



*Growing
in Spirit,
Community,
and Service*

*The Nativity of the Lord and the Feast of the Holy Family
December 25 and 29, 2024*

Bonnie News

Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure

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,
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www.st-bonaventure.ca



The Holy Family with the Infant Saint John the Baptist (circa 1524-26), by Perino del Vaga (1501-1547). Oil on panel. © MET. Source: Wikicommons, Public Domain.

Let us all rejoice in the Lord,
for our Saviour has been born in the world.
Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

~ Entrance Antiphon, Mass During the Night
~ Nativity of the Lord



A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

How is it that such a helpless infant, who lived so many years ago, can warm our hearts today and at this time of year? A baby is nearly always asleep. When it's awake, it wants to be fed and then cleaned up. It demands care without a care in the world. It even renders us speechless - we leave words behind and start cooing and cawing. A baby draws us into its world.

Let yourselves be taken in - into the life of the Divine Child. Let his life become your life with renewed trust in goodness and in others, new hope for our world, recommitment to the truth He reveals, a new lease on life. Let Him warm your hearts. The Christ Child can do this.

Our heavenly Father entrusted his Incarnate Son to Mary and Joseph. Life - both human and divine - is a matter of growing, caring, belonging, forgiving, and sharing. It's all learned in a family. Jesus needed Mary and Joseph, and we need the Holy Family. They have so much to offer us: good example, guidance, friendship, companionship, and the list goes on.

All the Friars - Peter, Joe, Mark and myself - we wish you abundant blessings this Christmas Season. May you know the peace Christ came to share surrounded by the love of family and friends.

Fr. Tom

LITURGY & SACRAMENTS

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24	4 PM	Family and Friends of Gwen Fitzgerald
	7 PM	† Marjorie Mitchell
	10 PM	The Parishioners
Wednesday, December 25	10 AM	† Bernadette Badali
	12 PM	† Joseph D'Souza
Thursday, December 26	9 AM	† Stephen Lim
Friday, December 27	9 AM	Gayathri and Christopher Yogarajan † Percival and Charlotte Pinheiro † Josef Sitar † Pauline MacKinnon † Friar Boniface Reinhart, OFM Conv. † Gregory Dosman
Saturday, December 28 Sunday, December 29	5 PM	† Joan Rex
	8:30 AM	The Parishioners
	10 AM	† Raymond Fook Yuen Lam
	12 PM	† Alexandra Zoppos
Sanctuary Lamps	Bl. Sac.	Children of the Parish
	Bl. Sac.	Families experiencing fractured relationships
	Our Lady	Intention of Vinodh Loganadhan

NEXT WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 30	9 AM	† Lino Ammaturo
Tuesday, December 31	5 PM	The Parishioners
Wednesday, January 1	10 AM	† Peter Glowczewski
	12 PM	† Edmond Odette
Thursday, January 2	9 AM	† Anna Szatmary
Friday, January 3	9 AM	† Melanie Badali † Bernadette Badali † John and Elizabeth Badali † Paul Crawford † Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, January 4	5 PM	† John and Ellen Noonan
Sunday, January 5	8:30 AM	The Parishioners
	10 AM	† Romi Walsh
	12 PM	† Warren Mak
Sanctuary Lamps	Bl. Sac.	For those experiencing loneliness
	Bl. Sac.	† Romi Walsh
	Our Lady	Intention of Vinodh Loganadhan

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN ~ CHRISTMAS PAUSE

Liturgy of the Word with Children will resume on January 5, 2025 at the 10 a.m. Mass.

JUBILEE 2025 ~ PILGRIMS OF HOPE



The Catholic Church worldwide celebrates a Jubilee Year throughout 2025, commencing on the Feast of the Holy Family (2024) at St. Peter's.

The Jubilee Year includes many celebrations within the city of Rome and, also, local initiatives in dioceses around the world. The theme of the 2025 Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope". In the words of Pope Francis: *"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision."*

The Holy Father will mark the start of the Jubilee Year on December 24, 2024, with the official opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica. The Jubilee will continue until January 6, 2026, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, with the closing of the Holy Door at St. Peter's. Dioceses around the world will then inaugurate the celebration.

In the Archdiocese of Toronto, we will commence the celebration of the Jubilee Year with a Solemn Opening Mass taking place on Sunday, December 29, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. All are invited to join in this special celebration. Please note that the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available prior to the Eucharist from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

May this Holy Year provide a grace-filled opportunity to nurture the seeds of faith for you and your loved ones, immersing ourselves as Pilgrims of Hope into a year-long journey of prayer, witness and service drawing on the example of Jesus, our Lord.

**"For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope."
~ Pope Francis**

WHAT IS THE JUBILEE?



“Jubilee” is the name given to a particular year; the name comes from the instrument used to mark its launch. In this case, the instrument in question is the *yobel* [or *shofar*] the ram's horn, used to proclaim the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). This (Jewish) holiday occurs every year, but it takes on special significance when it marks the beginning of a Jubilee year. We can find an early indication of it in the Bible: a

Jubilee year was to be marked every 50 years, since this would be an “extra” year, one which would happen every seven weeks of seven years, i.e., every 49 years (cf. Leviticus 25:8-13). Even though it wasn't easy to organise, it was intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.

Quoting the prophet Isaiah, the Gospel of Luke describes Jesus' mission in this way: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord,” (Luke 4:18-19; cf. Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus lives out these words in his daily life, in his encounters with others and in his relationships, all of which bring about liberation and conversion.

In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first Jubilee, also known as a “Holy Year,” since it is a time in which God's holiness transforms us. The frequency of Holy Years has changed over time: at first, they were celebrated every 100 years; later, in 1343 Pope Clement VI reduced the gap between Jubilees to every 50 years, and in 1470 Pope Paul II made it every 25 years. There have also been “extraordinary” Holy Years: for example, in 1933 Pope Pius XI chose to commemorate the 1900th anniversary of the Redemption, and in 2015 Pope Francis proclaimed the Year of Mercy as an extraordinary jubilee. The way in which Jubilee Years are marked has also changed through the centuries: originally the Holy Year consisted of a pilgrimage to the Roman Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul, later other signs were added, such as the Holy Door. By participating in the Holy Year, one is granted a plenary indulgence.

- Source: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/segni-del-giubileo.html>

HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND



Our parish has an active Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound. Our Eucharistic Ministers provide pastoral visits and bring Holy Communion to parishioners who are unable to attend church because of illness, disability or age. If you or someone you know might benefit from this ministry, please contact us at homebound@st-bonaventure.ca or at 416-447-5571 ext. 590 and let us know.

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 Long*, + *Bernard Nottage*, + *Anna Szatmary*, and + *Christopher Harris*.

THE JUBILEE PRAYER ~ WRITTEN BY POPE FRANCIS

Father in heaven,
may the **faith** you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of **charity** enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed **hope**
for the coming of your Kingdom.
May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.
May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, **Pilgrims of Hope**,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen.

For the Jubilee Prayer in other languages, please see: <https://www.iubilaum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/prehiera.html>

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 416-709-8150 with your prayer intentions or if you would like to join the prayer network.

HELPING OTHERS

CASSEROLES FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD REFUGE- DUE DATE IS DECEMBER 30, 2024

Please have your completed casseroles dropped off at the Ministry Centre by Dec 30th for pick up. Thank you!

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



You have now been given life's great treasure; when he comes the Lord will ask for what he has entrusted to you. -St. Cyril of Jerusalem
By visiting people in need in their homes and walking alongside to guide them to resources to break the cycle of poverty, we give them hope for the future.



Your generous donations to our poor boxes and through Canada Helps do help us make a difference. Thank you!

Our confidential helpline is: 416-447-5571 Ext. 570. 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/>

SHARELIFE CAMPAIGN UPDATE: MAKE A SHARELIFE GIFT , YOUR YES WILL GO TWICE AS FAR!

NEW: Your gift will double in value! From November 1 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.

Our goal this year is \$119,000. To date we have achieved \$74,497.64. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - ANNUAL SOCK DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus is asking for donations for its annual Sock Drive to be held in December at all the weekends masses. Two large boxes with labels will be placed at the back of the church and parishioners are asked to drop off items in the boxes. All donations will be given to Homeless Shelters.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MINISTRY WITH MATURING ADULTS



With a focus on nurturing our spirituality in body, mind and spirit in the second half of life and finding meaning and purpose in our daily life, always with a spirit of gratitude and practicing welcoming and hospitality to those we encounter each day in our families, communities and beyond. We hope 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! There is no need to pre-register for these events below. Just come and you will be warmly welcomed! And feel free to invite a friend! If you would like more information, email: Trena Finnegan, Coordinator Ministry with Maturing Adults: trena@st-bonaventure.ca

Tuesday January 7th from 10:00AM to 11:30AM, Main Hall - Move it or Lose it! Practical ways to stay physically active and fit as we age.

Exercise is good for all of us. Good for strengthening the body, sharpening the mind and balancing mood. If that is so, why do so many of us struggle to start and maintain a regular and purposeful exercise routine especially as we age? In this talk, Michael Carrera a fitness professional will highlight some simple strategies to get you moving, build strength, flexibility and help you overcome barriers that get in the way of your health and wellness goals.

Michael Carrera has a master's degree in exercise science and has authored and co-authored four books: Periodization Strength Training for Sports (2nd ed.), The Catholic Workout book and DVD, Conditioning Young Athletes and Soul Winner. Soul Loser. A Remarkable Story of Finding Meaning in the Wisdom of the Day. Two of his books have been translated into multiple languages. Michael was recently ordained a Permanent Deacon for the Archdiocese of Toronto. He lives in Toronto, Canada, with his wife and four children.

January 21st 10:00AM to 11:30AM - Spiritual essentials for Life's Second Act

A Workshop looking at our needs as we live out the second half of our life - Based on the writings of Janet Schaeffler, OP

We continue exploring the needs that Sr. Schaeffler identifies and focus on The Need to Ask and Explore Questions and The Need to Continue to Learn and Grow. We finish our session with looking at the Need to be Grateful. *Workshop facilitated by: Sandra Nelson and Trena Finnegan*

Tuesday January 28th 10:00AM to 11:30AM - Enhancing Your Gut Health

A Presentation by Delmanor, Wynford Retirement Living

This presentation will cover: • Importance of digestive health for immune health, metabolism and mental health • Probiotics and what they do for us • What are the prebiotics and how they help our digestive system • Why we need fiber and fiber friendly foods • What's kombucha? How does it help us and samples to try • Q/A at the end

The presenter is Whitney Hilts, Regional Manager of Living Well Services who is trained in healthy aging, including: healthy eating, exercise, and mental health.

Save the Dates: February 4 and 18, 2025.



CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Saturday, December 28th - 5 pm

Sunday, December 29th - 8:30 am, 10 am and 12 noon

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (Holy Day of Obligation)

New Year's Eve

Tuesday, December 31st - 5 pm

New Year's Day

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

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 4th - 5 pm

Sunday, January 5th - 8:30 am, 10 am and 12 noon

(Liturgy of the Word with Children resumes today at the 10 a.m. Mass)

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 11th - 5pm

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

The Ministry Centre (Parish Office) will be closed on:

Dec. 24 at 1 p.m., Dec. 25 and 26, Dec. 31 at 1 p.m. and Jan. 1 and 2.

Please note: the Ministry Centre is regularly closed on Thursdays, except by appointment.

JOURNEYING AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE THROUGH THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Reflecting on the theme of hope, Father Matt Berrios, CSP, pinpointed Catholic spirituality as one that calls on adherents to “be the light of the world,” harnessing their faith for the greater good. “Our calling is about being a beacon of hope, not just journeying towards something for which we long,” he said. “Hope is, in part, defined by something outside of ourselves. In many ways, the Christian vocation is light, and you don’t light a lamp to put it under a basket.” At its core, the Jubilee is a chance for the global Church to renew its commitment to being a life-restoring force on a fractured, war-torn planet.

- Source: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2024-11/jubilee-2025-rome-vatican-pilgrims.html>

“Christian life is a journey that requires special moments to nourish and strengthen hope, an indispensable companion that helps us glimpse the goal: the encounter with the Lord Jesus.”

- Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit* [Hope does not disappoint], n. 5

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
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Lay Pastoral Associate

Gregory Beath
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Connie Durante
Ext. 224
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ARE YOU REGISTERED? IF NOT, ASK AN USHER
FOR A PARISH REGISTRATION FORM TO COMPLETE

Ministry for Maturing Adults

Trena Finnegan
Ext. 550
trena@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

1340 Leslie Street
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9 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

“For us, a child is born, as son given to us.” Isaiah 9:6

We often hear it said that the greatest joy in life is the birth of a child. It is something extraordinary and it changes everything. It brings an excitement that makes us think nothing of weariness, discomfort and sleepless nights, for it fills us with a great, incomparable happiness. That is what Christmas is: the birth of Jesus is the “newness” that enables us to be reborn each year and to find, in him, the strength needed to face every trial. Why? Because his birth is for us - for me, for you, for all of us, for everyone.... “*For us* a child is born,” Isaiah prophesied. “*For us* is born this day a Saviour,” we repeated in the Psalm. Jesus “gave himself *for us*” (Tit 2:14), Saint Paul tells us, and in the Gospel the angel proclaims: “*For to you* is born this day a Saviour” (Lk 2:11). For me, for you. Yet what do those words - *for us* - really mean? They mean that the Son of God, the one who is holy by nature, came to make us, as God’s children, holy by grace. Yes, God came into the world as a child to make us children of God. What a magnificent gift! This day, God amazes us and says to each of us: “You are amazing.” Dear sister, dear brother, never be discouraged. Are you tempted to feel you were a mistake? God tells you, “No, you are *my* child!” Do you have a feeling of failure or inadequacy, the fear that you will never emerge from the dark tunnel of trial? God says to you, “Have courage, I am with you.” He does this not in words, but by making himself a child with you and for you. In this way, he reminds you that the starting point of all rebirth is the recognition that we are children of God. This is the starting point for any rebirth. This is the undying heart of our hope, the incandescent core that gives warmth and meaning to our life. Underlying all our strengths and weaknesses, stronger than all our past hurts and failures, or our fears and concerns about the future, there is this great truth: we are beloved sons and daughters. God’s love for us does not, and never will, depend upon us. It is *completely free love*. [The Nativity] cannot be explained in any other way: it is purely grace. Everything is grace. The gift is *completely free*, unearned by any of us, pure grace.... Saint Paul tells us, “the grace of God has appeared.” (Tit 2:11) Nothing is more precious than this.

Pope Francis, Homily, Midnight Mass, Nativity of the Lord, 2020. Vatican.

May the Lord bless you and keep you!