

As our destination draws near, at the end of an important journey, we may well have mixed feelings. We look forward to arrival; but we may be uncertain and anxious about the outcome.

As we face the challenge of entering deeply into the climax of the Church's year of faith – the commemoration of the Saviour's PASCHAL MYSTERY – it is as if the liturgy of this last Sunday of our journey anticipates our mood and reassures us. The readings bring us some of the greatest texts of the Scriptures, texts which – as we stand among the Greek pilgrims who wanted to 'see Jesus' – help us, in the words of the gospel, to come to terms with 'the kind of death Jesus was to die'.



He prayed with loud cries and tears to the one able to save him

The horror of the Saviour's Cross is plainly stated: his 'obedience' to the Father's will, according to the letter to the Hebrews, is made with 'prayer and entreaty, with loud cries and tears'. And John's gospel tells us, 'his soul was troubled', as his fateful 'hour' approached – in which he was to give all, like 'a wheat grain' which 'falls on the ground and dies'.

If he invites us to share this fate with him – 'wherever I am, my servant will be there too' – he also helps us to trust in his Father, as we face the ordeals of our personal lives. His prayer is 'heard', and through the sufferings which have been a sharing in the destructiveness and darkness of our world, he enters into a new and final existence. In the words of the letter to the Hebrews, he is 'made perfect'; as John's gospel puts it, he is 'glorified'. This is a powerful statement in biblical language – God's 'glory' is the incomparable divine greatness. Having 'emptied himself' to become one with us, the manhood he shares with us is now filled with divine greatness – and the grain which falls to the ground 'yields a rich harvest', transforming the whole of creation.

The outcome is certain, therefore, and beyond all humanity's imagining. It is the inauguration of the 'new covenant written in our hearts', foretold by Jeremiah, and sealed with the Saviour's blood. The Crucified One will become 'a source of eternal salvation' for all who become his followers (Hebrews). Having been 'lifted up from the earth', he will 'draw all people to himself', that they may share in his new existence (John).

The Church's liturgy prepares us well for what lies at the end of our journey. May it prove a faith-filled meeting with the generosity of our God, for each one of us.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

Unless a seed first dries out and dies, it cannot be planted in the earth to grow. Unless we die to our selfish ways, we cannot expect to be people who will "lay down their lives for their friends".

If God is calling you to lay down your life for His Church, call Fr. Chris Lemieux 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Working wonders for people locally and around the world...

We have always tried to expose our deaf children to both communities. As their parents, we have talked to them and tried to answer their questions when they saw someone using sign language and they had basic sign language books. Then one day our oldest son, Ethan, said he would like to learn sign language. We discovered Silent Voice's Sign Language Summer camp and enrolled him in the program. The following year Gavin joined his older brother and they both want to go again. We also put our name in for the Family Communication program because we wanted to support our children. These opportunities increased the boys' awareness of the deaf community and also helped them gain respect for different ways of communication. They enjoyed both experiences as did we. We all hope to take part in the Family program again. Last year more than 600 deaf children received support through Silent Voice's Sign Language Summer Camps.

ShareLife's campaign continues – Please give generously. You can work wonders!

PARISH

Readings ~ Ezekiel 37:12-14 ~ Romans 8:8-11 ~ John 11:1-45



Mass Intentions This Week – March 23–29

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

| | Intention(s): | Offered by: |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Monday, 9am | ✠ Emma Caria | The Caria & Morsillo families |
| Tuesday, 9am | ✠ Raymond & Beverly Giacomini | Gail Weiler & Dave Tyrell |
| Wednesday, 9am | ✠ John Carroll | Arthur Scauzillo & family |
| Thursday, 9am | ✠ Americo Amorim | Manuela Amorim |
| Friday, 9am | ✠ Carmen Garavito | The family |
| Saturday, 9am | ✠ Francisco Coutinho | The Coutinho family |
| 5:15pm | ✠ Carol & Louise Gumbs | The family |
| Sunday, 8am | ✠ Cecilia de Bernal | The family |
| 9:30am | ✠ Catharine Roy | Connie De Wit |
| 11am | ✠ Ugo Cesta | The family |
| 12:30pm | ✠ Raymond & Beverly Giacomini | Rena & Denis Guerard |

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.

"Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother. Love the Madonna and pray the rosary, for her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother."

– St. Padre Pio

Stations of the Cross – celebrated Fridays during Lent at 7:30pm in the church

This 20–25 minute dialogue between Christ and the congregation urges us to carry on His unfinished business & unite our human will with that of God. Each meditation is an authentic application of Jesus' suffering to our personal lives. A great way to prepare for Easter. **Well worth your time!**



Children's Liturgy of the Word

We'll be pressing the "pause" button on March 29 (Palm Sunday) & April 5 (Easter Sunday). We will resume on April 12.

OLS 75th Anniversary – we need YOUR energy and ideas!



A planning meeting for volunteers will be held on Tuesday, March 24 from 7:30–9pm in the parish hall. The list of proposed activities includes a dinner/dance, lecture series, ministry retreat, commemorative pictorial book, parish picnic & more.

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!

Victoria Scholars Present Tenebrae – Sunday, March 29, 4pm @OLS

Written in the middle of the last century by Monsignor J. E. Ronan – principal founder of St. Michael's Choir School – the Tenebrae responsories convey the sorrow of Holy Week in this solemn and noble music. **Admission is free.** There will be a freewill offering for ShareLife.

Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land November 9–17, 2015

This voyage under the spiritual leadership of Fr. Matthew Furguele marks the 75th Anniversary of OLS Parish. Cost is \$2,490 pp. Contact Halina at 905-886-0232, ext. 315 or 647-294-4116.

COMMUNITY

LOVE LIFE ☺ LIVE LENT TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD

Tenebrae Holy Family Church, 1372 King Street West – Wed., April 1, 8pm

Enjoy 3 nocturns of chanted lessons & psalms, with polyphonic lamentations and responsories, followed by lauds. You can follow along in your Liber Usualis. Featuring music by Lassus, Victoria, Allegri, Palestrina, along with Gregorian chant. Visit www.oratory-toronto.org

Pilgrimage to the (U.S.) National Shrine Of The Divine Mercy – Apr. 11–13

Join Fr. Martin Pereira on a memorable journey! Given a near-perfect 4.9 out of 5 by reviewers on Google, the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA is a "stunning and very moving...oasis of peace"; most worthy of your time. Cost is \$475 pp. Call 416-251-9944 for info.

Hurting as a Result of an Abortion? Healing & Reconciliation is Possible!

Project Rachel is a sensitive, private and confidential experience for women and men that lets you speak with someone who understands and cares. We invite all whose lives have been affected by abortion to a journey of healing and reconciliation with God, their church community and themselves. **You are not alone! We can help. Together we can begin anew.** The next retreat date for women May 22–24. Take the first step – call us 416-629-8264 or email projectrachel@stmarysrefuge.org



TCDSB Invites Input Into 2015-2016 Budget

The Toronto Catholic District School Board invites all stakeholders to participate in the budget planning process as the Board considers options for deficit recovery. There will be several opportunities to provide input, either through delegations at a number of upcoming board & committee meetings and through an online survey. Information about the budget process, options for deficit recovery, and opportunities for input are outlined on our website at www.goo.gl/bSzh3k – It is important for the Board to hear from students, staff & parents. All are encouraged to take the time to review the material, and complete the online survey at www.goo.gl/kw9c3H by March 23rd. Survey responses are anonymous unless participants choose to self-identify.

Lay Spiritual Formation Workshop – Saturday, April 11, 9:30am–2:30pm



Rev. Tom Lynch, National Director for Priests for Life Canada, Pastor of St. Mary's Parish, Lindsay and Professor of Theology at St. Augustine's Seminary, leads this workshop entitled "Catholic Social Teaching". A Mass follows the morning session and an afternoon session follows lunch (included). Email mukhina@utoronto.ca or call 416-261-7207, ext. 235 to register. Cost is \$40 per person.

Holy Name of Mary College School – Open House – April 11, 10am–2pm

HNMC educates, inspires & empowers the girls of today to become the next generation of confident female leaders of character. Come and experience the transformative power of an all-girls education in a distinctly Catholic school community. Talk to current students, faculty members, school administrators and parents and get a true sense of student life at HNMC. For more information visit www.hnmc.ca or call Giselle Fernandes at 905-891-1890, ext. 103.

A Rare Opportunity St. John Paul II's Personal Photographer

Arturo Mari spent 51 years photographing the diverse lives of popes. He will passionately speak of little-known stories in a presentation entitled "St. John Paul II – A Defender of Human Rights and Dignity". This event takes place at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church in Mississauga on April 25 at 8pm. A mini-banquet (\$25) follows. A similar event entitled "St. John Paul II – A Witness of Prayer and Unwavering Faith, A Pilgrim of Peace!", presented in Italian, takes place on April 27 at 8pm at Holy Angels Church (61 Jutland Rd.) For more information or to reserve tickets, call 416-588-0555 or visit www.radiorodzina.com