr. David Suckling
 †Kathleen Kilgallon
 †Winsome Mable Folkes
 †Larry Newton
 †Lydia Baudry
 †Maria Artiaga

Dec. 21 Saturday 5:00 pm Fernando & VanSteen Families
 Dec. 22 Sunday 8:30 am Intentions of the Parishioners
 10:00 am †Clarita G. Dayot
 12:00 pm †Patrick Bernard Matthews

Prayer Intentions:

Sanctuary Lamp: André Michael-Allen Little
 Vigil Lamp: † Martin Vandersteen
For the Sick: Fr. Boniface Reinhart, Anita Baker, Sam Agu, Nirmalee De Silva, Yuk Ling, Michael Morra, Ebberhardt Leithner, Sean Morra, Michelenia 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: Baby Angelique McNeilly and Katherine Mary 'Kay' Corner

Stewardship: A Way of Living

December 8th, 2019 Offertory Collections

Thank you for your generous donations.

Regular Collection \$ 8,808.00
 Flowers For Christmas \$ 2,859.60
 Maintenance Fund \$ 522.00
 Pre-Authorized Giving \$ 2,926.00
 Donate Now \$ 328.00

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).

Giving Tree

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 - **December 15th** 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.*

Monday, December 16

6:30 pm Sparks & Brownies/Main Hall
 7:00 pm Secular Franciscan Meeting/Francis Room
Tuesday, December 17
 2:30 pm IPC Photo Directory- Photo Day/Francis Room
Wednesday, December 18
 7:00 pm Alcoholic Anonymous/Francis Room
Thursday, December 19
 9:30 am Theology and Tea/Francis Room
Saturday, December 21
 9:30 am Al Anon/Bonaventure Room
 9:30 am Christian Meditation/Oak Room

News from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that the good news can be seen, touched, felt and heard through the lives of God's people. Our actions must accompany our words.

Since Christmas is a time of love and gift giving, you can share in our ministry by placing a donation in one of our poor boxes, so that those in need may know the good news of Jesus. To contact us, please call **416-447-5571 ext. 570** and **leave a confidential message with your name and phone number.**

Theology and Tea

The next T&T will be **Thursday, December 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

The Days Draw Near

Our word “Gospel” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word “god-spell.” It means “a good story.” And what a good story we’ll soon hear. Complete with angels, shepherds, magi, and a poor couple caring for a Baby in a manger. Good spirits, good people, but a Baby Who is Goodness Itself. I’m looking forward with you to hearing the story told again throughout the feasts of the Christmas Season. It’s a story that never grows old.

We pray for †Katherine Mary 'Kay' Corner. May God's gift of peace console her family as they mourn her passing.

We pray with Richard and Madge McNeilly who mourn the passing of their daughter, *Angelique*.



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. Thank you.

Congratulations to the children who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation yesterday, December 14. May they continue to cherish and welcome God's mercy. Thank you to the parents for helping prepare them to experience God's goodness.

'Vocation Seeds'

Third Sunday of Advent – December 15, 2019

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.” Are you one to be sent? 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.

