



*Growing
in Spirit,
Community,
and Service*

Mass Times

Sunday Eucharist

Saturday Vigil: 5 pm

**Sunday: 8:30 am, 10 am
and 12 noon**

Weekday Eucharist

Monday to Friday: 9 am:

Sacrament of

Reconciliation

Saturday: 9 to 10 am

Ministry Centre

Hours

Sunday:

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Monday, Tuesday,

Wednesday, Friday:

9:30 am to 4 pm

Thursday: Closed

Saturday:

3 pm to 7 pm

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

**[https://stbonaventuresdo.
archtoronto.org/](https://stbonaventuresdo.archtoronto.org/)**

*Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025*

Bonnie News

Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure



The Virgin and Child with St. John and His Parents (c. 1617-1618), Jordan Jordaens (Flemish, 1593-1678). Oil on canvas. North Carolina Museum of Art. Public Domain. Source: <https://learn.ncartmuseum.org/>

Bird at Daybreak

by Jessica Powers (Sr. Miriam of the Holy Spirit, O.C.D.)

Here is a small bird cast as John the Baptist
who from my treetops is inspired to say:
I come from heaven to prepare the way.
Now in the east approach the feet of day.

Day will reward you well, my little bird,
who make his coming such enchanting news,
who with the sweetest music I have heard
unloose the golden lachet of his shoes.

From Powers, J. *The Selected Poetry of Jessica Powers*, Siegfried, R & Morneau, RF (eds.), ICS Publications, Washington DC. 1999 quoted at: <https://carmelitequotes.blog/2024/06/23/powers-bird/>

REQUEST FOR ALL PARISHIONERS TO UPDATE THEIR INFORMATION

As we approach year-end tax receipts and envelopes for 2026, please ensure we have your most up-to-date information. E-mail kathryn@st-bonaventure.ca if you have any changes to the following:
Home address, Phone Number, Email address, New family members.

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING FRAUD

We have recently been made aware that someone is falsely using Fr. Tom Reist's name to contact parishioners. Please note that Fr. Tom will never contact you via email for monetary requests of any kind. **Please do not open or respond to these emails.** Fr. Tom's official email address is: frtom@st-bonaventure.ca

LITURGY & SACRAMENTS

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 15	9 AM	† David Hui
Tuesday, December 16	9 AM	† Bezaleel Castillo
Wednesday, December 17	9 AM	† Antonia Ortuoste
Thursday, December 18	9 AM	† Gjergje Loshi
Friday, December 19	9 AM	Brothers, Sisters, and Benefactors of the Order The Intentions of Sonia Milanes † Grazia Maida † Virgilio Dichoso Guerta † Hazel T Banderada † Koula Peppas † Voula Gabas
Saturday, December 20	5 PM	† Alejandra Ramos
Sunday, December 21	8:30 AM	† Raymond Fung
	10 AM	† Marine Ramos
	12 PM	The Parishioners
Sanctuary Lamps	Bl. Sac.	Intention of Leong Family
	Bl. Sac.	Intention of Dave Alon
	Our Lady	Intention of Christine Votruba & Family

ADVENT DAY OF CONFESSIONS - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025

Advent Day of Confessions for our parish is Wednesday, December 17, 2025. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at the following times in the Confessional Room: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., and 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., in addition to the regularly scheduled time on Saturdays. For other opportunities when the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at parishes throughout the Archdiocese, please consult: <https://www.archtoronto.org/en/offices-and-ministries/sub-sites/confession/home/confession-times/>

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN

All children aged 4-9 are invited to participate in this parallel, age-appropriate celebration of the Liturgy of the Word during Sunday Mass. A parent is welcome to accompany a child who is too shy to participate on their own.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR FOR THE 4 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Children are encouraged to participate in a special choir for the Children's Christmas Mass on Christmas Eve at 4 p.m.. Rehearsals follow the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass each Sunday from Dec. 7th to the 22nd.

HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

If a parishioner is unable to attend Sunday Mass due to serious illness, recovery from surgery, or frailty in old age, then Extraordinary Ministers of Communion to the Homebound (specifically trained for this ministry) ensure these parishioners remain in sacramental Communion with the Lord and united with the community. We have reintroduced the Rite of Sending, whereby: the ministers are called to the altar at the end of Communion, a prayer for them and the homebound parishioners is said, and they are given the Blessed Sacrament to take to these parishioners absent from the Eucharistic assembly.

Please be conscious of any parishioners you may know who might benefit from this ministry for a short term or longer duration. If you or someone you know might benefit from this ministry, please contact us by e-mail at homebound@st-bonaventure.ca or call Mary Catherine directly at 416-303-0269.

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:
+ James Durbano and + Joyce Chong

PRAYER NETWORK REQUESTS

Network members pray daily for your prayer intentions which are held in confidence. New members are welcome! Please call Teresa Krijgsman 416-709-8150 with your prayer intentions or if you would like to join the prayer network.

HELPING OTHERS

SHARELIFE 2025 CAMPAIGN - EVERY DOLLAR YOU GIVE WILL BE DOUBLED!



NEW: Your gift will double in value! From November 3 until year end, your contribution to our parish's ShareLife campaign will be matched by an anonymous donor up to a total of \$500,000

The ShareLife Parish Campaign brings our Catholic faith and Gospel values to life, uniting us as a strong and compassionate Catholic community. With your loving support, ShareLife-funded agencies are helping the most vulnerable in our community and around the world. Thank you for living the Gospel this Christmas by providing for those in need.

Our goal this year is **\$109,000**. To date we have achieved **\$92,355.15** or **84.8%**. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

CASSEROLES FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD REFUGE

As the colder days of the year approach those who come to the Good Shepherd can enjoy a hot meal. Some live on the street and depend on the kindness of others to survive. Casseroles provided by several churches supplement the meal program. St. Bonaventure is a faithful contributor sending casseroles and parishioners to assist in serving these hot meals. We really need more volunteers to make casseroles for this "MISSION OF MERCY". Please, if you can, join in this service. Making a casserole one a month or once every two months would make a big difference to the amount that St. Bonaventure sends to the refuge. In November we sent **58**. **We need 65** to contribute to one meal a month. *Many, many thanks to all those who contribute to this mission of mercy.*

Pans are available in the cupboards at the back of the church.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: MOVED BY MERCY, SERVING IN HOPE



Doing God's Work *"A Christian is not his own master: his time is God's. This is God's work, and it will be yours as well when you have performed it. I have trust in the grace of God that you are ready to act generously when it comes to God's work."* ~St. Ignatius of Antioch

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul provides material assistance to those in need. We meet people where they are, listening without judgement, being present, respectful and encouraging. We need more committed members to volunteer: to help with collecting donations after Mass, to expand our outreach within our parish boundaries, especially to young and expectant mothers, to help with the various duties of running a viable charitable organization. Perhaps you have some time, some expertise, some special gift to share? Contact us at [416-447-5571](tel:416-447-5571), ext. 570.



Thank you for your continuing prayers, support and generosity. New members warmly welcomed. Vincentians stand with two St. Vincent de Paul boxes after weekend masses. You may also donate through Canada Helps:

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

ADVENT GIVING TREE IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL NEEDS

The Giving Tree will be set up 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 and a local family**. Please select a gift tag from the tree, purchase the gift card or gift, attach the label to it, and return the gift by **Sunday, December 14th**.

For the gift cards, please place them in an envelope with the tag and drop them into the collection basket or drop them off in person at the Ministry Centre. **Thank you for your generosity!**

CWL INITIATIVE FOR 2025: SHARE THE WORDS

Unity



The core purpose of the Catholic Women's League is to unite Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world. Did you know members celebrated the 100-year anniversary in 2020? We are a nation of unified women - one voice, one heart, one mission, and there is always room for you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MARKET - SUNDAY DECEMBER 14 AFTER ALL THE MASSES

Please join us after all masses on December 14 for the sale of festive items for your Christmas gift giving.

Join the St. Bonaventure CWL. Learn about the League, renew your membership, and treat yourself to Christmas baking - because calories don't count during Advent!



Join the Knights of Columbus - Learn more about the Knights of Columbus, and purchase chocolate & treats.

St. Clare Inn is offering Christmas cards based on the original artwork of Mary Edwards. All proceeds go to support the Inn.

We also have various vendors of original art, crafts, candles and woodworking. These will make unique gifts for friends and family. All are welcome.

MINISTRY WITH MATURING ADULTS



Ministry With Maturing Adults with the Focus on Nurturing our spirituality in Body, Mind and Spirit in the Second Half of Life

We aim to provide you with helpful and relevant information from our own presentations and our partners in the community while meeting and enjoying our Tuesday morning gatherings, usually twice monthly, September to June. We look forward to welcoming you and feel free to invite a friend!

If you would like more information, e-mail Ministry with Maturing Adults at: mma@st-bonaventure.ca

Movie & Refreshments

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Feature: *Christmas with The Chosen: Holy Night*

Join us for a special screening of *The Chosen's* two Christmas specials, now woven into one seamless story about the birth of Jesus. This edition includes an original musical performance by **Andrea and Matteo Bocelli**.

After the movie, we'll enjoy fellowship and refreshments together. **Feel free to bring a treat to share** as we celebrate the Advent and Christmas season. **All are welcome!**

Save the Dates for the Winter Sessions:

January 13 and 27

February 10 and 24

March 10 and 24

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

The 2024 Parish Financial Report is now available. Please pick up a copy.

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS - MONDAY DECEMBER 22

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Monday, December 22 after the 9:00 am Mass. We will begin after the Rosary. If you would like to help, please let us know by calling the Ministry Centre at **416-447-5571**

HUMANITARIAN RELIEF - HURRICANE MELISSA & TYPHOON KALMAEGI

For those interested in supporting humanitarian relief efforts to help those in need, please note the following: The Archdiocese of Toronto will accept donations and channel funds through our Catholic partners in the Caribbean and Asia to support relief efforts underway in both regions. Those wishing to help may do so in the following ways:

- [Online](http://www.archtoronto.org) through the Archdiocese of Toronto website - www.archtoronto.org
- By phone through the Development Office - 416-934-3411
- Through the parish, making cheques payable to:

St. Bonaventure Church - Hurricane Melissa or St. Bonaventure Church - Typhoon Kalmaegi

Please continue to pray for all those affected by these natural disasters. Thank you for your generosity!

2026 DONATION ENVELOPES WILL BECOME AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP IN THE CHURCH

Important Envelope Information for 2026

- **Some envelope numbers have changed.** Starting in 2026, please **do not use any old envelopes.**
- **Boxes are arranged alphabetically,** but they may become out of order as people pick them up.
- If you need help locating your envelopes, **please ask one of the ushers.**
- For any **corrections to your name or address,** email: kathryn@st-bonaventure.ca

Thank you for your cooperation!

COFFEE MONDAYS FOR SENIORS AT HAWTHORN SCHOOL



As a gesture of respect and gratitude for senior citizens in the community, the students at Hawthorn School would like to invite all seniors to Hawthorn's monthly Coffee Mondays. Join us! Enjoy complimentary coffee & snacks at 3:15 pm on the following Mondays: December 15, 2025, February 9, 2026, and April 13, 2026. For more information: Contact Queenie Yu at 416-444-3054 or gyu@hawthornschool.com Hawthorn School, 101 Scarsdale Rd, Toronto. www.hawthornschool.com

MARRIAGE SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 9 AT 2:30 PM, ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL

As part of the Marriage Sunday celebration, Bishop John Boissommeau will preside at a special Mass to honour married couples, with special recognition for those celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+ wedding anniversaries in 2026. The mass will take place on Sunday, February 8th at 2:30 pm at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their marriage commitment during the Mass. Registration and other important information can be found at www.archtoronto.org/marriage. For questions, please email formation@archtoronto.org or call 416-934-3400 ext. 523.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - CLOSING THE HOLY DOOR

The closing Mass for the Holy Year of Jubilee on **Sunday 28 December 2025 at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica at 5:00 p.m.** The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be available with numerous priests present from 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. All are most welcome. Likewise, there will be celebrations for the closure of the Holy Year locally and regionally at the designated pilgrimage parish churches. Visit <http://archtoronto.org/jubilee> for more information.

LAST DAY FOR DONATIONS IS DECEMBER 31, 2025

Important Year-End Giving Reminder

The last day to donate and receive a **2025 tax receipt** is **Wednesday, December 31, 2025.**

- **In-person donations:** Please make your gift at the Ministry Centre before the end of the day.
- **Mailed donations:** Must be **postmarked December 31, 2025**, to qualify.

If you have any questions, please call the Ministry Centre.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!



Late Advent and Christmas Mass Schedule

Day of Confessions

Wednesday, December 17

Confessions heard from 9:30-10:30 a.m., 12-1 p.m., and 7-8 p.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 20th - 5 pm

Sunday, December 21st - 8:30 am, 10 am and 12 Noon

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

Christmas Eve - Wednesday, December 24th

4 pm (Children's Mass) ~ Live animals before Mass

7 pm (Carols begin at 6:40 pm)

10 pm (Carols begin at 9:40 pm)

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th - 10 am and 12 noon only

Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday, December 27th - 5 pm

Sunday, December 28th - 8:30 am, 10 am and 12 noon

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

New Year's Eve

Wednesday, December 31st - 5 pm

New Year's Day

Thursday, January 1st - 10 am and 12 noon only

Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 3rd - 5 pm

Sunday, January 4th - 8:30 am, 10 am and 12 noon

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Saturday, January 10th - 5pm

Sunday, January 11th - 8:30 am, 10 am and 12 noon

CONTACT US

Ministry Centre (Office)

1300 Leslie Street
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9
Office: 416-447-5571

Pastor

Fr. Thomas Reist, OFM Conv.
Ext. 234
frtom@st-bonaventure.ca

Associate Pastor

Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv
Ext. 233
FrPeter@st-bonaventure.ca

Lay Pastoral Associate

Gregory Beath
Ext. 258
gregb@st-bonaventure.ca

Parish Manager

Connie Durante
Ext. 224
connie@st-bonaventure.ca

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

Ministry for Maturing Adults

Trena Finnegan
trena@st-bonaventure.ca

Administrative Assistant

Kathryn MacInnis
kathryn@st-bonaventure.ca

St. Clare Inn Office:

1320 Leslie Street, Suite 200
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9 416-690-0330
info@stclareinn.org

St Bonaventure School 416-393-5263

<https://www.tcdsb.org/SCHOOLS/STBONAVENTURE/>

Casseroles for the Good Shepherd Centre

416-447-5571 ext. 580

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

416-447-5571 ext. 570

St. Anthony of Padua Mission Aid

1320 Leslie Street, Suite 100
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9
416-690-9904 www.saintanthonyofpadua.net

REFLECTION

“Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near ~ James 5:8

God says, “Do not blame yourself too much, thinking that your trouble and distress is all your fault. For it is not my will that you should be unduly sad and despondent.” (Julia of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love)

You got trouble and distress, I got trouble and distress, all God’s children got trouble and distress. So don’t feel like the Lone Ranger. Thing is, it is not God’s will that we should feel bummed out all the time. Someone said, “A sad Christian is a *sad Christian*.”

Why do we think that if we have “trouble and distress” it must be all our fault? Why are we so inclined to beat up on ourselves for the slightest reason? Advent is the season of hope and expectation, hope and quiet joy. Yet because Advent happens the same time as the Great Shopping Binge, we sometimes feel down, even depressed, if we can’t buy many expensive gifts for all kinds of people.

This is understandable. It’s a cultural thing, and we can’t separate ourselves from our culture, even if it is materialism run rampant. That’s the way it goes. What we can do is steep ourselves more in Advent as an antidote to the spirit of the Great Shopping Binge. We can expose ourselves more to the quiet spirit of Advent thus becoming less disturbed by any sadness or distress we may experience due to a financial inability to go on an unrestrained Shopping Binge for those we love.

Advent is the time to look forward to the blessings of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation that result from the coming of the Son of God and son of Mary into the world. This is what the weeks before Christmas are about. The more we focus on this, the less power the Great Shopping Binge will have over us. And the more joy we will know when Christmas does arrive.

Prayer ~ *Lord of Advent, I know you do not want me to be too sad about anything. Help me to turn my troubles and distresses over to you. Amen.*

~Mitch Finley, “Third Sunday of Advent,” from *Season of Promises*, quoted at:
<https://thevalueofsparrows.wordpress.com/2018/12/16/prayer-third-sunday-of-advent-by-mitch-finley/>

May the Lord bless you and keep you!