

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 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

Bonnie News

Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure



ADVENT

Prepare the geography of your soul by Philip C. Kolin

Prepare the geography of your soul For the caller of every ewe, The shepherd of verdant proclamations: Water the wastelands of unforgiveness With torrential tears See dust turn to dew. Level the mountains of peaked pride So they become grazing fields Feeding the least and hungriest of these, All those you have outcasted, spurned. Smooth out the crags and cracks of your words Feel the balm of God's breath in your repentance. Go to the Jordan on the other side of your doubts And be baptized in a font of faith Hasten all these preparations and then Wait and watch for one with untied sandal straps Coming to embrace you.

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

A Message From the Pastor..

Friar Manny will be ordained a deacon on Saturday 10 December at 10:30. I am pleased – and I know that many of you are as well – that Manny will return to Toronto shortly after his ordination to share the first month of his ordained ministry with us before he returns to the United States to continue his vocational journey. Let us remember Friar Manny in our prayers at this time.

Friar Manny has discerned a call to the priesthood and has trained accordingly. Church law requires that he be ordained a deacon prior to being ordained to the order of presbyters (a priest). Thus, he is being ordained as a "transitional" deacon. There are also "permanent" deacons, namely deacons who do not intend to become priests. They may already be married, or they may be single. (Once ordained they are unable to marry or remarry). Permanent deacons render a variety of services: faith formation, family ministry, ministry of stewardship, bereavement, etc. They also participate in the liturgical life of the Church in various ways.

Perhaps some of the men of this parish have considered becoming a deacon? Perhaps you have a name of two that you would recommend for the diaconate? You might want to share it with him? Give it a thought and a prayer.

Fr. Thomas Reist

FRIAR EMMANUEL'S DIACONATE ORDINATION

Friar Emmanuel's Diaconate Ordination will take place at the Franciscan Church of the Assumption in Syracuse, New York, on Saturday, December 10th at 10:30 AM. Please keep him in prayer as he prepares to serve as a friar-deacon!

If anyone is interested in attending, please reach out to Friar Emmanuel either in person or through the parish office to work out additional details.

Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament December 5, 2022

On the first Monday of each month, please join us along with one grade of students from St. Bonaventure School for Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

12:30 pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (hymn and incensation) followed by greeting and opening prayer

12:35 pm: Scripture reading 12:40 pm: Reflection on reading

12:45 pm: Intercessions concluded with the Lord's Prayer

12:50 pm: Children head back to school

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation would be available from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

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

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

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

Saturday, December 31, 2022 5:00 PM

Sunday, January 1, 2023 8:30 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 Noon



Advent and Christmas Events

Knights of Columbus Christmas Fundraiser Make a \$25 donation and receive a lovely Panettone. Available after all the weekend Masses

Friday, December 9, 2022: SERAPHIM CHERUBIM Chorus Winter Song Concert Church, 7:30 PM

Saturday, December 10, 2022: Friar Emmanuel's Diaconate Ordination Church of the Assumption Syracuse, NY 10:30 AM St. Bonaventure School Gingerbread Build Main Hall, 12 - 3 PM

Sunday, December 11, 2022: CWL Advent Luncheon Main Hall, 1 - 3 PM

Tuesday, December 13, 2022: MMA Session with Fr Thomas Reist, Zoom at 10 AM

Wednesday, December 14, 2022: Advent Day of Confessions 9:30 -10:30 AM, 1- 2 PM, 7 - 8 PM

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Help a neighbour in need during this Advent season. Our benefactors this year are:

Greenview Retirement Lodge Society of St. Vincent de Paul A Refugee Family The Sisters of Life, Young Mother's Program

Their missions include serving women who are vulnerable to abortion, giving them the support and resources to be able to choose life for themselves and their children. The gifts are for the young mothers to be with maternity clothes and personal items. For more information, https://sistersoflife.org/what-we-do/pregnancy-help/

LITURGY & SACRAMENTS

This Week's Mass Schedule			
Monday, December 5	9 AM	† Maria Marmorno	
Tuesday, December 6	9 AM	† Ivy Lyn	
Wednesday, December 7	9 AM	† Grazia Maida	
Thursday, December 8	9 AM	† Allan Rochard	
Friday, December 9	9 AM	Brothers, Sisters, and Benefactors of	
		the Order of Friars Minor	
		† Gillian D'Silva	
Saturday, December 10	5 PM	† Robin Latchman	
Sunday, December 11	8:30 AM	The Parishioners † Virgilio Ungab	
	10 AM		
	12 PM	† Norman Mendonca	
Sanctuary Lamps are offered for:		Moira McKeown	
		Volunteer non-profit organizations	
		Personal Intention	

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: A NEW TIME FOR CONFESSIONS

"God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" (Luke 18:13) We heard this prayer of the tax collector a few Sundays ago. In my homily I used this prayer to remind all of us of the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our confessional in the back of the church is very small and feels confining. So, we have set up a confessional in the Mary Chapel. Confession can be celebrated sitting face to face with the priest or kneeling behind the screen. Confessions will be heard on a weekly basis on Saturdays from 9 to 10 am. 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 myself to celebrate this sacrament in which we encounter our merciful God. ~ Fr. Tom

ADVENT DAY OF CONFESSION - WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14 2022

Advent Day of Confession for our parish is Wednesday December 14, 2022. Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered at the following times, in the church: 9:30 to 10:30 AM, 1:00 to 2:00 PM, 7:00 to 8:00 PM

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION AND EUCHARIST

Sunday, Dec. 4 is the deadline to register children (ages 7 and up/Grade 2+) to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist this Winter-Spring 2023 season. Please ensure your child's registration package is dropped to the Ministry Centre no later than Sunday, Dec. 4.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Information Meetings about the Confirmation Winter-Spring 2023 program and how to register our parish's youth (ages 12 and up/Grade 7+) will be held on Sunday, December 4 at 1 p.m. and Tuesday, December 6 at 7 p.m. in the Main Hall of the Parish Centre. The young person requesting Confirmation and one parent are asked to attend one of these meetings. Kindly wear a mask.

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 11 and December 18.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (DECEMBER 8)

We are fast approaching one of the Church's great solemnities: the feast of the *Immaculate Conception*, celebrated on the 8th of December. In many countries this day is a holy day of obligation; and in some countries it is even a bank (public) holiday. Devotion to the Immaculate Conception is a long-standing tradition in the Franciscan Order. Even today, a public novena to the Immaculate Conception takes place annually in one of the Conventual Franciscans' principal churches in Italy: the Basilica of *Santi Apostoli* in Rome.

The first theologian to explain the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception for us, and to reconcile it with the doctrines of Original Sin and Redemption, was a Franciscan friar – Blessed John Duns Scotus by name (died 1308). Scotus demonstrated that Our Lady was redeemed by being *preserved* from Original Sin (the rest of us have to be *liberated* from Original Sin by Baptism). In his 1854 Encyclical *Ineffabilis Deus* (which proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception), Blessed Pope Pius IX made use of the words written by Scotus seven centuries earlier.

The Blessed Virgin Mary has been the subject of many poems in the English language. My own personal favourite has to be the one written by the great English *Romantic* poet, William Wordsworth (1770 - 1850). The poem is

simply entitled *The Virgin*:

"Mother! Whose virgin bosom was uncrost With the least shade of thought to sin allied; Woman! Above all women glorified, Our tainted nature's solitary boast; Purer than foam on central ocean toast; Brighter than eastern skies at daybreak strewn With fancied roses, than the unblemished moon Before her wane begins on heaven's blue coast: Thy image falls to earth. Yet some, I ween, Not unforgiven, the suppliant knee might bend As to a visible power, in which did blend All that was mixed and reconciled in thee Of a mother's love with maiden purity, Of high with low, celestial with terrene."



As poetry goes, it is certainly a beautiful piece. But what about the Marian doctrine of which it speaks? Some may wonder why a poet who was not a Catholic could write such a poem on Our Lady, accurately describing the Immaculate Conception - and this many years before Pius IX's *Encyclical*. There may be several reasons, in my opinion, why Wordsworth was inspired to write this poem:

Firstly, we should note that England was not always a Protestant country. Prior to the break from Rome, England was one of the leading lights in Christendom. The country had long been known as *Our Lady's Dowry*. In addition, there was also a long-standing tradition in the country of devotion to the Immaculate Conception. Secondly, one of Wordsworth's close friends was the (then) Anglican minister and poet, Frederick William Faber (1814 - 1863). Faber was a regular visitor to *Rydal Hall*, Wordsworth's country house in the Lake District (a beautiful place to visit, by the way). Faber later converted to Catholicism, and was ordained a priest. He was an accomplished theologian – and a theologian of the *Scotistic School* at that. Did Faber and Wordsworth perchance discuss Our Lady and the Immaculate Conception during their talks in *Rydal Hall*? Perhaps. We shall probably never know for certain, but I like to think that they did.

In the days leading up to the 8th December, let us pray in a special way to Our Lady, "our tainted nature's solitary boast". - friar Solanus Mary, OFM Conv. from franciscanvoice.org





These Indigenous women need our support.

This year, our St. Bonaventure CWL Christmas 2022 donation campaign is aimed at sharing our resources and taking positive action as a healing community. *The Sisters of Solidarity* are a non-profit group making an immediate impact in the lives of Indigenous women and their families. By contributing to this organization those listed below will experience financial relief with a hand up.

Their stories

T, an Indigenous mom of 6 children ranging in age from infant twins to a 17-year old needs help to move her family out of a toxic household. Struggling with the loss of work during the pandemic and the rising costs of raising her family, T not only needs financial help, but the hope that comes from the support of caring people.

M is a single Black/Indigenous mom with a toddler who lives with chronic illness. Wanting to keep her family and generations together, M also lives with and supports her aging mother. Direct reparation will help M with food, clothing and care costs for her multi-generational family.

S, an Afro-Indigenous mom of 2 on disability, suffers from PTSD after a mugging at knifepoint on a journey home to reconnect with her roots. Financial support for S would help with food, clothing and school supplies for her family.

Little Storm, daughter of Georgina Faith Papin who was one of the victims of the infamous Robert Picton, is a cancer survivor currently in hospital recovering from life altering injuries. In spite of her hardships, she continues to work hard at raising awareness for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2Spirit and needs support in her endeavours.

To make a donation:

- 1) Write a cheque to the St. Bonaventure CWL and drop it off at the Parish Centre office or
- Write a cheque to the St. Bonaventure CWL, place it in an envelope to the attention of the CWL and drop it in the weekly collection basket or
- E-transfer your donation directly to CWL Treasurer at <u>bjmorton@rogers.com</u>, with the security question, "What is this supporting" – answer SOS2022 or
- Donate in person at the St. Bonaventure CWL Advent Luncheon on Dec. 11th.

Deadline for Donations is Sunday, December 18, 2022.

We thank you for your generosity.

Your St. Bonaventure Executive Council



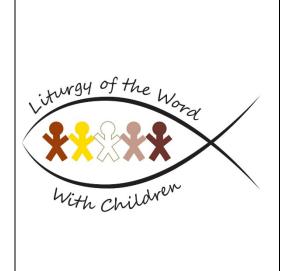
VOLUNTEERS

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:

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN



Sundays at the 10 a.m. Mass for children ages 4 to 9. A parent is welcome to accompany a child who is too shy to participate on their own.

Volunteers are needed to celebrate Liturgy of the Word with Children! Do you seek the Lord within the Scriptures? Are you at ease in the presence of children? Are you comfortable in front of a group? Do you have a couple of hours once or twice a month to prepare for the Liturgy of the Word? Or are you a young person that would like to read the scriptures, sing, or play an instrument? Are you able to gently assist with keeping a prayerful atmosphere? Then, you probably have the gifts necessary to serve in a variety of ways within this ministry. Kindly send an e-mail with your name and contact info to admin@st-bonaventue.ca. We will contact you to answer any questions you may have and provide training. Volunteer screening with a police background check is mandatory for this ministry.

CALLING ALL CASSEROLE MAKERS!

"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food...?" (Matt. 25:37)
If you are interested in making a casserole in support of the Good Shepherd Centre, please email: casseroles@st-bonaventure.ca or call the office at 416-447-5571 to add your name to our list.

Please return your casseroles to the Ministry Centre before December 12, 2022.

ROSARY APOSTOLATE - VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Rosary Apostolate has been faithfully visiting the classes at St. Bonaventure School once a month to pray the Rosary with the students for many years. These visits are a great inspiration to the students! They are seeking people who have a great love for the Rosary and who are willing to visit our school to pray the Rosary with the children once a month from October to May each school year. That's a total of just 8 days! Screening is mandatory and training and materials will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Monica Testa-Zanin at (416) 432-9439 or monica.mtz@rogers.com

HELP NEEDED TO DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

We are looking for some help to decorate the church for Christmas. Are you artistic and creative? Are you interested in floral design? This might be a great opportunity to get involved in the community. Please email admin@st-bonaventure.ca if you are interested and would like more information.

HELPING OTHERS

Second Sunday of Advent We must be good stewards of God's gifts to us, receiving the gratefully and cultivating them with care, lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today, cautioning us. (see Matt. 3:10)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Christmas Food Drive in Support of The Good Shepherd December 3rd to December 19th



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**:

Soups & Stews	Tuna	Past Sauce	Beans & Chickpeas
Vegetables	Tomatoes	Cereal	Pasta
Salmon	Chocolate Bars	Granola Bars	Cookies

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

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Bible reminds us that it's <u>not</u> 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/

ARE YOU ABLE TO HOST A UKRAINIAN FAMILY?

Over 80,000 Ukrainians have already arrived to Canada through a special visa program created by Immigration Canada. An additional 500,000 have applied to the program and are expected to arrive in the coming months. Many are arriving to Toronto and are without family here in Canada to help them. Among those will be some who are vulnerable to human trafficking, particularly seniors, single women, and women with children. There is an immediate need for families to host for a period of between one and six months some of those who have arrived. If you would like to learn more about hosting a Ukrainian family, please go to Archdiocese of Toronto-Ukrainian Crisis (archtoronto.org) and register for a virtual information session.

ShareLife - Matching Gift Opportunity



Recognizing the urgent needs in our communities, an anonymous ShareLife supporter is inviting you to join the response. From now to December 31, 2022, your gift to ShareLife will be matched up to a total of \$1 million. That means your year-end contribution will double in value! To participate in this special opportunity, you can:

- donate securely online or give to your parish's collection marked with ShareLife
- contribute over the phone by calling the ShareLife office at 1-800-263-2595

UPCOMING EVENTS

THEOLOGY & TEA ON ZOOM

Join friar Mark for Theology & Tea on Zoom on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m.

Mark your calendars for the next session:

December 8 & December 22

Email Theology-Tea@st-bonaventure.ca to register.

SERAPHIM & CHERUBIM CHORUS - CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Christmas, Christmas time is near! We're back live and in concert! Come join the *Seraphim & Cherubim Chorus* singing the Christmas songs you love as part of our *Winter Song* concert series. We're always so excited to bring our friends together to celebrate the season and sing songs that touch our hearts. Never a typical Christmas concert and always full of surprise tunes and reimagined classics. Join us at St. Bonaventure's on December 9th at 7:30pm. Advanced tickets available online at www.seraphimandcherubim.ca

GINGERBREAD BUILD

St. Bonaventure School CSPC is excited to host the annual Gingerbread Build on Saturday, December 10, 2022 - 12-3pm at the Parish Hall.

Tickets are \$25. Please call the school at 416-393-5263 to reserve your Gingerbread House.



CWL ADVENT LUNCHEON

Sunday, December 11th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Open to CWL members and those interested in joining The League. The St. Bonaventure CWL Annual Advent Luncheon (in-person) will be held in the Parish Hall on December 11th. This is a good time to reconnect with your sisters in The League, pay your 2023 membership dues and have some fun. There will be entertainment and other surprises. Please plan to attend. More information will be forthcoming in future emails.

MINISTRY WITH MATURING ADULTS ON ZOOM - FALL SESSIONS 2022

Virtual Meetings are on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.
Next Session, Tuesday December 13, 2022
Join a Session with Fr. Thomas Reist
Email mma@st-bonaventure.ca to register and to receive the Zoom link.

<u>Prayer</u>



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, and + Nina Jagaric

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 Julie Flood with your intentions: 416-391-0238.

Praying with an Advent Wreath

A Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you came among us with the irresistible power of a baby, requiring both our hands and captivating our whole hearts. Help us to cast aside the sine and brokenness that we cling to, so we might be ready to hold you when you come again. Amen

Online Advent Retreat

Pray-As-You-Go will be offering another Advent retreat weekly podcast titled: "Down To Earth". You may access it at https://pray-as-you-go.org/series/57-downtoearthadvent2022

A Word from St. Nicholas (December 6)



In my own heart I cannot separate Christmas

from that Boy Child born in Bethlehem some two thousand years ago.

I believe that Boy Child was the Child of the Divine Mystery,

and He came into the world for love of us all.

I believe He came to bring healing, forgiveness, reconciliation, freedom, and peace.

I believe He also came to invite everyone to forget themselves

and remember the needs of others.

For me, the religious meaning of Christmas is a source of deep joy.

You must understand that my message echoes

the message of that Child born so long ago.

I am not the offspring of the Divine Mystery,

only His unworthy servant.

I am Saint Nicholas,

and the religious meaning of Christmas

will always be close to my heart.

-"Saint Nicholas"

For a fantastic exploration of St. Nicholas of Myra, go to www.stnicholascenter.org

CONTACT Us...

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Lay Pastoral Associate Gregory Beath Ext. 258 gregb@st-bonaventure.ca

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

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ~ Matthew 3:2

Are You Registered?

"The promised renewal that we look for has already begun in Christ. It is continued in the mission of the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit it goes on developing in the Church: there we are taught by faith about the meaning also of our life on earth as we bring to fulfillment—with hope in the blessings that are to come—the work that has been entrusted to us in the world by the Father, and so work out our salvation.

The end of the ages is already with us. The renewal of the world has been established, and cannot be revoked. In our era it is in a true sense anticipated: the Church on earth is already sealed by a genuine, if imperfect, holiness. Yet, until a new heaven and a new earth are built as the dwelling place of justice, the pilgrim Church, in its sacraments and institutions belonging to this world of time, bears the likeness of this passing world. It lives in the midst of a creation still groaning and in travail as it waits for the sons and daughters of God to be revealed in glory."

~ *Lumen Gentium* (Light of the Nations), Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Second Vatican Council, excerpts from paragraph 48.