

*First Sunday of Advent  
December 3, 2023*



*Growing  
in Spirit,  
Community,  
and Service*

# Bonnie News

*Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure*



*Fisherman's Wife* (1883-86), Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890).  
Oil on paper on panel.  
Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo, The Netherlands.

## ***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)*

## **Summons**

Keep me from going to sleep too soon  
Or if I go to sleep too soon  
Come wake me up. Come any hour  
Of night. Come whistling up the road.  
Stomp on the porch. Bang on the door.  
Make me get out of bed and come  
And let you in and light a light.  
Tell me the northern lights are on  
And make me look. Or tell me clouds  
Are doing something to the moon  
They never did before, and show me.  
See that I see. Talk to me till  
I'm half as wide awake as you  
And start to dress wondering why  
I ever went to bed at all.  
Tell me the walking is superb.  
Not only tell me but persuade me.  
You know I'm not too hard persuaded.

- "Summons" by Robert Francis (1907-1987).

## LITURGY & SACRAMENTS

### THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 4	9 AM	† Belan Cano
Tuesday, December 5	9 AM	† Teresa Killroy
Wednesday, December 6	9 AM	† Ivy Lyn
Thursday, December 7	9 AM	The Parishioners
Friday, December 8	9 AM	† Josef Sitar † Marjorie and Lynn Beverley † Jacinta Osuji † Nimfa Chua † Claudine Fox
Saturday, December 9	5 PM	† Nina Jagaric
Sunday, December 10	8:30 AM	† Magdalena Trinidad
	10 AM	For Peace in the Holy Land
	12 PM	† Anita Szucs
Sanctuary Lamps    Bl. Sac. Bl. Sac. O.L. Chapel		† Rogelio Alon
		† Catalina Masilungan
		† Gilbert Masilungan

### 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 of ushers at the 12 noon Mass. If you worship regularly at the 12 noon Mass, seriously 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.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & BENEDICTION ~ DECEMBER 4 FROM 12:30 PM TO 2 PM**

Please join us along with one grade of students from St. Bonaventure School for Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

12:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, hymn, incensation, greeting and opening prayer

12:35 Liturgy of the Word

12:50 Children head back to school

Adoration continues with others who are present. This is open to all. A particular invitation is extended to the children's parents, grandparents, and godparents.

1:00 Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available in the Mary Chapel from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

2:00 Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament (hymn and incensation) followed by reposition.



**DEC. 8 ~ SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**



“Because she was to become the mother of the Lord, Mary saw herself set free all her life long, from alpha to omega, from the power of evil, which we all unknowingly are exposed to because we belong, historically, to this ‘world.’ Without ceasing to be human, since sin does not define human nature, the Virgin is ‘deconditioned’ in relation to the enslavement to sin that is inherent in our human condition. This is because of the role that God reserves for her in the economy of love: The one who is to give her flesh and blood to the Lord must be freed from all other control but that of the Lord. This is what we mean by her ‘Immaculate Conception.’” (G. Martelet, “L’Au-delà retrouvé. Christologie et fine dernières (Paris: Desclée, 1974), 152.)

*O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us sinners who have recourse to thee.*

**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, and + Gerry Devlin.

**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>

## AN ADVENT PRAYER: ADVENT AS I CONSIDER THE WORLD SITUATION

God of comfort, these times seem so uncertain, so scary. The world seems darker than it has in the past and I am less sure of myself. Maybe that's a good thing; maybe now I am turning to you with a realization that I need you so much more and that my life is not in my own control. Let me not forget all of those around the world who are frightened at this moment. Help those who are victims of terrorism and war. Be with those who have lost so much in the past year. Hold us all in your loving arms and let us be comforted by the strength and peace you want so much to offer us through the birth of your son, Jesus. Thank you for the many gifts you offer us.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### RELICS OF CONTEMPORARY SAINTS - JOHN PAUL II, FAUSTINA KOWALSKA AND MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE

On December 9 & 10, at each of the Masses, Fr. Jobe Abbass will be preaching on the devotion to Immaculate Mary by three contemporary Polish saints: John Paul II, Faustina Kowalska, and Maximillian Kolbe. We will have first class relics of these saints for veneration. More information on bulletin boards in church.

### SERAPHIM & CHERUBIM CHORUS, CHRISTMAS CONCERT ON DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:30 PM

✨ 'When You Believe' - A heartwarming Christmas concert series by the Seraphim & Cherubim Chorus, unfolds like a holiday story told in song. Join us on an uplifting voyage through the most beloved melodies of Christmas past, present, and future with a few magical surprises along the way. Let's ring in the season together December 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm at St. Bonaventure Parish. Advanced tickets available online at [www.seraphimandcherubim.ca](http://www.seraphimandcherubim.ca)

### CWL 2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Your 2024 Membership annual fees are due now. St. Bonaventure CWL Executive Council representatives will be available at the Parish Christmas Market, (Dec. 2 & 3), and 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)

### CWL ADVENT LUNCHEON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023, IN THE PARISH HALL FROM 1:00 - 3:00 PM.



All women in the parish are invited to attend!

Join us for an afternoon filled with music, laughter, and togetherness. Kindly RSVP by December 6, 2023, with Tracy MacInnis at [t.macinnis60@gmail.com](mailto:t.macinnis60@gmail.com) or 647-973-7645.

### 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.*



## HELPING OTHERS

### ADVENT GIVING TREE IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL

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 AND PANETTONE SALE



The Knights of Columbus are 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.

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 information at the back of the church, including information about the Panettone sale. Please check the flyers as well.

### CASSEROLES FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD REFUGE



The Good Shepherd Ministries is a place where no person is refused a hot meal. Judgement is not passed on anyone. All are welcomed.

The Casseroles Cooks sent 51 assorted casseroles in November to assist with this program. Thank you!! More cooks are needed. If you have thought of a private safe way to reach out to the hungry in our city perhaps this mission of mercy could be your way to help.

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.

## 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)



## 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 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/>



**Special Need: Used winter clothing in good condition for 10-year-old boys (size 10-12) and one-year-old toddler boys (size 18-24 months). Please bag and leave at Ministry Centre marked SSVP. Thank you!**

**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

Ministry Centre (Office)  
1300 Leslie Street  
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9  
Office: 416-447-5571

Pastor  
Fr. Thomas Reist, OFM Conv.  
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Associate Pastor  
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[FrPeter@st-bonaventure.ca](mailto:FrPeter@st-bonaventure.ca)

Lay Pastoral Associate  
Gregory Beath  
Ext. 258  
[gregb@st-bonaventure.ca](mailto:gregb@st-bonaventure.ca)

Parish Manager  
Connie Durante  
Ext. 224  
[connie@st-bonaventure.ca](mailto:connie@st-bonaventure.ca)

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

***“And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.” ~ Mark 13:37***

The Gospel gives us another cameo of the big picture of our Christian time frame. This little parable is a perfect picture of the Church in the time between the initial grace and the final judgment, the time between the withdrawal of the master of the house and his certain but unpredictable return. When we hear of the unpredictability of the Master's return, many of us spontaneously think of our death, though in context it probably refers to the *parousia* and final judgment. Both meanings fit. For as we live out a life we know ends in a personal death, we know our short career involves us in a short-term service within a household meant to endure to the end of history.

The Lord who made the world and cultivated a special relationship with Israel, bringing that community out of slavery and exile, has made a fresh start in Jesus. The revelation of God in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is now lived out in the household of the Church. Into that household we have been baptized, which plunges us into a sense of time “out of sync” with the other calendars we use, even as we live out our seasonal, fiscal, family, and professional lives within them.

That chronological dissonance is a helpful reminder that we are a Church whose agenda demands attention to the common good, to a consistent ethic of life, to a special interest in the poor. This is an agenda that fits no existing political party, challenges every candidate and elected official, and asserts that the fiscal bottom line is not the gospel bottom line. Within our faith time frame, the bottom line is fidelity to the relationships of our covenant with God, with one another, and with the rest of creation.

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