



*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***

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*The Nativity of the Lord
December 25, 2022*

Bonnie News

Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure



*Giotto di Bondone, c.1266/67- 1337, Nativity (detail), Scrovegni Chapel,
Padua, Italy, completed 1306 AD.*

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR...

As you sit in the presence of a dimly lit manger set, or quietly offer a prayer of thanksgiving after having received Holy Communion, be in awe of the Divine Life that God shares with us!

As you visit family and friends and exchange holiday greetings, celebrate well! Discover, too, a renewed warmth with a distanced relative or a loving embrace of a reconciled friend. Travel safely and stay healthy!

The Friars and Staff of St. Bonaventure Parish wish you every blessing and a share in God's peace. Be assured of our prayers for you and yours.

Have, also, a Happy New Year!

Friar Tom Reist
Pastor

CHRISTMAS OCTAVE MASS SCHEDULE

Mass will be celebrated December 26th through 30th at 9 AM.

- December 26, Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr
- December 27, Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
- December 28, Feast of the Holy Innocents
- December 29, Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity
- December 30, Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Saturday, December 31, 2022

5:00 PM

Sunday, January 1, 2023

8:30 AM

10:00 AM

12:00 Noon



Museo Dell'Opera del Duomo, Prato, Italy, Madonna col Bambino (c.1365 AD)

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 26	9 AM	† Percival & Charlotte Pinheiro
Tuesday, December 27	9 AM	† Maureen Talley and A Forgotten Soul in Purgatory
Wednesday, December 28	9 AM	Intentions of Joseph & Anne Heng
Thursday, December 29	9 AM	† Marguerite Pommer
Friday, December 30	9 AM	Thanksgiving for Chiu Family All Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, December 31	5 PM	† David Hui
Sunday, January 1	8:30 AM	Parishioners
	10 AM	† Edmond Odette
	12 PM	† Peter Glowczewski
Sanctuary Lamps are offered for:	† Friar Boniface Reinhart, OFM Conv. Parishioners in Hospital Parishioners who must work Christmas Day and throughout the holidays	

NEXT WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, January 2, 2023	9 AM	† Grazia Maida
Tuesday, January 3	9 AM	Intentions of Patricia Macdonald
Wednesday, January 4	9 AM	† Gerald Desjardins
Thursday, January 5	9 AM	† Carol Beatty
Friday, January 6	9 AM	Vocations Deceased Members of the Parish † Jacinta Osuji Intentions of the Nasturzio Family
Saturday, January 7	5 PM	† Gregory Dosman
Sunday, January 8	8:30 AM	Parishioners
	10 AM	† Terrance Wolff
	12 PM	† Jimmy Hayes
Sanctuary Lamps are offered for:	The children of the Parish † Peter Glowczewski Victims of violence	

WHAT IS THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AND WHAT IS THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE?

The Christmas Season is a period of roughly two to three weeks (depending upon which day of the week December 25th falls in any given year), which invites us to ponder and give thanks for the wondrous mystery of God-become-human: the Incarnation of Jesus Christ and his manifestation to the world.

The first day of the Christmas Season begins with the celebration Evening Prayer on the 24th of December, followed by Masses celebrated throughout the evening and night, and continues with the Masses of Christmas morning and throughout Christmas Day on the 25th. The Church gathers to give thanks for what God has truly done for us by being born among us. St. Gregory of Nazianzus wrote: “What [Christ has not] assumed has not been healed; it is what is united to his divinity that is saved.” God shares in our humanity, that is, becomes one of us “in the flesh” so that we may share in God’s divinity and experience salvation.

From Christmas Day through January 1, we celebrate the Octave of the Nativity. The full glory of Christmas is celebrated for eight days. The only other octave in the Church calendar is the Easter Octave. These two octaves celebrate two central pillars of our salvation: the birth and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The number of eight (*octo* in Latin) days is significant as it was on the ‘eighth day’ (Sunday) that a New Creation was wrought through Christ’s resurrection from the dead: “the ceaseless foretelling of life without end which renews the hope of Christians and encourages them on their way.” (John Paul II, *Day of the Lord*, #26) Eight days of a heightened celebration of the Nativity of the Lord places the historical event of the Lord’s birth in the context of the saving event of the resurrection; the transformative grace and power of both events continues this day and into the future for all humankind and, indeed, all of creation.

This period of eight days from Christmas Eve to January 1 includes feasts which celebrate various facets of the Nativity: The Holy Innocents (on Dec. 28, reflecting Matt. 2:13-18), the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (on the Sunday after Christmas Day or December 30th), and concludes with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1, the earliest of her titles and the oldest feast in her honour). There are also feasts in the Octave that the Church has celebrated even before the 4th Century, when the annual celebration of the Nativity of the Lord was enshrined in the Church’s calendar. For example: the Feast of St. Stephen on Dec. 26th.

The Christmas Season continues beyond the Christmas Octave with two more significant celebrations. The Epiphany of the Lord commemorates the manifestation of Christ to the nations and is kept either on January 6th or the first Sunday after January 1st (as is the case in Canada). In the Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Churches, it was (and continues to be in some) celebrated as the great feast of the birth of Jesus Christ. The liturgical texts centre on the Magi, but also include references to Jesus' baptism and his first miracle at the wedding in Cana: all revelations of his identity as the Son of God. In some cultures, Epiphany is the culmination of "Twelve Days of Christmas" when celebrated on the 6th of January. The Christmas Season concludes with the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord, celebrated either on the Sunday or Monday following Epiphany. As another manifestation of the Lord's identity, "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." (*Days of the Lord*, 294)

The Nativity of the Lord is so rich a mystery that no one liturgy can express its depths. The whole Season of Christmas is given to us with its many feasts so that we may enter the many facets of the wonder of the Lord's birth, behold His glory, and be transformed.

REFLECTING ON THE MANGER ~ THE MYSTERY REVEALED TO US IN THE HAY



The ox knows its owner,
and the donkey its master's manger;
but Israel does not know,
my people do not understand.
- Isaiah 1:3

The story of the birth of Jesus, as told to us by Luke, is full of joy in the midst of great conflict and sadness - even irony and rejection. It prepares us for the scandal of the cross by helping us see, in such a beautifully told story, that Jesus' mission is revealed to us, in how he came to us - in poverty and humiliation. There, in the hay, we begin to know. There, in the manger, we begin to understand. Our God is revealed to us by coming in the lowliest of possible places. It is a meditation for our whole lives. This story is here to bring us light in the midst of any darkness, poverty, rejection, emptiness, sinfulness we experience. By reminding us of where he comes, the Good News is also a revelation of who we are. We are the "people who walk in darkness." We are people who experience parts of our lives as dry and unwelcoming as that hay. We are people who, on our own, not only fail to know and understand; we are capable of tremendous infidelity and stubborn independence.

We get our word "manger" from the Latin (and so French, Italian, Spanish) root, which means simply "to eat." Jesus comes, into the greatest place of our poverty, not only to be "with us" but to nourish us. The manger can be the place we go this Christmas to be fed with the acceptance, love, and peace we need. There is no place

GROWING IN *Spirit, Community, and Service*

of darkness in which we need ever feel alone. There is no situation, no loss, no tragedy that need ever leave us empty. There is no sin, no matter how selfish that will ever leave us apart from God's love.

We have prayed, "Come, Lord Jesus. Come and visit your people. We await your coming. Come, O Lord." Now, our eyes are opened to the wondrous joy of his coming to us in that manger 2,000 years ago, so that we will know and understand his coming to us in our hunger today, and ultimately so that we will long for his final coming to bring us to the banquet that has been prepared, to fill all our longing.

- From Creighton University Online Ministries "Celebrate Christmas"

VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VARIOUS MINISTRIES!

We invite you to share your gifts and talents with the parish community. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please call 416-447-5571. We are actively looking for:

Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Ministers of Hospitality
Children's Liturgy	Rosary Apostolate	Altar Servers
Casserole Makers	CWL New Members Welcome	Knights of Columbus New Members Welcome

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN



Sundays at the 10 a.m. Mass for children ages 4 to 9 (older children who "missed out" the past two years due to pandemic restrictions may participate. A parent is welcome to accompany a child who is too shy to participate on their own.

PLEASE NOTE: The children will remain with the assembly for Christmas Mass and on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Jan. 1). We will resume sending the children on Epiphany (Jan. 8).

Volunteers are needed to celebrate Liturgy of the Word with Children! Kindly send an e-mail with your name and contact info to admin@st-bonaventure.ca. We will contact you to answer any questions you may have and provide training. Volunteer screening with a police background check is mandatory for this ministry.

LITURGY & SACRAMENTS

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: A NEW TIME AND PLACE FOR CONFESSIONS

Confessions will be heard on a weekly basis on Saturdays from 9 to 10 am in the Mary Chapel. In addition, during our monthly Eucharistic Adoration (first Monday of each month) confessions are heard 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.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION AND EUCHARIST

Registration for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist this Winter-Spring 2023 season is now closed.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Tuesday, December 27 is the deadline to register youth (ages 12 and up/Grade 7+) to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation this Winter-Spring 2023 season. Please ensure your child's registration form is dropped off to the Ministry Centre (through the mail slot to the left of the glass doors) no later than Tuesday, December 27. If you were not able to attend one of the information sessions, please contact Greg no later than December 13 so that you can be informed about the program and receive a registration package.

HELPING OTHERS

Christmas For unto us is born this day a Saviour! In response to so great a love, only the gift of my whole self will do. You have given Yourself, dear Lord; in love and thanksgiving, I commit myself afresh to You.

CASSEROLES FOR GOOD SHEPHERD REFUGE

“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food?” Matt. 25:37

A tremendous thank you to the Bonnie’s Casserole Cooks who, on short notice, provided 49 casseroles for The Good Shepherd to feed the hungry. If you would like to join this ministry, call or email to get information on how you can help. Let us remember that hunger does not take a holiday for many living on the street.

Pans and a choice of recipes are provided. Kindly remember to record the information requested on the label. Contact casseroles@st-bonaventure.ca or office 416-447-5571. Next due date is January 22, 2023. Office hours for drop off: Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday 10 am to 2 pm.

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Thank you for your generous support of our Advent Giving Tree. **Greenview Retirement Lodge, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, A Refugee Family** and **The Sisters of Life: Young Mother’s Program** will gratefully receive your donations in time for Christmas.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



The Bible reminds us that it’s not enough to have prayerful empathy for the suffering. Our prayers are important, but they must also lead to action. God calls us to come together to feed the hungry, tend to the sick, and lend a helping hand to those who have fallen on hard times.

Please assist Vincentians to lift the burdens of others, especially those who struggle to afford the basic necessities of life, and to refresh them with humble care and service.

Your donations to our three poor boxes and through Canada Helps do make a difference. Thank you! Online donations can be made securely through the following link:

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

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:

+ Gerald Desjardins, + David Hui, + Teresa Brown, + Patricia Docherty, + Nina Jagaric,
+ FlordeLiz Noriel, + Donna McGuinness, + Claudine Fox, + Anita Baker, and + Cecily Foss

May heaven be theirs and may peace be to those who mourn their passing.

PRAYER NETWORK REQUESTS

Network members pray daily for the intentions which are held in confidence. Let the Prayer Network know when a situation is resolved, and members will offer prayers of thanks.

New members are welcome! Call Teresa Krijgsman with your intentions: 416-444-4719.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD ~ JANUARY 1

“The solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, is a celebration of extraordinary theological and spiritual richness. It enables us to contemplate in Mary the humble servant of the Lord elevated by the grace of God to an inconceivable majesty because she brought into the world the one who was, for her first of all, ‘God saves,’ Jesus.

In her we salute the one who is blessed among all women, perfect model not only of all the blessed of God, but of the whole Church, of which she is the greatest icon.

In bearing the Saviour, she gave us the one who makes us sons [and daughters] of God, heirs by the grace of the kingdom, who cry out to the Father by calling him, ‘Abba!’”

(from *Days of the Lord, The Liturgical Year*, Vol 1., Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1991, pg 247.)

ROSA MYSTICA (EXCERPTS)

by Gerard Manley Hopkins

I

The rose in a mystery, where is it found?
Is it anything true? Does it grow upon ground? —
It was made of earth's mould but it went from men's eyes
And its place is a secret and shut in the skies.
In the gardens of God, in the daylight divine
Find me a place by thee, mother of mine.

V

Is Mary the rose then? Mary the tree?
But the blossom, the blossom there, who can it be? —
Who can her rose be? It could be but one:
Christ Jesus our Lord, her God and her son.
In the gardens of God, in the daylight divine
Shew me thy son, mother, mother of mine.

A MARIAN PRAYER FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Loving Mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea,
assist your people who have fallen, yet strive to rise again.
To the wonderment of nature, you bore your Creator,
yet remained a virgin after as before.
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,
have pity on us poor sinners.



CONTACT US

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Lay Pastoral Associate
Gregory Beath
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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

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

Please don't forget to notify us if you have a
change in address or phone number.
admin@st-bonaventure.ca

REFLECTION

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us.'* ~ Luke 2:15

The first people to experience the coming of the Saviour were shepherds, those lowly, uneducated ones who lived among the animals. They were not the only ones, of course, but they were the first to welcome the Saviour. It was no accident that such lowly people would be called in first to pay homage to the Saviour. It is to the lowly, after all, that Christ came first as Lord and Redeemer. The circumstances of his birth testify to that: his mother "wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the place where travelers lodged."

Christmas is the great annual renewal of our being a Church filled with wonder at the nearness of her God. The nearer we are to our God, the nearer we should become to those lowly ones who are God's special ones. We are challenged at Christmas to do what Jesus and the angels did: bring the good news of redemption to the outcast and the lowly. The "tidings of great joy [are] to be shared by the whole people," and no one is to be left out, not even the most hopeless or despicable person.

~ Gerald Darring

May the Lord bless you and keep you!