

Christmas Prayer for those who work on Christmas Day



Lord, we pause to remember those who must work today. As we spend our day in celebration, make us mindful of these others who are serving us.

Help us to support them and remember them, and turn our hearts toward them with gratitude.

I ask you, Loving Father, to extend a special sense of your presence to the people they will meet today in their line of work.

May they shed on them the light of the Bethlehem Star, and the Spirit of Christmas. Amen

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DECEMBER 25, 2016

**SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY
OF THE LORD**



*“TODAY YOUR SAVIOR WAS BORN IN THE TOWN OF DAVID. HE IS CHRIST, THE LORD. THIS IS HOW YOU WILL KNOW HIM: YOU WILL FIND A BABY WRAPPED IN PIECES OF CLOTH AND LYING IN A MANGER.”
~LUKE 2.11-12*

**ON BEHALF OF THE FRIARS – BONIFACE, DAVID, TOM, PETER, MYSELF AND THE STAFF AT ST. BONAVENTURE PARISH, I WANT TO WISH YOU ALL A MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS!
FRIAR DAVID STACHURSKI**

MASS INTENTIONS

Feast of St. Stephen, The First Martyr
Mon. Dec. 26 **No 9:00 am Mass**

Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Tues. Dec. 27 9:00 am †Percy & Charlotte Pinheiro

Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Wed. Dec. 28 9:00 am †Mr. & Mrs. Ibrahim

Fifth Day Within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Thurs. Dec.29 9:00 am †Laurence Higgins

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Fri. Dec.30 9:00 am †Thomas Boyle

Seventh Day Within The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

Sat. Dec.31 9:00 am †Una Boland
†Virgilio Billy Separa
†Debra Scott
†Shanti Mariadas
†William Simone
†Molly Johnston
†James McGowan
†Millie Cleary
†Marianne Korn
†Frances Coady

Sat. Dec. 31 5:00 pm Parishioners

Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God

Sun. Jan. 1st 8:30 am †Peter Glowczewski
10:00 am †Edmond Odette
12:00 pm Parishioners

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Sanctuary Lamp: Special Intentions

Vigil Lamp: Durante Family and Chua Family
For the Sick: Peter Holloway, Kay Corner, Linda Nasturzio, George Joel, Eileen Velazquez, Dr. Martin Young, Geraldine Daly and Patrice Flanagan

For the Deceased: Sr. Susan Moran, O.L.M.

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

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 Patricia Floros at 416-444-0424

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



Psalm 97

This day new light will shine on the earth; the Lord is born for us

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, December 26

Boxing Day - Ministry Centre/Parish Hall - Closed

Tuesday, December 27

7:00 pm Bible Study Group/Bonaventure Room

Wednesday, December 28

6:30 pm GRASP Group/Oak Room

7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous/Francis Room

No Family Choir Practice

Saturday, December 31

9:30 am Christian Meditation/Oak Room

9:30 am Al Anon Group/Bonaventure Room

Sunday, January 1st, 2017 - Happy New Year

Regular Schedule of Masses: 8:30 am, 10:00 am and 12:00 noon

Ministry Centre Holiday Hours

Saturday, December 24 2 pm - 6 pm

Sunday, December 25 Closed

Monday, December 26 Closed

Tuesday, December 27 Closed

Wednesday, December 28 9 am - 4:30 pm

Thursday, December 29 9 am - 4:30 pm

Friday, December 30 9 am - 3:00 pm

Saturday, December 31 2 pm - 6:30 pm

Sunday, January 1st, 2017 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Monday, January 2nd, 2017 Closed

Holy Family Nurturing family relationships

Reading I Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 (duties toward parents)

Reading II Colossians 3: 12-21 (the practice of virtues)

Gospel Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 (the flight to Egypt)

Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother by night, and went to Egypt. (Matthew 2:14)

Questions of the Week:

Adult: What can you do this week to help someone in your household or circle of friends feel more loved?

Child: What good thing will you do this week to show your love for your parents or grandparents?

STEWARDSHIP - A WAY OF LIVING

December 18 Offertory Collection

Thank you for your generous donations.

Regular Collection: \$12,324.50

Maintenance Fund: \$360 St. Clare Inn: \$500

Flowers for Christmas: \$110

The Shepherd's Trust: \$300

Syrian Humanitarian: \$1,000

Donate Now: \$328 Pre-Authorized Giving: \$2,906

Second Collection

There will be a second collection **December 31st & January 1st weekend** for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God Offering.

COMMUNITY LIFE

News from the St. Vincent de Paul Society

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand." - Mother Teresa

Your generosity enabled over 50 people served by our Society to enjoy a brighter Christmas. Thank you and Christmas blessings.

Casseroles for the Good Shepherd Centre

The deadline for this month casseroles is **Thursday, December 29, 2016**. If you can spare a few hours, contact Eva Trace, 416.447.3040.

Handouts in the Parking Lot

We recently had two unauthorised distributions of pamphlets and advertisements in the parking lot. Parish sanctioned events, materials and information are not promoted this way. Persons, businesses, and organizations wishing to advertise to our parishioners must speak to Fr. David or Connie Durante in order to receive permission to do so.

From time to time, we have people begging for money at the parking lot. Please give directly to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, one of our parishioner-run charities, which will ensure that people in need receive your support. You can place your donation in one of the St. Vincent de Paul boxes only when there is a member present, otherwise place your donations in an envelope marked St. Vincent de Paul in the collection basket or drop it off at the Ministry Centre.

CWL Members Thank You for Your Generosity

A special thanks to those who donated items for the CWL Christmas gift bags for the ladies at the Good Shepherd. We were successful in sorting, packing and delivering 100 gift bags to the Good Shepherd Centre.

Walking with the Artist: A Spiritual Journey sponsored by Ministry with Maturing Adults

Thursday, 7:30 pm, January 26, 2017, Main Hall
Katharine Lochnan, Senior Curator, Emeritus, of the Art Gallery of Ontario will discuss her current exhibition "Mystical Landscapes," which grew out of the course "Integration for Ministry," at Regis College. It will travel to Paris following its closing in Toronto at the end of January. All are welcome. Admission is free. Donations are welcome.

Franciscan Pilgrimage to Rome and Poland

Friar David Stachurski is part of the team that will be leading the pilgrimage from **August 7-18, 2017**. We will be walking the footsteps of St. Maximilian Kolbe as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Militia of the Immaculata, a worldwide movement of Marian consecration he founded. Cost from Toronto is \$3,480. Brochures are available in the back of the church for detailed information.

A Christmas Prayer



Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

By Robert Louis Stevenson

Prayer before Christmas Dinner
God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who are not with us today. In our gratitude and love, we remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat.

We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who have no place to live. We remember your challenging message of caring and giving and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world.

We bless you and give you thanks in your Spirit who brings our hearts to life the Christmas Day and forever. Amen.

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With Much Thanks and Gratitude!

A Message From the CWL

St. Bonaventure CWL celebration of our 60th Anniversary as a council was something very special, and we would like to thank all those who attended and participated in this memorable event on Sunday, December 11, 2016. We look forward to our meetings and work as a council. We convey a special thanks to Friar David Stachurski, our Spiritual Advisor, for the beautiful installation of our new executive.



Christmas Pageant

We wish to thank all the children, parents and volunteers that helped coordinate and participated in this year's pageant. Without you, this annual parish tradition would not be possible! Thank you for your time and commitment.

Christmas Crèche

We would like to thank our volunteers Deisy Sosa and Orfelina Millan Narvaez for their creativity in designing this year's crèche.

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