

*Second Sunday of Advent  
December 10, 2023*



*Growing  
in Spirit,  
Community,  
and Service*

# Bonnie News

*Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure*



Hieronymus Bosch (circa 1450-1516), *Saint John the Baptist in the Desert*, (circa 1489), oil on panel © Museo Lázaro Galdiano, Madrid.

## *Mass Times*

### *Sunday Eucharist*

*Saturday Vigil: 5 pm  
Sunday: 8:30 am, 10 am  
and 12 noon*

### *Weekday Eucharist*

*9 am: Monday to Friday*

### *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

*Saturday: 9 to 10 am*

## *Ministry Centre*

### *Hours*

*10 AM– 4 PM  
Monday, Wednesday,  
Friday  
and by appointment on  
Tuesday & Thursday*

*1300 Leslie Street,  
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9  
Tel: 416.447.5571  
Fax: 416.447.4082*

*[www.st-bonaventure.ca](http://www.st-bonaventure.ca)*

*[www.franciscans.org](http://www.franciscans.org)*

New dawn in our night;  
to save his people, God will come.  
Joy and feasting today for the poor:  
We must prepare the way of the Lord.

Good news, cries and songs:  
to save his people, God will come.  
A voice rises up in our deserts:  
We must prepare the way of the Lord.

New earth, new world:  
to save his people, God will come.  
Peace on earth, heaven among us:  
We must prepare the way of the Lord.

~ M. Scouarnec

## LITURGY & SACRAMENTS

### THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 11	9 AM	† Virgilio Ungab
Tuesday, December 12	9 AM	For the wellbeing of Praveen Bobby Balakumar
Wednesday, December 13	9 AM	† Shuk-Chun Wong
Thursday, December 14	9 AM	† Grazia Maida
Friday, December 15	9 AM	† David Hui † Antonia Ortuoste † Teresa Durante † All Souls in Purgatory The Friars
Saturday, December 16	5 PM	The Parishioners
Sunday, December 17	8:30 AM	† Nimfa Chua
	10 AM	† Maria Sosa
	12 PM	† Iginio Durante
Sanctuary Lamps    Bl. Sac. Bl. Sac. O.L. Chapel		Ida Chin Fook, in thanksgiving on her birthday
		† Alice Eaglen
		Ida Chin Fook, in thanksgiving

### THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard on a weekly basis on Saturdays from 9 to 10 am in the Mary Chapel. In addition, confessions are heard on the first Monday of the month from 1 to 2 pm. Finally, you can always make an appointment with Fr. Peter or Fr. Tom to celebrate this Sacrament in which we encounter our merciful God.

### ADVENT DAY OF CONFESSIONS - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023

Advent Day of Confessions for our parish is Friday, December 15, 2023. Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at the following times in the church: 9:30 to 10:30 AM, 12:00 to 1:00 PM, and 7:00 to 8:00 PM

### LECTORS NEEDED

Acting as a lector – or a reader, as it is more commonly known – is the perfect way to volunteer in the church community without taking on too much responsibility. Please consider participating in this important ministry. For more information, please contact: [liturgy@st-bonaventure.ca](mailto:liturgy@st-bonaventure.ca)

### USHERS NEEDED

The ministry of usher/greeter extends the hospitality of Christ by welcoming parishioners as we gather for Mass. Ushers also take up the collection and ensure the flow of the Communion procession. They are attentive toward people who may need assistance. We need ushers to assist at the 12 noon Mass. If you worship regularly at the 12 noon Mass, please consider becoming an usher.

### PRAYER SERVICE ~ 800<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST NATIVITY CRECHE

In celebration of the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first reenactment of the Christmas Creche by St. Francis of Assisi in a cave outside the town of Greccio, the Friars and the Secular Franciscans invite all parishioners to a prayer service at 7 pm on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> in the church. Refreshments afterwards in the Main Hall of the Parish Centre.

## PRAYER



In our charity we remember those who are ill and all who have requested a remembrance in our prayers.  
We commend to the Lord the members of our parish who died recently:

+ Jim Meyer, + Marjorie McGinty, + Gerry Devlin and + Alice Eaglen.

## PRAYER NETWORK REQUESTS

Network members pray daily for your prayer intentions which are held in confidence. New members are welcome! Please call Teresa Krijgsman at 416-444-4719 with your prayer intentions or if you would like to join the prayer network.

## ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT

Pray-As-You-Go presents its 2023 Advent retreat weekly podcast titled: "The Cry from the Manger". You may access it at <https://pray-as-you-go.org/series/67-thecryfromthemanger>

## A PRAYER FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dear Lord, through the darkness, I look for your wisdom. I want my heart to be open to you. But sometimes in these days, it seems that so many things come between us. Help me to be awake and aware of the radiance you bring to my life. Help me to be grateful each day for the blessings of family and friends. Let me be a peacemaker in my own life, and in the world. Let me pray especially for this difficult world and those who are so in need of an end to violence. My heart begs for this as my Advent prayer today.

## DECEMBER 12 ~ NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council proposes that the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12) be a National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. In 1531, Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego *Cuauhtlatoatzin*, a gifted member of the Chichimeca people in the Anáhuac Valley, present-day Mexico. By a miracle, an image of Our Lady was left imprinted on Juan Diego's cloak. The miraculous image, which is preserved in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, shows a woman with native features and dress. She is supported by an angel whose wings are reminiscent of one of the major gods of the traditional religion of that area. The moon is beneath her feet and her blue mantle is covered with gold stars. The black girdle about her waist signifies that she is pregnant. Thus, the image graphically depicts the fact that Christ is to be "born" again among all peoples and is a message as relevant today as it was during the lifetime of Juan Diego. All are invited to join their Indigenous sisters and brothers in a special way this day through prayer and acts of solidarity.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ARCHDIOCESAN CONSULTATION UNDERWAY

Share your thoughts to assist with future planning! Archbishop Francis Leo is inviting Catholics throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto to share their three key priorities to help inform and guide an updated Pastoral Plan. To participate in the consultation, visit: [www.archtoronto.org/consultation](http://www.archtoronto.org/consultation) and complete a brief survey by December 15, 2023.

## MINISTRY WITH MATURING ADULTS

### Nurturing Our Spirituality in the Second Half of Life With a Focus on Care of the Body, Mind and Spirit

Coffee and Conversation: 9:45 - 10:00 am

Meeting: 10:00 - 11:30 am

December 12, 2023: **Topic: Advent Reflection - From Darkness to Light**

An opportunity to take time out from our busy schedules and ponder the Reason for the Season! The morning will include presentation, music, prayer, small group sharing and a time for reflection.

*Facilitated by Trena Finnegan.*



## CWL 2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Your 2024 Membership annual fees are due now. St. Bonaventure CWL Executive Council representatives will be available at the Advent Luncheon (Dec. 10) to collect your \$40 membership. We accept cash, cheques made payable to St. Bonaventure CWL and e-transfers to our treasurer Barbara Morton. For more information on The League, how to become a new member and how to renew your membership please contact: Waveney Duarte at [waveneyduarte@rogers.com](mailto:waveneyduarte@rogers.com) ; Celine Massaroni at [cmassaroni10@sympatico.ca](mailto:cmassaroni10@sympatico.ca) ; or Tracy MacInnis at [t.macinnis60@gmail.com](mailto:t.macinnis60@gmail.com)

## HELPING OTHERS

### ADVENT GIVING TREE IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL CHARITIES

The Giving Tree is in the back of the church. This year, we are supporting: Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Sisters of Life, Toronto, and Greenview Lodge Seniors Residence. Please take a tag off the tree and return the gift by Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>.

### CWL HELPING WOMEN WITH PERIOD POVERTY - CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Christmas Project - Ladies helping Ladies overcome Period Poverty. Along with food insecurity, many women in our community are unable to afford safe and hygienic products during their monthly periods. There will be a box located in the back of the church from November 26 to December 17 which will be used for donations of maxi thin pads with or without wings for overnight and heavy flow, thin pads with or without wings for a regular flow, and tampons with applicators. Kindly refer to the Church bulletin board for more information or contact Barbara Morton at [bjmorton@rogers.com](mailto:bjmorton@rogers.com).

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHRISTMAS 2023 - SOCK DRIVE, NATIVITY SET RAFFLE



The Knights of Columbus are asking for donations for its annual Sock Drive to be held in December at all the weekend masses. Two large boxes with labels are at the back of the church; parishioners are asked to drop off items in the boxes.

All donations will be given to homeless shelters.

Raffle tickets will be on sale at all masses starting Nov 25<sup>th</sup>. The Knights will be pleased to assist you with tickets and provide information at the back of the church.

## CASSEROLES FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD REFUGE



The Casserole Cooks sent 51 assorted casseroles to the Good Shepherd in November. This donation contributes to feeding the hungry who come to The Good Shepherd in need of a meal. As always a BIG thank you to those who took the time to prepare a casserole. Not always easy as everyone has lots to do.

If you would like to be a part of this mission of mercy you are most welcome.

Recipes and pans are available for this purpose and found in the cupboard at the back of the church. Kindly remember to sign for pans needed.

Matthew 25: 35-37 - Here, Jesus links feeding the hungry to ministering to himself, I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink. Caring for the vulnerable, hungry people is not only following Jesus' lead, it is akin to caring for Jesus.

## CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD CENTRE

Please drop items off at the back of the church. Items most in need are:

mayonnaise & ketchup	jams & peanut butter	granola bars
mustard	tea bags & coffee	bagged rice
tuna & canned meat	canned tomatoes	tomato sauce
beans & chickpeas	soup & stews	canned vegetables

## 800<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST NATIVITY CRECHE ~ FILL A STABLE FOR CHRISTMAS



St. Bonaventure's Secular Franciscans & the Parish would like you to help us "**Fill a Stable for Christmas this year**" in honour of the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Francis & the first Christmas at Greccio. This event became the origin of the custom of the Christmas Creche.

All funds collected will be donated to CHALICE CANADA to "Fill a Stable" (\$1,000) &/or provide animals for families & communities in need.

**Poultry & Livestock are the Gifts that Keep on Giving** by providing eggs, milk, wool, meat, cheese & financial security for the future. Parent farmers give back by providing milk, meat & eggs for school meal programs.

**CHALICE CANADA** is a Catholic international aid charity focused on child, family & community development with 52 sponsor sites in impoverished areas throughout the world. There will be **collection boxes** at the entrance to the church.

If a receipt is needed for Income Tax purposes, please put your donation in an envelope marked 'Fill a Stable' and provide your name, full address & envelope number (if applicable) & the amount of your donation.

**Cheques** should be payable to **St. Bonaventure's Parish** with the **Memo - Fill a Stable**. Tax receipts will be provided by the parish. This will be included in your official receipt for 2023. For more information visit [chalice.ca](http://chalice.ca)

## 800<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIVITY SCENE AT GRECCIO, APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY INDULGENCE

By stopping in prayer in front of the nativity scenes between 8 December 2023 (Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary) to 2 February 2024 (Feast of the Presentation in the Temple of Our Lord Jesus, the faithful may obtain the Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions. (Sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff); it is necessary to devoutly participate in the jubilee rites, or at least to pause before the creche prepared there, spending an appropriate span of time in pious meditation.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Sharing God's love with others through acts of service

“May the Lord always be with you and may you always be with Him. We are to become vessels of God's compassionate love for others.” ~Saint Clare of Assisi

“The poor are valuable in the eyes of God because they remind us how we should live the Gospel, like beggars reaching out to God. The Church encourages us to open wide our hands to our brothers and sisters in need. ...remembering the poor is a fundamental aspect of Catholic teaching, and the Church calls on us to practice solidarity and compassion towards those in need.” -Magisterium AI



Our confidential helpline is: **416-447-5571 Ext. 570** for those who need assistance. In addition to donating through our poor boxes located at our three main exits, online donations can be made securely through our QR code or the following link:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/society-of-st-vincent-de-paul-st-bonaventure-conference/>

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND VENDORS FOR A SUCCESSFUL 2023 CHRISTMAS MARKET!



2023  
*St. Bonaventure  
Parish Christmas  
Market*



**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> - 5 pm

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 am and 10 am only

**Solemnity of The Nativity of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)**

**Christmas Eve**

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - 4 pm (Children's Mass with live animals), 7 pm (carols begin at 6:40 pm),  
and 10 pm (carols begin at 9:40 pm)

**Christmas Day**

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - 10 am and 12 noon only

**Weekday Masses within the Octave of the Nativity**

Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup> - 9 am

**Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup> - 5 pm

Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> - 8:30 am, 10 am and 12 noon

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)**

**New Year's Eve**

Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> - 5 pm

**New Year's Day**

Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> - 10 am and 12 noon only

**Weekday Masses of the Christmas Season**

Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup> - 9 am

**Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord**

Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> - 5 pm

Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 am, 10 am and 12 noon

**Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> - 9 am

“Memories are  
our strength.  
When night  
attempts to  
return,  
we must light  
up the great  
dates,  
as we would  
light torches.”

~Victor Hugo

## CONTACT US

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Pastor  
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Parish Manager  
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ARE YOU REGISTERED? IF NOT, ASK AN USHER  
FOR A PARISH REGISTRATION FORM TO COMPLETE

St. Anthony of Padua Mission Aid  
1320 Leslie Street, Suite 100  
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9  
416-690-9904  
[www.saintanthonyofpadua.net](http://www.saintanthonyofpadua.net)

St. Clare Inn Office:  
1320 Leslie Street, Suite 200  
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9  
416-690-0330  
[info@stclareinn.org](mailto:info@stclareinn.org)

St Bonaventure School  
1340 Leslie Street  
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9  
416-393-5263  
<https://www.tcdsb.org/SCHOOLS/STBONAVENTURE/>

Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
416-447-5571 ext 570

Casseroles for the Good Shepherd Centre, contact  
[casseroles@st-bonaventure.ca](mailto:casseroles@st-bonaventure.ca)

## REFLECTION

***“Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.” ~ Isaiah 40:1***

In the First Reading the prophet reports a command given by God: ‘Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God!’ In the sorrows of life, who does not long for comfort? Who would not melt with gratitude at the tender comfort of God? But what is comfort?

Sometimes what we want is just what the good shepherd gives his lost sheep. We don’t want to walk along the road of our life to the Lord. We want God to carry us. But a child that is carried all the time will never learn to walk, to leap and run. That child, weak enough already to have to be carried, will get only weaker as the carrying goes on. And comfort isn’t a matter of giving weakness. It’s a matter of giving strength—strength for walking, even over very rough roads.

In fact, the “-fort” in “comfort” comes from the Latin word for “strong.” The “com-” in “comfort” is from the Latin word for “with.” To give comfort to someone is to lend him some of your strength. He is more able to stand on his own feet and walk because you are with him. But what is the comfort of God? Where is it? How do we find it?

The Gospel says that Christ baptizes his own with the Holy Spirit. Because of this baptism, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within each person who comes to Christ. That is why no one who comes to Christ and receives his baptism of the Holy Spirit walks the wild and rocky road of life alone. God is so much with him that, in the person of the Holy Spirit, God is within him. If God is for us, even within us, who can be against us? This is strength indeed. And so no wonder that the other name for the Holy Spirit is “the Comforter.”

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**May the Lord bless you and keep you!**