

Today's reading from Mark is the climax to which his presentation of the life of Jesus to this point has been leading. The mission of Jesus has been rejected and misunderstood. It is essential to God's designs that the disciples of Jesus do not misunderstand the mission that has brought the Son forth from the Father to bring healing to a lost world.

The 'who' question is central to our human existence: 'Who are you, my companion on the journey of life?' 'Who am I?' These questions, if we face their implications, confront us with the depths and mystery of our common humanity. Jesus called himself, 'the Son of Man', a title that affirmed his sharing in our human condition. When the 'who' question is addressed to him we find not only the mysterious depths of our common humanity, but also the mystery of the generous designs of God, conceived with the Son and the Holy Spirit, in the depths of the divine eternity. Discipleship is learning, in the course of our lives, the answer to the 'who' question we address to the Saviour - who has made himself our ever-present companion. Like Peter, we shall find that we are forced to re-evaluate our most basic assumptions in the light of the ways of God we learn from Jesus.

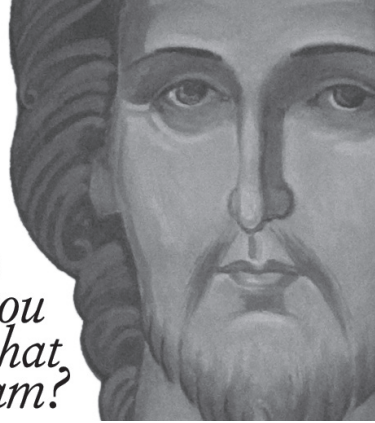
Jesus is 'the Christ', the messiah in whom Israel's hopes are centred. He begins to teach his disciples 'quite openly' what lay ahead of them in Jerusalem. He is not the political saviour so ardently hoped for in popular expectations: the 'Son of Man' will be 'rejected' - 'put to death' even. Peter's brave act of faith must be further clarified. Mark's gospel does not spare Peter - perhaps because this community has already heard of Peter's humiliations from Peter himself. Jesus addresses Peter as 'Satan', obstructing God's plan. That plan, Jesus explains, has been foreshadowed in two themes of Israel's hopes, the 'Suffering Servant' (see Is 52-53 etc - the first reading is one of the descriptions of the 'Servant') and the 'Son of Man' (Dan 7). Both of these themes envisage a mysterious personage who will fulfil the destiny of Israel - the first bringing healing for the world's self-inflicted suffering by sharing in that suffering himself; the other bringing all peoples together under the beneficent reign of God's ways.

Jesus emphatically spells out the demands of discipleship: sharing in his responsibility for the human family, even if it means sharing his 'cross'; living 'for the sake of the gospel', the Good News of the generous future God has in store for struggling humanity.

Once again, the reading from James speaks in very practical terms. His discussion of 'faith', that is 'quite dead' if it has no 'good works' to show, is familiar. It is possible that James is responding to a self-serving misinterpretation of Paul's teaching that 'we are justified by faith'. True discipleship, as Jesus reminds Peter, proves itself in a generosity that has been learned in the presence of the Crucified Saviour.

John Thornhill sm
www.themauserseries.com

Who do you say that I am?



Readings ~ Isaiah 50:5-9 ~ James 2:14-18 ~ Mark 8:27-35

"Who do people say that I am?" Who do you think Jesus is?
The depth of our faith is rooted in our answer.
Is God calling you to be a priest, religious, or deacon?

If you think you are being called to a Church vocation, call Fr. Chris Lemieux.
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week — September 14 to 20

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Kevin Doyle	Coba Clancy
Tuesday, 9am	FEAST OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS	
7:30pm		
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Claudine Pope	Winnie & Jim Magee
Thursday, 9am	✠ Joaquina Carvalho	Stephanie & Tim Crone
Friday, 9am	✠ Margaret McKenzie	Coba Clancy
Saturday, 9am	✠ David Bird	Anne & Bob Shiley
5:15pm	✠ Joseph Grimaldi	The Cinelli family
Sunday, 8am	☞ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ☞	
9:30am	✠ Abby Fedosoff	The Sklar family
11am	✠ Pat Poce	The family
12:30pm	✠ Thaddeus Wisniewski	The family

Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows Tuesday, September 15, 7:30pm

Plan to attend this special Mass! Coffee & Timbits will be served after Mass in the garden beside the parking lot. Treats are contingent upon the weather, as the parish hall is still under construction.

Blue Diamond Dinner Dance — Saturday, September 19, 7pm

Tickets are \$50 per person and include: a full course gourmet dinner catered by Chef John from Cirillo's Culinary Academy; wine on the table; a silent auction with proceeds to ShareLife; a cash bar and dancing. Only 300 tickets will be sold. Donations to the Silent Auction welcomed! Please contact the parish office.



Public Lecture by Robert Mickens — September 29, 7pm

Robert Mickens is a Rome-based journalist who has been reporting and commenting on the Vatican and the Catholic Church for three decades. Make plans to attend his presentation entitled "The Future of Pope Francis' Pontificate — What the papal visit to Cuba and the USA might tell us about the Synod on the Family." Freewill offerings will be gratefully accepted.

Rosary Group — mornings suspended; Fridays, 2pm, above Running Room

Why not take this opportunity to pray the Holy Rosary every evening, at home with your family!

"The Rosary is the most excellent form of prayer and the most efficacious means of attaining eternal life. It is the remedy for all our evils, the root of all our blessings. There is no more excellent way of praying."

— Pope Leo XIII

Social Justice at Our Lady of Sorrows — Call for Volunteers

Following the success of last month's talk by Dr. Rohan Curnow, there's an effort afoot to develop a social justice movement at OLS in accordance with the Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraph 1932) which talks about "making oneself a neighbour to others and actively serving them". Email socialjustice@sorrows.ca and volunteer to help shape this effort!

Reconciliation, Communion, Confirmation — Registration Sundays

Parish staff will be available in the parish office to process registrations and collect fees after all Sunday Masses on the following dates:

- ▶ First Reconciliation and First Communion — Sunday, September 27
- ▶ Confirmation — Sunday, October 4

"Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous." — Pope Francis from Laudato si'

COMMUNITY

Witness Interview: Stephen Colbert — Sunday, September 13, 8pm

Stephen Colbert needs little introduction! Born on May 13, 1964, in Washington, D.C., he joined Chicago's Second City comedy troupe. Together with comedians Amy Sedaris and Paul Dinello, they created and starred in both Exit 57 and Strangers with Candy. In 1997, Colbert began appearing in episodes of The Daily Show. In 2005, he was given his own spin-off show, The Colbert Report. He published I Am America (And So Can You!) in 2007. In 2014, it was announced that Colbert would replace David Letterman as host of CBS' Late Show. Stephen Colbert is not only a great comedian but a devout, proud Catholic who does not hide his religious beliefs and deep love of the Church. Only on Salt + Light Television.

In this rare, personal interview with Fr. Thomas Rosica, CSB, Stephen Colbert tells all.



Ecumenical Bible Study — Tuesday, September 15, 9:30—11:30am



The Fall session is about to begin at Islington United Church (25 Burnhamthorpe Rd., just north of Dundas St.) Sister Judith Kidd, I.B.V.M. who holds degrees in sacred theology from the Universities of Toronto and Windsor will continue to lead us through 'The Women in the Bible'. All are welcome. For further information please call Helen Match at 416-234-1770.

Post-Abortion Assistance "Hope & healing after an abortion"

Have you had an abortion? Have you assisted someone in their decision to have an abortion? Second Chance Ministry is here to help. Call Fr. Vince Heffernan sfm, Second Chance Ministry, 416-261-7135, ext. 279 or co-founder Angelina Steenstra at (905) 430-7990 or visit us online at www.secondchanceministry.ca



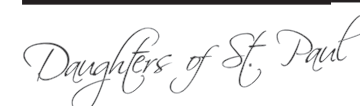
Church Bulletin Advertising

Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in December 2015 & supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 905-624-4422.

Laudato Si' — On Care for Our Common Home — September 17, 7pm

A series of four workshops will provide opportunities to explore the contents of Pope Francis' encyclical using the four permanent principles of Catholic Social Teaching: Dignity of Life, Common Good, Solidarity and Subsidiarity. Discussion will focus on practical steps toward what Pope Francis calls an "ecological conversion." St. Bonaventure Parish, 1300 Leslie St., Don Mills. Contact Brenda Voisin at 416-934-3400, ext. 523 or visit www.archtoronto.org/discipleship

Come & See Weekend Daughters of St. Paul in Toronto — October 2-5



Single women aged 18-35 are invited to experience the life, mission and spirituality of the Daughters of St. Paul. This vocation retreat weekend will include conferences, Eucharistic Adoration and a silent retreat day. Learn more at www.daughtersofstpaul.org or contact Sr. Helena Burns at hburns@paulinmedia.com or 416-781-9131, ext. 226.

Hearing the Whispers in My Heart: the Art of Discernment

Presented by a team of men and women religious and a married couple, this "day to reflect on making choices in life" takes place on Saturday, October 17, 9am-4:30pm at Loretto College, 70 Saint Mary St. (south of Bay/Bloor subway). Suggested donation is \$25 (breaks and lunch included). To register (by October 12) or for more information contact Sr. Dorothy Schweitzer at dschweitzer@csj-to.ca

