

In last week's gospel reading, Matthew celebrated Peter's commission as the guardian of unity in the Church. The continuation of that passage, in today's reading, recalls the rebuke Peter received from Jesus after his confession. It was the mission of Jesus, to fulfil all the expectations of the Old Testament. In the questions put to the disciples that led to Peter's confession, Jesus speaks of himself as the 'Son of Man', and he repeats this reference in the concluding words of today's reading. The 'Son of Man' was the triumphant figure of the book of Daniel who was to come on the clouds to establish God's universal reign. Now, in the first of three predictions of his passion, he identifies himself with the 'Servant' of the Isaian writings who, by his sufferings, would lead God's people to the fulfilment of their God-given destiny. These references would have been treasured by Matthew's community, as they recalled their great theme that the life and death of the Saviour took place 'to fulfil the scriptures'. In Peter's condescending response to Jesus' prediction of the outcome of his rejection by the leaders in Jerusalem - 'This must not happen to you' - we glimpse something of the trusting relationship Jesus maintained with his disciples. But the sharp reaction of Jesus makes clear the seriousness of Peter's mistake. There is a great irony in the rebuke of Jesus: the 'rock' is told that he is a 'stumbling block'.



Anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it

Jesus is forming his disciples, we remember. And now he challenges them to begin to come to terms with the mystery of the Cross - his reconciling and healing of a shattered world. Though Jesus was aware that his conflict with the Jerusalem authorities was a matter of life and death - 'the elders, chief priests and scribes' were the three groups of leaders who made up the Sanhedrin that was to condemn him - his words do not necessarily involve a miraculous foreknowledge of his fate. 'Taking up the cross' was a proverbial way of referring to the bearing of adversity and suffering. Under Roman rule, crucifixion - with its prelude of the criminal's bearing of the heavy cross-beam to the place of execution - was a familiar reality. Those who wish to be his followers, Jesus declares, must be warned that this means a readiness to bear the burden of suffering. The community, from a Jewish background, that Matthew is writing for have been filled with wonder and gratitude, as they recalled the Isaian description of the Suffering Servant: 'He was being wounded for our rebellions ... the punishment reconciling us fell on him, and we have been healed by his bruises' (Is 53). Now they recall the words of Jesus inviting them to enter into this mystery of reconciliation: 'Anyone who wants to save his life will lose it' - a reference to the martyrdom that has already been the fate of some of their fellow Christians; 'Anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it'. These words of Jesus imply an astounding claim. 'For my sake', Jesus says. For Old Testament faith, it is only God who deserves to be loved with all one's 'heart, soul and mind' (Deut 16); now Jesus is claiming the same absolute allegiance for himself. For Jesus, this taking up of the cross is a daily, life-long calling. The other readings of today's liturgy help us to reflect upon what this call involves in practical everyday terms. Jeremiah's heroic faithfulness was to become a source of blessings and encouragement for God's people of every age. Today's passage from Paul to the Romans can serve as a commentary on the call of Jesus. We can offer our faithfulness as a 'living sacrifice', uniting our offering to the Saviour's gift of himself for the sake of the world. It is the mystery of the Eucharist that makes this possible.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

**"For what will it profit anyone to gain the whole world but forfeit their life?"
Isn't there more to life than chasing the dollar?"**

Are you being called to be a priest or deacon, brother or sister?
Humbly ask the Lord. If God is calling you, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

PARISH

Readings ~ Jeremiah 20:7-9 ~ Romans 12:1-2 ~ Matthew 16:21-27

Mass Intentions This Week — September 1 to 7

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Toni Protsack	Helen Martin
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Toni Protsack	The Rosary group & friends
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Crucita Rebeil de DelValle	The family
Thursday, 9am	✠ Lovey Moran	The family
Friday, 9am	✠ members of the Goseco, Feliciano & Valencia families	Linda Feliciano
Saturday, 9am	✠ Ron Picco	Diane Dupuy
5:15pm	✠ Giovanni Paoella	The Della Rocca family
Sunday, 8am	✠ Teresa Armstrong	Anna & Nick Angelotti
9:30am	... of Jennifer Daws & Adrian Freskiw & family	Nick & Eugenia Freskiw
11am	✠ Michalina & Peter Dziuma	The family
12:30pm	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	

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

\$10 per session. Bring a yoga-type mat, perhaps a bottle of water and wear comfy clothing!

Volunteer Required — Can you spare 30 minutes per week?

A volunteer is needed to help supervise members of our youth choir on Thursdays, prior to rehearsals, from 3:15 until 3:45pm. If you're able to assist, please contact the parish office.

2014 ShareLife Campaign Results — Congratulations and thanks!

We should all be very pleased with our Parish's final total in the 2014 campaign.

We raised a healthy **\$373,362.64** in support of ShareLife's many worthy programs! **Well done!**



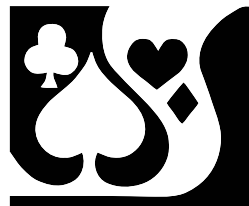
Update: Iraqi Refugees — Love and commitment can make a difference!

To ignore the suffering of the tens of thousands of refugees in the Middle East and Africa is impossible. They are driven from their homes and forced into a frightening, desperate and dangerous existence. Children are especially vulnerable; they do not understand why their house was destroyed and how it is that their friends have gone away.

Some have asked about the refugee family that we sponsored a few years ago. The members of your parish's Refugee Team are very happy to report that the family is doing well. After a difficult start they continue to integrate into the fabric of the city. Amer has a full-time job in a downtown restaurant and Wadea is at home, attending ESL classes and staying in contact with the extended family in the Middle East and in Toronto. Their son Mark begins high school next month and daughter Mirna will enter grade 4. **Please continue to pray for them every day!**

Drop-In Bridge — Declarer? Dummy? Dealer?

Get your opening bids ready! Drop-In Bridge resumes on Thursday, September 4, 1—3:30pm in the parish hall meeting room. Everyone is welcome to join and no partner is required. For more information, contact Rena Guerard at 416-236-0728 or Gail Weiler at 416-239-5337.



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 7PM

Parishioners! Come On The Feast Day Of Our Patroness For A 30-Minute Concert, Holy Mass, Followed By Refreshments In The Hall.

*Come Holy Spirit
Fill the hearts of your faithful!*

Mass of Anointing of the Sick

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH — 11AM
LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW IN THE PARISH HALL

COMMUNITY

FertilityCare Toronto Practitioner Education Program — Sept. 6—13

Wondering about becoming a FertilityCare practitioner? Become part of a new, authentic approach to women's health care & family planning. Natural. Effective. Affordable. For over 30 years, the Creighton Model FertilityCare System and NaProTECHNOLOGY have helped women & couples better understand & care for their reproductive health. Join our team of allied health-care professionals! For pre-application info: www.fertilitycare.ca or call Margaret, 416-465-2868.

Events at Martyrs' Shrine — 16163 Highway 12 West, Midland

► 30th Anniversary of St. John Paul II's Visit — Sept. 6 — Join us for an all-day celebration honouring St. John Paul II & the 30th Anniversary of his visit to Martyrs' Shrine & the Archdiocese of Toronto. The day will include photographic and video displays and memorabilia of that historic event, other St. John Paul II commemorative items, plus a 10:30am Mass at the Papal Altar, celebrated by His Excellency Bishop John Boissonneau.

► 30th Rosary Sunday — Sept. 21, 12pm — Events will include an outdoor Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, procession of the Blessed Sacrament with the Living Rosary & Benediction at the Papal Altar. Celebrant & homilist — His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins. For more information, contact the Martyrs' Shrine, Midland at 705-526-3788 or via email at info@martyrs-shrine.com

Prayers for Peace — An Interfaith Service — Sunday, Sept. 7, 3pm

Cardinal Thomas Collins invites you to join him and other believers of many faiths as we pray for peace in areas of conflict around the world and, in a special way, for the Middle East. This interfaith prayer service will take place at St. Paul's Basilica, 83 Power Street. Plenty of free parking is available.



Attention: Graduates of Holy Name of Mary Schools — 1964—2014

Graduates of both schools are invited to a planning meeting for our 50th Anniversary celebrations on Wednesday, September 17, 7pm at the College campus, 2241 Mississauga Road. For additional information call 905-891-1890 or 905-458-5541.



Faith Connections — Events for Young Adults, 18—39

For more information call Vanessa Nicholas-Schmidt at 416-467-2645 or point your browser to www.faithconnections.ca — a ministry of Fontbonne Ministries, Sisters of St. Joseph, Toronto.

► **7th Annual MIX & MINGLE** — Sept. 21, 4—8pm, 15 Laxton Ave.

FC & the Religious communities of Toronto invite young adults (student, working professional, single, married, young parent) to Sunday Mass followed by our house party and barbecue! It's a chance to meet with men and women religious and explore how their spiritualities can nourish your faith journey. **RSVP required by September 12.**

► **THEOLOGY ON TAP: Pomography** — Sept. 22, 7—9pm, Duke of York Pub, 39 Prince Arthur Ave. An evening of thought-provoking theological discussion in a comfortable & relaxed setting, with special guests: Dr. Moira McQueen, Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, & Denis Costello, Catholic Family Services of Toronto. **Munchies provided, cash bar, come and bring a friend!**