

Mark invites us to join him as he describes Jesus' progress to Jerusalem: situating ourselves among the group that – though they are truly attached to the Saviour – still have so much to learn. At Jericho, with the journey to Jerusalem almost completed, Mark includes the story of Bartimaeus the blind beggar. Typical of Mark's style, the brief story has a vivid ring of immediacy. But it also has a telling lesson. Making the blind see is the first of the messianic signs (see Is 42:7) appealed to by Jesus, when – from his prison – John the Baptist sent his friends to ask of Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come?' (Lk 7:22). Jesus is surrounded by blindness – the bewildered confusion of the twelve; the cruel reaction of the crowd, who 'scolded Bartimaeus and told him to keep quiet'; the blindness of those in Jerusalem determined to destroy him. Through his miracle, Jesus makes Bartimaeus a living sign of what he is doing in the name of his Father – healing the world's blindness, leading the human family to see in him the truth of God's ways.



Let me see again

God's grace has prepared the blind beggar. As he works the miracle for him, Jesus commends his 'faith'. Unfortunately, many people have a very abstract understanding of 'faith' – as an acceptance of revealed truths. 'Faith' has a very concrete meaning when it is referred to by Jesus. For old Israel, God was known through the 'great things' God had done for Israel. God had a plan that was unfolding through the history of the chosen people. The reading from the prophet Jeremiah gives us a glimpse of the startling confidence of old Israel's faith. Though the people have lived through the horrors of defeat and exile, they must look forward, the prophet assures them, to a future filled with blessings – 'Shout with joy... Proclaim! Praise! Shout! The Lord has saved his people'. If they 'left in tears' for the trials of life in a foreign land, their return will be like a new Exodus, the whole company – the strong and the weak – will be led back, as God shows himself to be their loving 'Father'. The 'faith' Jesus frequently speaks of as he works a miracle is a blessed openness that recognises in his coming that the Father's generous plan is beginning to be realised. In contrast to those around Jesus, Bartimaeus has this openness. He is the first person in the gospel accounts to address Jesus publicly with the messianic title, 'Son of David' – a title Jesus avoided because of the political overtones it had assumed in his time. He throws off his cloak and hurries forward to ask for the miracle that had been promised as a sign of the messiah of Israel's hopes. His readiness is instantly rewarded, and he joins the company of Jesus' disciples. It is unusual for a person miraculously healed to be named in the gospels. Perhaps Bartimaeus was a character who became well known in the apostolic community – soon to be dramatically enlightened by the blessings of the Saviour's Paschal Mystery.

The reading from Hebrews develops the theme of Christ, 'given the glory of becoming high priest of the order of Melchizedek' by the Father. Through his resurrection, in the Paschal Mystery, he is revealed as a messiah far greater than Israel's expectations – the eternal Son who comes forth from the Father.

John Thornhill sm
www.themmausseries.com

The blind beggar Bartimaeus would not listen to the many people scolding him to be quiet, but shouted all the louder in prayer "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Only then did Jesus call him over and answer his need.

Bartimaeus becomes a powerful example of how persistent we must be in prayer when we are asking God to show us His will for our lives and for the grace to accept it.

If you feel God is offering you the grace of a Church vocation, call Fr. Chris Lemieux. 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Jeremiah 31.7-9 ~ Hebrews 5.1-6 ~ Mark 10.46-52

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – October 26 to November 1

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Walter O'Neill	Winnie & Jim Magee
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Americo Amorim	The family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Canon Derwyn Shea	Greg & Marilynne Teskey
Thursday, 9am	✠ Josephine Buenafe-Kahkonen	The family
Friday, 9am	✠ Rebecca Borg	The family
Saturday, 9am	✠ John Joseph Keane	Philip Keane & family
5:15pm	✠ Abel Leal	His daughter
Sunday, 8am	✠ Alejandro Mandin	The family
9:30am	✠ Gerald & Rita McKee	The family
11am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
12:30pm	✠ members of the Pizon/Szczuka families	The family

Stretch & Flex – Join us! – Running Room, 2nd Floor, Tuesdays, 6–7pm

Only \$10 per session. Bring a bottle of water, a yoga-type mat and wear comfy clothing!

► This Week Social Justice@OLS – Oct. 27, 7:15pm, above Running Room

During our (rescheduled) first meeting we will explore how social justice will play a part in the life of our parish. We will also introduce Pope Francis's latest encyclical, *Laudato Si'*.

All Saints' Day + All Souls' Day – Sunday Nov. 1 + Monday Nov. 2

We'll celebrate the Feast of All Saints at the regular liturgies on Saturday evening (Oct. 31) & Sunday morning/afternoon. This special day commemorates all those who have attained the beatific vision in Heaven; members of redeemed humanity in the communion of saints; those whom we should model; those who have attained perfect salvation in its entirety.

We commemorate all our faithful departed the following morning at the 9am Mass.

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!**

An Invitation to Serve Help Lead the Whole People of God Into His Presence!

Do you feel God is calling you to serve? Are you nervous or unsure? Please, have no fear! Take the first step in your amazing learning & faith journey as an altar server! Email Kristen, altar server coordinator, at kristen@sorrows.ca today or speak to her in person after the 8 or 9:30am Sunday Masses. Keep your heart right with God, be a disciple, join this important youth ministry.



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.

► Mark Your Calendar St. Vincent de Paul Bundle-Up Weekend

It's time to think about gathering your donations! The next weekend is November 21/22.

"Grace is not part of consciousness; it is the amount of light in our souls, not knowledge nor reason." – Pope Francis

COMMUNITY

From Homelessness to Homefulness: What Comes Next After the Federal Election



This Kairos Toronto West workshop will discuss the social conditions that lead to poverty and homelessness and explore long-term solutions. Guest presenter Michael Shapcott is one of Canada's leading homelessness experts and a diaconal candidate. Takes place on October 31 at 9:30am at St. James United Church, 400 Burnhamthorpe Rd. Free parking. TTC via #50 bus from Islington Subway. For info, please contact Mary Wilson at 416-231-1207 or email vbeane@rogers.com

Lectio Divina with Cardinal Thomas Collins – November 1, 7pm

Lectio Divina ("divine reading") is a form of prayer involving reading, reflection and silence. We begin with Vespers followed by Lectio Divina. All are welcome for this special evening. During the renovations at St. Michael's Cathedral, Lectio Divina will be traveling to parishes around the archdiocese. Visit www.archtoronto.org/lectio for a full listing of locations.

Come and See Weekend Nov. 6, 7pm – Nov. 8, 1:30pm

Men, 18 years+, who are discerning a possible call to the priesthood are invited to St. Augustine's Seminary for a weekend of prayer and reflection. For info & to register, call 416-968-0997 or email vocations@archtoronto.org



All Souls' Day Masses – Saturday, November 7, 2pm

Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services - Archdiocese of Toronto invites you to participate in All Souls' Day Masses. These Masses will be held indoors at various locations throughout the archdiocese. Visit www.bit.ly/allsouls2015 to view a poster with more information.

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.)

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.



'Thank You' from Thomas Cardinal Collins **ShareLife**

"I am grateful for the loving concern and generosity of our family in the Archdiocese of Toronto... Each year, we undertake our ShareLife appeal in support of the social service and faith based agencies of the archdiocese. The 2015 campaign was a success... It is with gratitude that I thank the pastors and parishioners of the archdiocese for their continued support of the needs of our ShareLife agencies. We have a long history of extending the hands of Christ to the marginalized in our communities, and our results this year show that, as a Catholic community, we continue to be a faith that acts."