Third Sunday of Lent
March 8, 2026

Bonnie News

Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure

Growing in Spirit, Community, and Service

Christ and the Samaritan woman drawing water, Catacomb of Callistus, 2nd century AD, from the from the book Die Malereien der Katakomben Roms, plate 29. Source: Wikicommons

I heard the voice of Jesus say
by Horatius Bonar

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
Stoop down, and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream:
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.

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

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LITURGY & SACRAMENTS

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, March 9	9 AM	Intention of Dave Alon
Tuesday, March 10	9 AM	† Jude Weerasinghe
Wednesday, March 11	9 AM	† Michelle Anastacia Reyes
Thursday, March 12	9 AM	† Joseph Armengol
Friday, March 13	9 AM	Brothers, Sisters & Benefactors of the Order † Isabella Addison De Leon † Michael Farnum † Grazia Maida † Rosemary McMahon
Saturday, March 14 Sunday, March 15	5 PM	† Antonia Ortuoste
	8:30 AM	The Parishioners
	10 AM	† Edward Nolan
	12 PM	† Natiuzdad Borac
Sanctuary Lamps Bl. Sac.	† Patrick Doty	
Bl. Sac.	For the Sick of the Parish	
Our Lady	Intention of Dave Alon	

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 or call Mary Catherine directly at 416-303-0269.

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, and + Patrick Doty

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.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord of Life,
You shaped every human being in your image and likeness.
We believe you created us for communion, not for war,
for fraternity, not for destruction.

You who greeted your disciples saying, "Peace be with you,"
grant us the gift of your peace
and the strength to make it a reality in history.
Today we lift up our prayer for peace in the world,
asking that nations renounce weapons
and choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy.

Disarm our hearts of hatred, resentment, and indifference,
so we may become instruments of reconciliation.
Help us understand that true security
does not come from control fueled by fear, but from trust, justice,
and solidarity among peoples.

Lord, enlighten the leaders of the nations,
so they may have the courage to abandon projects of death,
halt the arms race,
and place the lives of the most vulnerable at the center.
May the nuclear threat never again dictate the future of humanity.

Holy Spirit,
make us faithful and creative builders of daily peace:
in our hearts, our families,
our communities, and our cities.
May every kind word, every gesture of reconciliation,
and every choice for dialogue be seeds of a new world.
Amen.

Video available at https://youtu.be/dSrOCQDFdFA
Produced by Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network: https://www.popesprayer.va/
In collaboration with Vatican Media www.vaticannews.va

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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.

https://www.archtoronto.org/siteassets/media/offices--ministries/pastoral-ministries/office-for-ecumenical-and-interfaith-relations/documents/cardinal-leo---lenten-message-2026.pdf

LENTEN RETREAT – MARCH 9, 11, & 12 AT 7PM

Lenten Retreat!

Don't miss this Extraordinary Lenten Retreat in this Year of Grace

As part of our **Year of Grace** celebrations
we welcome **Most Rev. John Corriveau, OFM Cap.**,
former Minister General of the Friars Minor Capuchin
and **Bishop Emeritus of Nelson, BC**,
to lead our parish Lenten Mission!
St. Francis: Call to Conversion
Monday, March 9th, Wednesday March 11th,
and Thursday March 12th

Come be inspired, renewed, and uplifted as we enter more deeply into this sacred season.
A rare opportunity—join us and bring a friend!

Refreshements to follow in the Main Hall of the Parish Centre.

When: **March 9, 11, 12**
Time: **7:00PM**
Where: **St. Bonaventure Church - 1300 Leslie Street**

CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION DURING LENT

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.

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.

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 or phone 416-473-6523. All are welcome to join us for this thoughtful moving Lenten experience.

SHARELIFE

Through ShareLife, you ensured Tyler didn't face his hardship alone

Many of our brothers and sisters are struggling in silence. Because of your support of ShareLife, Tyler didn't face his hardships alone. When he first came to counselling at a Catholic Charities agency you support through ShareLife, he was withdrawn and guarded – reluctant to open up. But slowly, with support, he began to share the weight he carried: the trauma of losing his father to a drug overdose and the pain of repeated loss in his family life.

Over time, Tyler found the courage to face history, make sense of his struggles, and take steps toward healing. Today, he says counselling has become something he looks forward to – even when it's hard – because it's helping him grow. Through ShareLife, you help people in our community access mental health services. You offer healing to those who feel forgotten and hope to those who are hurting.
The first ShareLife Sunday collection is on March 22. Please give at the parish using ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharlife.org/donate.

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. 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

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 30th.

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 Sheperd'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.

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 (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 10, Main Hall, 10 AM to 11:30 AM

The Woman at the Well, An Encounter with a loving and compassionate God

As we journey through Lent, on the 3rd Sunday, we hear the story of the Samaritan Woman meeting Jesus at the Well and how her life was dramatically changed by that meeting.

We will spend time in reading, reflecting and meditating on this gospel and enjoy some time in group sharing. Looking forward to having you join us to help deepen our Lenten experience!

Presented *by: Trena Finnegan*

***Save the Date:* March 24, Main Hall, 10 AM to 11:30 AM**

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

ST. BONNIE'S JOYFUL KNITTERS – WEDNESDAY MARCH 11 AT 9:30 FRANCIS ROOM

Part of the Needlework Guild of Canada, our knitting group at St. Bonaventure's shares our handiwork with those in need, helping to support 22 agencies. Our work is entirely accomplished by volunteers.

Mission Statement: *To donate annually new articles to selected agencies for distribution to their clients. These items may be handmade or purchased but may not be sold.*

Our We meet once each month on the second Wednesday in the Francis Room of the Parish Centre. We provide items for infants, toddlers, children, teens, and adults. Knitted items may include hats, mitts, scarves, shawls, etc. Please come and see what we are all about. A friendly group will welcome you. For more information, please call **416-447-5571.**

ST. CLARE INN SPRING FUNDRAISER EVENT ON MAY 1ST

Early Bird Discount Extended until March 9 at midnight!
Take advantage of the discount and save $5 on single tickets or buy a table of 10 and save $100.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – MARCH 8, 2026

Happy International Women's Day! Today, we joyfully celebrate the women of our Parish and around the world – women who lead with courage, serve with compassion, and witness to God's love in countless ways. We give thanks for your strength, your faith, and the unique gifts you share with our community. May God bless you today and always.

CONTACT US

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Pastor
Fr. Thomas Reist, OFM Conv.
Ext. 234
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Lay Pastoral Associate
Gregory Beath
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Parish Manager
Connie Durante
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ARE YOU REGISTERED? IF NOT, ASK AN USHER FOR A PARISH REGISTRATION FORM TO COMPLETE

Ministry for Maturing Adults
mma@st-bonaventure.ca

Administrative Assistant
Kathryn MacInnis
kathryn@st-bonaventure.ca

St. Clare Inn Office:
1320 Leslie Street, Suite 200
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9 416-690-0330
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

REFLECTION

"The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." John 4:14

The story begins back on the mainland, far up in the hills behind Cannes, where a little river starts on its way to the sea. But after some miles, it suddenly disappears underground, flowing under the mountains, beneath the shoreline, and below the seabed itself. It crosses under the Bay of Cannes, bypassing Saint Marguerite but flowing beneath Saint Honorat before emptying its fresh water somewhere farther out in the Mediterranean. What had made the monks choose the little island over its larger partner, then, was its supply of fresh water. The underground river provided "sweet water flowing amid the bitterness of the sea." It was this that had allowed the monks to turn their rocky islet into a fruitful garden.

The next morning I stand outside the monastery [of Lérins], watching the sun rise over the pink spray of the waves that splash on the rocks. We've been up for a couple of hours. The gentle daily routine begins at 3:30 a.m. with Vigils and continues through periods of quiet and community prayer, reading, meals, and work in the vineyard, the library, the kitchen, or one of the workshops. But Saint Honorat has not always been this peaceful.

It seems that over the centuries there were constant raids, whether from pirates, Saracens, the Spanish, or the Genoese. Near one of the ancient hermit chapels researchers recently discovered a *martyrium,* the burial place of several monks killed during one of the frequent raids in the early days. And out on a rocky point nearby, a strange granite box of a building stares outward across the waves. This was a unique response to the problem of security: a windowless stone cube that served as a four-story fortified monastery. Although the monastery-fort was abandoned quite a while ago, the bad times continued. In more recent years, the island monks have had to put up with cannons being placed on top of their hermit chapels and having troops billeted on their sacred soil.

Throughout all of these trials, however, the underground river kept flowing. When the gardens ran red with the blood of brothers slain by marauders, the river still ran clean. When the abbot had to travel to Spain to ransom two of his novices from the Saracens, the river still flowed fresh. When the ancient stone walls of a sacred hermit chapel collapsed under the weight of a clumsy cannon squatting on its roof, the hidden river kept running cool, year after year.

The life of every baptized Christian is like this islet. Each of us has a spiritual stream of grace, a river of God's love flowing beneath our everyday existence, constantly giving us life and making us fruitful and beautiful. It flows below the busy surface of our daily routine and deep beneath our pains and pleasures, hopes and struggles, making all of these bear fruit.

Source: https://thevalueofsparrows.wordpress.com/2018/03/19/pilgrimage-lerins-france-drinking-from-the-river-by-albert-holtz/

May the Lord bless you and keep you!