

The baptism by John in the river Jordan would not have been easy for the first Christians to understand. On the face of it, this undergoing of a ritual of repentance did not seem to make sense. It can only have been included in the gospel tradition because it really happened. However, the account we have in Mark's gospel shows us that reflection upon this event led to an understanding of its great significance - as the defining inauguration of the mission of Jesus. It was the Father's authorization of the public role he was about to assume, and a prefiguring of the climax to which his career would lead - the Paschal Mystery - which he was later to look forward to as 'a baptism' (Lk 12.50).

To read Fr. Thornhill's entire reflection, scan the QR code or visit his website at [www.theemmausseries.com/bbaptjesus.html](http://www.theemmausseries.com/bbaptjesus.html)



**A Letter from Larkin Architect**

We are excited for the renovations and improvements that will be made to our church campus. Safety and accessibility was a major consideration to ensure that our building will respond to the needs of future generations. Please see the below letter from Larkin Architect:

In developing the design for the new elevator at Our Lady of Sorrows, there were several issues that led to the current arrangement and size.

The existing elevator dates back to 1989, and is in need of replacement. Parts are no longer available for this elevator, and its mechanism (key access) is onerous. It was identified that a replacement elevator was necessary.

In the selection of the new elevator, one primary concern was compliance with the new AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act - 2005) regulations, which will make adjustments to the building code, beginning January 1, 2015. These requirements necessitate a larger cab size, and larger landings to allow easier access to the elevator. Additionally, the city of Toronto is in the process of issuing accessibility guidelines which encourages public spaces to accommodate newer sized scooters and mobility aids.

Beyond a code compliant perspective however, the elevator selected was intended to provide a graceful and welcoming entrance to the church. Our Lady of Sorrows Parish is blessed with a vibrant parish community that includes many older parishioners with increasing mobility issues, and young families with strollers / buggies. Many parishioners with varying levels of physical and cognitive ability need better access. The intention of the design is to give access through a generous and welcoming entrance.

The elevator chosen is a Hydraulic Elevator with a 4000lb capacity. It will allow families with strollers/buggies to travel together. Individuals who are accompanied by a caretaker can travel simultaneously. Community members who rely on a variety of mobility devices including scooters and motorized wheelchairs will be able to comfortably use the elevator. Anyone who struggles with the stairs in the winter can have a welcoming entrance to the church, rather than a small, cramped, back entrance.

The existing elevator shaft could not accommodate any of the above requirements, either physically or spatially. With the new design, all members of the OLOS community will have a warm and welcome entrance to the community.

Sincerely,

Larkin Architect Limited

The original copy of this letter is available on our website - [www.sorrows.ca](http://www.sorrows.ca)

Jesus' identity is revealed as "The Son of God" through His baptism in the Jordan. Our identity as "children of God" is revealed through our baptism. Our lives then, must constantly witness Jesus as Lord.

If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux 416-968-0997 [vocations@vocations.ca](mailto:vocations@vocations.ca) [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)

Readings ~ Isaiah 55.1-11 ~ 1 John 5.1-9 ~ Mark 1.7-11

PARISH

**Mass Intentions This Week — January 12 to 18**

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Helen Conrath	Joe Conrath & family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Patricia Murray	Sheila Kelly
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Nicholas Ferik	Enedina Ferik
Thursday, 9am	✠ Mary Lucey	John & Ursula Matthews
Friday, 9am	✠ Terry Hurley	Jack & Joan Drohan
Saturday, 9am	✠ Margaret Fitzgerald	Michael Fitzgerald
5:15pm	✠ Clara Lobo	Frieda Pereira
Sunday, 8am	✠ Ted Kosc	Michael Foran & Peter Raposo
9:30am	✠ Giuseppe Vendramin	The family
11am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
12:30pm	✠ Joseph Grimaldi	Pat & Paul Matthews

**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.

The Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet are "a spiritual medicine... good for your heart, for your soul, for your whole life."

*Franciscus*

**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!



Bishop John Boissonneau joins us this weekend, on Saturday January 10 at the 5:15pm Mass, to open the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish. This day also marks Fr. Martin Pereira's 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination. Please remember him in your prayers as he begins his 45<sup>th</sup> year in the Lord. **Congratulations and thank you, Fr. Martin!**

**Christmas Benefit Concert in support of Ukraine — Jan. 18, 3pm @OLS**

Canadian Bandurist Capella is a forty member Ukrainian male choir accompanied by the unique harp like sound of the sixty-five string bandura. Colourful costumes, powerful voices and spectacular harmonies are their trademark. For tickets (\$25/\$20) call 416-232-2514 or email [tickets@banduristy.com](mailto:tickets@banduristy.com) — visit [www.banduristy.com](http://www.banduristy.com) for more information.



**Attention OLS Youth** Are you ready to step up and serve?

Please consider joining our amazing community of young parishioners in their mission to serve at Sunday Mass. For more info, contact ministry coordinator Kristen Scanlan via email at [kristen@sorrows.ca](mailto:kristen@sorrows.ca) today!

**REMINDER Confirmation Enrolment Weekend is January 24/25!**

Candidates will be called upon at all Masses to present their promise form and letter of intent to Fr. Nino after a special homily directed at parents and candidates.

**First Communion Catechetical Sessions — Tues. Jan. 27, 7pm or Sun. Feb. 1, 2pm**

These information and instructional sessions are for parents only. Parish catechists will lead parents in a brief reflection on the theology of Eucharist; staff will be present to distribute the 'We Share in the Eucharist' book for parent-child preparation.

Search your app store with your smartphone and install your preferred QR code reader today!

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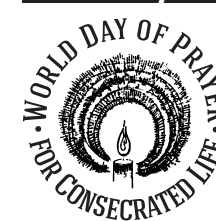
The Creighton Model FertilityCare System & NaProTECHNOLOGY have helped women & couples better understand and care for their reproductive health. There will be free introductory sessions at St. Christopher's Church in Mississauga beginning January 15 in the evening and running monthly. Private sessions can also be arranged. For more information, or to register, please contact FertilityCare Practitioner Intern Jennifer Medat at [jennifer@fertilitycare.ca](mailto:jennifer@fertilitycare.ca), call FertilityCare Toronto at 416.465.2868 or visit [www.fertilitycare.ca](http://www.fertilitycare.ca)

**Theology On Tap East — New Evangelization: Pope Francis Style — Jan. 22, 7pm**

The Office of Catholic Youth, Faith Connections, and your local parishes invite young adults (19-39) to join us for an evening of thought-provoking theological discussion in a relaxed setting, with special guests Cheridan Sanders & Sebastian Gomes from Salt & Light Catholic Media, who will speak about Pope Francis' "go and make a mess" style of evangelizing and will dissect important themes from his apostolic exhortation, "Evangelii Gaudium — The Gospel of Joy." Munchies provided. Cash bar. Come and bring a friend or three! To be held at The Bear Pub, 1294 Kingston Rd., Pickering. RSVP appreciated. Theology on Tap East is on Twitter. Use #ToTEast to join the conversation. More info at 416-599-7676, [youth@ocytoronto.org](mailto:youth@ocytoronto.org) or visit [www.ocytoronto.org](http://www.ocytoronto.org) or [www.faithconnections.ca](http://www.faithconnections.ca)



**World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life Celebration**

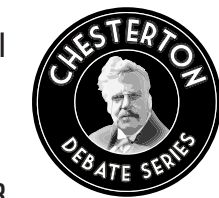


On Monday, February 2, the Church celebrates the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. In the Archdiocese of Toronto we are blessed to have living and serving among us more than 1,000 religious men & women of over 100 different religious congregations. This day is a wonderful opportunity for us to thank God for the gifts of these religious sisters, brothers & priests and to pray for

His blessing upon them in their efforts to faithfully live the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity & obedience. On Sunday, February 1 at 3pm at St. Paul's Basilica, His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins will preside at a special Mass in celebration of the vocation and witness of these special men and women who are such an important part of the life and ministry of the Church in our archdiocese. All are welcome to attend.

**Chesterton Debate Series: Religion's Role in Political Life**

God's Politics? Professor Iain Benson, Catholic legal scholar & writer, and Leslie Rosenblood, policy advisor to the Canadian Secular Alliance, will debate "Religion's Role in Political Life." Lorna Dueck, TV host of "Context with Lorna Dueck", will moderate. The event is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Toronto and the Office of Catholic Youth. More info at [www.chestertondebate.com](http://www.chestertondebate.com) — online registration opens on January 23.



**Words from The Holy Father 'follow' him on Twitter @Pontifex**



Pope Francis @Pontifex  
Vatican City  
news.va  
Joined February 2012

- Pope Francis @Pontifex • Jan 6  
**Jesus came to save us: let us not reject this marvellous gift!**
- Pope Francis @Pontifex • Jan 5  
**Lord, help us to recognize you in the sick, poor and suffering.**
- Pope Francis @Pontifex • Jan 3 — Christianity spreads through the joy of disciples who know that they are loved and saved.
- Pope Francis @Pontifex • Dec 31 — **Lord, thank you!**