

All three readings of today's liturgy point to issues of social justice. In an age in which self-interest and individualism often call the tune, we Christians must not neglect these issues. Our world is far more complex than that of Amos the prophet. Corruption has different forms these days – carefully concealed but just as sinful, because of the damage it does to the life of the community. The inequitable sharing of the world's resources, often artificially maintained, that contributes significantly to world tensions, should be a matter of concern for all Christians.

The situation described in the letter to Timothy is very different from ours – but at the same time so similar. The Christians of that community had no possibility of manipulating the levers of power in the politics of the Roman Empire. The Church should not endeavour to manipulate the political processes of today's democratic state. In both situations, however, Christians still have great responsibility, as citizens. We must make an honourable contribution to the common welfare, at whatever level we are involved. We must have no part in the corruption that can be very tempting, in the complex processes of today's social order. We must support legitimate authority; and have good will towards our fellow citizens, respecting their different points of view, and seeking to work together with them to make a just society. Our great contribution is the Christian values we live by – the vitality of a human community comes from the values its citizens are committed to.

In today's gospel, we meet again Luke's concern to bring home to his fellow Christians the responsibilities and dangers brought by this world's possessions. All will be well in this area of our social responsibility, if our real concerns look beyond the material things that are a necessary part of our lives. If the Church today, as Blessed John Paul II said, renounces any desire 'to be a participant or competitor in the game of politics', it is called to contribute to the wellbeing of the human community by the witness and example it gives. Our lives, and the quality of our relationships as a Christian community, should demonstrate to our troubled world that living according to the ways Christ has given us is not a bondage, but a fulfilment.

The parable of the unjust steward is puzzling. Scholars are not agreed whether the 'astuteness' praised by his master was making fraudulent changes to his debtors' promissory notes, or his forgoing claims for the commission customary in such transactions. In either case the lesson is clear: those dedicated to worldly pursuits are often more wholehearted in their projects than believers are in promoting the things of God. We certainly have a long way to go, if the effective witness held up to us by Blessed John Paul II as a goal is to become a reality.

John Thornhill sm

John Thornhill is a Marist Father with an international reputation as a writer and lecturer in theology. He was a member of the International Theological Commission, and the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC II). In 2007, The Australian Catholic University awarded John with its highest honour, Doctor of the University (Honoris Caus). In 2011, The ACTA made John a "Fellow of the Australian Catholic Theological Association" in recognition of his achievements "in the foremost ranks of Australian theologians". In recent years he has been giving lectures to parish audiences throughout Australia and in neighbouring countries. Fr. John's long and distinguished service as a world-ranking theologian began in the 1950s and has continued to his recent retirement. He continues to write, having recently completed a book on Christopher Dawson's interpretation of history. Visit www.theemmauseries.com for more information.

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – Sept. 23 to 29

Please join us as we pray for the following "Announced Mass" intentions:

	Intention(s)	Offered by
Monday, 9am	✠ John Lynskey	Brenda McKay
Tuesday, 9am	✠ John Lynskey	Coba Clancy
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Ivelda Cavoto	Marguerite Doran
Thursday, 9am	✠ Vincenza Fiore	Jim & Winnie Magee
Friday, 9am	✠ Carmen Garavito	The Family
Saturday, 9am	✠ John Lynskey	Barclay Terrace Social Committee
5:15pm	✠ Herbert Chapman	The Hunwicks Family
Sunday, 8am	✠ Rona Newton-John	Michael Foran
9:30am	...our Parish and Parishioners	
11am	✠ Margaret Byrne	The Family
12:30pm	✠ Ivelda Cavoto	The OLS Senior Choir

Spare a Few Hours, Make a Real Difference

Our Parish St. Vincent de Paul group is looking for a few new members.

If you are interested in making a real difference in the lives of people who struggle constantly to make ends meet, please contact us through the Parish Office.

Ladies' Stretch and Flex! – Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30pm

Come on out ladies... new participants are always welcome! Join us in the Parish Hall. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat if you have one! \$10 per session.

Sacraments of Initiation

The Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation are significant milestones in the faith journeys of our young parishioners. The Archdiocese of Toronto notes that preparation for initiation is the shared responsibility of parents, the local Catholic school and the parish community.

To be eligible to receive a sacrament at Our Lady of Sorrows, participants and their families must fulfill three conditions:

- (a) they must be registered as parishioners of OLS (NB: registration at OLS School or family history of sacraments received at OLS do NOT constitute parish registration);
- (b) they must regularly attend Sunday Mass;
- (c) parents, candidates, and sponsors must participate in the relevant aspects of the program outlined below.

If your family does not regularly attend Sunday Mass at OLS and/or is not registered with a parish, you are welcome to register with us at this time and begin attending regularly.

All other families should, at their earliest convenience, contact the parish nearest their home or the parish they regularly attend, for information on sacramental preparation. Information and registration forms will be distributed through OLS School and through our parish-based Religious Education program for Catholic students in non-Catholic schools in September. All others should contact the Parish Office.

COMMUNITY

Year of Faith Movie Night – Saturday, Oct. 5, 7pm

"October Baby" ★★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5 stars –*Goodreads.com*

This critically acclaimed film broke the box office top ten, even in limited release! Witness an inspiring story about the true power of love and forgiveness. Every life has a purpose - Every life is beautiful! Rated PG-13.

Life Chain – Sunday, Oct. 6, 2–3pm

Campaign Life Coalition welcomes all of us to join in prayerful, peaceful witness to the sanctity of life on behalf of the most vulnerable members of our society. We will meet as a parish community at the intersection of Bloor and Islington to hold signs promoting Life and to pray quietly for an hour. This is a small sacrifice of an hour compared to the sacrifice of so many lives. Mark your calendar!

Rosary Group – Daily, After 9am Mass and Fridays, 2pm

Join us daily and on Fridays for three Mysteries of the Rosary followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. All are welcomed with a smile and an open heart!

"The Rosary is the most beautiful and richest of all prayers to the Mediatrix of all grace; it is the prayer that touches most the heart of the Mother of God. Say it each day." –St. Pius X

St. Augustine's Lay Spiritual Formation Program

Rev. Msgr. A. Robert Nusca presents "The Book of Revelation" Workshop on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013, 9:30am–2:30pm. Cost is \$40 including lunch. To register for this session please contact Tatiana at ioftsas@rogers.com or 416-261-7207 ext. 235.

Defund Abortion Mini-Rally

Did you know that annually Ontario spends \$50 million of your tax dollars to fund abortions? The money could be used to hire 200 family doctors, or 400 nurses, or buy 20 MRI machines. On Thursday, Oct. 3, 11am–noon, a Defund Abortion Mini-Rally will be held in front of Donna Canfield's office at 4800 Dundas Street West (Islington and Dundas, NW corner). Please come and invite friends to protest this gross misuse of public funds.

St. Bernadette's Family Resource Centre

Founded in 1992, we are a community-based member of Catholic Charities, dedicated to integrating "challenged" individuals with their "able" peers. Join us for a screening of "Restless Heart", a film based on the true confessions of the Life of St. Augustine. Thursday, Sept. 26, Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton School. Tickets are available at www.stbernadettesfrc.org or by calling 416-740-7187.

Syria – Humanitarian Relief

The Archdiocese of Toronto is accepting financial contributions to support humanitarian relief efforts in Syria and the Middle East. Those wishing to help may do so online at www.archtoronto.org or by phone at 416-934-3411 or through the regular offertory collection, making cheques payable to: "OLS – Syria – Humanitarian Relief".