

*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,
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9**
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Fax: 416.447.4082

www.st-bonaventure.ca

*Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 15, 2024*

Bonnie News

Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure



Detail of a mosaic, Basilica of Sant' Apollinare in Classe, Ravenna (c.549).
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The Sign Of The Cross

WHENE'ER across this sinful flesh of mine
I draw the Holy Sign,
All good thoughts stir within me, and renew
Their slumbering strength divine;
Till there springs up a courage high and true
To suffer and to do.
And who shall say, but hateful spirits around,
For their brief hour unbound,
Shudder to see, and wail their overthrow?
While on far heathen ground
Some lonely Saint hails the fresh odor, though
Its source he cannot know.

By St. John Henry Newman

LITURGY & SACRAMENTS

NEXT WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, September 16	9 AM	† Otti Hall
Tuesday, September 17	9 AM	† Jesus & Nemia Ubalde
Wednesday, September 18	9 AM	† Jake Abramowicz
Thursday, September 19	9 AM	Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gabriel Family
Friday, September 20	9 AM	The Friars The Parishioners † Anthony Tangney † Margaret Otter † Kimberly Hanson † Cesar Baynosa † Josef Sitar † Ross Abbott
Saturday, September 21	5 PM	† Frances Macdonald
Sunday, September 22	8:30 AM	Intention of Sherwin Chua
	10 AM	† Leo Muldoon
	12 PM	† John Milarvie
Sanctuary Lamps	Bl. Sac.	† Jude Weerasinghe
	Bl. Sac.	Intentions of the Hisey Family
	Our Lady	Personal Intentions

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN AT THE 10 AM SUNDAY MASS

The volunteers facilitating Liturgy of the Word with Children are enjoying their summer holidays. They will return to help the children pray with the Word on Sunday, September 22 at 10 am. To enquire about volunteering for the 2024-25 season, contact Maria at 437-993-8458.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard on a weekly basis on Saturdays from 9 to 10 am in the Mary Chapel. In addition, you can always make an appointment with Fr. Peter or Fr. Tom to celebrate this Sacrament of God's mercy.

PREPARATION FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST COMMUNION

Roman Catholic children may begin to prepare for celebrating their First Reconciliation (Confession) and First Communion (Eucharist) around the age of 7. If you are parishioners of St. Bonaventure Church and a parent of a 7-year-old child or older who is baptised Roman Catholic, and you think he or she is ready to prepare for these Sacraments, then it will be important for you to attend one of the following Parent Information Meetings in the Main Hall of the Parish Centre. You will learn about our parish's sacramental preparation program and how to register your child for this 2024-2025 season:

- Sunday, September 22 at 1 p.m. in the Main Hall of the Parish Centre **OR**
- Tuesday, September 24 at 7 p.m. in the Main Hall of the Parish Centre

PREPARATION OF OLDER CHILDREN FOR BAPTISM

Are you the Catholic parent of a 7-year-old child or older who has not been baptized and would like to enquire about preparing your child for Baptism and if you also live within our parish boundary? If so, please contact Greg at 416-447-5571, extension 258, for more information **no later than September 25.**

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION (YOUTH)

Information Meetings about the Confirmation 2024-2025 program and how to register our parish's youth (ages 12 and up/Grade 7+) will be held on: **Sunday, October 6 at 1 p.m.** and **Tuesday, October 8 at 7 p.m.** in the Main Hall of the Parish Centre. The young person requesting Confirmation, and one parent are asked to attend **one** of these meetings.

CONFIRMATION AS AN ADULT

If you are a baptized adult Catholic (18+) who has yet to be Confirmed, let us lead you to full initiation in the life of Christ by preparing you to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. We are aiming to provide a short preparation program for adult Catholics in the autumn. Please contact Greg at 416-447-5571 Ext. 258, to make an appointment no later than September 4, 2024. Be prepared to provide a copy of your baptismal certificate recently issued by the Roman Catholic parish where you were baptised. Note: this program is separate from our annual Confirmation preparation program for the parish youth.

PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Couples who want to marry at St. Bonaventure's Parish or are planning a marriage outside of the Archdiocese of Toronto (for example, in another diocese either in Canada or in another country) are required to meet with either Friar Tom or Friar Peter and complete their preparations in the Archdiocese of Toronto. One of either the bride or the groom (i.e., the Catholic party) ought to live within the parish boundaries, or, if living outside the parish boundaries, should be a registered parishioner and participate in Eucharist on a regular basis. It is a policy of the Archdiocese of Toronto that one year's advance notice is required for marriages. It is important that couples do not book reception venues, etc., before contacting either Friar Tom or Friar Peter.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND



Dear Parishioners, we are re-establishing the Eucharistic Ministry for the Homebound. Our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will bring the Eucharist to homebound members of the parish who are ill or otherwise unable to attend church. If you or someone you know might benefit from his ministry, please call the Ministry Centre at 416-447-5571 and let us know.

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*, + *Romi Walsh*, + *Brigid O'Rourke*, + *Joyce Dias Lamoureux*, + *Joan Watson*,
+ *Matt Gleeson*, + *Denise Baranecki*, + *Jhonny Mujica*, + *Alberto Samonte*, + *Marilyn Sher*, + *Mary-Lou Gleeson*,
+ *Virginia (Ginny) Doty*, + *Shirley Hynd*, + *Maureen Shanahan*, + *Edith Munro*, + *Celia Lyne*, + *Chi Cheung*,
+ *Albert Mihaly*, + *Stanley Kee*, + *Irene Devlin*, + *Austin Lehman* and + *Jude Weerasinghe*

800TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STIGMATA OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI ~ SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

Authorized by Pope Paul V, September 17th is the Feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi, a feast day celebrated within the Franciscan communities.

Stigmata, from the Greek word, generically points to a “brand” or a “mark.” It is the common word to describing branding of cattle. In the Christian context it refers to the bodily marks resembling the wounds of the crucified Christ. St. Francis was the first person, historically recorded, who bore the marks of the crucified Christ in his hands, his feet, and in his side. The feast is a reminder of the power of love, as seen in the opening prayer for the festal Mass:

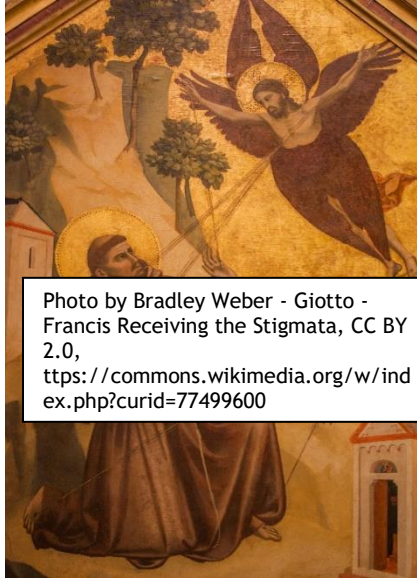


Photo by Bradley Weber - Giotto - Francis Receiving the Stigmata, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=77499600>

“Lord Jesus Christ, who reproduced in the flesh of the most blessed Francis, the sacred marks of your own sufferings, so that in a world grown cold our hearts might be filled with burning love of you, graciously enable us by his merits and prayers to bear the cross without faltering and to bring forth worthy fruits of penitence: You who are God, living and reigning with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.”

On the day after Francis died, October 3, 1226, the Minister General of the Franciscan Order, Brother Elias, released a letter to all the friars informing them of Francis’ passing. In the letter he wrote: “I announce to you a great joy and a new miracle. It is a sign, which has been unheard of from the very beginning of time except in the Son of God, Christ the Lord. Not long before his death, our brother and our father was seen to resemble the crucified Lord, bearing in his body the five wounds which are the marks of Christ.”

Yet these were not marks that Francis received on his body while at death’s door. He received the marks some two-years prior while in prayer on the remote mountaintop of Mt. Alverna (also known as La Verna). Francis had gone there with two other friars, Brother Leo being one. While deep in prayer on a day near the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, a seraph (angel) appeared. The seraph was seemingly crucified on a cross. Thomas of Celano, writing within a few years of Francis’ death (ca. 1229), described what happened as Francis contemplated the possible meaning of the vision:

“...the marks of nails began to appear in his hands and feet, just as he had seen them slightly earlier in the crucified man above him. His wrists and feet seemed to be pierced by nails, with the heads of the nails appearing on his wrists and on the upper sides of his feet, the points appearing on the other side. The marks were round on the palm of each hand but elongated on the other side, and small pieces of flesh jutting out from the rest took on the appearance of the nail-ends, bent and driven back. In the same way the marks of nails were impressed on his feet and projected beyond the rest of the flesh. Moreover, his right side had a large wound as if it had been pierced with a spear, and it often bled so that his tunic and trousers were soaked with his sacred blood.”

St. Bonaventure later wrote: “The sight of it amazed Francis and his soul experienced joy mingled with pain. He was delighted with the sight of Christ appearing to him so graciously and intimately and yet the awe-inspiring vision of Christ nailed to the cross aroused in his soul a joy of compassionate love.”

What was one to make of this vision and miraculous event? As Bonaventure wrote, “Because of this new and astounding miracle unheard of in times past, Francis came down from the mountain a new man adorned with the sacred stigmata, bearing in his body the image of the Crucified not made by a craftsman in wood or stone, but fashioned in his members by the hand of the living God.”

One issue is that the reception of the stigmata seems to possibly be an event unheard of in Christian history. There are some who argue that St. Paul was the first, as the Greek word *stigmata* is used in a verse at the end of the Letter to the Galatians, where he writes, “*I bear on my body the marks (stigmata) of Jesus.*” There were Dominicans who claimed that Blessed Walter of Strasbourg was also granted the same privilege. And there were some - and many since - who have doubted the historicity of the account, claiming fraud or later embellishment by the Franciscans themselves. One argument is that Francis himself never mentions the event or the stigmata.

Given it occurred at a point in Francis' life when he had withdrawn from leadership of the Order, was in terrible health, and had entered a very reflective phase of this life, his lack of mention should not be surprising. Perhaps, too, he took his own counsel from Admonition 19: *for what a person is before God, that he is and no more*. Who can say?

We can say that Brother Leo, the only witness to the account, testified to the stigmata's presence on Francis' body. So too, witnesses included Brothers Rufino and Elias, Pope Alexander IV (when he was a young cardinal), and several prominent lay people of Francis' time.

St. Bonaventure places the stigmata within a framework that emphasizes that the stigmata only appeared at the conclusion of the vision. This made them a response of divine love to human love through the intermediary of the Christ-seraph, who transformed the friend of Christ that was Francis into the likeness of the one whom he loved. As a result, the flesh of the stigmatized was presented as the exterior manifestation of a mystical relationship between the human person and God - proof of the transformative power of love.

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HELPING OTHERS

SHARELIFE 2024 PARISH CAMPAIGN

We have raised \$62,100 of our goal of \$109,000 or 57% of our goal. We have not yet reached our parish goal. If you are able to, please consider making a donation.



Through your support, ShareLife agencies can provide for the many needs of the greater community. Thank you for sharing your blessings.

CASSEROLES FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD REFUGE



It is a Mission of Mercy to assist in the food program at the Good Shepherd. Providing essential services requires a collective effort and Good Shepherd cannot do it alone. Thanks to the casserole makers and those that volunteer to serve, individuals facing hunger are welcomed and served a daily meal at the Good Shepherd. In 2023, a total of 330,020 meals were served. Today, the Good Shepherd is serving upwards of 950 meals each day. The need is great!

Thank you to those who contributed during the month of August. Please contribute and make a difference. We really need more cooks to make casseroles! If you have previously signed up and have been away or unable to make a casserole for a time, we welcome you back. Recipes and pans are available in the cupboard at the back of the church. Please make difference for those that are hungry, make a casserole! We thank you in advance!

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



By visiting people in need in their homes and walking alongside to guide them to resources to break the cycle of poverty, we give them hope for the future. Your generous donations to our poor boxes and through Canada Helps do help us make a difference. Thank you!



Our confidential helpline is: **416-447-5571 Ext. 570**. 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/>

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.

These are in Person Meetings. There is no need to pre-register for these events. Just come and you will be warmly welcomed! And feel free to invite a friend!

trena@st-bonaventure.ca



Tuesday, September 17, 10 to 11:30 AM

Brain Fitness Presented by Jill Hewlett

Learn fun, empowering and user-friendly neuroscience, along with easy and effective strategies that you can use to support current and long-term brain health and functions. Use it, don't lose it!

Jill Hewlett is a nationally recognized speaker, author, Brain Fitness Expert and Wellness Authority.

Combining user-friendly neuroscience and inspired common sense strategies, Jill draws out the natural leadership, resources and resilience in individuals and organizations to support them in reducing stress and achieving greater levels of productivity, wellness, and success.

Tuesday, October 1, 10 to 11:30AM

Visio Divina Presented by Sandra Nelson

Parishioner and retired teacher Sandra Nelson will lead a reflection and exercise based upon the transformative prayer practice of 'divine seeing', considering how the Holy Spirit works through us in our own creative acts and processes, and how contemplating art can encourage us to sink into God's presence within. In the talk, Sandra will begin with a brief self-introduction, reflect on 'art', its value, particularly in the Catholic Church, share some personal examples of creative endeavours, ask the group to think of their own creativity, to see themselves as artists, outline the process of *Visio Divina*, provide a choice of images for guided reflection, have small group and whole group sharing and close the session with a prayer.

Tuesday, October 8, 10 to 11:30 AM

10 Ways to Improve Mental Health as we age by Dr. Sandra Sagrati

In this workshop, participants will learn to identify depression and effective ways to care for themselves and others.

*Dr. Sandra Sagrati is a clinical psychologist, who works with children, teens and adults. She obtained her doctoral degree at the University of Toronto, worked at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and now works in her own private practice, Toronto West Psychology. She has published research in the areas of depression and anxiety, and has recently published a book, *Pivot Self-Talk: Stop Asking All the Wrong Questions*.*

Tuesday, October 22, 10 to 11:30AM

Spiritual essentials for Life's Second Act: A Workshop on the 12 Needs of the Elderly - Based on the book by Janet Schaeffler, OP, facilitated by Trena Finnegan, Coordinator - Ministry with Maturing Adults

The first two needs Sr. Schaeffler identifies are: The Need to live a life of Meaning and Purpose and The Need for Love and Relationships. We will spend time in small groups, pondering, wondering and discussing these needs with guided questions. We will then explore and share in the large group creative ways to practice, celebrate and live out these needs so that we can continue to enjoy life to the full.

Save the Dates: November 5, and November 19. More information coming soon!

2024 LINDA'S WALK - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

2024

Linda's
Walk

The 15th Annual Linda's Walk will be taking place on Saturday September 28, 2024 at St. Bonaventure Church.

Registration for the walk is now open! You can find the link to the online registration page below. A free t-shirt will be included with every registration. There will also be a lunch following the walk in the Main Hall. Thank you for your kind and continued support! If you have any questions, please reach out to us at info@stclareinn.org.

Saturday September 28, 2024:

- Registration: 10:00am
- Walk Starts: 10:00-10:30am
- Lunch: 12:00pm

Registration Fees: Adult: \$25.00 Youth (Ages 12 to 15): \$15.00 Children (Under 12): Free!

You can also find the walker registration and pledge form for download on our website: <http://www.stclareinn.com/events/>. Please register online using the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/lindas-walk-2024-tickets-929170763767?aff=oddtcreator>

CWL - UPCOMING EVENTS

Back by popular demand is Line Dancing! We have opened this event to all parish members. Please join us for an hour of foot stomping, heart pumping, laughing till it hurts exercise. Grab your dancing shoes and join us at the Parish Hall September 19th at 7:00 pm. This monthly event will run until June of 2025 so if you miss September, you can join us on the third Thursday of each month. There will be a \$5.00 admission fee to help offset the cost of the instructor.

The CWL General Meeting will be held Thursday, September 26th at 7:00 pm in the Main Hall. After a long, leisurely summer break we thought we'd help you pick up the pace with Speed Dating. This exciting ice breaker event guarantees that you'll go home knowing your sisters in The League just a little bit better.

Come join us at Linda's Walk on Saturday, September 28th. Let's walk as a team to help raise funds for this worthy cause. To register please visit <http://www.stclareinn.com/events> or contact Celine Massaroni at cmassaroni10@sympatico.ca

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL FLEA MARKET, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024



Save the date - Saturday, October 26th for our annual Flea Market. Donation and set up days are Thursday, October 24th and Friday, October 25th.

We are accepting gently used items so please remember the Flea Market as you prepare for fall!

Volunteers needed! If you are a high school student in need of volunteer hours, please consider helping! **More information to follow.**

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

Associate Pastor

Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv
Ext. 233
FrPeter@st-bonaventure.ca

Lay Pastoral Associate

Gregory Beath
Ext. 258
gregb@st-bonaventure.ca

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

Ministry for Maturing Adults

Trena Finnegan
Ext. 550
trena@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

1340 Leslie Street
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9 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

“Whoever loses their life for my sake, and for the sake of the Gospel, will save it. (Mk 8:35)

The first suffering we must experience is the call sundering our ties to this world. This is the death of the old human being in the encounter with Jesus Christ. Whoever enters discipleship enters Jesus’s death, and puts his or her own life into death; this has been so from the beginning. The cross is not the horrible end of a pious, happy life, but stands rather at the beginning of community with Jesus Christ. Every call of Christ leads to death. Whether with the first disciples we leave home and occupation in order to follow him, or whether with Luther we leave the monastery to enter a secular profession, in either case, the one death awaits us, namely, death in Jesus Christ, the dying away of our old form of being human in Jesus’s call.

But there is yet another suffering and yet another disgrace that no Christian escapes. Only Christ’s own suffering is the suffering of reconciliation. Yet because Christ did suffer for the sake of the world’s sins, because the entire burden of sin fell upon him, and because Jesus Christ bequeaths to the disciples the fruit of his suffering - because of all this, temptation and sin also fall upon the disciples. It covers them with pure shame, and expels them from the gates of the city like the scapegoat. Thus does the Christian come to bear sin and guilt for others.

Individual Christians would collapse under the weight of this, were they not themselves borne by him who bore all sins. In this way, however, they can, in the power of Christ’s own suffering, overcome all the sins that fall upon them by forgiving them. Thus do Christians become the bearers of burdens: *Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.* Just as Christ bears our burdens, so also are we to bear the burdens of our brothers and sisters. The law of Christ which must be fulfilled is the bearing of the cross. The burden of my brother or sister that I am to bear is not only that person’s external fate, that person’s character and personality, but is in a very real sense that person’s sin. I cannot bear it except by forgiving it, in the power of the cross of Christ in which I, too, have a portion.

Those who are not prepared to take up the cross, those who are not prepared to give their life to suffering and rejection of others, lose community with Christ, and are not disciples. Discipleship is commitment to the suffering Christ.

- by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “Discipleship and the Cross,” from *Meditations On The Cross* as quoted at:
<https://thevalueofsparrows.wordpress.com/2017/03/09/lent-discipleship-and-the-cross-by-dietrich-bonhoeffer/>

May the Lord bless you and keep you!