



*Growing  
in Spirit,  
Community,  
and Service*

*First Sunday of Advent  
November 30, 2025*

# Bonnie News

*Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure*



Na Gromnicznq, Teodor Axentowicz (Polish-Armenian 1859-1938) Oil on canvas.  
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## *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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[https://stbonaventuresdo.  
archtoronto.org/](https://stbonaventuresdo.archtoronto.org/)

## The Awakening by James Weldon Johnson

I dreamed that I was a rose  
That grew beside a lonely way,  
Close by a path none ever chose,  
And there I lingered day by day.  
Beneath the sunshine and the show'r  
I grew and waited there apart,  
Gathering perfume hour by hour,  
And storing it within my heart,  
Yet, never knew,  
Just why I waited there and grew.

I dreamed that you were a bee  
That one day gaily flew along,  
You came across the hedge to me,  
And sang a soft, love-burdened song.  
You brushed my petals with a kiss,  
I woke to gladness with a start,  
And yielded up to you in bliss  
The treasured fragrance of my heart;  
And then I knew  
That I had waited there for you.

## LITURGY & SACRAMENTS

### THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 1	9 AM	† Leopoldina D'souza
Tuesday, December 2	9 AM	† Randolph Fung
Wednesday, December 3	9 AM	† Justine Forrest
Thursday, December 4	9 AM	† Christopher Harris
Friday, December 5	9 AM	Vocations † Maria Prieto † Maria Mamorno † Nikoll Zeku † Pjeter Prenga
Saturday, December 6	5 PM	† Ivy Lyn
Sunday, December 7	8:30 AM	The Parishioners
	10 AM	† Julia Smith
	12 PM	† Anna Korbylo
Sanctuary Lamps	Bl. Sac.	Intention of Leong Family
	Bl. Sac.	† Harry & Kaye Kimpton
	Our Lady	For past, present, and future blessings

### 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.

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & BENEDICTION - MONDAY, DECEMBER 1ST FROM 12:30 - 2:00PM

Our first Monday of the month prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Please join us along with one grade of students from St. Bonaventure School for Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

- 12:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, hymn, incensation, greeting and opening prayer
- 12:35 Scripture reading
- 12:40 Reflection on the Scripture reading
- 12:45 Intercessions concluded with the Lord's Prayer
- 12:50 Children head back to school
- Adoration continues with others who are present. This is open to all. A particular invitation is extended to the children's parents, grandparents, and godparents.
- 1:00 Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available in the Mary Chapel from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.
- 2:00 Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament (hymn and incensation) followed by reposition.



## 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.

## 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.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

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)

## 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.

ShareLife-funded agencies and Food Security Grant recipients are responding to families facing difficult situations, comforting seniors with fellowship, distributing meals to our neighbours in need, and so much more.

Your sacrificial gift this Advent makes this support possible. You offer immediate relief, restore hope, and remind your brothers and sisters in Christ that they are not alone; that there is a family of faith who cares deeply for them.

Our goal this year is **\$109,000**. To date we have achieved **\$87,871.65**. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](https://sharelife.org/donate).

## REQUEST FOR ALL PARISHIONERS TO UPDATE THEIR INFORMATION

As we approach year-end tax receipts and envelopes for 2026, we want to ensure we have your most up-to-date information. Please email [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.**

## CASSEROLES FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD REFUGE

So many hungry people come to the Good Shepherd for a meal every day. Some live on the street and depend on the kindness of others to survive. The colder days approaching will bring more people in need of a hot meal. We need more volunteers to make casseroles for this "MISSION OF MERCY". Please, if you can join the group of parishioners who make a casserole. Once a month or once every two months would make a big difference to the amount St. Bonaventure sends to the refuge.

Your contribution of a casserole contributes to assist in serving the less fortunate in our community. A hot meal is a welcome necessity especially in these colder days of the year. Up to **600 meals** are provided each day and more if you count in the residents who live at the Good Shepherd. In **October** our parish community sent **67 casseroles**. This contributes to one meal.

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.

## CWL INITIATIVE FOR 2025: SHARE THE WORDS

### Strength



The strength of belonging to a sisterhood of thousands of women is powerful and our impact makes a difference in our parishes, communities, country and beyond. The Catholic Women's League is the largest women's organization in Canada. Imagine the many gifts and talents shared for the good of others. There is strength in numbers. Come join us!

## CWL CHRISTMAS PROJECT NOVEMBER 16 - DECEMBER 7

### Ladies for Ladies: Help fight Period Poverty

Share in the Joy of the Season - by giving dignity, comfort, and care to those in need.

We will be collecting items from: November 16 to December 7.

Most helpful items:

- Heavey/Overnight Pads
- Maxi Thins with or without wings
- Regular Pads for moderate needs

For more information, contact Barbara Morton at [bjmorton@rogers.com](mailto:bjmorton@rogers.com)

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHRISTMAS PROJECT - NOVEMBER 8 - DECEMBER 7

### Help Us Bring Warmth This Winter - Sock Drive for the Homeless

November 8 - December 7

As the cold weather settles in, many in our city go without one of the most basic necessities: clean, warm socks. The **Knights of Columbus Council 5080** is organizing a **Sock Drive** to support two local organizations doing essential work with the homeless and vulnerable:

- Good Shepherd Ministries
- Haven Toronto



We invite all parishioners to join us by donating **new socks** (men's preferred, but all are welcome).

**Donation boxes** will be located at the back of the church from **November 8 to December 7**.

If you know of another organization that could benefit from this initiative, please let us know at

[KofCC5080@outlook.com](mailto:KofCC5080@outlook.com)

This small act of kindness can make a big difference.

Thank you for your generosity and for walking with us in service to those most in need.



## 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/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MARKET - SUNDAY DECEMBER 14, 2025

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!



## 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 2, 2025: 10 AM to 11:30 AM - Advent Retreat**

**Presenter: Sister Francis Bisland, Missionary Sister of the Precious Blood**

**Reflection on the Jubilee Year, "Hope Does Not Disappoint"**

**We journey as "pilgrims" longing for renewed freedom, purpose and most especially Hope.**

**All are welcome!**

**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!**

## ADVENT GIVING TREE IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL NEEDS LAUNCHED NOVEMBER 29

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 a n 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 COFFEE CLUB - DECEMBER 4



***Join us for a magical celebration!***

- Thursday December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am
- Baretto: 1262 Don Mills Road - Unit 106 located in the alpha healthcare building.

*Coffee, panettone, and laughter divine,  
a celebration of love in God's design.*

## 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 NIGHT - 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).

## THE VENVI DONWAY PLACE CHRISTMAS MARKET - DECEMBER 13

The Venvi Donway Place 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 Venvi Donway Place 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, 8 The Donway East, 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](#) or the [Venvi Donway Place Facebook 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!*

## CALLING ALL TEACHERS!

St Bonaventure school is looking to hire any university graduates interested in working as an emergency supply teacher. This will offer you an excellent first step to either applying to teacher's college or to determine your interest and skill in working with kids. Please contact the Principal, Dawn Papadimitriou, at 416-393-5263, if interested in applying.

## ADVENT RESOURCES



As we anticipate the beginning of Advent, may our hearts be filled with anticipation and joy. Advent is a time of deep reflection, prayer, and preparation, reminding us of the Coming of Christ and the true meaning of Christmas. Let us enter this season of hopeful waiting, ready to welcome the Savior more deeply into our lives. Here are some online supports for your Advent reflection and prayer:

### **Pray as you Go: Advent Audio Retreat 2025 ~ Advent Psalms**

'Advent Psalms' will bring you prayer and reflection throughout Advent, including brand new music. You can listen at your own pace, by yourself or with others. Launches Monday 24th of November with an Introduction session. <https://prayasyougo.org/>

### **Sacred Space Advent Retreat 2025: Christ Living Within**

"Each Advent invites me again to ask: 'Is it to move forward and help to bring Christ's light into the world, which is our Christian mission in life?' This doesn't happen instantly but instead takes time to grow. The time of reflection over the weeks can help deepen our relationship with God, allowing His light to shine brighter and leaving behind anything that is not serving us well. We can do this by letting go of control and surrendering to God's love in prayer. In doing so, we can spread hope and light in the darkness, bringing kindness and compassion to those around us." *Siobhan Murphy, the writer of our Advent 2025 Retreat*

Begins on Sunday 30th of November, the first week of Advent, and concludes on Christmas Eve.

<https://sacredspace.com/events/retreat/advent-2025/>

## THE ADVENT WREATH



**Candles and Colours** - There are four candles on the wreath, one for each week of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation and waiting. Lit candles are always a sign of the light of Christ. The liturgical colour for the season is a deep, bluish violet which represents the colour of the night sky just before dawn breaks. Three of the candles are violet, but one is pink. The pink candle reminds us that Christians know that even in the midst of darkness, the light has already come into the world. Therefore, there is cause for Joy even while we wait. The Sunday that we light this candle third is called *Gaudete* Sunday. The word *Gaudete* means rejoice.

### **Blessing of the Advent Wreath**

*Sprinkle the advent wreath with holy water, pray this prayer:*

Loving God, we ask you to bless this advent wreath.  
Just as the circle never ends, your love lasts through all time and all seasons.  
As we light the candles, may we always remember  
that your Light has come into our world.  
Help us to prepare our hearts  
for the birthday of your Son, Jesus.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**





### **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  
[ftrtom@st-bonaventure.ca](mailto:ftrtom@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  
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### Administrative Assistant

Kathryn MacInnis  
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### 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

**“Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.” ~ Matt. 24:44**

The whole meaning of the Christian community lies in offering a space in which we wait for that which we have already seen. Christian community is the place where we keep the flame alive among us and take it seriously, so that it can grow and become stronger in us. In this way we can live with courage, trusting that there is a spiritual power in us that allows us to live in this world without being seduced constantly by despair, lostness, and darkness. That is how we dare to say that God is a God of love even when we see hatred all around us. That is why we can claim that God is a God of life even when we see death and destruction and agony all around us. We say it together. We affirm it in one another. Waiting together, nurturing what has already begun, expecting its fulfillment - that is the meaning of marriage, friendship, community, and the Christian life.

Our waiting is always shaped by alertness to the word. It is waiting in the knowledge that someone wants to address us. The question is, are we home? Are we at our address, ready to respond to the doorbell? We need to wait together to keep each other at home spiritually, so that when the word comes it can become flesh in us. That is why the book of God is always in the midst of those who gather. We read the word so that the word can become flesh and have a whole new life in us.

Simone Weil, a Jewish writer, said, “Waiting patiently in expectation is the foundation of the spiritual life.” When Jesus speaks about the end of time, he speaks precisely about the importance of waiting. He says that nations will fight against nations and there will be wars and earthquakes and misery. People will be in agony, and they will say, “The Christ is there! No, he is here!” Everybody will be totally upset, and many will be deceived. But Jesus says you must stand ready, stay awake, stay tuned to the word of God, so that you will survive all that is going to happen and be able to stand confidently (*con-fide*, with trust) in the presence of God together in community (*see Matthew 24*). That is the attitude of waiting that allows us to be people who can live in a very chaotic world and survive spiritually.

~Henri Nouwen, “Waiting for God,” from *Finding My Way Home*, quoted at:  
<https://thevalueofsparrows.wordpress.com/2018/12/01/advent-meditation-waiting-for-god-by-henri-nouwen/>

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