



*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 on
Tuesday & Thursday**

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

www.st-bonaventure.ca

www.franciscans.org

*Epiphany of the Lord
January 7, 2024*

Bonnie News

Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure



*The Adoration of the Magi (c.1320), Giotto(1266-1337), tempera on wood, gold ground,
Metropolitan Museum of art, NYC.*

Epiphany by Malcolm Guite

It might have been just someone else's story,
Some chosen people get a special king.
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.
They did not know his name but still they sought him,
They came from elsewhere but still they found;
In temples they found those who sold and bought him,
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/>

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year, and we celebrated it so very well. The liturgies were beautiful and prayerful - and well attended. The decorations in the church were perfect. A special word of thanks to the Parish Staff and all who exercised a ministry. Thanks be to God, and thanks to all of you! Blessings throughout the New Year! *Fr. Tom*

LITURGY & SACRAMENTS

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, January 8	10 AM	Alejandra Ramos
Tuesday, January 9	9 AM	Helen Ng
Wednesday, January 10	9 AM	† Derek Leung
Thursday, January 11	9 AM	† David Tomcik
Friday, January 12	9 AM	† Pablo Geromo † Delia Robles † Norman Bell Intention Anna Maria Lamantia
Saturday, January 13	5 PM	† Frances Macdonald
Sunday, January 14	8:30 AM	† Nimfa Chua
	10 AM	The Parishioners
	12 PM	† Georges DeGannes
Sanctuary Lamps	Bl. Sac.	† Raymon Fung
	Bl. Sac.	Joan Watson
	O.L. Chapel	† Deanna Andrew

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.

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*, + *Gerry Devlin*, + *Alice Eaglen*, + *Deanna Andrew*,
+ *Norman Bell*, + *Jean-Gabriel Castel* and + *Romi Walsh*.

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.

800TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIVITY SCENE AT GRECCIO ~ PLENARY INDULGENCE



On the occasion of the 800th anniversary of "Christmas at Greccio" as experienced by St. Francis of Assisi, the Apostolic Penitentiary grants a plenary (full) indulgence to all the faithful who, from December 8, 2023 (Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary) to February 2, 2024 (Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord) visit and pray before a Nativity scene in a church entrusted to the Franciscan friars. The Franciscan Family had forwarded a request for this plenary indulgence to the Holy Father "in order to promote the spiritual renewal of the faithful and increase the life of grace..."

By pausing in devout prayer before a nativity scene in a church served by Franciscans, the faithful may obtain the plenary indulgence for themselves or the souls of the deceased under the following usual conditions:

The faithful must, in addition to being in the state of grace:

- have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin;
- have sacramentally confessed their sins;
- receive Holy Communion;
- pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.

It is appropriate, but not necessary, that sacramental Confession, reception of Holy Communion and the prayer for the Pope's intentions take place on the same day that one visits the Nativity scene; but it is sufficient that these sacred rites and prayers be carried out within several days before or after prayerfully visiting a crèche in a church served by the Franciscans. One sacramental confession is sufficient for several plenary indulgences. However, for each plenary indulgence one wishes to receive, a separate reception of the Eucharist and a separate prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father are required. A plenary indulgence can be gained only once a day. Those who are sick or unable to participate physically can obtain the indulgence by offering their sufferings to the Lord or by carrying out practices of piety.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD ~ JANUARY 8

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord is of relatively recent origin in the Roman Church, and its Liturgy of the Word is still tentative in the sense that of the three series of biblical texts prescribed (Years A, B, C), the first two readings of Year A can be used each year. However, it is important not to have too narrow a view of the mystery. This will happen if we limit ourselves to the fact that Jesus submitted himself to the baptismal rite that John the Baptist practiced in the Jordan. Each of the four Gospels has transmitted some recollection of what happened. Matthew recounts it in detail; Mark and Luke are content to merely mention it. John does not speak explicitly of the baptism but only of the Baptist's attesting that he had seen the Spirit descent on Jesus, 'the chosen one of God.' One must refer to the Synoptic Gospels.

All three have in common their corroboration that the Spirit came over Jesus, and that a voice was heard. The event is therefore a theophany that happened on the occasion of Jesus' baptism. This explains why the Eastern Church celebrates the Baptism of the Lord on Epiphany, for it was the manifestation of his status as the chosen one, the Son of God. In the Roman Church, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord has the same focus, as the entrance and communion antiphons clearly state:



After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, / and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, / and the voice of the Father thundered: / This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. (Entrance antiphon)

Behold the One of whom John said: / I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God. (Communion antiphon)

Yet, one can not dissociate the baptism of Jesus from that which he himself instituted in order to be given to those who believe in him. Not only because of the similarity of the rites, but because of the witness of the Baptist reported by the Fourth Gospel:

The one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘When you see the Spirit descend and rest on someone, it is he who is to baptize with the Holy Spirit’ (John 1:33-34; see Luke 3:16).

In fact, the liturgy places Christian baptism in the perspective of the divine manifestation that took place upon the baptism of Jesus by John.

*Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,
grant that your children by adoption,
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
may always be well pleasing to you. (Collect, option 1)*

As the manifestation—epiphany—of the Lord, the baptism of Jesus proclaims the baptism that elevates believers to the status of sons and daughters of God. It is a salvation event, a mystery and not an anniversary, that the last liturgy of the Christmas season celebrates. A mystery that must be meditated upon and lived in the light of the Scriptures, both of the Old and New Testaments. It is a mystery whose unfathomable depth can be seen in the rhythm of the celebrations that unfold in a kind of triptych. The central panel belongs successively to Matthew, Mark and Luke. On the left panel, we read a different prophecy from Isaiah each year. On the right panel there is a text of the Book of Acts (Year A) and an excerpt from the First Letter of John (Year B) or a passage from the Letter of Paul to Titus (Year C). Before lingering over each of them, the community assembled for the liturgy turns itself toward God.

*O God, whose Only Begotten Son
has appeared in our very flesh,
grant, we pray, that we may be inwardly transformed
through him whom we recognize as outwardly like ourselves. (Collect, option 2)*

From *Days of the Lord: The Liturgical Year. Vol. 1 Season of Advent, Season of Christmas/Epiphany* (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1991), 294-295. Revised translation of the antiphons and collects used.

HELPING OTHERS

CASSEROLES FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD REFUGE

In December the Good Shepherd received 42 casseroles from the Bonnie Cooks.

Now, 2024 gives the opportunity to begin again with the commitment of helping to feed those in need of a hot meal. We need more cooks to reach a goal of 50 casseroles each month. A BIG THANK YOU to all those faithful cooks who have provided a casserole either monthly or whenever possible. It all helps.

In these cold winter days hungry people find a warm place, to eat a hot meal at the Good Shepherd. Please be a part of this mission of mercy. Pans and recipes are available in the cupboard at the back of the church. Remember to sign for the pans you need.

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



Our confidential helpline is: **416-447-5571 Ext. 570** for those who need assistance.

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/>

FOOD DRIVE FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD CENTRE

The weekly food drive at St. Bonaventure Church helps provide meals for the homeless and at-risk individuals in our community. The Food Drive for the Good Shepherd was started a year ago. With the support and generous food donations from our parishioners and the children of St. Bonaventure School. So far this year we have sent ten thousand lbs. of food to the Good Shepherd to help feed the hungry. Wow!!!

Thank you. Thank you, to all our parishioners and the children of St. Bonaventure for your generous donations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MINISTRY WITH MATURING ADULTS

**Nurturing Our Spirituality in the Second Half of Life
With a Focus on Care of the Body, Mind and Spirit**

Trena Finnegan,
Ministry Coordinator
Email: trena@st-bonaventure.ca
Telephone: 416-447-5571 X 550



Coffee and Conversation: 9:45 - 10:00 am

Meeting: 10:00 - 11:30 am

January 16, 2024: Following the Star - Reflections on the Epiphany and the Journey of the Three Wise Men

January 30, 2024: Practical Spirituality from the perspective of a Permanent Deacon
More details to follow.

2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP

The 2024 offertory envelopes are available for pick-up in the back of the church (south vestibule). We are no longer mailing out the offertory envelopes. If you are currently neither using envelopes nor enrolled in Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG), please consider doing so. You will receive a tax receipt for your donations.

Contact the ministry centre for more information, 416-447-5571.

The last day for contributions for 2023 was December 31. If your donation was received by this date, it will be included in your 2023 Donation Tax receipt.

Thank you for your continued support of the parish!

CONTACT US

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Parish Manager
Connie Durante
Ext. 224
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

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

REFLECTION

“When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.” ~ Matthew 2:10

The word Epiphany means “an appearance or manifestation,” especially of a deity. Our celebration of the Epiphany shows the Magi making their way to the newborn Jesus and his family. The child “showed himself forth” to them, like a candle shows forth in the dark. The Magi followed light from far away (Persia?), the star which led them through the darkness to the tiny yet powerful light of Christ. It is a sweet story. We rejoice.

But we do remember that darkness is at hand also, the bad kind, the smoldering human rubble found all over the world in so many countries... The Wise Men moved, weary, into Jerusalem, and then straight into the jaws of the power-hungry, luxury-loving King Herod. They asked a question to the Jerusalem citizens that shocked Herod greatly when it got back to him. “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage” (Mt. 2:2). Ouch. The question revealed a stunning fact. There is to be a new king instead of Herod!... At this point Herod knew clearly he was dealing with God’s own design for the world, foretold by the scriptures of the very people he was supposed to be leading. Herod made up his mind to commit an atrocity. You know the story. The Magi had found and worshipped the tiny Christ. Herod, still in the dark, sent out troops to slaughter all boy babies of two years old or less in Bethlehem and surroundings, just to eliminate this so-called “King” (Mt 2:13-16). And, speaking of having “a hard time of it,” in T.S. Eliot’s words, Jesus’ parents had to cross the harsh desert into Egypt in order to save him. This child was like a candle in the wind.

Why do the readings talk so much about dark night on this Epiphany, which is the very feast of the dayspring? It is a complicated question, but here is one answer. Because God’s light only comes to us thoroughly mingled with the grubby reality of human life. Why else did he come as an infant? The Christ did not arrive to erase our troubles but to join us in them, to be a quiet light in our darkness, not a blinding replacement for the dark. So we have to be like the Magi. We have to have our own puzzling, sleepless nights, and we have to search and search, and never ever rest until we see the light as God chose to reveal it.

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May the Lord bless you and keep you!