

Ministry Centre Hours

Monday to Thursday: 9 am to 4:30 pm
Friday: 9 am to 3 pm
Closed 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.
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OFM Conv.
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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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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 Phone: 416-733-8544
www.catholic-cemeteries.com

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THE FRANCISCAN CHURCH OF ST. BONAVENTURE

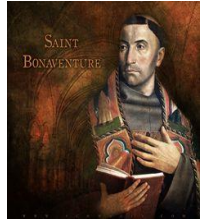
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Website: www.st-bonaventure.ca



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 2nd, 2018 ~ The First Sunday of Advent



On the first Sunday in Advent the "Hope" candle is lit

Fulfilling God's promise

Christian living takes place 'between the times,' between the first coming of Christ and his second coming. The first coming was humble, to say the least: an infant born of poor parents in an obscure village. The second coming will be different: "The powers in the heavens will be shaken and people will be distraught at the roaring of the sea and the waves."

Both comings of Christ bring justice. Jeremiah says of the coming Messiah that he will be "for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land," and because of him Jerusalem shall be called "The Lord our justice." The second coming is also about justice, about God setting things right, about the ransoming of those who "can stand up straight and stand secure before the Son of Man." Jesus came to us in Bethlehem to renew the world in love and justice. Christ will come again to fulfill God's promise of love and justice.

Love induces the Church to concern herself constantly about the true temporal welfare of men. Without ceasing to recall to her children that they have not here a lasting dwelling, she also urges them to ... promote justice, peace and brotherhood among men, to give their aid freely to their brothers, especially to the poorest and most unfortunate. The deep solicitude of the Church, the Spouse of Christ, for the needs of men, for their joys and hopes, their griefs and efforts, is therefore nothing other than her great desire to be present to them, in order to illuminate them with the light of Christ and to gather them all in Him, their only Savior.

Pope Paul VI, Solemn Profession of Faith at the Closing of the Year of Faith, 30 June 1968. Published in book form, To Love and Serve: Lectionary Based Meditations, by Gerald Darring

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

Join our Parish: Pick-up a registration form at the church, Ministry Centre or download online.

Baptism of Infants: One Sunday every month. Request forms are on the website, at the back of the church or at the Ministry centre.

Becoming Catholic (RCIA): For those not baptized, those baptized in another Christian tradition and those baptized Catholic but have not completed their initiation, a process of becoming Catholic involving prayer, inquiry and study is available. Please contact Greg, our Lay Pastoral Associate.

School-aged children: Preparation of children for the celebration of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation is provided through our parish program. Further information will be provided in the bulletin during the school year.

Marriage: Contact Friar Dennis or Friar Peter at least one year before the desired date. Couples need to participate in a Marriage Preparation Course.

Religious Life: For more information and assistance in discerning a call to the consecrated religious life, priesthood or diaconate please see one of the friars.

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

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

Spiritual Direction: Contact Friar Mark at friarmsted2015@gmail.com

Prayer Network: Members pray daily for intentions held in confidence. Contact Lois Theriault at 416-447-7466

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

Psalm 25 ~ To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

This Week in Our Parish Hall

Community Life

Mass Intentions

Dec. 3 Monday 9:00 am † Joan Trudeau
Dec. 4 Tuesday 9:00 am † Marjorie Beverley
Dec. 5 Wednesday 9:00 am † Maria Prieto
Dec. 6 Thursday 9:00 am Special Family Intentions
Dec. 7 Friday 9:00 am Vocations
Maggie Marquis
Fr. Simon de Gale
Krista Zupan & Chris Isaac
Michael Montgomery
Ivan Perusco
Dec. 8 Saturday 5:00 pm Int. of Gisela VanSteen
Dec. 9 Sunday 8:30 am † Hugh Canning (father & son)
10:00 am † Alicia Karwowska
12:00 pm Intentions of the Parishioners

Prayer Intentions

Sanctuary Lamp: † Ricky Cherry

Vigil Lamp: Andrew Family

For the Sick:

Bonnie Beverley, Randolph Fung, Mabel Lim, Tony Guiney, Alfonz Pavli, Joan Pape, Maggie Marquis, Raymund Fung, Teresita Peiris, Kay Corner, Joe Pimenta, Dorothy Lord, Patricia DiBona, Michael Morra, Mary DiGregorio, Liliana De Las Mercedes Vazquez, and Elisabetta Schiavone

For the Deceased: Cathy Valenti, Elaine Loxton, Julie Clune (granddaughter of Anne Clune) and Priscilla Lobo (mother of Caroline D'Souza - principal of St. Bonaventure School)

Stewardship: A Way of Living

November 25th Offertory Collections

Thank you for your generous donations.

Regular Collection:..... \$ **6,985.25**
Shepherds' Trust : \$ **578.00**
Maintenance Fund Offering \$ **128.00**
Pre-authorized Giving:..... \$ **2,926.00**
Donate Now:..... \$ **328.00**

Second Collections:

December 09 – Flowers for Christmas

December 25 – Christmas Offering

In preparation for the **2019 Offertory envelopes**, please provide us with any changes to your mailing address. For those on Pre-authorized Giving, please let us know if you wish to receive a full set of envelopes or special collections only. Please call 416-447-5571 or email admin@st-bonaventure.ca

'Vocation Seeds'

First Sunday of Advent – December 2, 2018

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life.”

If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon visit the website: www.vocationtoronto.ca; www.franciscans.org or speak with one of the friars

Monday, December 3rd

6:30 pm Brownies/Main Hall

6:30 pm Sparks/Bonaventure Room

Tuesday, December 4th

7:00 pm Bible Study/Oak Room

Wednesday, December 5th

6:30 pm CWL-Christmas Bags/Main Hall

7:00 pm GRASP/Oak Room

7:30 pm Alcoholic Anonymous/Francis Room

Thursday, December 6th

9:30 am Theology and Tea

7:00 am Knights of Columbus Executive Meeting/
Oak Room

Saturday, December 8th

9:30 am Christian Meditation/Oak Room

9:30 am Al Anon Group/Bonaventure Room

Sunday, December 9th

1:00 pm CWL Advent Tea/Main Hall

Advent Days of Confessions

From **December 17-22, 2018**, 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 Tuesday, December 18th from 9:30 to 10:30 am; 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm and 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Days and Times of Confessions in other parishes near us:

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 78 Clifton Road
December 11: 11:00 am to 12:00 pm
12:30 to 1:30 pm
7:30 to 8:30 pm

St. Timothy's Parish, 21 Leith Hill Road
December 17: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
5:00 to 8:00 pm

St. Edward the Confessor Parish, 75 Churchill Ave
December 18: 9:00 to 10:00 am
2:00 to 4:00 pm
7:00 to 8:00 pm

Blessed Sacrament, 24 Cheritan Avenue
December 20: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
5:00 to 8:00 pm

St. Bonaventure's Ministry with Maturing Adults A Spirituality for the Second Half of Life Embracing Wholeness and Challenge



2019 Winter Program St. Bonaventure's Ministry with Maturing Adults

Tuesday Mornings; Coffee & Treats 9:30 – 11:45 am

- January 15 Belonging and Community; Exploring the wisdom and radiance of Jean Vanier as a guide for healthy communities; Mary Bastedo, Daybreak (retired)
- January 29 A Contemplative Retreat; Draw aside to meditate with Franciscan wisdom; Friar Dennis J. Mason
- February 12 Brain Health, Dementia & Alzheimer's; with Nicole Gardner, Public Education Coordinator, Alzheimer's Society of Toronto
- February 26 Story-telling! Reveals our Inner Beauty; With Gisela Cote, Ginny Doty, Moira Mckeown, and Maureen McDonnell
- March 12 Reclaiming the Christian Tradition of the Art of Dying; Exploring the work of Sister Nula Kenny, Maureen McDonnell
- March 19 Karios Blanket Exercise Workshop; “The goal is to build understanding about our shared history as Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada through pre-contact, treaty making, colonization and resistance.”
- April 2 The Spiritual Journey; Divine Love drawing us into Prayer, Contemplative Practice and Service; Maureen McDonnell

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

Theology and Tea

Thursdays, December 6th, 13th and 20th, 9:30 am in the Francis Room.

Advent is a season of anticipation and a time to ponder the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Holy One into the world and into our lives. **Friar Mark Steed and Maureen McDonnell** begin the exploration of the Advent season on December 6th with a focus on the inspirational Magnificat, “**My soul magnifies the Lord.**” All are welcome!

And Now, A Word from Our Pastor

Any art lovers out there? I recently discovered that King's College and the Tate Modern Gallery of London have collaborated to present online “**The Visual Commentary on Scripture**” (thevcs.org). The project brings together passages from the Word of God, reflections on those Scriptural passages and Artistic works which depict those passages. As Jesus Christ, the Word which God, took on flesh in His Incarnation, artists through the centuries have labored to put flesh on the stories in the Bible, the written Word of God. The vcs project brings Scripture and Art into a dialogue that offers not just insight but the opportunity to deepen our relationship with God. St John of Damascus, an early Christian spiritual leader, once said: “Art is made to be gazed upon so that we might glorify God and be filled with wonder.” Why not take a look?

We commend †**Cathy Valenti**, †**Elaine Loxton**, †**Julie Clune** (granddaughter of Anne Clune) and †**Priscilla Lobo** (mother of Caroline D'Souza - principal of St. Bonaventure School) into the hands of our God and pray for the gift of peace to their families as they mourn their passing.

First Sunday of Advent (December 2nd)

The Habit of Prayer

Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. (Luke 21:36)

Jeremiah 33:14-16 – Restoration of Jerusalem

1 Thess. 3:12-42 – Plea for growth in holiness

Luke 21:25-25, 34-36 – Coming of the son of man

Adults: What have been the strengths of your prayer life?

What habit of prayer could you strengthen during this Advent season?

Kids: What prayers will you say each day and each week during Advent?

JUBILATE DEO, Concert

Saturday, December 8th at 7:30 pm

Metropolitan United Church (by St. Michael's Cathedral, Church and Shuter)

Tickets: General Admission: \$40; Seniors & Students \$35 and children under 12 years are free.

Presenting Dan Forrest's *Jubilate Deo!* This work brings to life the global aspect of the traditional Psalm 100 text, “O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands,” by setting it in seven different languages and drawing from a wide spectrum of musical influences. This work will be conducted by Joshua Tamayo. Check out the video at www.voxchoirs.com

News from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus open doors of hope. ~ Pope Benedict XVI

Help us open doors of hope for the less fortunate this Christmas by using our Christmas envelopes located at our poor boxes. Those who use our envelopes at Christmas and throughout the year, and identify themselves, will receive an income tax receipt. Thank you!

“Warmth and Comfort”

The CWL is embarking on a CWL Toronto Archdiocesan project called ‘Warmth and Comfort’ asking parishioners to donate jars of peanut butter and boxes of crackers to be given to homeless shelters in our city. And will continue collecting these items through December 31st. ‘Peanut Butter and Crackers’ collection boxes are placed at the back of the church for your donations. Thank you for helping feed the homeless with these nutritious snacks.

Knights of Columbus Sock Drive

During the season of Advent, the Knights of Columbus will be collecting new unused warm socks, mitts and scarfs. All items will be donated to the Good Shepherd Centre around Christmas. Please place all your donated items in the box located at the back of the Church. Your kind generosity is greatly appreciated.

Development and Peace education campaign for this year is SHARE THE JOURNEY: no one should be forced to flee their home. The campaign focuses on the root causes of forced migration. Every minute 31 people are forced to flee their homes because they fear for their lives and their safety. Armed conflicts, climate change, development megaprojects, persecution... This week at the front doors of the church we will ask you to sign an Action card that will be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada asking our Country to do more on this important issue.

Help the Homeless – City Street Outreach

City Street Outreach, a Canadian registered, non-profit charity, run completely by volunteers and serving the city since 2010 needs blankets, sleeping bags, pop-up tents, coats, scarves, mittens and socks to be distributed to the homeless and to families living in poverty. Please drop off new or gently used items at the Ministry Centre.

Secular Franciscan Meeting

There will be a Secular Franciscan Meeting Monday, **December 17th at 7:00 pm, in the Francis Room.**

Christmas, Christmas time is near!

Join the **Seraphim and Cherubim Chorus’** singing the Christmas songs you love as part of their It’s a Marshmallow World concert series. A mix of old favourites and twists on classics! Join us at St. Bonaventure’s on **December 14th at 7:30pm.** Advanced tickets are available online at www.seraphimandcherubin.ca and at the Ministry Centre.

“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 15/16 at the latest.**

Your gifts will support those who seek help through **The Community Share Food Bank, the City Street Outreach, residents at Thompson House Retirement Home, and Greenview Lodge Nursing Home.**

Invitation to CWL Advent Tea

An invitation is extended to all members and non-members to a CWL Advent Tea on Sunday, December 9th at 1:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Cost: Members - \$5, Non-members - \$10. Come and enjoy the company of others with good food, entertainment and raffles. Please sign up on the list on the ‘Notice Board’ at the back of the church.

Keeping Christ in Christmas

The Knights of Columbus – St. Francis Council will be raffling a \$100.00 Christmas Crèche in support of Keeping Christ in Christmas. Tickets are 1 for \$5.00/3 for \$10.00. Raffle draw will be held on Sunday, December 16th after the 10:00 am Mass in the parish Hall. Tickets are available after Mass and at the Ministry Centre. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Casseroles for the Good Shepherd Centre

The deadline for the casseroles is **Sunday, December 23rd.** 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.**

CELEBRATE ADVENT AT HOME Family Prayers and Activities for this Holy Time of the Year

History of the Advent Wreath: The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. The actual origins of the wreath are uncertain, however. There is evidence that some of the Germanic people used wreaths with lighted candles during the cold and dark December nights as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. By the Middle Ages Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Jesus is “the Light that came into the world” to dispel the darkness of sin and hatred and radiate the truth and love of God (see John 3.19).

Lighting the Candles: Three candles are purple, and one is rose/pink.

The purple candles in particular symbolize our prayer, penance and the generous works of preparation we undertake to get ready for Jesus’ coming. The rose candle is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday – the midpoint of Advent. This candle expresses the joy in knowing that Jesus is near. The progressive lighting of candles, giving off more and more light, symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord’s first coming and the anticipation of his Second Coming in power and glory to bring salvation to his people.

Praying around the Advent Wreath: *The family gathers around the Advent Wreath before their evening meal, or at another convenient time. Each week one more candle is lit, and family members pray together:*

First Week of Advent: Parents pray a prayer of blessing over the Wreath:

Holy God, your people wait with joy the coming of their Savior. Your Son enlightens our hearts and drives away the darkness of sin and selfishness. Pour out your blessings over us, as we light the candles of this Advent Wreath. May its light awaken within us a great desire to give him, who is Light for our lives, a more generous welcome in our hearts and home.

The first purple candle is lit by a member of the family. Someone prays the concluding prayer; it can be said throughout the 1st week:

Father, the day of our Salvation approaches. Your Son, who came to us once as a human child, continues to enlighten our lives by his goodness and love. Open our eyes to see his presence and our ears to hear his call in the events of our daily lives, here and outside our home. May we welcome and care for Him in one another and in all people who long for his love. We make this prayer in Jesus’ name.

Second Week of Advent: *The family gather around the Advent Wreath: The First candle is lit as we gather; then someone prays:*

With hearts full of hope and expectation, it gives us great pleasure to wait together for the coming of our Lord. As we light another candle on our Advent Wreath, we welcome its glow – a light that appears in the darkness of winter. At this stage of this holy season, while we decorate our homes and our city with lights and symbols, let us also concern ourselves with adorning our hearts. May we be dedicated to acts of kindness towards the lonely and the poor and with acts of love and service to one another. Then our hearts and our homes will offer a fitting welcome to the God who longs to come to us as Savior of all.

The second candle is lit and someone else prays: Be consoled, children of God! Our Savior is near! May our kindness and love hurry the coming of Emmanuel, the Light of God for every human heart.

Third Week of Advent: *The first two candles are lit as the family gathers at the Wreath. Someone prays:*

Leap with warmth and joy, flames of Advent light, while we observe another week of preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ. Just as the flame of a candle gives light in the darkness, may our gift-giving represent a preparation for the most precious gift of God – Emmanuel – God-with-us. May we joyfully wrap every Christmas gift with love, so that they may become Advent prayers, awakening our hearts to the true wonder of Christmas – God’s love for all.

(the third candle is lit – the pink, Gaudete Sunday candle) Someone prays: O, wonderful God, you fill our world with joy and hope by sending us your Son. May we always live in the joyful light of his presence. Help us during these holy days of Advent to become living gifts of love to one another and, especially, to those who are sad and in need.

Fourth Week of Advent: *The first three candles are lit as the family gathers at the Wreath. Someone prays:*

As we wait for the wonder-filled celebration of Christmas, anxious as children, let us illuminate the darkness of our cold wintry world with bright lights and burning hearts. While the world awaits once again the birth of the Son of God, may we not waste even one day of this final week of Advent. By our gifts of prayer and generosity, by our readiness to forgive, and by our kind concern for others, let us give grace to others. May our hearts be filled with hope, as we claim the gifts that the Prince of Peace brings. May our gifts to others be first of all the gifts of patience, kindness and cheery hearts. By way of these gifts the Gift of the God of love will come once again to Earth.

The fourth candle is lit. Someone prays: Let us rejoice and be happy, the Son of God is coming to us to light our way! Let us open wide our hearts and our home, so that his peace and love may reign here. Then his blessing will flow out from here each day into the world around us with salvation and healing for all. O come, O come, Emmanuel! Come into our world once again through the gates of our hearts and home!

Christmas and New Year Mass Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 23rd
Regular Sunday Mass
8:30 am, 10:00 am and 12:00 noon

The Nativity of the Lord
Christmas Eve
Monday, December 24th
4:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm

Christmas Day
Tuesday, December 25th
10:00 am and 12:00 noon

Boxing Day
Wednesday, December 26th
No Morning Mass

Feast of the Holy Family
Sunday, December 30th
Regular Sunday Mass
8:30 am, 10:00 am and 12:00 noon

Mary, the Holy Mother of God
New Year's Eve
Monday, December 31st
5:00 pm

New Year's Day
Tuesday, January 1st, 2019
10:00 am

Other opportunities for celebrating this season of Advent at home:

Saint Nicholas Day, December 6th:

On the eve of St. Nicholas Day parents might first read or tell the story of kind St. Nicholas – how he provided dowries for poor girls; and that he is the patron saint of Russia and special protector of children (see internet for more information). They might explain the custom of children hanging stockings on the bedroom door or putting shoes outside the bedroom to receive gifts from St. Nicholas. Parents (or St. Nicholas) can put a single item in the stocking or shoe for each child. This item may later be used in the family's preparation for Christmas, e.g. a cd of spiritual Christmas music, a white Christmas candle, representing Jesus for the Advent Wreath, a box of Christmas cards, a crib set figure, a Christmas book.

Solemnity of Immaculate Conception, December 8th:

Parents could explain the meaning of this day – that it was Mary who, as a special favor from God, was conceived without sin in preparation for the birth of His Son. Family members who are able could go to Mass; the homily or readings could be shared at home; you could pray together around an image of Mary and light a candle in her honor at home; the rosary or a part of it could be recited together, reflecting on the mysteries together, or some other prayer to Our Lady, invoking her intercession, so that family members might have an ever truer understanding of the Christmas miracle, and also that Mary is our Mother too.

The Christmas Nativity Scene

This special Christmas devotion can be an enchanting teaching tool for our children about the wonder of the Incarnation and has Franciscan roots. The Nativity set should have a special place in our hearts and our homes every Christmas Season. It is well worth the investment and can be expanded every year. Many Portuguese families, for example, set up quite elaborate Christmas scenes in their homes every year. You can start simply with three or four figures: Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and maybe, an angel. Inexpensive sets can be purchased for your children's rooms, as well. The Christ Child can be brought out on Christmas Eve or Day before the gift-giving occurs, to emphasize God's most precious, not-to-be outdone Gift of all gifts!

Did You Know?

Advent is about Christmas, right? Right! We're preparing to commemorate the Birth of the Savior. But Advent is about something more too. Listen to the introduction of the Missal, the prayer book of the Church:

“The season of Advent has a two-fold character. It is a time of preparation for Christmas, when the first coming of God's Son to us is recalled. It is also a season when minds are directed to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. It is a season of joyful and spiritual expectation.”

A time to prepare to recall and celebrate Christ's first coming at Bethlehem. But also, a time to ponder and celebrate the promise of Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. What a rich and image-filled time Advent is. As darkness comes sooner and sooner with each passing day, we gather each day to kindle the candles of our Advent Wreaths. They proclaim our faith in the One born to be the Light of the World and the one Who will scatter darkness forever when He returns in glory. As the chill of winter wraps around us, we assemble for Liturgy to feel the warmth of the One Who was, Who is and Who is to come. During the weeks of Advent, we keep a long vigil together. A vigil of mystery in which we wait for the One Who has already come and Who will come again.

During the first portion of Advent we focus our Scripture readings and prayers at the Liturgy on the triumphant coming of Jesus at the end of time. During the final portion of the season, we shift our attention more intensely in Scripture and prayer to the commemoration of the humble coming of Jesus in Bethlehem. Again, the introduction to the Missal teaches us:

“The days from December 17 to 24 are more directly oriented to the preparation for the Lord's Birth.”

At Mass, listen to the Opening Prayers, the Scripture readings, the Prefaces (just before the Holy, Holy) during the Advent season and see if you can feel their shifting moods, their changing focus on the two comings of Jesus. Revel in the richness, be enveloped in the mystery. The God Whose Birth we will celebrate is the God Who is already with us today and the God Who promises to return to us tomorrow.

Advent is about Christmas, right? Right. But Advent is about something more too.

-Friar Dennis J. Mason

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.

