

We listen fascinated to the story of the meeting by the well of Jesus and the Samaritan woman. Her history reminds us of our own frailties; her finding of faith and a new life encourages us. Thirst and hunger are such elemental experiences that they come immediately to mind, as we try to express the restless quest that shapes every human life. Though her life's searching has led her to make serious mistakes, we warm to the spirited woman from whom Jesus asks a drink. Jesus is thirsty; but what he seeks before all else is that this woman and those like her find true peace. In their memorable exchange he responds to the woman's searching. As she comes to recognise that she has found what her heart has been seeking, she 'puts down her water jar', and runs off to share the good news with the villagers she has been avoiding – by coming to the well at midday when few people are about.

This narrative has been written for a community that has meditated deeply upon basic themes of Christian faith – themes as relevant for us today as they were when the gospel was written. The Saviour is progressively presented as the one in whom humanity's long and troubled search will find what it has been looking for. He is 'greater than Jacob', the ancestor of Israel; he is not only 'a prophet'; he is 'the Christ' of Israel's hopes. In fact – as in many texts of John's gospel – he intimates a claim to the divine name itself, 'I AM he'.

His coming inaugurates a new order, 'worship of the Father in Spirit and truth' – something far beyond what has been known to Jews and Samaritans. He brings 'living waters, welling up to eternal life'. John's community would have heard in these words overtones of the wonder of their baptism.

The woman's reaction to her enlightenment was a reminder to those who had found faith in Christ that they too were called to be missionaries. And this reminder has a sharp edge. It is not easy for us, today, to appreciate the bitterness of the estrangement between Jews and Samaritans – though the shocking conflicts of recent times may help us to understand the violent attitudes that divided these two groups. Of the Synoptic Gospels, Luke alone – the gentile convert – shows any sympathy for the Samaritans. A missionary outreach to these people, therefore, must have seemed almost unthinkable to early Christians, most of whom were from a Jewish background. The attitude of Jesus, and the success he had in this chance meeting with Samaritans, was an encouragement for them to take up the Church's mission, even though the difficulties seemed insurmountable.

This lesson is hammered home for them – and for us – in the words of Jesus to his bewildered disciples: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me'; the harvest is 'ready' – 'grain for eternal life'. His final lesson is a call to humility – the saving plan he is inaugurating is God's work – among God's workers, 'one sows, another reaps'



Anyone who drinks the water I shall give will never thirst

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

**"But the one who drinks of the water that I will give will never be thirsty."
Do you thirst to know where God is leading you?
Could you be thirsty for an understanding of your purpose?**

If God is calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life, contact Fr. Hansoo Park
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

PARISH

Readings ~ Exodus 17:3-7 ~ Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 ~ John 4:5-42

Mass Intentions This Week – March 24 to 30

Please join us as we pray for the following announced intentions...

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Don Goodwin	Mary Kotze
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Julie McGlade	The OLS Bridge group
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Denis Daly	Kathleen Stanley
Thursday, 9am	✠ Carmen Garavito	The family
Friday, 9am	✠ Lena Badali	The family
Saturday, 9am	✠ Francisco Coutinho	The Coutinho family
5:15pm	✠ Michael Passarelli	The Guilfoyle family
Sunday, 8am	✠ Connie Broden	Cal & Donna
9:30am	...the needs of our parish, faithful parishioners	
11am	✠ Thomas Byrne	The family
12:30pm	✠ Mary Agnes Bennett	The family

Rosary Group – stay and pray daily, after 9am Mass + Fridays, 2pm

Five decades daily, fifteen decades on Fridays followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Stretch & Flex – all are welcome! – Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30pm in the parish hall

Come and enjoy gentle stretching, gain an awareness of breathing and embrace relaxation. \$10 per session. Bring a yoga-type mat, perhaps a bottle of water and wear comfy clothing!

Scripture Classes Wednesdays, 10am + Thursdays, 7pm – all are welcome!

We have resumed studies with the Gospel according to Matthew. Morning class is held in the parish hall meeting room and evening class at OLS School, 32 Montgomery Rd., Room 411.

'Bundle Up Weekend!' – April 5, 8:30am–6:30pm & April 6, 7:30am–5pm

St. Vincent De Paul Society (OLS Conference) volunteers will be collecting gently used clothing and household linens (think: shoes, bedding, draperies and small household goods) in the truck in the parking lot. Please ensure goods are in securely tied bags! **Thank you for your generosity!**

Fridays in Lent Stations of the Cross – 7:30pm, for approx. 25 mins

The Stations of the Cross began as the practice of pious pilgrims to Jerusalem who would retrace the final journey of Jesus Christ to Calvary. Later, for the many who wanted to pass along the same route, but could not make the trip to Jerusalem, a practice developed that eventually took the form of the fourteen stations currently found in almost every church.

All Day Lenten Confessions

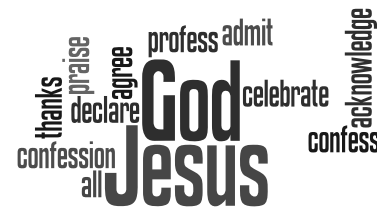
Saturday, April 12 – 9:30am–5pm

Our parish continues this beautiful tradition, with two priests available for the day. Remember: If you need help – especially if you have been away for some time – simply ask the priest and he will help you by "walking" you through the steps to make a good confession.

The **basic requirement for a good confession** is to have the intention of returning to God like the "prodigal son" and to acknowledge our sins with true sorrow before the priest.

Call for Altar Servers! – are you ready to step up and serve your parish?

Please consider joining our amazing community of young parishioners in their mission to serve. For more info, email ministry coordinator Kristen Scanlan at kristen@sorrows.ca



MAKE LENT COUNT
PRAY • ACT • GIVE

COMMUNITY

Read Lumen Fidei at www.sorrows.ca today!

Working wonders in our community...

Last year Mary Centre received a call to assist Robert, a client, when they learned that his sister Theresa, who lived with him, had collapsed and was rushed to the hospital. Due to a previous connection with Robert and Theresa, the agency was able to respond quickly. Mary Centre's respite facility at St. Bernard's is often fully booked a few months in advance but other families were supportive and changed their plans to accommodate this situation. Robert stayed at Mary Centre for 3 weeks until Theresa was able to return home and take care of him. He continues to come to St. Bernard's at least once a month where he has felt welcome and has made friends. Robert and Theresa take comfort in knowing that Mary Centre was there for them. Theresa shared, "To know Mary Centre is to know people who are kind, considerate and thoughtful; thank you for all you've have done for my brother and me."

Last year, over 1,800 people with special needs received assistance from ShareLife-supported agencies



ShareLife Sunday is March 30 – Please give generously. You can work wonders!

Lenten Penitential Service – St. Peter's Basilica – Fri., March 28, 11:30am

Salt + Light Television will air this Lenten Penitential Service led by Pope Francis. For repeat broadcast times, please visit www.saltandlighttv.org/schedule

St. Matthew Passion – Saturday, March 29, 8pm

St. Michael's Choir School performs this beautiful work composed by the Most Reverend Hilarion Alfeyev, Russian Orthodox Archbishop of Vienna. They are joined by a pair of soloists and a 20-piece orchestra at St. Paul's Basilica in downtown Toronto.



SALT + LIGHT TELEVISION

Lenten Retreat: Pope Francis – His Impact on Our Lives, The Church & the World

Who is this man? Where did he come from? Why was he elected Pope? Why is he now the most popular person in the world? Discover Pope Francis as you've never seen him before. March 29, 8:45am–12:15pm, St. Philip Neri Parish, 2100 Jane St. Event is free and lunch is provided with your RSVP.

Campaign Life Coalition – National Pro-Life Conference – April 4–5

This two day event begins with an evening banquet on Friday, April 4, 5pm followed by a full day conference on Saturday, April 5, 7:30am–5pm. Hear from international pro-life speakers on various life & family issues including Rebecca Kiessling, spokesperson for Personhood USA and Janet Morana, co-founder of Silent No More Awareness. Adult Package for both banquet+conference is \$139. The Student Package is \$99. All meals included. Woodbine Banquet and Convention Hall, 30 Vice Regent Blvd. To register, call (416) 204-9749 or email clc@campaignlifecoalition.com – more at www.campaignlifecoalition.com

Estate Planning Seminar – Queen of Heaven Cemetery – April 5, 9am

This informative session will take place in the St. Anthony Chapel of the Mausoleum. For more info, call 905-851-5822. RSVP to Frank Jannetta at 416-733-8544 or fjannetta@ccat.on.ca

17th Annual Art Show and Sale – Sat., April 5, 10am–4pm

Over 30 artists and artisans will be in attendance, appealing to a wide range of interests. Admission is \$10, and includes a draw for an original painting by Marlene Bulas. At Kingsway-Lambton United Church (Prince Edward & The Kingsway). Proceeds to Toronto charities. More at www.kingswaylambton.ca

