



*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**

**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](http://www.st-bonaventure.ca)**

*Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 15, 2026*

# Bonnie News

*Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure*



*Votive Plaque with Eyes (6<sup>th</sup> Century). Syrian. Silver alloy. Greek inscription reads: "In fulfillment of a vow". Walters Art Museum. Public domain. Source: Wikicommons.*

## *LXXXVII Fundamenta ejus*

Kindle these lines with all your quickening powers,  
For all my springs of life arise from you,  
And like blind Milton in his midnight hours

I visit Sion's hill in dreams. I view  
Siloam's sacred brook and bathe my soul  
In those pure streams that cleanse me and renew

My vision and my purpose, make me whole  
And sound again. The city of my God  
Shines clear once more upon his holy hill,

My feet are set upon the royal road  
That leads me through these shadowlands, until  
I hear the trumpets, and set down my load,

Beside the river bank and drink my fill  
From that deep well of light at last and hear  
My saviour's words of welcome: 'all is well!'

<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2021/02/24/all-my-fresh-springs-a-response-to-psalm-87/>

## LITURGY & SACRAMENTS

### THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

|                     |          |   |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| Monday, March 16    | 9 AM     | Intention of Cecile Look Hong   |
| Tuesday, March 17   | 9 AM     | † Thomas Chung  |
| Wednesday, March 18 | 9 AM     | † Marguerite Bourgeois  |
| Thursday, March 19  | 9 AM     | † Gerald Blasby   |
| Friday, March 20    | 9 AM     | The Friars<br>The Parishioners<br>Intention of Louisa Chong<br>† Gerard Duarte<br>† Lilia Villasmil |
| Saturday, March 21  | 5 PM     | † Nimfa Chua  |
| Sunday, March 22    | 8:30 AM  | † Diana Marchisello   |
|                     | 10 AM    | † Rogelio Abad Pedragosa  |
|                     | 12 PM    | † Katerina Dinjer   |
| Sanctuary Lamps     | Bl. Sac. | † Justyn Klym   |
|                     | Bl. Sac. | † Nealia Somasundaram   |
|                     | Our Lady | Intention of Radek Votruba & Family   |

### HOLY COMMUNION FOR 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) will bring the Eucharist to them. 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

There is no Liturgy of the Word with Children this Sunday. It will resume on March 22 at the 10 a.m. Mass.

### FAITH & 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, + Joyce Chong, + Ann O'Leary, + Michael Price, + Theresa Duffy, + Rev. Sal Badali,  
+ Nabor Sequeira, + Diane Marchisello, + Suzanne McCallister, + Jorge Carvalho,  
+ Justyn Klym, + Patrick Doty, and + Nealia Somasundaram

### SUNDAY COFFEE CANCELLED - MARCH 15 & 22

Please note that Sunday Coffee after Mass will be cancelled on March 15 & 22 due to March Break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back the following week. Thank you for your understanding!



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## PRAYER NETWORK REQUESTS



The **Prayer Network** is a group of parishioners who pray daily for all the prayer requests received by the Network. Nearly 45 parishioners are members of this group which began 1994. All prayer requests are kept in confidence, and no names are included when requests are passed onto the Network. Please contact **Teresa Krijgsman at 416-709-8150** with your prayer intention or if you would like to become a member of the Prayer Network.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS ~ FRIDAYS THROUGH LENT

Each Friday during Lent after the 9 AM Mass. We will also have stations of the cross Friday evenings on March 13 and March 27, when the devotion will take place at 7 PM.

## CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION DURING LENT

### **\*\* REMINDER \*\***

Lent is an opportune time to celebrate the reconciling love and healing grace our Lord offers us as we prepare to renew our baptismal dignity at Easter. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a most natural way to celebrate God's mercy, forgiveness and healing. Forgiveness of sins is what God does. Receiving, celebrating, and living from God's reconciling grace is what we do.

**Regular Weekly Confessions:** Saturdays from 9am to 10am.

**Day of Reconciliation: Wednesday, March 18, 2026**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered:

- From 9:45am to 10:45am, 12 noon to 1pm
- **Communal Penance Service** at 7pm:

The communal service is an opportunity to join our sisters and brothers in asking for forgiveness during this important time of the year. All are invited to come together examine our lives through the life-giving lens of Sacred Scripture in a prayerful spirit, followed by an examination of conscience and concluding with individual confessions, penance and absolution. Several priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR EASTER



As we prepare to celebrate the joy of the **Resurrection**, we are looking for helping hands to beautify the Church for Easter. If you enjoy arranging flowers, helping with seasonal décor, or simply want to lend a hand in creating a prayerful and welcoming environment, we would love to have you join us! Decoration Day will be on Holy Saturday starting at 9am and if you're able to help, please contact the ministry centre or email our **Administrative Assistant, Kathryn** at [kathryn@st-bonaventure.ca](mailto:kathryn@st-bonaventure.ca).

LAST WEEKS OF LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

Saturday, March 28 at 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 29 at 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12 noon

**THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM ~ THE GREAT THREE DAYS**

**MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Holy Thursday, April 2 at 7 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in repose in the Parish Hall after Mass concludes with Night Prayer at 10 p.m.

*Please note: no morning Mass on Holy Thursday*

**COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

Good Friday, April 3 at 12 noon and 3 p.m.

**Blessing of Easter Food Baskets**

Holy Saturday, April 4 at 11 a.m. in the church

*Please note: confessions will not be heard on Holy Saturday*

**THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night- Holy Saturday, April 4 at 8:00 p.m.

*First celebration of the Resurrection with the Sacramental Initiation of our Elect.*

Easter Sunday, April 5 at 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12 noon

HELPING OTHERS

ST. BONAVENTURE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL) THEME OF THE MONTH



The Catholic Women's League incorporates a "theme a month" model to help councils live out the national focus "*Blessed are the Poor*" throughout the year.

**March Theme: Lenten Season of Giving**

The Toronto Diocesan Council invites us to deepen our Lenten Journey through simple acts of compassion. This month, we're encouraged to **join the World Day of Prayer, lend a hand at a soup kitchen, and support a single parent for a day.** Small gestures offered with love become powerful signs of faith in action.

**Monthly Motivations 2026-2027 - Legumes for Fortunes**

Please drop off donations of dried beans/chickpeas/lentils at the back of the church. You may also prefer to donate to the Community Share Food Bank online and they will spend the money wisely.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CWL MOVIE EVENT - MARCH 22 AT 1:15PM

The St. Bonaventure CWL Parish Council is pleased to host a special movie event exploring the life of **St. Josephine Bakhita**, a woman whose journey from enslavement to freedom and sainthood continues to inspire the world. Her story invites us to reflect deeply on human dignity, resilience, forgiveness, and the ongoing call to stand against all forms of exploitation.



We will gather in the Old Friary Living Room, where we'll watch this film followed by refreshments and a short discussion on Sunday, March 22, after the 12:00pm Mass - Show time 1:15pm.

To help us prepare the space comfortably, we are asking participants to reserve a spot. Please send your RSVP to **Jill Tonus** at [jilltonus@gmail.com](mailto:jilltonus@gmail.com) or phone 416-473-6523. All are welcome to join us for this thoughtful moving Lenten experience.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: MOVED BY MERCY, SERVING IN HOPE



**Are you called to become a Vincentian?**

*We can harm or heal those around us in so many ways. It does not need to be a miracle! A greeting, a look, a smile, a touch can bring the peace of Christ to someone in desperate need of reassurance - and no less can they harm and wound. ~HW*

We are inviting people into a vocational experience, persons moved by the Gospel. One member, Domenica, said this, "The work of SSVP fills my cup in a world that empties it."

Online and one-to-one orientation and training are provided. A vulnerable sector check is necessary for full membership. For more information, please email Jack or Judy at [john.cole@sympatico.ca](mailto:john.cole@sympatico.ca). Contact us at 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 Canada Helps:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/society-of-st-vincent-de-paul-st-bonaventure-conference/>



CASSEROLES FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD



**GOOD SHEPHERD  
MINISTRIES**

Could you make a casserole once a month, or even every two months? Each one makes a big difference. This is true community outreach: prepare a casserole at home, freeze it, and bring it to the Ministry Centre. No one who receives this meal will know you—but what a blessing to help feed the poor. Pans are available at the back of the church.

**Last day to bring casseroles for March: Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Angels Among Us Gala - April 25, 2026.**

Enjoy a night filled with delicious food, dancing, and a silent auction - all in support of life-changing programs for our most vulnerable neighbours. For more information,

please visit <https://goodshepherd.ca>

Your generosity directly supports The Good Shepherd's vital services, including the delivery of over **380,000** nutritious meals, safe emergency shelter, and essential care for seniors, Veterans and individuals in crisis. By participating, you'll also help people secure and maintain stable housing, prevent eviction, and access transformative addiction recovery and medical treatment.

*Together, we can lift spirits, open doors, and truly be angels among us.*

## SHARELIFE - CELEBRATING 50 YEARS - DOUBLE YOUR DONATION ON MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>

On March 19, 1976, Archbishop Philip Pocock made a Declaration on behalf of Life - a defining moment that led to the establishment of ShareLife. It was a moment when our Catholic community stood in faith and affirmed the dignity of every human life - a conviction that continues to guide us today.



On March 19, 2026, we will honour this milestone with a special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Matching Gift opportunity. Thank to a generous anonymous donor, all gifts made that day in increments of \$50 will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000.

To celebrate fifty years of faith in action, we invite you to consider a gift in increments of \$50. For example, \$50, \$100, \$150 etc. Donations must be made online March 19 to qualify for the matching. To donate visit [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate).

On that same day, we will also share our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary campaign video, featuring Frank Cardinal Leo, reflecting on what these fifty years have meant for our Catholic community - and the responsibility now entrusted to us. Click on the link below to view the video.

[ShareLife 2026 Campaign - 50th Anniversary - First Preview](#)

On March 19 - and beyond - your faith in action will honour fifty years of ShareLife and strengthen the life-giving work of the agencies serving our most vulnerable brothers and sisters.

## SHARELIFE - FIRST COLLECTION DATE IS MARCH 22



You can help men answer God's call to priesthood by supporting ShareLife

God planted the seed of a priestly vocation in Rev. Mr. Moonjun Alphonse Choi's heart as a child. He later entered St. Augustine's Seminary, where God led him through moments of joy, deep reflection, and a faith that continues to grow. His path has been one of both grace and challenge, yet he has walked forward without fear - because of you.

Your generous heart lifted the burden of financial worry, allowing Rev. Mr. Moonjun Alphonse Choi to embrace his calling fully and prepare for a life of service to the Church. God-willing, he will be ordained into priesthood this May. Because of your faithful generosity to ShareLife, many more young men will have the opportunity to answer God's call. **The first ShareLife Sunday collection is on March 22. Our parish goal this year is \$125,000.** Please give at the parish using ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - FISH & CHIPS DINNER



The Knight of Columbus invite everyone to a  
**Fish & Chips Dinner**

**Friday, March 27, from 4:30PM to 6:30 PM.**

📍 **Location:** Parish Hall, St. Bonaventure Church

💰 **Cost:** \$15 per plate (includes pop and water)

All parishioners, families, and friends are warmly welcome. Come and enjoy a great meal and fellowship with the community!



## 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 (10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.), usually twice monthly, September to June. We look forward to welcoming you and feel free to invite a friend!

Next Session:

**Tuesday, March 24, Main Hall, 10 AM to 11:30 AM**

**St. Francis and the Mystery of Salvation (Stigmata), Presented by Fr. Tom Reist**

**Save the Date: April 14 & 28, May 12 & 26 and June 9 & 23**

## DYNAMIC WOMEN OF FAITH CONFERENCE - SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026



17th Annual Dynamic Women of Faith Conference - Saturday March 21, 2026

Le Treport Banquet Hall, Mississauga. Keynote Speaker - **Johnnette Benkovic Williams** from EWTN: What does it mean to be a Woman? **Sister John Mary SV**: Learning to listen in a distracted world. **April Smith** from North Pole, Alaska: Live adventurously, live virtuously. **Dorothy Pilarski**: One Mother's heart - One mother's Fiat. **Natalie Regnier**: Birck by brick - Building a Strong Family. Bishop Ivan Camilleri will be celebrating the closing Mass.

REGISTER HERE [Dynamic Women of Faith Conference | Toronto](#) or <https://dynamicwomenfaith.com>

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY: A CELEBRATION OF FAITH AND MISSION - MARCH 17, 2026



As we mark **St. Patrick's Day**, we remember not only the beloved cultural traditions but also the profound spiritual legacy of St. Patrick himself. Once brought to Ireland as a captive, Patrick later returned - freely and faithfully - as a missionary, sharing the Gospel with humility, courage, and deep trust in God's guidance. St. Patrick's teachings continue to shape Catholic spirituality. His use of the shamrock to explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity reminds us that God reveals Himself in ways both simple and profound. His famous *Breastplate*

prayer reflects a life rooted in Christ's presence, protection, and love. May this feast day inspire us to walk with the same steadfast faith, bringing God's light to others through our words, actions and witness.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

## SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH - MARCH 19, 2026



This week we celebrate **St. Joseph**, the quiet, steadfast guardian of the Holy Family and Patron of the Universal Church. Joseph's faithful obedience, humility, and trust in God continue to guide us in our own vocation to love and service. As we honour him, may we learn to listen for God's voice with the same openness of heart, and to care for others with the same gentle strength. *St. Joseph, pray for us!*

## 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

[mma@st-bonaventure.ca](mailto:mma@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

**“And who is he, sir? Tell me so that I may believe in him.” John 9:36**

The Psalm says, “The Lord is my Shepherd. There is nothing I shall want.” But the Gospel Reading tells the story of a man born blind. How is the Psalm supposed to be made consonant with the Gospel Reading? Doesn't the man born blind have something that he lacks? When the story ends, he has become an icon of faith and courage.

The disciples of Jesus are anxious about this blind man too, and they try to ally their anxiety by finding some explanation for his blindness. “Why was this man born blind?” they ask Jesus. “Did this man sin or was it his parents?” If it was *anybody's* sin, then they can reasonably hope that such suffering won't come to their families, at least if they all try hard not to sin. But this is an appalling way to think about suffering, isn't it? It is terrible to suppose that all suffering is punishment for sin. What kind of God inflicts blindness on a newborn as a punishment for sin?

Jesus dismisses their attitude entirely. This man's blindness has nothing to do with the sins of anyone, Jesus says. It's something about the future, not something about the past, that explains his blindness. God let this man be born blind that the works of God might be manifest through him. But Jesus' explanation looks at least as bad as the thought of the disciples, doesn't it? What kind of God inflicts blindness on a newborn so that the works of God can be manifest in him later? But think about that blind man himself.

At the outset of the story, he is an impoverished, outcast nobody of a beggar. Then the mighty works of God are manifest in him, and he takes the Lord as his Shepherd. The result is that he himself becomes glorious. When the story ends, he has become an icon of faith and courage. He has stood up to the worldly power of his world and witnessed to the goodness of God in very challenging circumstances. He has become an example to us all. Who would not want to be like him? And that is why it was true for him that the Lord was his shepherd, even though he was born blind. In the end, the Lord was his Shepherd, and there was nothing he did want, just as the Psalmist says.

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