



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. For each dollar raised, our parish will receive 25 cents. 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.

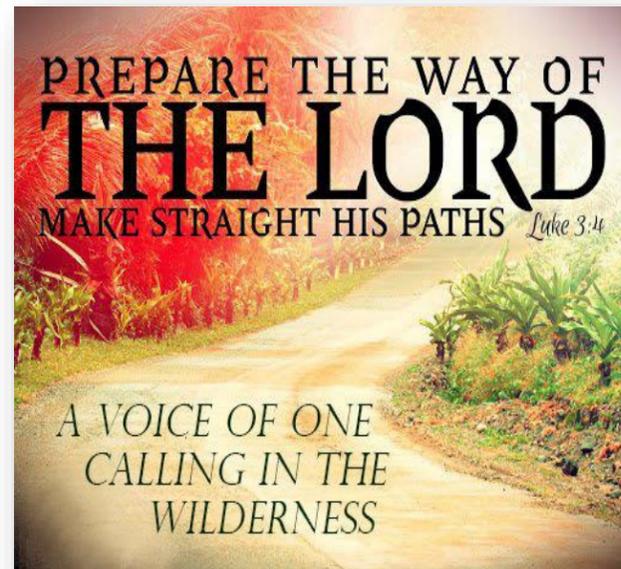
We hope that each parishioner will prayerfully consider their response to the urgent needs of the Church, here and throughout the archdiocese. Please continue to pray for the success of our campaign!

Stay in touch with the campaign at [www.ourFamilyofFaith.ca](http://www.ourFamilyofFaith.ca)



**FRANCISCAN CHURCH  
Of St. Bonaventure**  
1300 LESLIE STREET  
TORONTO, ON, M3C 2K9  
TEL: 416.447.5571  
FAX: 416.447.4082  
[www.st-bonaventure.ca](http://www.st-bonaventure.ca)

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 6, 2015



### CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

#### Christmas Eve

- 4:00 pm Children's Mass with Pageant
- 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

#### Nativity Pageant

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm  
During mass we recall the first Christmas with re-enactment of the Nativity.

### 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

Mon. Dec. 7 †Salvador Badali  
Tues. Dec. 8 †Angela Petrin  
Wed. Dec. 9 †Thomas Mullrooney  
Thurs. Dec. 10 †Aleksander Rokitnicki  
Fri. Dec. 11 Delia Maria & Joshua Drexler  
Sat. Dec. 12 †Dominic Noronha, †Presser Sare,  
†Andrew Family, †Ashley Kilgour, †D'Souza  
Family, †Friars, Sisters & Benefactors of OFM,  
Personal Intention

#### SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. Dec. 12 5:00 pm †Benjie Martin  
Sun. Dec. 13 8:30 am †Joao Rabello  
10:00 am Parishioners  
12:00 pm †Elizabeth & Clare Dean

#### PRAYER INTENTIONS

Sanctuary Lamp: Andrew Family  
Vigil Lamp: Josepina Lim  
For the Sick: Deacon Sal Badali

**PRAYER NETWORK:** Members pray daily for intentions held in confidence. Contact: Lois Theriault 416-447-7466

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

#### THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

##### Monday, December 7

6:15 pm Sparks: Parish Events/Bonaventure Room  
6:45 pm Brownies: Parish Events/Francis Room  
7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice/Church

##### Tuesday, December 8

7:30 pm Bible Study group: Parish Events/Oak Room

##### Wednesday, December 9

6:30 pm GRASP group/Oak Room  
7:30 pm Family Choir Practice, Church  
8:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous/Francis Room

##### Thursday, December 10

6:00 pm Café Glace St. Bonaventure School/Main Hall

##### Saturday, December 12

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.

#### Diocesan-wide Day of Confessions

Friday, December 18, 9:30-10:30 am, 12 - 1 pm, 6:30-7:30 pm All priests in the Archdiocese have been asked to hear confessions several times throughout the day. This is not meant to replace parish reconciliation services but to deepen the experience of this healing sacrament.

#### Liturgy of the Word with Children (Ages 3 to 11)

We rely on a dedicated team of volunteers at the 10 am Mass to lead this important ministry. There is a schedule that enables a generous rotation: normally, leaders serve one Sunday per month. The more volunteers we have, the greater the flexibility with scheduling. We are looking for a few more volunteers.

If you are a parent of a child participating in the Liturgy of the Word or a parishioner that would be able to lead a group of children (we especially need leaders for children ages 4 to 6 and ages 9 to 11), then please contact Greg Beath at the Ministry Centre, ext, 258.

#### FAITH FORMATION

##### Blessing of Our Candidates for Confirmation

Please pray for our Confirmation candidates and their families as they begin preparation to receive the sacrament.

#### SOCIAL MINISTRY

##### Project Hope

Cardinal Thomas Collins thanks our parish community for the generous support of Project Hope. Our parish contribution of \$12,326 will make a tangible difference, as we extend a hand of welcome to those who have fled their homeland under extreme conditions.

##### 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup> or 50 + wedding anniversary anytime throughout 2016. To ensure special reserved seating for honoured couples, pre-registration is required, visit [www.archtoronto.org/marriage](http://www.archtoronto.org/marriage)

8. Now let us gaze on Jesus. He embodies God's love for us. The stories he told and the signs he worked were all designed to reveal God's mercy: to the sick, the suffering, the stranger, the rejected, and the sinner: God's mercy endures forever!

*Mt 9:36*

*On whom do we need to look with merciful love? Who among us does not deserve such mercy?*

What moved Jesus to act with compassion toward all was nothing less than mercy. Jesus looked on all with merciful love. He understood the human heart and he knew how bound up we are by our selfishness and self-centeredness. He knew that we lacked love; but he knew as well that by loving us to the end, he would free us from these demons and set us on the pathway to love others.

Saint Bede the Venerable wrote about how Jesus called Matthew, a public sinner and tax collector. Jesus looked on that man with mercy, according to Bede. He saw beyond the sins to the heart of Matthew. His very look wiped away Matthew's sins.

I myself am so impressed by Bede's words that I chose them as my episcopal motto: *miserando atque eligendo* which could be rendered in English, "I forgive you and I choose you."

9. Likewise in the parables which Jesus used to instruct us, God is revealed as the Father who never gives up, even on a son who betrayed him. He seeks out the lost sheep. We are that lost sheep ourselves. God has had such mercy on us! God welcomes these lost ones back to himself with happiness; he doesn't scold them and punish them. He's just happy to have them back.

*What is the experience of God's mercy like?*



*Whom do we now exclude from God's offer of mercy? How can we invite them to the table?*

The basis of this is Jesus' teaching on mercy in Matthew 18. This is the story of the servant whose debt was forgiven by his master only to trounce without mercy on someone who owed him far less. The master was infuriated by this. "Should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" the master asks. (Mt 18:33). Jesus concludes, "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart" (Mt 18:35).

How dare we now fail to show mercy toward those who need it most? This parable contains a profound teaching for us. Mercy is God's way of treating us; how we treat others determines whether we are children of God or not. Just as God is merciful so we also must be merciful. How dare we take any other approach?

*In what ways has the Church failed to offer mercy to people?*

10. The Church is a sacrament of Christ to the world and therefore, we must have mercy in our core. Nothing in our preaching or teaching can lack in mercy. Perhaps we have forgotten how to

## ADVENT LONGING BY RON ROLHEISSER, OMI

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin once suggested that peace and justice will come to us when we reach a high enough psychic temperature so as to burn away the things that still hold us apart. In saying this, he was drawing upon a principle in chemistry: Sometimes two elements will simply lie side by side inside a test-tube and not unite until sufficient heat is applied so as to bring them to a high enough temperature where unity can take place.

That's wonderful metaphor for advent. What is advent?

Advent is about getting in touch with our longing. It's about letting our yearnings raise our psychic temperatures so that we are pushed to eventually let down our guard, hope in new ways, and risk intimacy.

John of the Cross has a similar image: Intimacy with God and with each other will only take place, he says, when we reach a certain kindling temperature. For too much of our lives, he suggests, we lie around as damp, green logs inside the fire of love, waiting to come to flame but never bursting into flame because of our dampness. Before we can burst into flame, we must first dry out and come to kindling temperature. We do that, as does a damp log inside a fire, by first sizzling for a long time in the flames so as to dry out.

How do we sizzle psychologically and spiritually? For John of the Cross, we do that through the pain of loneliness, restlessness, disquiet, anxiety, frustration, and unrequited desire. In the torment of incompleteness our psychic temperature rises so that eventually we come to kindling temperature and, there, we finally open ourselves to union in new ways. That too is an image for advent.

Nobel Prize winning author, Toni Morrison describes it this way:

*There is a loneliness that can be rocked. Arms crossed, knees drawn up, holding, holding on, this motion, unlike a ship's, smoothes and contains the rocker. It's an inside kind - wrapped tight like skin. Then there is a loneliness that roams. No rocking can hold it down. It is alive, on its own. A dry and spreading thing that makes the sound of one's own feet going seems to come from a far-off place.*

All of us know exactly what she is describing, especially the latter type, the roaming kind of loneliness that haunts the soul and makes us, all too often, too restless to sleep at night and too uncomfortable to be inside our own skins during the day.

And what's the lesson in this? What we learn from loneliness is that we are more than any moment in our lives, more than any situation we are in, more than any humiliation we have experienced, more than any rejection we have endured, and more than all the limits within which we find ourselves. Loneliness and longing take us beyond ourselves. How?

Thomas Aquinas once taught that we can attain something in one of two ways: through possession or through desire. We like to possess what we love, but that isn't often possible and it has an underside.

Possession is limited, desire is infinite. Possession sets up fences, desire takes down fences. To quote Karl Rahner, only in the torment of the insufficiency of everything attainable do we know that we are more than the limits of our bodies, our present relationships, our jobs, our achievements, and the concrete situations within which we live, work, and die.

Loneliness and longing let us touch, through desire, God's ultimate design for us. In our longing, the mystics tell us, we intuit the kingdom of God. What that means is that in our desires we sense the deeper blueprint for things. And what is that?

Scripture tells us that the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, of simple bodily pleasure, but a coming together in justice, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, that is what we ache for in our loneliness and longing: consummation, oneness, intimacy, completeness, harmony, peace, and justice. Sometimes, of course, in our fantasies and daydreams that isn't so evident. God's kingdom seems something much loftier and more holy than what we often long for - sex, revenge, fame, power, glory, pleasure. However even in these fantasies, be they ever so crass, there is present always a deeper desire, for justice, for peace, for joy, for oneness in Christ.

Our loneliness and longing are a hunger and an energy that drive us, always, beyond the present moment. In them we do intuit the kingdom of God.

Advent is about longing, about getting in touch with it, about heightening it, about letting it raise our psychic temperatures, about sizzling as damp, green logs inside the fires of intimacy, about intuiting the kingdom of God by seeing, through desire, what the world might look like if a Messiah were to come and, with us, establish justice, peace, and unity on this earth

*Fr. Ron Rolheiser, O.M.I.*

### Six Month Financial Report

The following is a brief summary of the financial stewardship of our parish from January 1 through June 30, 2015. The essential elements of the revenues and expenses over the six month period are shown with comparative numbers from the same period last year. During the first six months of the year, there has been an overall drop in the weekly offertory. Our overall expenses are slightly lower than last year. Please note that the subsidy for Ministry received from the capital campaign ended in 2014. There was an increase in the Maintenance collections over the same period last year. We have also included the figures for the Archdiocesan Campaigns, second collection, for the same time period with comparative numbers from 2014 collections. Thank you for your generosity!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE PARISH AND OUR MANY MINISTRIES. WITHOUT YOU, NONE OF OUR SERVICES, LITURGIES, OUTREACH TO THE POOR, HUNGRY, HOMEBOUND OR THE SICK COULD TAKE PLACE!**

	June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014
<b>Revenue</b>		
Regular Weekly Collections (includes Easter)	\$ 342,267	\$ 383,480
Miscellaneous Income	<u>30,961</u>	<u>23,529</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 373,228</b>	<b>\$ 407,009</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administration	\$ 211,659	\$ 218,062
	▪ Salaries & Benefits	
	26,057	18,156
	▪ Office expenses, telephone, supplies, postage	
Liturgical	35,625	37,004
	▪ Music, altar supplies, books	
Pastoral	4,813	10,684
	▪ Youth, Adult, Hospital Chaplaincy, Social Ministry	
Maintenance & Utilities	70,037	56,420
	▪ Light, heat, landscaping, snow removal, property insurance, maintenance supplies	
Other	54,600	61,061
	▪ Diocesan Assessment	
Capital Expenses	<u>0</u>	<u>5,336</u>
	▪ New computers & security system upgrade	
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 402,791</b>	<b>\$ 406,723</b>
Less: Subsidy from Campaign for Ministry		<u>(10,000)</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 402,791</b>	<b>\$ 396,723</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (29,563)</b>	<b>\$ 10,286</b>
Maintenance Funds (not available for regular operating expenses)	<b>\$ 28,478</b>	<b>\$ 20,291</b>

<b>Archdiocesan Collections</b>		
	Six Months Ended 30 June	
	2015	2014
Campaigns		
Sharelife	\$120,070	\$123,673
Holy Land	8,063	6,926
Marygrove Camp	3,638	4,534
Humanitarian Relief	2,895	
Papal Charities	3,380	4,165
Shepherd's Trust	0	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$138,046</b>	<b>\$139,318</b>
Resettlement Project	20,896	
<b>Total - Diocesan Campaigns &amp; Other Projects</b>	<b>\$158,942</b>	<b>\$139,318</b>

show mercy or live as merciful people. It may be that our focus on justice led us away from mercy as the first impulse.

In the wider world, mercy is also lacking, as we can see in the news each day. The time has now come for us to return to being a Church of mercy. This must be our witness to the world.

11. Saint John Paul II offered a great teaching on this as well. "The Church," he said, "lives an authentic life when she professes and proclaims mercy – the most stupendous attribute of the Creator and of the Redeemer – and when she brings people close to the sources of the Savior's mercy."

*Dives in Misericordia, #11*

*The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it. (Genesis 2:15)*

Our mercy must extend to all creation, Saint John Paul II teaches. Our task of building and planting the earth, given to us by God in Genesis 2:15, must include attitudes and actions of mercy toward the land as well as its people.

12. We as the Church must imitate Christ. We must be as merciful as he was. Our language and our gestures must transmit mercy so as to touch the hearts of modern men and women again.

*What is the challenge in this for you as a parish? How you more closely imitate Christ?*

13. During the Jubilee we want the words of Luke (6:35) to echo in our own hearts, "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful." In order to do this, we must reclaim the Word of God, quiet prayer in which God speaks to us, and silence. Let us adopt mercy as our lifestyle.

14. In our religious tradition, we have long valued the idea of being on a journey toward the heart of the Lord. We are a "pilgrim Church." This means we must move away from our comfort zones and walk out into a new place. Our pilgrimage to any particular Church building must be a sign of an inner journey to greater mercy.

*When people make pilgrimage to your parish, what is the experience of mercy they find there?*

To succeed at this we must take seriously Jesus' teaching: "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (Luke 6:37-38).

*How can we render fewer judgements and more invitations?*

The Lord asks us above all not to judge and not to condemn. This is the beginning of mercy. We judge others harshly, often condemning them or questioning their faithfulness. But why? Only God sees into the depths of our souls.

## STEWARDSHIP — A WAY OF LIVING

### November 29 Offertory Collection

Thank you for your generous donations.  
Regular Collection: \$8,859

Pre-Authorized Giving: \$3,175 Donate Now: \$449  
Maintenance Fund: \$155 Project Hope: \$50  
Shepherds' Trust: \$90

### Flowers For Christmas Offering

There will be a second collection for the flowers for Christmas Sunday, December 13, 2015.

### Canadian Food For Children

December 6 weekend we will be accepting donations of soap to support the work of Dr. Simone.

### News from the St. Vincent de Paul Society

*"Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."* ~ November Capsule

Your donations to our poor boxes are one way to help the needy achieve food security. Thank you

2016 Offertory Envelopes will be 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.

### Thanks For The Christmas Gift Bag Donations

The CWL thank the donors for their contributions for our Christmas gift bags for the Good Shepherd ladies. Your generosity is so much appreciated.

### Keeping Christ in Christmas

The Knights of Columbus will be raffling a Christmas Crib valued at \$150.00. Price per ticket is \$5.00 with limited number of tickets available for sale and the draw will on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

### 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 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Advanced tickets available on line at [www.seraphimandcherubim.ca](http://www.seraphimandcherubim.ca) Proceeds in support of Romero House.

### Eco-Art Program by Orfe

Thursday 4 - 6 pm, Parish Centre  
December 10 for Ages 10 - 13

This program emphasizes environmental awareness and allows students to create art work using recyclable and organic materials. Students will be introduced to different artistic elements and techniques. Spaces are limited! Please register at [orfemillan@gmail.com](mailto:orfemillan@gmail.com)

### 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 416-444-6951. Orders will be accepted until Saturday, December 12. The cakes will be available in the weekend of December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> after all the masses.

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