

The cycle of the Church's year is coming to an end. The 'end of the world' – when God's great plan for creation will be realized – will be one of the themes of the liturgy during the coming weeks. In the time of Jesus, centuries of frustration under occupying powers had given rise among the Jewish people to a form of literature (today called 'apocalyptic') that expressed a confidence that, despite all appearance to the contrary, God's promises – so important in the faith of old Israel – would be fulfilled in 'a new heaven and a new earth'. Some of this literature is included in the Scriptures – the prophecy of Daniel, from which our first reading comes, is an example. This literature has often been misunderstood by 'fundamentalist' interpreters. Its startling images of the passing away of the present world were not intended to describe how the end will come; its essential message was an assurance that God's designs will be fulfilled, despite all appearances to the contrary. Jesus preached the coming of the final reign of God; it is not surprising, therefore, that he used some of the images and expression of this literature – as he does in today's gospel, the final section of a long passage that gathers together recollections of this teaching of Jesus.



Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away

The title, 'Son of Man' – adopted by Jesus as a subtle intimation of his role in the designs of God – comes from the prophecy of Daniel. Coming from God, the 'Son of Man' will fulfill the great destiny of Israel, bringing all the peoples of the world under God's reign (see Dan 7:13-14). The community that gave us Mark's gospel rejoices in the knowledge that the Son of Man has truly come – Israel's hopes have been realized. For the early Christians, this confidence raised challenging questions, that took some time to resolve (see St Paul in 2 Thes ch 2) – if, in the Saviour's Paschal Mystery, God's final achievement in creation has been realized, what are we to make of our life in a world that seems to go on as before? In the face of this problem, today's gospel reflects the outlook of a community that is finding a healthy balance. Though it speaks with certainty of the coming of the end, it acknowledges that 'nobody knows' when it will be fully manifest 'but the Father'. Echoing the language of literature such as the prophecy of Daniel about the signs of the end, it nevertheless urges constant vigilance, lest believers be taken unawares – one of the themes of the preaching of Jesus. We know God's final achievement has been realized in the Christ's risen greatness; but we wait in faith and hope for our full sharing in all that Christ has promised. With Mark's community, we place our trust – whatever lies ahead of us – in the one who said: 'Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away'.

John Thornhill sm  
www.theemmausseries.com

If we dare to trust God with our lives, great things happen.  
Give God your total self for, when the end of times comes,  
the wise and those who work for justice will shine forever.

Dedicate your life to furthering the reign of God.

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

Readings ~ Daniel 12:1-3 ~ Hebrews 10:11-14, 18 ~ Mark 13:24-32

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – November 16 to 22

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Larry Crooks	The family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Frank DeWitt	The family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Mary Lucey	Ursula & John Matthews
Thursday, 9am	✠ Joe Stanley	Kathleen Stanley
Friday, 9am	✠ Msgr. Ken Robitaille	Coba Clancy
Saturday, 9am	✠ Peter Bulut	The family
5:15pm	✠ Abel Leal	His daughter
Sunday, 8am	✠ Connie Broden	The family
9:30am	✠ Marian Gorski	Danuta Gorski
11am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
12:30pm	✠ Theresa & Joseph Cairns	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 Update Refugees to begin arriving soon; call for volunteers

The parish has received notice from the Archdiocesan Office for Refugees that the first refugees under Project Hope might arrive in Canada within the next 3 months. Our parish will have the opportunity to support two families through the generosity of the parish and also through the generosity of a parish family who has donated \$30,000 for an additional refugee family. At this point we'd like to reach out to members of the parish to seek volunteers to assist with all of the work required to prepare for the arrival of the two families (finding housing, furniture etc.) and to assist in their successful settlement once they arrive (school, ESL and health care registration, finding jobs) in Toronto. Based on our recent experience with the Iraqi refugee family that was successfully resettled, the role of the parish team will also involve ongoing interaction over time to ensure that their chances of success are enhanced. We would encourage all those interested in volunteering in this worthwhile and very rewarding endeavour to please contact Tim Murray at murray4668@rogers.com.

Public Lecture by David Pereyra, PhD – Thursday November 26, 7pm@OLS

"Preparation for the Rite of the Opening of the Door of Mercy in Local Churches" Sponsored by The Dominican Institute of Toronto, Our Lady of Sorrows, Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College. For info, contact: dominican.toronto@gmail.com or 416-231-6016

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

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

Society of St. Vincent de Paul 'Adopt a Family' Help in all possible ways

All year our volunteers serve people who can barely afford life's basic necessities. For these families, providing gifts and a celebratory meal is simply impossible. Your tax-receiptable presents will be provided to local families in tremendous need, helping to make their Christmas wishes come true. To help, please contact carolmurray@rogers.com or call 647-770-4805 by December 1.

MUSIC NOTES

By Gordon Mansell, Music Director, Organist, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish

During these scaffolding-laden months of restoration and renewal, our rejoicing has been supported by both our acoustic and digital pianos. During this time, Opus 2805, our beloved pipe organ, has been undergoing an out-of-province restoration of its own. The time has come for significant portions thereof to be reassembled and reinstalled. These include the organ console, wind chest and internal mechanisms. Each of the 1664 pipes has been cleaned and they too are being reinstalled. Once all this work is completed the organ will be adjusted to ensure proper regulation and balance and finally revoiced; with any degree of luck, playable by Christmas. Thank you for your patience during this period. Happily, this time has also provided us with an opportunity to meet and to get to know one another better! I am grateful to all the very fine people who came to me after Mass to express their thoughts. This immediate feedback is not always possible with me in the gallery. Know that once the organ is again in service, you are most welcome to come up and see what your financial support has accomplished.

We welcome Manuel Piazza, our new choir director for the 12:30pm Senior Choir. Manny joined us in late September and has very quickly and successfully assumed his responsibilities.

If you are interested in joining any of our choirs, please do not hesitate to contact me through the church office and I'll be happy to help. Singing is great for your health! As a choir or congregation member, singing is great cardiovascular activity. It involves breathing deeper, moving muscles and engaging your whole physical body. It is what we need to do as a congregation as well. It is important to be part of a whole community, all singing and breathing together as one. There is liturgical significance in this action and God does not care whether you feel that you have a poor voice or not. He just wants you to be filled with joy in your belief and expressing it through song. As a congregation, we should be the healthiest church around. Let's move forward by singing and becoming more musically engaged in the liturgy.

We have two important musical events coming up that I would like for you to plan to attend:

► Sat., Nov. 28, Doors@12:45pm, Concert@1:30pm – Our Lady of Sorrows is host to the 15th annual Out-of-the-Cold concert featuring several Kingsway adult & children's choirs comprising around 150 voices, including our own choirs. This year we will be joined by the Etobicoke Temple Band of the Salvation Army and guest narrator Michael Kramer of The New Classical 96.3 FM. Admission is free and donations are most welcome in support of the Out of the Cold program to feed and shelter those needing support. The program takes place at and is administered by All Saints Kingsway Anglican Church.

► Tues., Dec. 8, 7:30–9:30pm – 75th Anniversary Concert at Our Lady of Sorrows. The choirs of OLS plus MOSAIC Canadian Vocal Ensemble will be joined by an orchestra for an evening of music. The concert will feature works by Karl Jenkins, Ruth Watson Henderson, Mark Hayes, Peter Togni and Gordon Mansell. Please plan to attend this free concert and celebrate the anniversary of our parish.

"If God can work through me, he can work through anyone." – Saint Francis of Assisi

COMMUNITY

Free "Looking Ahead" Planning Seminar Saturday, November 21, 9am

Catholic Cemeteries will share information about Catholic teachings on cremation & burial options and the advantages of pre-arranging funeral, burial & cremation plans. An estate planning kit will be provided at no cost. Takes place at Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery in Woodbridge. Refreshments provided. RSVP to Frank Jannetta at 416-733-8544, ext. 2023 or fjannetta@cc-fs.ca

Christmas Craft & Bake Sale – Sunday, November 29, 9am–3pm

Mary, Mother of God School warmly invites you to join our Christmas Sale at St. Vincent de Paul Church Hall, 263 Roncesvalles Ave. Come shop for one-of-a-kind Christmas gifts and savour lots of yummy baked goods, our lunch bar of delicious sandwiches and soup & sweets!

Care For Mother Earth – Nov. 24, 7–9pm, St. Joan of Arc Parish (1701 Bloor St. W.)

The St. Joan of Arc Development and Peace group invites you to a special evening with Professor Stephen Scharper, based on Pope Francis's encyclical Laudato Si'. Light refreshments will be served, and fair trade products will be available for purchase.