



*Growing
in Spirit,
Community,
and Service*

*Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022*

Bonnie News

Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure



Excerpt from "The Inner History of a Day"
by John O'Donohue

We seldom notice how each day is a holy place
Where the eucharist of the ordinary happens,
Transforming our broken fragments
Into an eternal continuity that keeps us.

Somewhere in us a dignity presides
That is more gracious than the smallness
That fuels us with fear and force,
A dignity that trusts the form a day takes.

So at the end of this day, we give thanks
For being betrothed to the unknown
And for the secret work
Through which the mind of the day
And wisdom of the soul become one.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

-Luke 1:78-79

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

Tuesday & Thursday

www.st-bonaventure.ca

www.franciscans.org

God of shadows and echoes, darkness and light, help us to be still in our dark moments, our waiting times, our uncertainties. And when morning comes, show us how to greet the dawn without trying to make sense of the amazing light.

1300 Leslie Street, Toronto, ON M3C 2K9

Tel: 416.447.5571 Fax: 416.447.4082

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Saturday, December 24, 2022
 4:00 PM - Children's Mass
 7:00 PM - Carols begin at 6:30 PM
 10:00 PM - Carols begin at 9:30 PM
Sunday, December 25, 2022
 10:00 AM
 12:00 Noon

**THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
 THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

Saturday, December 31, 2022
 5:00 PM
Sunday, January 1, 2023
 8:30 AM
 10:00 AM
 12:00 Noon



Mass will be celebrated December 26th through 30th at 9 AM.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS

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| <p>Knights of Columbus Christmas Fundraiser Make a \$25 donation and receive a lovely Panettone. Available after all the weekend Masses in the Bonaventure Room, Parish Centre</p> | <p>Sunday December 18, 2022 Sunday Coffee, after the 10 AM Mass</p> |
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VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VARIOUS MINISTRIES!

We invite you to share your gifts and talents with the parish community. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please call 416-447-5571. We are actively looking for:

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| <p>Lectors</p> | <p>Eucharistic Ministers</p> | <p>Ministers of Hospitality</p> |
| <p>Children's Liturgy</p> | <p>Rosary Apostolate</p> | <p>Altar Servers</p> |
| <p>Casserole Makers</p> | <p>CWL New Members Welcome</p> | <p>Knights of Columbus New Members Welcome</p> |

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN



Sundays at the 10 a.m. Mass for children ages 4 to 9 (older children who "missed out" the past two years due to pandemic restrictions may participate. A parent is welcome to accompany a child who is too shy to participate on their own.

PLEASE NOTE: The children will remain with the assembly for Christmas Mass and on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Jan. 1). We will resume sending the children on Epiphany (Jan. 8).

LITURGY & SACRAMENTS

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|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Monday, December 19 | 9 AM | † Departed members of the Lee and Koo Families |
| Tuesday, December 20 | 9 AM | † Julie Silva |
| Wednesday, December 21 | 9 AM | † David Sullivan |
| Thursday, December 22 | 9 AM | Albert and Estelle Gabriel on their 41 st Wedding Anniversary |
| Friday, December 23 | 9 AM | † FlordeLiz Noriel † Gerald McCaffrey † Jacinta Osuji † Karl Kremer † George Twine |
| Saturday, December 24 | 4 PM | The Parishioners |
| | 7 PM | The Parishioners |
| | 10 PM | The Parishioners |
| Sunday, December 25 | 10 AM | The Parishioners |
| | 12 PM | The Parishioners |
| Sanctuary Lamps are offered for: | | + Don Bello Hospitalised Parishioners The Kremer Family |

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S CHOIR: CALLING ALL CHILDREN AGED 4 TO 12 YEARS

We would like to have a children's choir for the 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve. All children aged 4 to 12 years, accompanied by their parents, can meet after the 10 AM Mass for a short practice on: December 18.

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: A NEW TIME AND PLACE FOR CONFESSIONS

Confessions will be heard on a weekly basis on Saturdays from 9 to 10 am in the Mary Chapel. In addition, during our monthly Eucharistic Adoration (**first Monday** of each month) confessions are heard 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.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION AND EUCHARIST

Registration to prepare children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist this Winter-Spring 2023 season is now closed.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Tuesday, December 27 is the deadline to register youth (ages 12 and up/Grade 7+) to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation this Winter-Spring 2023 season. Please ensure your child's registration form is dropped off to the Ministry Centre (through the mail slot to the left of the glass doors) no later than Tuesday, December 27. If you were not able to attend one of the information sessions, please contact Greg no later than December 13 so that you can be informed about the program and receive a registration package.

HELPING OTHERS

Fourth Sunday of Advent When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother, Mary. God grant that I may be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

CASSEROLES FOR GOOD SHEPHERD REFUGE

“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food?” Matt. 25:37

A tremendous thank you to the Bonnie’s Casserole Cooks who, on short notice, provided 49 casseroles for The Good Shepherd to feed the hungry. If you would like to join this ministry, call or email to get information on how you can help. Let us remember that hunger does not take a holiday for many living on the street. Pans and a choice of recipes are provided. Kindly remember to record the information requested on the label. Contact casseroles@st-bonaventure.ca or office 416-447-5571. Next due date is January 22, 2023. Office hours for drop off: Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday 10 am to 2 pm.

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Thank you for your generous support of our Advent Giving Tree. **Greenview Retirement Lodge, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, A Refugee Family** and **The Sisters of Life: Young Mother’s Program** will gratefully receive your donations in time for Christmas. If you have yet to drop off your item, please do so without delay bringing it directly to the Ministry Centre.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus is asking for donations of non-perishable items for the Christmas Season. Collection baskets will be placed at the back of the church. Thank you in advance for your kind donations! **Most wanted Items:**



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|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Soups & Stews | Tuna & Salmon | Vegetables | Pasta & Sauce | Beans, Chick Peas |
| Tomatoes | Granola Bars | Chocolate Bars | Cereal | Cookies |

Socks are also in high demand during this this time of year.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



The Bible reminds us that it’s not enough to have prayerful empathy for the suffering. Our prayers are important, but they must also lead to action. God calls us to come together to feed the hungry, tend to the sick, and lend a helping hand to those who have fallen on hard times.

Please assist Vincentians to lift the burdens of others, especially those who struggle to afford the basic necessities of life, and to refresh them with humble care and service.

Your donations to our three poor boxes and through CanadaHelps do make a difference. Thank you! Online donations can be made securely through the following link:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

THEOLOGY & TEA ON ZOOM - DECEMBER 22 AT 10 AM

Mark your calendars for the next session on December 22. Email Theology-Tea@st-bonaventure.ca to register.

SUNDAY COFFEE - DECEMBER 18, 2022, AFTER THE 10:00 AM MASS

Please join us for Sunday Coffee after the 10 AM Mass. All Are Welcome!

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:

+ Gerald Desjardins, + David Hui, + Teresa Brown, + Patricia Docherty, + Nina Jagaric,
+ Donna McGuinness, + Claudine Fox, + Anita Baker, and + Cecily Foss

May heaven be theirs and may peace be to those who mourn their passing.

PRAYER NETWORK REQUESTS

Network members pray daily for the intentions which are held in confidence. Let the Prayer Network know when a situation is resolved, and members will offer prayers of thanks.

New members are welcome! Call Teresa Krijgsman with your intentions: 416-444-4719.

PRAYING WITH AN ADVENT WREATH

A Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

All-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. -AMEN.

ADVENT PRAYER BY HENRI J. M. NOUWEN

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

A MARIAN PRAYER FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASONS

Loving Mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea,
assist your people who have fallen, yet strive to rise again.

To the wonderment of nature, you bore your Creator,
yet remained a virgin after as before.

You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,
have pity on us poor sinners.



“The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, focus particularly on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas).” (USCCB) During these days, the Church gives us signposts that we are soon to behold the coming of Christ. The Lectionary readings at Mass are specific to these days, allowing us to reflect on the passages in the Old Testament which point to the coming of our Saviour. Additionally during these final days of Advent, the Church gives us what we call the ‘O’ Antiphons. These are prayed at Vespers each day just before the singing of Mary’s hymn, the Magnificat. The words of these antiphons are also used in Mass each day in the verse of the Gospel Alleluia Acclamation. The exact origin of the antiphons is unknown, but they date back to the 6th century. The importance of the O Antiphons is twofold. First, each one is a title for the Messiah. Secondly, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah. The text of these antiphons appears in the hymn, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* and in other modern Advent songs (e.g., *My Soul in Stillness Waits*). “They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative “Come!” embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.” (USCCB) The original antiphons are, of course, in Latin. We will look at the first word(s) of each in the Latin and then the English.

So we begin on December 17th, the first of what are sometimes called the “Golden Nights.”

O Sapientia: O Wisdom, you came from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end mightily and lovingly disposing all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

Wisdom is here personified, present with God at the beginning of creation. This is a prefigurement of Jesus, the eternal Word of God, the “logos” John described in the opening of his gospel. In our finite way of thinking, it is difficult to grasp the eternal nature of God - Wisdom reaching from “end to end.” Wisdom is the foundation of fear of the Lord, of holiness, or right living: it is wisdom whom we bid to come and teach us prudence. The cry “Come” will be repeated again and again, insistent and hope-filled.

O Adonai: O Lord and Leader of the House of Israel, You appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come, with outstretched arm, redeem us.

“Adonai” is Hebrew for “my Lord”, and was substituted by devout Jews for the name “Yahweh”, out of reverence. With this second antiphon we progress from creation to the familiar story of God manifesting himself by name to Moses and giving his law to Israel as their way of life. We are also reminded of the Israelites’ deliverance from bondage under pharaoh—a foreshadowing of our own redemption from sin. The image of God’s arm outstretched in power to save his chosen people also brings to mind the later scene of Jesus with his arms outstretched for us on the cross.

O Radix Jesse: O Root of Jesse, You are a sign for all the people, Before you kings remain silent and to you the nations make supplication: Come to deliver us and do not delay!

Isaiah prophesied a restoration of David’s throne - a new branch budding out of the old root. Christ is the root of Jesse in a two-fold sense: he is the descendant of David, who was the youngest son of Jesse, and he inherited the royal throne. The angel foretold to Mary, “The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over the house of Jacob forever and his reign will be without end” (Luke 1:32-33). Our hearts more and more urgently cry out for God’s reign to extend over all humanity: “Come, save us, and do not delay”.

O Clavis David: O Key of David, and scepter of the house of Israel, You open and no one shuts, You shut and no one opens: Come, and free the prisoners sitting in darkness, and in the shadow of death.

The key and scepter are traditional symbols of kingly power and authority. Christ, the anointed one, is the heir of David and possessor of the kingdom. Jesus himself also made use of this symbol, showing the prophetic relationship of the earthly kingdom of David to the kingdom of God. All power and authority was given to him after the resurrection, and he entrusted this power to "bind and to loose" to Peter and the ministers of his church. In the closing petition we look to Jesus to unlock the fetters of sin that keep us tightly chained. It is he who frees us from our captivity. We recall the deliverance proclaimed by the psalmist of old: "they dwelt in darkness and gloom, bondsmen in want and in chains,...and he led them forth from darkness and gloom and broke their bonds asunder" (Psalm 107: 10, 14).

O Oriens: O Rising Sun, brightness of eternal Light And Sun of Justice: Come and enlighten those that sit in darkness And in the shadow of death.

This title is variously translated "morning star", "Dayspring", "rising sun", "radiant dawn", "orient". All beautifully express the idea of light shattering the darkness of night, of sin and death, of sickness and despair, with its brightness bringing healing and warmth to cold hearts. Jesus is indeed the true light, the radiance of his Father's splendor. The church prays this petition daily in the Benedictus, joining in the words of Zechariah: "He, the Dayspring, shall visit us in his mercy to shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death" (Luke 1:78-79).

O Rex Gentium: O King of the nations, and their Desired, the Cornerstone, you make all things one: Come and save mankind whom You have formed out of clay.

The earlier antiphons have already alluded to the Messiah coming not only to Israel, but to convert the gentile nations and redeem them for his own. Now this sixth antiphon clearly addresses the saviour as the king of the gentiles (Jer.10:7) and the Desired One of the nations. The Messiah is the cornerstone on whom our spiritual foundations are laid, but on whom unbelievers stumble (Matt. 21:42). This cornerstone unites and binds Jew and gentile into one, making peace between them. The plea is that God save all humanity, all his creation that he formed from the dust of the earth (Gen.2:7). We yearn for him once again to breathe the breath of his new life into us.

O Emmanuel: O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, you are the Expected of nations and their saviour: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

With this last antiphon our expectation finds joy now in the certainty of fulfillment. We call Jesus by one of the most personal and intimate of his titles, Emmanuel, God-with-us. We recall that in his birth from the Virgin Mary God takes on our very flesh and human nature: God coming nearer to us than we could have ever imagined! Yet he is also to be exalted above us as our king, the lawgiver and judge, the one whom we honour and obey. And he is our saviour, long-expected by all creation. The final cry rises from us urgent in our need for daily salvation and forgiveness of our sins, and confident that our God will not withhold himself from us.

In Latin the initials of the titles make an acrostic which, when read backwards, means: "Tomorrow I will be there" ("Ero cras"). To the medieval mind this was clearly a reference to the approaching Christmas vigil.

CONTACT US

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

St. Anthony of Padua Mission Aid
1320 Leslie Street, Suite 100
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9
416-690-9904
www.saintanthonyofpadua.net

St. Clare Inn Office:
1320 Leslie Street, Suite 200
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9
416-690-0330
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

Please don't forget to notify us if you have a
change in address or phone number.
admin@st-bonaventure.ca

REFLECTION

**“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,
for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ~ Matthew 1:20**

“There is no suggestion that Mary ever sought to release Joseph from his promise, although Joseph wrestled with the problem of how to break the engagement without bringing her into dispute. Mary's trust in God to enlighten her beloved was magnificently vindicated. Joseph is not visited by an angelic vision, but he has that next best thing, a dream. In the dream, the angel of the Lord tells him emphatically that ‘what she has conceived is through the Holy Spirit’: Mary and Jesus need Joseph's protection, and to give this is his hard and lonely vocation.... This ‘dream’ would overturn all his certainties and make possible the survival of mother and son. It is a reassuring dream, emotionally, but the repercussions are immense.”
~ from Sister Wendy Beckett, *“Sister Wendy's Nativity”*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1998, pg. 30.

“To wait open-endedly is an enormously radical attitude toward life. So is to trust that something will happen to us that is far beyond our own imaginings. So, too, is giving up control over our future and letting God define our life, trusting that God molds us according to God's love and not according to our fear. The spiritual life is a life in which we wait, actively present to the moment, trusting that new things will happen to us, new things that are far beyond our imagination, fantasy, or prediction. That, indeed, is a very radical stance toward life in a world preoccupied with control.”
~ from Henri J.M. Nouwen, *“Waiting for God”* in *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas*, Walden, NY: Plough Publishing, 2001, pg. 27

May the Lord bless you and keep you!