



The Spirit of
SAINT BONAVENTURE
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
LOVE GOD - LOVE OTHERS - MAKE DISCIPLES



Advent 2021
Volume 9, Issue 3



Advent & Christmas at Saint Bonaventure

Advent marks the start of a new liturgical year, an opportunity for a spiritual fresh start. Join us for worship this season!

Advent Reconciliation Service: Sunday, December 12, 4 p.m.

Eight priests will be available to hear individual confessions during the service.

“Every time you go to confession, immerse yourself in My mercy, with great trust, so that I may pour the bounty of My grace upon your soul. When you approach the confessional, know this, that I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest, but I myself act in your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy. Tell souls that from this fount of mercy souls draw graces solely with the vessel of trust. If their trust is great, there is no limit to My generosity. The torrents of grace inundate humble souls. The proud remain always in poverty and misery, because My grace turns away from them to humble souls.” – Jesus to St. Faustina, recorded in Divine Mercy in My Soul

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve: Friday, December 24, 4:30 p.m. | 10 p.m.

The 4:30 p.m. Mass will be livestreamed on our Staying Connected and YouTube pages.

Christmas Day: Saturday, December 25, 8 a.m. | 10 a.m.

Please note there will be no 4:30 p.m. Mass on this Saturday.

The Holy Family: Sunday, December 26, 8 a.m. | 10 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: Saturday, January 1, 10 a.m.

Please note there will be no early Mass on this Saturday.

The Epiphany of our Lord: Saturday, January 1, 4:30 p.m. | Sunday, January 2, 8 a.m. | 10 a.m.

The 4:30 p.m. Mass will be livestreamed on our Staying Connected and YouTube pages.





**SAINT
BONAVENTURE
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

901 East 90th Street
Bloomington, MN 55420

Phone: 952 - 854 - 4733

Email: office@saintbonaventure.org

Website: saintbonaventure.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Pastor

Father James Chiiteth

fatherjames@saintbonaventure.org

Deacon & Executive Director

Mickey Redfearn

mickeyr@saintbonaventure.org

Administrative Assistant

Sarah Morgan

sarah@saintbonaventure.org

Communications & Stewardship

Jodi Ketter

jodik@saintbonaventure.org

Faith Formation

faithformation@saintbonaventure.org

Faith Formation

Gary Russell

garyr@saintbonaventure.org

Administrative Assistant

Tricia Kawakami

triciak@saintbonaventure.org

Health & Wellness

Becky Running

beckyr@saintbonaventure.org

Maintenance Custodian

Jo Segura Garcia

jog@saintbonaventure.org

Custodian

Elena Perez

Director of Music & Liturgy

Karen Thompson

karent@saintbonaventure.org

Organist & Accompanist

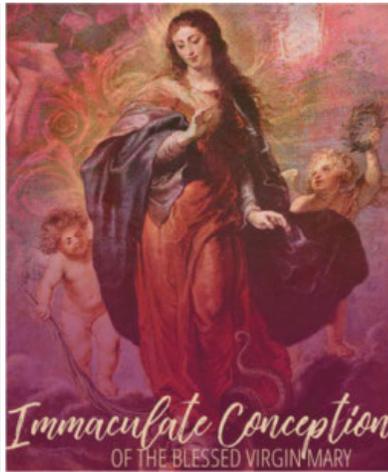
David Padden

Friars in Residence

Fr. Benny Mekkatt, CFIC

Fr. Jimmy Puttananickal, CFIC

Fr. Antony Skaria, CFIC



*Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Tuesday, December 7, 6 p.m.

- Archbishop Hebda will celebrate the Vigil Mass and Fr. James, Fr. Jimmy, Fr. Benny, and Fr. Antony of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception (CFIC) will renew their religious vows.
- This Mass will be livestreamed.

Wednesday, December 8, 8:45 a.m.

- Fr. James will celebrate Mass.

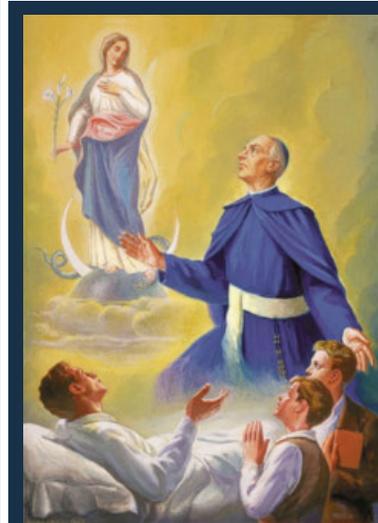
CFIC Vow Renewal: December 7

We celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 8. This year, Archbishop Hebda will celebrate the Vigil Mass with us here at Saint Bonaventure Tuesday, December 7, at 6 p.m. and Fr. James, Fr. Jimmy, Fr. Benny, and Fr. Antony of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception (CFIC) will renew their religious vows in CFIC tradition.

Blessed Luigi Maria Monti founded the "Congregation of The Sons of the Immaculate Conception" in 1857 in Rome, three years after the proclamation of the "Doctrine of Immaculate Conception" by Blessed Pope Pius IX as infallible through the bull "Ineffabilis Deus" in 1854.

While proclaiming Luigi Monti "Blessed" on November 9, 2003, Pope Saint John Paul II said, "Monti entirely dedicated his life to healing the physical and spiritual wounds of the sick and the orphaned. He loved to call them "Christ's poor ones," and he served them, enlivened by a living faith and sustained by intense and continual prayer. In his evangelical commitment, he was constantly inspired by the example of the Holy Virgin and placed the Congregation he founded under the sign of Mary Immaculate."

To manifest his great devotion to the Immaculate Virgin, he wanted all the members of his religious order to renew their three evangelical councils (vows) of Chastity, Poverty, and Obedience when they celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception every year. Following the tradition, we joyfully honor our heavenly patroness on her Feast Day by renewing our vows during the Holy Eucharist.



This image visually represents the charism of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception.

Blessed Luigi Monti had a filial devotion to the Immaculate Conception, and he founded the congregation with the charism of taking care of the sick and the orphans and abandoned children.

Blessed Monti, Pray for us!



Friary Kitchen Remodel

Jodi Ketter

Exciting News - our vintage Friary Kitchen is getting an update! Cooking (and eating!) together is definitely part of the identity of the Congregation of The Sons of the Immaculate Conception (CFIC) order. Fr. James shared that as a missionary, one develops an “international stomach” as you are served food from around the world.



*Jan Vornwald Painting
1980 Remodel*

In March 1980, the Buildings and Grounds committee completed a remodeling project in the friary kitchen and dining room, installing custom cabinets, wallpaper, and fresh paint. While you can still take in that vintage wallpaper, only minor upgrades and maintenance have taken place since then, including the current oven and refrigerator being replaced in 2005.

In June of 2018, there was a plan to remodel the kitchen. In the end, it was decided to carpet the rec room and hallway, install plank flooring in the dining room, and have the original house section of the Friary repainted professionally.

Historically, the friars at Saint Bonaventure have had either a cook or meals prepared for them. Since the CFIC priests cook together, it makes sense to revisit and update those 2018 plans to open up underutilized adjoining spaces to make an excellent space for cooking and eating together in 2022.



Fr. Jimmy and Fr. Antony Cooking Together



Fr. Howard at Open House After 1980 Remodel

Friary Garden

On the northwest corner of the Friary, there is now a 16' x 24' garden plot. Next year the priests will grow cucumbers, bitter gourd, tomatoes, and other fruits and vegetables for cooking.

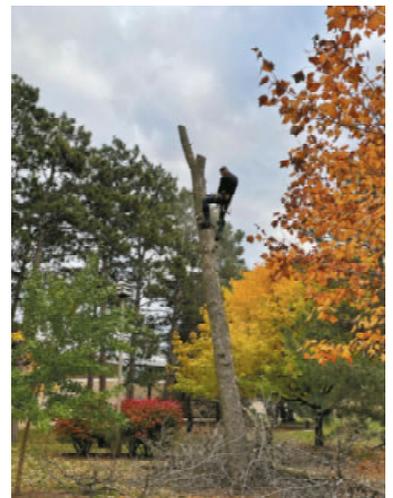


Putting in the Garden Plot

More or Less Trees

We have hundreds of beautiful trees on our property, such as ash, birch, maple, a vast array of evergreens, and many other types of trees. Recently, we removed ten trees due to disease and others that were dying or partly dead. Half of the trees removed were ash trees with emerald ash borer disease. After the city’s inspection, we learned they would come by to mark them for removal this fall. We still have about 45 ash trees on our property, and unfortunately, anticipate gradually removing many of them in the near future due to disease.

We began planning for this reality several years ago by planting various new trees knowing disease would likely hit our trees sooner or later. We still have many beautiful trees and a large variety of types trees on our beautiful property. Landscaping our grounds has always been a work in progress. We wanted to keep you informed about activities you may have seen on the grounds lately.





Journeys Ended, Journeys Begun

Gary Russell

As the song goes, "Journeys ended, journeys begun," my journey at Saint Bonaventure is coming to a close on December 31. When I accepted the position as Director of Religious Education back in 2000 I never imagined I would be here for over 20 years but looking back I realize that I fell in love with the parish, youth and charism of this community and knew it wouldn't be easy to leave.

In 2010, I finished my doctorate in integrative medicine and have maintained a healing practice since then. Additionally, I provide training to other professionals through Kaiser Permanente Health Systems. With the demand for my training increasing along with my patient base, it is time for me to focus on that direction.

I have been blessed to work with some of the best staff and outstanding catechists during my time here. I have always said the youth of Saint Bonaventure are special; they are the reason I've stayed here for so long. I am proud of each and every one of them and know I am blessed to have been part of their lives and spiritual journeys.

We will be searching for a new Director of Religious Education soon in hopes we will be able to work together to make a smooth transition during this Faith Formation year. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate this staff transition due to my vocational pursuit.



Gratitude to God

Sarah Morgan

Thank you for your warm welcome in October serving as the new Administrative Assistant at Saint Bonaventure. I already have a glimpse of your warmth, generosity and faithfulness and I thank God for inviting me to serve you in this role.

Originally from West Virginia, I came to Minnesota in 2006 to serve with NET Ministries and have since called Minnesota my home. I previously worked at Blessed Sacrament in St. Paul and most recently served as a nurse assistant at Our Lady of Peace Hospice.

I look forward to getting to know you in the coming months!

Career Opportunities at Saint Bonaventure

Mickey Redfearn, Executive Director

With staffing changes comes a natural opportunity to consider reimagining the programs we offer and how positions are structured. As many of you know, we have had a youth minister vacancy since June. We are not alone, as many other great parishes in the Archdiocese also have vacancies and are considering shifting programs to focus on family ministry. Gary Russell's retirement as Director of Religious Education on December 31 also creates an opening on our staff.

Emerging Generations Overarching Goal from the 2019-2021 Parish Vision Plan: "St. Bonaventure needs to be aware of the talents, needs, and desires of the emerging generations. Our goal as a parish is to attract, engage and serve this group."

We reviewed the responsibilities of these two full-time positions and sought feedback from individuals who have served in those roles. We also talked with those who have supported those roles and who have been supported by those roles. With all of this and the goals from the Parish Vision Plan in mind, we have created two job opportunities we hope will serve our community as we move forward. Please find the job descriptions on our website, saintbonaventure.org, for a **Director of Religious Education and Coordinator of Religious Education & Youth Ministry**.

Please pray for the right individuals to come forward and share their gifts with our youth and families!

Let's make this season bright!

Giving Tree

Sue Weberg

Each year our Giving Tree program gives those in our community the opportunity to purchase gifts for individuals and families in need, along with donations to local charitable organizations. Please bring gifts and donations by **December 12**.

This year, the tags on the Giving Tree are for individuals and families. Along with individual and family gifts, we will be accepting donations for Harbor Light, Minneapolis, and the Kennedy Community Alliance from Kennedy High School. These items should be unwrapped and deposited in the boxes provided in the Gathering Space. Please place gift cards in the collection basket or bring them into the Parish Office.

Harbor Light, Minneapolis

The Harbor Light Center is a safe place for people to stabilize their lives and begin the process of healing. We offer a wide range of basic needs to anyone without discrimination. As Minnesota's largest homeless adult outreach facility, we meet people at their greatest point of need to inspire hope, instill belief in possibilities, and impart opportunities for a fresh start.

Items needed:

- Flip Flops (inexpensive ones, used for shower shoes)
- Underwear: men and women (desperately needed, all sizes, including plus sizes)
- Socks: warm and athletic
- Boots
- Foot powder
- Gloves

Kennedy Community Alliance

The Kennedy Community Alliance was formed with the mission to eliminate barriers that impact our student's academic, extracurricular, and social success and to discreetly and quickly help students in need. With school supplies and health and beauty products, the Pantry was established as a student and family resource at Kennedy High School in 2011. We also support our economically vulnerable families with gift cards for food when needed, especially during Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring Breaks.

Items needed:

- \$25 Cub gift cards
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Body Wash
- Lotion

Thank you for your generosity and care!



God's Christmas Tree

The world is like a Christmas Tree,
Each one of us, a light.
To what degree we love God's Son,
We are dim or bright.

We have no power of our own.
We can never shine
Until He fills us with His love,
His Christmas love, divine.



Peggy Peterson



50th
Anniversary

St. Boni's Fall Festival

FIRST WEEKEND AFTER LABOR DAY | SEPTEMBER 10 - 11

St. Boni's Fall Festival Wrap Up Art Breitbarth, Chairman

Our 50th Anniversary Fall Festival was a huge success! God blessed us again with beautiful weather in every way and all week in our physical preparation work. We had a consistent crowd all day and many volunteers to help make our 50th festival a complete success.

Our thanks and deep appreciation to the festival planning committee, the many hard-working volunteers, and the parish staff for their efforts and cooperation contributing to a successful outcome. Thank you to all the donors and businesses that support our festival, including the Eagles Club and Mac's dumpster trash service, for their donations.

This year was a special challenge planning the festival with many uncertainties, and questioning if we could even have it. Many anxious moments with scheduling and dealing with vendors on supplies and delivery of products, to name a few. All the work and efforts were worth the time and energy for another fantastic festival! The reported revenue of \$59,000 also show it was worth it.

We thank God for our blessings, great weather, and answered prayers for this wonderful community event!





Fall Activities

Shoebox Mission Project Thank You

Becky Running and Gary Russell

PAPAL FOOTPRINTS



We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to all who participated in this year's Papal Footprints Appalachia Kentucky Shoe Box Mission Project which touches the lives of children, families and adults in profound ways each Christmas. Many of you give generously each year to this important mission project and for others, this may have been your first time joining us. We were once again overwhelmed by the generosity of so many which allowed us to send **123 beautifully wrapped shoe boxes and several larger boxes of gifts to Appalachia Kentucky** in early November. Thank you to all of you for helping to make this year's mission project another wonderful success!

Synod Small Groups

Peggy Fouts and Chris Olson



Thank you for joining us in the discussion during the Synod Small Groups! We had a small but dedicated group that gathered at Saint Bonaventure. Thousands gathered at parishes throughout the Archdiocese this fall for the Parish Consultation with Small Groups, where we discussed the focus areas for the Archdiocesan Synod:

- Forming parishes that are in the service of evangelization.
- Forming missionary disciples who know Jesus's love and respond to his call.
- Forming youth and young adults in and for a Church that is always young.

The Small Groups were one of several important steps in preparation for the Archdiocesan Synod Assembly in June 2022. The pre-Synod process began with the listening sessions in fall 2019 engaging the People of God — laity, clergy, consecrated men and women, and bishops — all walking together at the personal, parish, deanery, and Archdiocesan levels. Ideas from the small groups will inform the Archdiocesan Synod Assembly. The process culminates with the Archdiocesan Synod Assembly to be held Pentecost weekend, June 3-5, 2022. Recommendations from that Assembly will shape a pastoral letter Archbishop Hebda plans to release in November 2022, followed by a pastoral plan for the future of the archdiocese.

Many found the videos and teaching inspiring. If you would like to watch, find them at archspm.org/synodsmallgroups.

Thanksgiving Mass

Karen Thompson



We had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day Mass at 8:45 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 25, with more than 200 people and a surprising number of little ones in attendance!

Each year, we bless loaves of bread to be shared at your Thanksgiving Meal. We invited every family to bring in a loaf of bread they planned to share at their meal. Additionally, St. Vincent de Paul brought additional loaves of bread.

Cloud of Witnesses features saints as a focus of racial reconciliation

The Catholic Spirit | Debbie Musser | November 19, 2021

The Cloud of Witnesses, features eight framed images of men and women representing various ethnicities, each accentuated with a hand-painted gold halo symbolizing their sainthood.

“The saints reveal to us the reality that the Christian message is about conformity to Christ,” said Father Nathan LaLiberte, 36, pastor of Nativity of Mary.

“The fact that they have come from a variety of backgrounds, cultures and races, and yet have pursued a singular focus, is amazing in itself,” he said.

“Then, reveal some of the heroic things that these individuals did, and they truly are inspiring witnesses for us to follow.”

The project began after the May 25, 2020, police-involved killing in Minneapolis of Floyd, who was Black, and the protests that followed.

“A parishioner, Ben Heidgerken, contacted me about his desire to have some sort of a response that was ‘Catholic’ to our community, which has a racial background that is largely white, with a minority of African, Hispanic (and) Asian members,” Father LaLiberte said.

The two brainstormed about an art series depicting saints, and Heidgerken, 37, identified eight saints whose lives involved cultural misunderstanding and conflict: St. Juan Diego, St. Martin de Porres, St. Pedro Calungod, Blessed Christian de Cherge, St. Josephine Bakhita, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Teresa of Kolkata and Venerable Henriette Delille.

“By telling their stories, we learn to imitate the virtues that they displayed in the face of the conflict they experienced,” said Heidgerken.

The Cloud of Witnesses was unveiled at Nativity of Mary on Pentecost Sunday. In his homily, Father LaLiberte noted the feast of Pentecost “reveals to the world that God is not bound to one culture, race or location, but is desiring to be experienced by every people.”

“‘Cloud of Witnesses’ comes from the Book of Revelation text that speaks about there being, in heaven, a cloud of witnesses from every nation, tongue and people, who are before the throne, praising God for all eternity,” Father LaLiberte said.

The installation has led to “new and unexpected conversations” with members of the parish community, Heidgerken said. He plans to take a traveling set of the images to other parishes during Advent and Lent, beginning with Saint Bonaventure.

For more information on the Cloud of Witnesses, including short videos on each saint, go to nativitybloomington.org/About-Us/Nativitys-Cloud-of-Witnesses.



COURTESY NATIVITY OF MARY
CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT St. Martin de Porres (1579-1639), a mixed-race lay Dominican in what has become Lima, Peru; St. Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680), a Mohawk laywoman who was baptized and devoted her life to Mary; St. Juan Diego (1474-1548), a member of the Chichimeca people in what today is Mexico, who received visions from Our Lady of Guadalupe; and St. Teresa of Kolkata (1910-1997), an Albanian religious sister who founded the Missionaries of Charity to care for the poorest of the poor. The digitally created icons are in a series called “Cloud of Witnesses,” created for Nativity of Mary in Bloomington by artist and parishioner Erin Wee.

Faith and Culture Event

Thursday, December 9, 7 - 8:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space

Come build up the Body of Christ in an evening of learning, reflection, discussion, and prayer! The Cloud of Witnesses touring art collection aims to help Catholic Christians learn about the lives of the saints that pray for us and inspire us to a deeper imitation of Christ. The evening begins with a presentation by Benjamin Heidgerken (St. Paul Seminary professor of American religious history) and will continue with options for participants to pray, reflect on the lives of the saints in the collection, discuss in small groups, or engage with another presentation on the history of Catholicism, slavery, and racism.



Perpetual Adoration

Will Hermann

Our Lady of the Angels Adoration Chapel is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except when Mass is being celebrated. On November 21, Christ the King Sunday, we celebrated 21 years of our chapel and perpetual adoration at Saint Bonaventure. Last year, Bishop Cozzens celebrated Mass for the Feast of Christ the King and shared this in his homily:

I have one practical piece of advice for you: if you'd like to make Christ more the king of your life, if you'd like to experience the healing of these ruptures, the freedom from slavery that Jesus wants to give, if you want to learn to love God and neighbor and self the way Jesus does, then I've got one practical suggestion: come to adoration! Come to the perpetual adoration that happens in this church every day.

What happens when I come to adoration? I kneel before him, acknowledging that he's the king. And I surrender my mind, and my heart, and my will, and my body to him. As I read his word and I speak with him about the struggles I'm having to love my neighbor, he fills my heart with his Holy Spirit. He helps me to see my struggles the way he sees them, he helps me to see my neighbor the way he sees them, and in that time I spend with him having that heart-to-heart conversation, he becomes more my king.

If you'd like to let Christ become your king by being in the presence of our Eucharistic Lord, please feel welcome in our chapel. If you'd like to make a commitment to adore one hour or more each week, please sign up at SaintBonaventure.org/adoration or call/text Will at 513-505-9413.



Alive!

Denise Kuznia-Mails

Trunk or Treat—It was a perfect day! With tricks and treats from 14 trunks, 60 kids joined us in costume to celebrate Halloween in our South parking lot.

Turkey Bingo Back—The sloppy joes and bingo were HOT! Prizes included 11 turkeys and side dish baskets.

Up Next: Breakfast with Santa for ages 12 and under on December 18, 9 a.m. to noon in Ambrose Hall. Three time slots: 9 a.m., 10 a.m., and 11 a.m. will allow for social distancing and more youth to attend this event. Masks are not required but encouraged. We are limited to how many people can attend each time, so tickets are required for all.

To sign-up or volunteer for this event call Denise, 612-554-4963, by Sunday, December 13 at 5 p.m.

The next events we are looking forward to:

Spaghetti Dinner - Saturday, January 15, 5 - 7:30 p.m.

Valentine's Dinner & Dance - Saturday, February 12, 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Alive!



Parish Library

Tricia Kawakami

Your Parish Library contains books, CDS and DVDs for you!

Always open.

No cash, credit card or passcode required!

Taking a road trip? Your Library has CDs for your listening enjoyment.

There are Christian/Catholic movies to keep the kids busy as well.

On the second floor of the church on the south side, our Library is available to all parish and community members.



Briana, Chad, Tanner, and Emmet Hendrickson

I am Briana Hendrickson, and this is my husband Chad and our sons Tanner and Emmet. We live in Bloomington. I work for Express Scripts and Chad is a self-employed carpenter. Our kids go to school at Jefferson and Oak Grove. Tanner loves skateboarding, hiking, and camping. Emmet loves fishing and hunting. My mom, Pat Berg, also goes to Saint Bonaventure and we have so many great memories through the years. You might find us at the 10 a.m. Mass on Sundays.

What do you love about Saint Bonaventure? I love the Women's group, Women in the New Evangelization (WINE) that meets around the Third Thursday of the month. I also love the music we hear during Mass and I'm often dancing along when the spirit moves me.



Fr. Jimmy Puttanickal, CFIC

Hi, I'm Fr. Jimmy Mathew Puttanickal, and I work as a chaplain at Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) and one of the resident priests at the Saint Bonaventure Friary. My vocation to the priesthood is so unique, with no stories to share. Probably I could say that it was from my classmate's inspiration that I joined the seminary, though he left after two years. I worked eight years in Canada, mainly as a hospital chaplain, and three years in the United States as pastor and chaplain in Saint Paul. My favorite fun is fishing, though I couldn't fish much over here, and I am seriously looking for a fishing partner.

What do you love about Saint Bonaventure?

Two things I like about this community: its loving people and wonderful team of staff.



Parish Pastoral Council

Tammy Arndorfer, Chair

The Parish Pastoral Council is an advisory body of parishioners established to consult with the pastor and recommend the direction of the parish in keeping with our parish mission to *Love God - Love Others - Make Disciples*. We recently set up an email to make it easier to contact us: pastoralcouncil@saintbonaventure.org.

Pictured left to right are Bill King, Chris Olson, Deacon Mickey Redfearn, Jeanette Chwialkowski, Ben Krippner, Julie Lewis, Fr. James Chitteth, Nikki Mills, Ed Huber, Breta MacPhie, Tammy Arndorfer. Not pictured are Carmen Brewers, Michael Balko, Irene Odeluga, and Tom Mantel.



The Church of Saint Bonaventure of Bloomington, Minnesota

901 East 90th Street
Bloomington, MN 55420-3801

Advent 2021 Newsletter

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Saint Bonaventure Upcoming Events

- Dec. 7 Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
- Dec. 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
- Dec. 9 Faith and Culture Event
- Dec. 12 Advent Reconciliation Service
- Dec. 18 Breakfast with Santa
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day
- Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- Jan. 15 Spaghetti Dinner
- Feb. 15 Valentine's Dinner & Dance

Please check saintbonaventure.org for the calendar of events.

Mass

Tuesday-Saturday:
8:45 a.m.

Saturday:
4:30 p.m.

Livestream at:
saintbonaventure.org

Sunday:
8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Reconciliation

Wednesday:
8 - 8:30 a.m.

Friday:
8 - 8:30 a.m.

Saturday:
3:15 - 4 p.m.

