

*Second Sunday of Advent  
December 7, 2025*



*Growing  
in Spirit,  
Community,  
and Service*

# Bonnie News

*Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure*



*San Giovanni Battista* (c. 1540-1542), Titian (1490-1576). Oil on canvas. Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venice. Public Domain. Source: Wikicommons.

## *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/)

## *LXXII Deus, judicium* by Malcolm Guite

Another psalm to praise your light and life  
Another song of longing for the King  
Who is to come, whose coming ends all strife,

Who will defend the poor, descend and bring  
With him the saints in glory and a new  
Heaven and Earth. And then those saints will sing

Their triumph song, and all that's tried and true  
Will live again beyond the reach of death.  
Yet he has come already, like the dew

Upon the grass, borne on the quiet breath  
Of God's own Spirit, Christ the saviour came  
To Bethlehem, like rain on the good earth

And those who met his love and learned his name  
Became like him and kept this hope alive  
That one day the whole world would live in him.

[https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2021/01/09/like-dew-upon-the-grass-  
a-response-to-psalm-72/](https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2021/01/09/like-dew-upon-the-grass-a-response-to-psalm-72/)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:frtom@st-bonaventure.ca)

## LITURGY & SACRAMENTS

### THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 8	9 AM	† Intention of Fernando Family
Tuesday, December 9	9 AM	† Mervyn & Alexis Steinwall
Wednesday, December 10	9 AM	† Jude Weerasinghe
Thursday, December 11	9 AM	† Louis Yip
Friday, December 12	9 AM	The Friars † Shuk Chun Wong The Victims of the Catastrophe in Hong Kong
Saturday, December 13	5 PM	† Nimfa Chua
Sunday, December 14	8:30 AM	The Parishioners
	10 AM	† George Twine
	12 PM	† Ignatius & Anthony Ng
Sanctuary Lamps	Bl. Sac.	Intention of Leong Family
	Bl. Sac.	† Albert Lee
	Our Lady	Personal Intentions

## 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/>

## 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](mailto:homebound@st-bonaventure.ca) or call Mary Catherine directly at 416-303-0269.

### 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. 7<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### 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

As we approach the end of the year, your loving support is crucial, as ShareLife-funded agencies strive to bring hope and relief to those facing their most challenging times. Jesus speaks to us through our brothers and sisters in need (cf. Mt 25:31-45). In every gift we give to them, there reflects God's love. Your sacrificial gift, this Advent can provide essential support and comfort to those in desperate need, showing them that they are not alone during trying times.

Our goal this year is **\$109,000**. To date we have achieved **\$90,330.15** or **82.9%**. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](https://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 CanadaHelps:

<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 14<sup>th</sup>**.

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

### Truth



We are more than sandwich makers! Yes, service is part of our ministry - as we feed many in sadness, friendship and celebration - but we are so much more. Did you know members of the Catholic Women's league donate more than a million dollars to charities across the country per year as well as thousands of volunteer hours? Truth be told - we can do more - with you on our team!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 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](mailto:mma@st-bonaventure.ca)

**Tuesday December 16, 2025: 10 AM to 11:30 AM - Movie & Refreshments**

**Christmas with the Chosen: Holy Night**

**Experience the Chosen's two Christmas specials now woven together into one seamless story about Jesus' birth. This edition features an original musical performance by Andrea and Matteo Bocelli.**

**All are welcome!**



## CWL ADVENT LUNCHEON - DECEMBER 7



*Pins, prayers and prizes - Advent blessings abound!*

**December 7 - 1:00pm Parish Hall**

- Catered lunch (Come hungry!)
- Pin presentation, games and raffle.
- 2026 membership renewal made easy.

Please bring a sprinkle of cash for the raffle, your laughter and your festive spirit!

## YOUTH MINISTRY INFO EVENT - DECEMBER 7



To all High school students at St. Bonaventure: Join us in the **Francis room** for an afternoon of food fellowship and fun as we introduce our vision for a youth ministry at St. Bonaventure!

- Info session about goals for the ministry.
- Food and refreshments.
- Connect and get involved.

*Parents are welcome to attend.*



SCAN QR CODE TO SIGN UP

## THE SERAPHIM & CHERUBIM CONCERT - DECEMBER 7

**The Seraphim & Cherubim Chorus Presents: ✨ Magic in the Air! ✨**

The first snow of the season has fallen, and it's time to get festive! Come and celebrate the spirit of Christmas with the Seraphim & Cherubim Chorus, as we celebrate 15 years of music, joy and community this year. Our 15th annual Christmas concert series features beloved carols, choral masterpieces, Broadway hits and contemporary favourites. We hope you'll join us at one of our festive concerts, perfect for young, old and everyone in between. We promise you a concert that captures the wonder of Christmas in every note! Kick off your holiday season with us on **Sunday December 7** at St. Bonaventure Parish, Don Mills at **4:30 pm!** Advance tickets are available at [seraphimandcherubim.ca](http://seraphimandcherubim.ca).

## SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MARKET - SUNDAY DECEMBER 14

Please join us after all masses on **December 14** for the sale of Christmas Cards and 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!



## PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

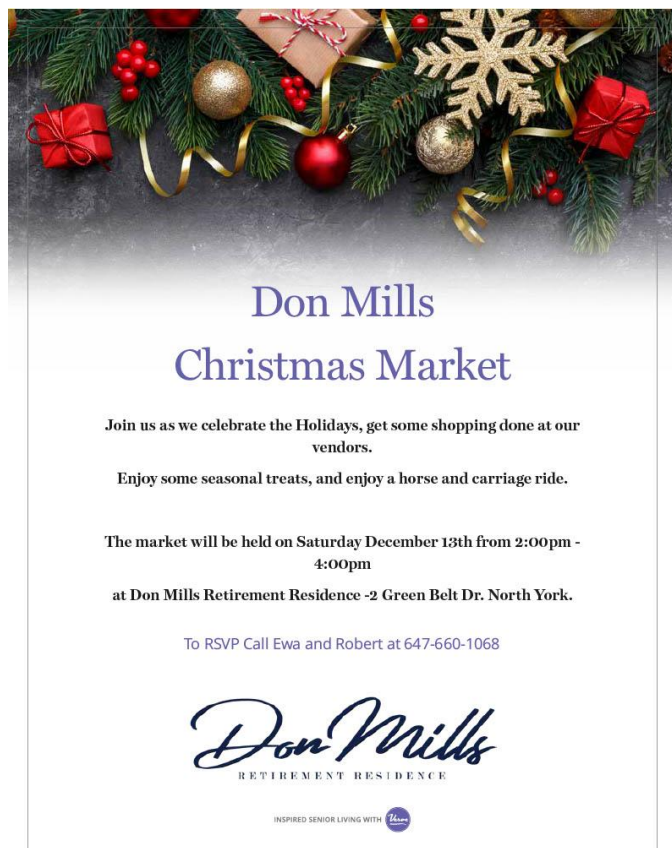
The 2024 Parish Financial Report is now available. Please pick up a copy.

## 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**

## THE DON MILLS RETIREMENT RESIDENCE CHRISTMAS MARKET - DECEMBER 13

**\*CORRECTION\* FROM PREVIOUS BULLETIN. NOT VENVI DONWAY PLACE. THE MARKET IS AT DON MILLS RETIREMENT RESIDENCE - 2 GREENBELT DR**



The Don Mills Retirement Residence Christmas Market will take place on Saturday, December 13, 2025, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Don Mills Retirement Residence located at 8 The Donway East, Toronto.

This event is hosted by The Don Mills Retirement Residence as a festive celebration for the holiday season.

### Event Details

- **Date:** Saturday, December 13, 2025.
- **Time:** 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM.
- **Location:** Don Mills Retirement Residence, 2 Greenbelt Dr, Toronto, ON.
- **Activities:** The event will feature local vendors, festive treats, and horse and carriage rides. For more details, you can visit the [Verve Senior Living news and events page](#).

## 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](http://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 NEXT WEEK

Please note:

- Some envelope numbers have changed. Starting in 2026, **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 assistance locating your envelopes, please ask one of the ushers.

For any corrections to your name or address, email [kathryn@st-bonaventure.ca](mailto:kathryn@st-bonaventure.ca).



### **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 20<sup>th</sup> - 5 pm

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> - 8:30 am, 10 am and 12 Noon

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

**Christmas Eve** - Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

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 25<sup>th</sup> - 10 am and 12 noon only

#### **Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup> - 5 pm

Sunday, December 28<sup>th</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**

Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> - 5 pm

#### **New Year's Day**

Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup> - 10 am and 12 noon only

#### **Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord**

Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5 pm

Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 am, 10 am and 12 noon

#### **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> - 5pm

Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> - 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](mailto:frtom@st-bonaventure.ca)

### Associate Pastor

Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv  
Ext. 233  
[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

### Ministry for Maturing Adults

Trena Finnegan  
[trena@st-bonaventure.ca](mailto:trena@st-bonaventure.ca)

### Administrative Assistant

Kathryn MacInnis  
[kathryn@st-bonaventure.ca](mailto:kathryn@st-bonaventure.ca)

### 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 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](http://www.saintanthonyofpadua.net)

## REFLECTION

**“In those days, John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea...” ~ Matt. 3:1**

John the Baptist appears in the wilderness. How he got there is up to much speculation. Folklore has it that when King Herod ordered all the young baby boys under two years old to be killed Elizabeth took John and hid in the wilderness. Zechariah apparently was killed at the Temple because he refused to give the location of his family. Again this is all legend. We have no way of knowing what actually happens to John's parents, but we know the angel Gabriel instructs them to raise him as a Nazarene, one who vows to be set apart for God, (*Numbers 6:1-12*). From childhood John must have practiced a disciplined life, actively focused and attentive to the call of God. What sort of man is John the Baptist? He is most likely an enigmatic figure. The scriptures say he comes “neither eating or drinking,” so he is not overtly social and seems to attract people merely by his presence and preaching. He doesn't perform miracles like Jesus. John's mission is to prepare the way for Jesus, and, as such, he is remembered as no other in history. Yet, even John faces challenges both during his preparing and waiting in the wilderness and in his calling to mission.

The wilderness motif is apt for Advent because the difficulty of waiting may feel like a rough wilderness. But it harbors an invitation to reflect on the wilderness motif as one in which John was prepared to be Christ's forerunner. Americans live in a culture of excess. We are conditioned to think that more is better. and extravagance is fulfilling. John offers the possibility that seasons and spaces of austerity can redirect our focus to the things of God if we choose to take advantage of such opportunities. How is John's spirituality shaped by his time in the wilderness? Does wilderness living allow him to endure the necessary sacrifices and trials of his ministry? Does his experiences of God's provision and care sustain him when life proves taxing? John must be a man of extraordinary character and integrity.

If we envision our current period of waiting on God as a sort of wilderness, what might be the strengths and graces we could cultivate to prepare for the promised season? How can we embrace waiting as an invitation to live by faith and to grow in gratitude for God's patience with us and God's perfect timing?

Prayer ~ *Abiding Lord, you call us to prepare a way for you even as you prepare a way for us. Grant us foresight to pray for the strength, courage, and wisdom we will need in this season. Amen.*

~Enuma Okoro, “John the Baptist,” from *Silence and Other Surprising Invitations of Advent*, quoted at:  
<https://thevalueofsparrows.wordpress.com/2018/12/20/advent-reflection-john-the-baptist-by-enuma-okoro/>

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