

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

Christmas and New Year Mass Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 22nd - Vigil Mass, 5:00 pm
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

Saturday, December 29th - Vigil Mass, 5:00 pm
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 only

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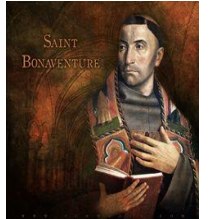
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YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT ST. BONAVENTURE

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 9, 2018 ~ The Second Sunday of Advent



On the second Sunday in Advent the "Peace" candle is lit

Joyful Anticipations

Advent is a time of joyful anticipation. It is time, the prophet Baruch says, "to take off your robe of mourning and misery," for God is leading his people "with his mercy and justice for company." God's people "are wrapped in the cloak of justice from God," and they "will be named by God forever the peace of justice."

Paul, too, speaks of joyful anticipation, of waiting for "the day of Christ Jesus." He encourages the Philippians to grow in "love, understanding, wealth of experience, clear conscience, and blameless conduct," and he concludes with a wish: "that you may be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you."

The message of John the Baptist is to prepare the way for the coming of Christ, to make straight the windings and to make smooth the rough ways.

We need a "baptism of repentance," a cleansing from the old ways of "greed and darkness" and a commitment to a new way of living. We need to challenge the wisdom of the world in the way it was challenged by that prophet in the desert.

While we are warned that it profits a man nothing if he gains the whole world and lose himself, the expectation of a new earth must not weaken but rather stimulate our concern for cultivating this one. For here grows the body of a new human family, a body which even now is able to give some kind of foreshadowing of the new age.

Vatican II, *Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, 1965:39.
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 126 ~ The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

This Week in Our Parish Hall

Community Life

Mass Intentions

Dec. 10 Monday 9:00 am †Don Fernandes
 Dec. 11 Tuesday 9:00 am †Leander Taylor
 Dec. 12 Wednesday 9:00 am St. Bonaventure School Students, Teachers & Staff (Mass with school children)
 Dec. 13 Thursday 9:00 am †Raymund Ryan
 Dec. 14 Friday 9:00 am Brothers, Sisters and Benefactors of the OFM †Patrucino Alberastene †Paz Ungab †F. Gerald Paquette †Vinoward Xavier †B. Dodds
 Dec. 15 Saturday 5:00 pm Fernando & VanSteen Family
 Dec. 16 Sunday 8:30 am Intentions of the Parishioners
 10:00 am †Alice Castelino
 12:00 pm †David Tomcik

Prayer Intentions

Sanctuary Lamp: Souls in Purgatory
 Vigil Lamp: † Alicia Karwowska

For the Sick:

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

For the Deceased: Randolph Fung

Stewardship: A Way of Living

December 2nd Offertory Collections

Thank you for your generous donations.

Regular Collection:..... \$ **8,148.30**
 Maintenance Fund Offering \$ **3,728.25**
 Pre-Authorized Giving:..... \$ **2,926.00**
 Donate Now:..... \$ **328.00**

Second Collection:

December 25 – Christmas Offering

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!

Secular Franciscan Meeting

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

Monday, December 10

6:30 pm Brownies/Main Hall
 6:30 pm Sparks/Bonaventure Room

Tuesday, December 11

7:00 pm Bible Study/Oak Room
 7:00 pm CWL Executive Meeting/Francis Room
 7:00 pm Knights of Columbus General Meeting/Bonaventure Room

Wednesday, December 12

7:00 pm GRASP/Oak Room
 7:30 pm Alcoholic Anonymous/Francis Room

Thursday, December 13

5:30 pm St. Bonaventure School-Café Glacé/Main Hall

Friday, December 14

7:30 pm Seraphim & Cherubim Concert/Church

Saturday, December 15

9:30 am Christian Meditation/Oak Room
 9:30 am Al Anon Group/Bonaventure Room

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. This will be the final weekend for our Raffle Ticket sales and that the final draw will be held on Sunday, December 16 after the 10:00 am Mass in the Parish Hall. Tickets are available after Mass and at the Ministry Centre. Thank you for your support.

“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.

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.

“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 17** 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.

**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

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

Next T & T is on December 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** began the exploration of the Advent season with a focus on the inspirational Magnificat, **“My soul magnifies the Lord.”** All are welcome!

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 Saint Bonaventure’s on **December 14 at 7:30pm**. Tickets are available online at www.seraphimandcherubin.ca and at the Ministry Centre.

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.

‘Vocation Seeds’

First Sunday of Advent – December 9, 2018
 Could God be calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister in order to help our world of today to truly “prepare the way of the Lord”? 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

And Now, A Word from Our Pastor

Thank you to our children (and their parents and grandparents) who are preparing a warm bed for Jesus. By dropping a piece of straw into the manger each week as a sign of some good they have done, our young parishioners are not only making a comfortable place for the Lord in the manger but also in their hearts.

Last week, after the Liturgy when I was explaining about the straw representing the children’s goodness, an adult said to me: “Friar, if it were me going up to the manger, I’d have to take straw out.” We laughed over the joke, but it made me think.

How easily we focus on our faults and how difficult it is for us to focus our goodness. We grow by admitting and praying and working to improve. But growth also comes by acknowledging and celebrating and enjoying the good we do and the good we are. In the evening when we examine our consciences maybe we could include not just our stumblings but also our successes in Gospel living. I believe that God pays more attention to the latter than to the former and that He rests as comfortably in our adult hearts as he does in the hearts of His little ones.

Congratulations to *Gabrielle Ramos* who was given new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and welcomed into God’s Holy People through Baptism.

~ Fr. Dennis

Happy 100th Birthday!

We wish to extend our sincere wishes for a Happy Birthday to **Dorothy Lord**, who turns 100 years old December 9th. Congratulations and God’s blessing in abundance to you.

**A PRAYER FOR THE
 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Jesus, you came among us with the irresistible power of a baby, requiring both our hands and captivating our whole hearts. Help us to cast aside the sin and brokenness that we cling to, so we might be ready to hold you when you come again. Amen.



Christmas Tree Blessing

God of all creation, we praise you for this tree which brings beauty and memories and the promise of life to our home.

May your blessing be upon all who gather around this tree, all who keep the

Christmas festival by its lights. We wait for the coming of the Christ, the days of everlasting justice and of peace. You are our God, living and reigning, for ever and ever. Amen.

