

As we look forward to celebrating the Lord's Ascension and Pentecost's coming of his promised Spirit, our Easter season is drawing to a close. The mood of today's liturgy is reflective, inviting us to take in more fully the deep implications of our Easter faith.

Standing out in today's readings is the theme of love. What more important theme is there for our restless human hearts? Yet it is so often trivialised and distorted in today's popular culture. From our earliest years we have learned to know what genuine love is, not from lessons in words, but by being loved ourselves. Today's readings invite us to recognise that the Paschal Mystery that is the centre of our Easter celebration is an expression of God's love for us, and an invitation to enter into the love of Jesus and his Father, and to give it expression in our own lives. True love expresses itself in action rather than in words. The Father's love, John's letter tells us, was expressed in our midst when he 'sent into the world his only Son, so that we could have life in him'. The words of Jesus in John's gospel remind us how complete is the gift which he brings, as an expression of the love which he shares with the Father: 'A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friend'.



Harvesting our Easter blessings

Genuine love is an unselfish gift. It seeks the good of the beloved rather than its own benefit. God's love is an outreach of utter generosity; it comes before any response on our part, as John's letter points out. (As the continuation of our passage puts it 'God loved us first'.) And our response can give nothing to God except the joy in the heart of the selfless giver. As we contemplate the mystery of God's generosity, we are reminded that, in the end, love is the most precious of all gifts. If it is true that true joy is the finding of what our hearts are made for, then a love that is genuine brings a joy which is without compare: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you ... I have told you this that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete'. The fruit of genuine love is the intimacy of friendship – sharing all that matters in one's life with the beloved: 'You are my friends ... I call you friends because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.'

Coming to a deeper appreciation of the love the Father and the Son have for us, expressed in the Paschal Mystery, we will find new enthusiasm and energy for the outreach which must express our life in Christ during the coming week: 'You did not choose me, no I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit' (We are reading the continuation of the passage about 'the true vine').

In the first reading continues the story of the early Church. As Peter baptises Cornelius, the first gentile convert, we are reminded of our theme: God's generous love is for all, 'God does not have favourites' anybody 'who fears God (i.e. has a loving reverence before God) and does what is right is acceptable to him'. Like Cornelius, we too have, through our baptismal sharing in the Paschal Mystery, been given to share in the mystery of the love of the Father and the Son.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com



OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

The greatest love story that ever happened: God's continuing love for His people. All God asks is "Love one another as I have loved you". The world really needs to see people who are trying to love others with all their hearts. Priests, religious and deacons can be excellent examples of this love.

If you are willing to answer God's call, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux.
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

The plight of the victims of the April 25 magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Nepal continues. Current estimates are that 7,500 have died and 8.1 million people (more than a quarter of the population) are affected. Millions of children are in urgent need. The Archdiocese of Toronto is accepting financial contributions for humanitarian relief. Caritas Internationalis continues to supply temporary shelter, food, water, sanitation & hygiene supplies. **Your financial assistance is needed.** Those wishing to help may do so as follows: ① At www.archtoronto.org ② By phone at 416-934-3411 ③ At the parish office or via the offertory collection, making cheques payable to "OLS – Nepal Earthquake – Humanitarian Relief". We continue to offer our prayers for those affected by this natural disaster. **Thank you for your efforts to help those in crisis in Nepal.**

Readings ~ Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48 ~ 1 John 4: 7-10 ~ John 15: 9-17

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – May 11 to 17

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	... of Rena & Denis Guerard	The Senior Choir
Tuesday, 9am	✠ A. J. Charest	Thelda Walsh & family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Tommy Timpson	Dan Kinahan
Thursday, 9am	✠ Chris O'Toole	The family
Friday, 9am	✠ members of the Harasim family	The family
Saturday, 9am	✠ Trevor de Ga	The family
5:15pm	✠ Mate Herceg-Begic	The Dodig family
Sunday, 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Archie Adams	Kristin Caria & family
11am	✠ Iain Blair	The Sklar family
12:30pm	✠ Janina Krol	The family

St. Vincent de Paul Society – an update on how your donations help!

You may wonder what becomes of the money you generously deposit in the St. Vincent de Paul Society poor boxes after every weekend Mass. In April, we helped 26 adults (mostly single moms) and 21 children. We disbursed \$1975 for food, \$396 for TTC fares, and \$100 for clothing for a total of \$2471. The simple fact is this: for many people, rent is too high and income and living space is too small. **Your support makes a difference in the lives of others. Thank you!**

La Maîtrise des Hauts de France in concert @OLS – July 12, 4pm



Petits Chanteurs de Lambersart

This celebrated boy's choir, founded in 1970, is from Lambersart, a suburb of the northern French city of Lille. A group of about thirty, these young singers perform on a regular basis, thrilling audiences throughout Europe and North America. They will perform for Pope Francis in Rome later this year. We are honoured to host them for a performance as part of our 75th Anniversary celebrations. As their hosts, we have been asked to provide places for the children and their

six adult chaperones to stay on the evenings of July 11/12. **Are you able to help by taking in one or two boys or an adult on these two days?** If so, please contact the parish office this week. The best-case scenario for billeting the boys might be a family with younger children with whom they may interact and share some time. They do speak some English but are naturally more comfortable speaking French. Wouldn't this be a perfect opportunity for kids in French immersion to get in some practice? For more info about the choir, visit their website at www.goo.gl/hulfqx or contact our Music Director, Gordon Mansell at gdmansell@sympatico.ca

Pipe Organ Renovation Contract Signed, Work Scheduled

Our beloved pipe organ, Opus 2805, 1964, will begin its journey of renovation and refurbishment on May 11. The keyboard console + pipes 4' and under will begin to be removed from the gallery. The organ case, where the majority of the pipes reside, will be shrink-wrapped and protected during church renovation work. The interior of the case, the façade pipes and larger ranks of pipes will be cleaned in the gallery once the dust settles. This and other detailed work will be completed by the end of October. At the end of this involved process, the console will have been largely rebuilt as new. It and the case will also be cleaned and refurbished. This mark of good stewardship is a big project – one that will ensure our organ can continue as a world-class instrument for another half-century. We'll be sorry to observe the silence of this precious instrument and look forward to its reverberant return!



Christ has not only spoken to us by his life but has also spoken for us by his death. – Soren Kierkegaard

COMMUNITY

Working wonders for the elderly...

Retired long-term and recently experiencing the passing of his wife, Jamie has adjusted his life again by moving to Les Centres d'Accueil Héritage. As CAH is the only French-speaking retirement home in Toronto, Jamie is drawn by the camaraderie of other French-speaking friends. He may be alone at this time in his final senior years, but the activities and friendship there give Jamie the love and support he needs to live happily as he freely shares his life stories with those around him. Last year ShareLife-supported agencies provided outreach programs that met the needs of over 2,200 seniors.

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

Mary Centre 2015 Golf Classic – Tuesday May 12

Come out and support adults with developmental challenges with a great day filled with prizes, food and fun. Breakfast & registration at 7 am, followed by an 8:30am shotgun start and a full-course late lunch. Just \$250 per person. All proceeds will support respite and other vital programs. For details, email dwalker@marycentre.com or visit www.marycentre.com



Evening at the Oratory Wednesday, May 13, 8pm

Enjoy instrumental and vocal works including Bach arias, Charpentier's *Magnificat*, Cavalli's *Regina Caeli*, talk and Compline (also known as 'Night Prayer' or 'Prayers at the End of the Day' – traditionally, a contemplative Office that emphasizes spiritual peace). Takes place at Holy Family Church, 1372 King St. West (1 block east of Jameson, ½ km west of Dufferin).

Project Rachel Retreat – Let God show you His love – May 22–24

"Let your requests be known to God." – Philippians 4.6

Are you still hurting from an abortion experience? We can help. This weekend retreat is for women whose hearts have been broken by abortion. Private & confidential. Call 416-629-8264 or email projectrachel@stmmarysrefuge.org



Dynamic Women of Faith Leadership Breakfast – Saturday, May 23, 9–11 am

Join us for an inspiring morning at Markland Wood Golf Club (245 Markland Drive) for a fantastic hot breakfast, an engaging speaker, amazing women & tonnes of ideas for women wanting to grow spiritually! You will also discover the joy of hosting a mother's group and the importance of ministering to moms. Tickets (\$28) available at www.dynamicwomenfaith.com or by calling 905-279-7702.



Mary, Mother of God School now registering for September 2015/16!

Have you heard of Mary, Mother of God School? We are an affordable private school (Grades JK-12), deeply rooted in the Catholic tradition & located in the Roncesvalles/Parkdale area. We have an excellent academic program, a dynamic & joyful student life, & small classes where each student is known & loved. For more info, please visit www.marymotherofgodschool.org or call us at 416-531-7897.



Recovery Retreat: Keeping Our Recovery Alive – May 29, 5pm

An opportunity for women in twelve-step programs to spend time away from the busyness of everyday life & to practice "easy does it" within the recovery process. Facilitated by Elaine Dombi, Sister of St. Joseph, educator, addiction counsellor and spiritual director. Meals provided. Private room \$255/person; shared room \$210/person; commuter \$170/person. Register by May 14 with a deposit of \$75. Please call 905-476-4013 or email jane@lorettomaryholme.ca or visit us at www.lorettomaryholme.ca