

As we come to know the liturgy better we recognise that it is a masterpiece, wisely shaped over the centuries as the Holy Spirit has guided the Church. Today, as the greatest week of the Church's year begins, the lesson of the liturgy is astoundingly restrained and simple, yet so appropriate.

We are reading from Mark's gospel. In his very simple telling of the story the brief acclaim of the entry into Jerusalem is in contrast with the stark horror of the story of the passion. The people cry out that 'the kingdom of our father, David, has come'. How ironic is the way in which these words are to be fulfilled!

The reading from Isaiah invites us to learn from the example of the Saviour - the confidence we should have in our Father in heaven, whatever the trials we may face. But it is something else which makes the reading so appropriate on the threshold of Holy Week - with him we must have minds and hearts open to a new meeting with our God in what lies ahead. Like God's Servant we should be glad that the Lord 'wakes us to hear, to listen like disciples'. We are invited to learn something that it is beyond the power of human words to express; to learn anew the astounding generosity of our God as we meet it in the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus - to find how true is the old saying, 'Actions speak louder than words'.

In the second reading, from the letter to the Philippians - echoing a hymn used in the liturgy of the first generation of the Church - Paul summarises with majestic brevity the drama of what God has done in the Saviour's PASCHAL MYSTERY: how he 'emptied himself, shared our human condition, even to 'accepting death on a cross', and finally, how he is now 'raised high', one with the Father in the glory of the divine name.

The principal reading, of course, is the telling of the story of the Lord's passion and death, confronting us in Mark's factual and forthright style, with the cruelty and horror of a horrendous miscarriage of justice. In the darkness which descends upon 'the whole land', the rending of the temple veil 'from top to bottom', and the confession of the gentile centurion - 'In truth this man was a son of God!' - we have the dawning light of the new order of things which will be inaugurated with the Saviour's resurrection.

Actions speak louder than words. The age-old custom of preserving the palms from this day's liturgy is a wonderful reminder of how real was the drama which opened the way to eternal life for the whole world - a drama in which we are all involved. The liturgies of the Church's coming celebration of the Paschal Mystery will teach us, not with fine oratory, but by recounting the great events in which the divine Truth found expression in our human history. Let this recognition set the tone for our participation in the liturgies of Holy Week.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

**Blessed are those who come in the Name of the Lord!
Blessed are they who live their lives in the Name of the Lord!**
If God is giving you the blessing of a call to a Church vocation, call Fr. Chris Lemieux
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Working wonders in our livelihoods...

When he was presented with a top youth achievement award at a recent gala at The Carlu, Kiwayne was only a short distance from the streets where he had been homeless, and a world away. In the building's food court a few years ago, he recalls falling asleep at the table - exhausted - trying to avoid having to go back outside. "I was going down the wrong path and didn't know if I'd live to be 21," he says. But for the past two years since moving into his own place, Kiwayne has been studying construction engineering at George Brown College and working part-time at the Provincial Advocate's Office. Kiwayne grew up in foster care and, at 17, he found himself on the street until a friend told him about Covenant House. "Covenant House gave me stable housing that allowed me to go back to school and learn life skills," says Kiwayne

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

Readings ~ Isaiah 50.4-7 ~ Philipians 2.6-11 ~ Mark 14.1-15.47



Mass Intentions This Week - March 30-April 5

Please note that 9am Mass will not be celebrated on April 2, 3 or 4.

Join us as we pray for the following announced intentions...

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Phylis Beavan	Mercy & Earl Anselm
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Jack Brennan	The Cullen family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ George Forcier	Margaret Tipping
Holy Thursday	Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:30pm	
Good Friday	Celebration of the Lord's Passion - noon & 3pm	
	Stations of the Cross - 7:30pm	
Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil - Resurrection of the Lord - 8pm	
Easter Sunday	Resurrection of the Lord	
	8am, 9:30am, 11am, 12:30pm	

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.

Please note that the Chaplet will not be prayed on Good Friday.

*"Go to the Madonna. Love her! Always say the Rosary. Say it well.
Say it as often as you can! Be souls of prayer. Never tire of praying, it is what is essential.
Prayer shakes the Heart of God, it obtains necessary graces!"*

—St. Padre Pio

Stations of the Cross - celebrated Good Friday 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

On hold for this weekend and next, this program for children 4-10 years old will resume on April 12 at the 9:30am liturgy.

OLS 75th Anniversary - thanks and a continued call for ideas!

Thanks to those who came out for the planning meeting held this past week. Many exciting ideas were presented; stay tuned for details! If you have an idea you'd like to share with the newly-formed planning committee, please send an email, care of the parish office, to olosorrows@bellnet.ca



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!

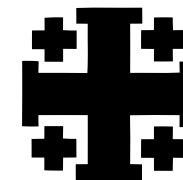
Victoria Scholars Present Tenebrae - Sunday, March 29, 4pm @OLS

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

An information & registration meeting for all who are interested in joining our tour to the Holy Land this November will take place on April 8 at 7pm in the parish hall.

Good Friday 2015 Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land



The Pontifical Collection for the benefit of the Holy Places is scheduled this year on Good Friday April 3, 2015. As we respond to this appeal, the visit of Pope Francis in the Holy Land from May 24 to 26, 2014 vividly comes to mind and we revisit the words of Scripture that marked his prayer at the Holy Sepulchre: "I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as He said. Come; see the place where the Lord lay." (Matthew 28.5-6)

The Pontifical Collection of Good Friday is a unique moment of loyalty to the Resurrection of the Christ Jesus and of solidarity with the Christians who are the "living stones" of those consecrated places. We are invited to this gesture of commemoration and unity for the benefit of the Holy Places and Christians so as to give a tangible form to the remembrance of the Christ Jesus and the constant support of our present day brothers and sisters!

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.hnmcs.ca or call Giselle Fernandes at 905-891-1890, ext. 103.

Art Show & Sale - Fundraiser for Local Charities - April 11, 10am-4pm

Take this opportunity to discover a wide selection of art. The admission for the art show is \$10 which includes a draw for a painting by Michael Zarowsky. This important event supports many local charities and takes place at Kingsway-Lambton United Church, 85 The Kingsway (corner of Prince Edward and the Kingsway). The Zarowsky painting and the work of the other 30 artists may be viewed at www.kingswaylambton.ca/artshow

Prayer Quest - Tuesdays, April 7-28 - Mass at 9am, Prayer Quest at 9:45am

This series of four sessions of 2 hours each will be a help to all who seek to deepen their relationship with God and it will renew their spirits through a variety of forms of prayer and reflection. "Prayer is the living relationship of the children of God with their Father... Thus, the life of prayer is the habit of being in God's presence." (Catechism of the Catholic Church). Takes place at St. Bonaventure's Parish, 1300 Leslie St., Don Mills, M3C 2K9.

Spiritual Growth in the Second Half of Life

These programmes address topics related to the faith formation of maturing adults. There are four sessions of two hours each: Spiritual strengths and inner resources, outreach, gratitude and celebration and forgiveness. Registration appreciated but walk-ins most welcome. Sr. Mary Rose Marrin, CSJ, Facilitator.

► **Mondays:** April 13, 20, May 4, 11, 1-3pm, St. Rose of Lima Parish, 3216 Lawrence Ave. East, Scarborough, M1H 1A4

► **Thursdays:** April 9, 16, 30, May 7, 1-3pm, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 14 Highgate Dr., Markham, L3R 3R6