

A familiar feast-day, but do we understand its significance in the life of God's Church? God's ultimate plan was to create a family that would share in the boundless love and joy that is the life of the Trinity. The "communion of saints" that is essential to the faith we profess in the Creed each Sunday is the ongoing realisation of that plan. Today we celebrate the reality of that family. Although we have not reached the end of our journey, where we "shall see God as he really is", we already have a genuine fellowship with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all those who have completed the journey, a fellowship that has been an encouragement in the life of the pilgrim Church since the beginning.

What the eternal life we will share with them will be like, of course, is beyond our imagining. It was inevitable, however, that believers should attempt some inadequate description. When he did so, the writer of the Apocalypse was addressing communities threatened with a devastating persecution. In the florid style of the apocalyptic literature common at the time, he assured them that God's promise of a "new heaven and a new earth" for his faithful ones would not be frustrated. His description – with its white robes, palms and prostrations before the throne of God – has provided the image many believers have of heaven. The prophet's image of God's great banquet on the holy mountain is more appealing to most people. But these are only imaginings of what "has not yet been revealed".

The Gospel reading, the Beatitudes with which Matthew opens the Sermon on the Mount, can help us set aside the palms and haloes and think of the saints as friends and fellows who have made the journey before us. This summary of Jesus' teaching gives expression to the heart and spirit of the life to which Jesus calls us. True happiness, Jesus declares, will be found by those for whom their relationship with God means more to them than earthly goods – a "poverty of spirit", a "meekness" and "gentleness" after the example of Jesus, a "hunger for justice" that shapes what we do according to the values of the Kingdom, in sum "a pure (i.e. undivided) heart". These are the ideals that have inspired the saints honoured by the Church, and those countless others known only to God. Today's historical studies make it clear that the saints honoured by the Church have struggled against difficulties of temperament and character; but in the end they gave over to God, as the Holy Spirit taught them the lessons of the Beatitudes. As we make the same journey, let us recognise that we shall take into eternal life hearts that have been shaped by the quality of our response to the challenges of life. Though the hearts of all God's family will be filled with joy, some will be narrow hearts and some will be great and generous hearts.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

Today we honour our ancestors who have persevered in the faith.
In the Solemn Blessing we pray "May their example of holy living turn your thoughts to service of God and neighbour"

If you feel that God is calling you serve Him in a Church vocation, call Fr. Chris Lemieux.
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca



Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God

Readings ~ Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14 ~ 1 John 3:1-3 ~ Matthew 5:1-12a

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – November 2 to 8

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am All Souls' Day	The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed <i>During this Mass the names of those buried from OLS in the last year will be read aloud. A memorial book will be placed at the front of the church to receive the names of our departed.</i>	
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Bramwell Peltham	Denise & Mary Peltham
Wednesday, 9am	✠ John Broe	The Dodig family
Thursday, 9am	✠ Hugh Kunkel	The family
Friday, 9am	✠ members of the Goseco, Feliciano & Valencia families	Linda Feliciano
Saturday, 9am	✠ Breda & Gerard Dolan	The Dolan family
5:15pm	✠ Ken Morgan	The family
Sunday, 8am	☞ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ☞	
9:30am	✠ Maria Medal	The Medal family
11am	✠ Paul Furtado	The De Faria family
12:30pm	✠ Pacita Ventura	The family

Toronto Right to Life Christmas Cards – now available



View the 2015 designs at www.righttolife.to and visit the parish office to purchase: an affordable \$8 per 10-pack, including envelopes. All proceeds go to TRTL's pro-life educational network.

Project Hope – \$3 Million Emergency Refugee Settlement Campaign Continues

The 100-day campaign has a goal of settling 100 refugee families within the GTA as soon as possible & will prioritize those fleeing war & violence in areas of greatest need, including Syria & Iraq, regardless of religious affiliation. If you'd like to support the campaign financially, please visit www.archtoronto.org or call 416-934-3411 or drop a cheque in the regular Sunday collection, payable to: OLS—Project Hope—Refugee Sponsorship. **Thank you so very much!**

First Reconciliation Catechetical Sessions – Nov. 3, 7pm or Nov. 8, 2pm

At these one-hour sessions for parents only, parish catechists will lead a brief reflection on the theology of Reconciliation and distribute the 'We Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation' book for parent-child preparation. **First Communion** dates will also be assigned.

Cancelled St. Vincent de Paul Bundle-Up Weekend

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the November 21/22 bundle-up weekend has been cancelled. Another weekend will likely be scheduled for sometime in the spring. More info will be shared here when it becomes available. **Thank you for your continued support!**

Campaign Life Christmas Cakes – November 28/29 & Dec. 5/6

In the past, your purchase of fruitcakes has raised over \$100,000 annually in support of CL's baby-saving efforts. Produced by a Toronto pro-life baker, these scrumptious 'traditional recipe' cakes are \$15/regular & \$25/deluxe.



Rosary Group – mornings suspended; Fridays, 2pm, above Running Room

Take this opportunity to pray the Holy Rosary every evening at home with your family!

"There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew." – Marshall McLuhan

Bishop Allen Academy – Open House Wednesday, November 4, 6:45pm



Grade 8 students and their parents are cordially invited to attend this Information Evening and Open House. Learn about the Advanced Placement Program, Enrichment Classes, early & middle French Immersion, Gifted Program, Leadership Development, Athletics, Music, Drama & much more. All are welcome to attend. Bishop Allen Academy is at 721 Royal York Rd. Call 416-393-5549 for information.

100th Anniversary – St. Mary's Polish R.C. Church November 8, 2pm

Over the years, we have touched the lives of many through worship, community outreach and service. We are thankful for an opportunity to celebrate our Catholic community, especially remembering those who came to Canada from different corners of Poland to establish this family of faith. Cardinal Thomas Collins will celebrate Mass at 2pm. St. Mary's Parish is at 1996 Davenport Rd. For info, call 416-656-3130 or email stmarypolish@yahoo.ca

Scarboro Missions Interfaith Department – Witness to History – Nov. 10, 7pm

After the screening of a short BBC documentary film: "Political, Polish Jew: The Story of Pinchas Gutter", survivor Pinchas Gutter will speak about his personal experiences during the Holocaust and will participate in a Q&A session. Gutter was born in Poland in 1933 and 10 years later he and his family were deported to the Majdanek death camp. Spared the immediate execution suffered by his family, Gutter was eventually sent to Buchenwald. He was liberated by the Soviet Army in 1945 and moved to Canada in 1985. This event is open to the public and admission is free. Takes place at Scarboro Missions, 2685 Kingston Rd. (at Brimley Rd.)

"Two Collars & a Habit" with St. Basil's Church November 10, 7:30pm

"Two priests and a nun walk into a bar..." Join us for an evening of stories, humour & a whole lot of personality. Featuring Fr. Chris Valka, CSB, Fr. Frank Portelli and Sr. Helena Burns, FSP. @7:30 – Q&A (ask a question, any question), @8:15 – Speed dating (have a more in-depth conversation, one-on-one or in a small group). At The Foxes Den, 1075 Bay St. **All are welcome!**

Full Time Employment @ Liturgical Publications

The company that prints this bulletin is looking for a full time Inside Sales Representative. We offer a small friendly office with regular hours & great people. If you have a customer service or sales background & like to talk to people, email your resume to resume@parishbulletins.com

Jazz at RY – Special Event Sunday, November 15, 2pm

Featuring the renowned Gene di Novi Quartet! Do the names Artie Shaw, Charlie Parker and Benny Goodman mean anything to you? What about Peggy Lee, Mel Tormé and Tony Bennett? How about Lena Horne? Gene DiNovi (now 87 years young) has been a treasured musical partner to them all. Come out & experience live jazz at its very best. \$20 tickets available at the door. Net proceeds to the Refugee Support Fund. Complimentary refreshments. Royal York Road United Church, 851 Royal York Rd. (3 blocks south of Bloor St.) For information, call Bill Wilson at 416-231-1207



Celebrate Your Marriage – with a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend!

Married couples: You deserve a weekend to cherish being together; to rediscover each other and focus on ways to make your relationship even better. A WME weekend offers this opportunity. Consider giving each other or another couple you know the gift of a weekend away from daily pressures; time to be with each other and with God. **Upcoming weekend: November 20–22.** For more information, visit www.wme.org or contact Gerard & Marge McCauley at gerard.marge@rogers.com or call 905-792-1925.