

We resume our readings from Mark's gospel. Life in a human community is governed by 'laws and customs', as Moses reminds the people of old Israel in the first reading. These regulations and their interpretation can give rise to confusion; so Moses urges the people to 'add nothing' and 'take nothing from' the law which he gives them in the name of God. We meet the same issue in today's gospel reading: Jesus is being hounded by antagonists – some of whom have come from Jerusalem for the purpose. They resent the fact that the disciples of Jesus 'do not respect the traditions of the elders' and observe ritual purifications. The response of Jesus has an important lesson for every age, as we endeavour to make Church regulations that are truly life-giving.

As is usually the case, the Response to the Psalm expresses well the message of the liturgy's readings: 'The just will live in the presence of the Lord'. As the Sermon on the Mount (Mt chapters 5 and 6) teaches us, we are truly the People of God if our life together gives expression to the ways of our Father in heaven. This is the standard against which we should evaluate the 'laws and customs' we draw up for the Church's common life, and the way they are applied.

The words of Jesus, in this and similar exchanges, are surprisingly sharp. The issue is far more important than a detail of ritual observance. Those who were leaders in Israel should have been helping the people to live according to the ways of God – so that they would be 'a light to the nations', as the prophets had taught. Instead they had lost sight of Israel's great destiny, and worked against it, in fact, by elaborating a system of self-serving regulations. They have no real concern for the ways of God, Jesus tells them, and he quotes against them the words of Isaiah: 'This people honours me only with lip service, while their hearts are far from me'. Jesus shows himself a true interpreter of Israel's faith as he urges his followers to find integrity through the motives of the heart rather than in the observance of external rituals of purification. No wonder the people followed him so eagerly.

But in what follows – as Jesus departs radically from the provisions of the Old Law concerning foods considered to make a person 'impure' – we recognise that he is conscious of an authority that is above the Law of Moses.

In the second reading we begin to read from the Letter of James. This letter, associated with the name of James 'the brother of Jesus', a leader of the Jerusalem church, gives us a glimpse of the outlook that united the first Jewish converts to faith in Christ. It is very down to earth and practical, filled with the spirit of the Wisdom literature of the Old Testament and because this literature fosters life in harmony with the ways of God, it illustrates well the spirit Jesus advocates in the gospel. James points to 'the Father of lights', the giver of 'everything that is perfect'; he urges making the message of the 'Word' of God our life standard; and we should honour God especially by our generosity to those in need.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

Our second Scripture reading reminds us that "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father ...". God's gifts should prompt a response of gratitude, which should be the basis of our daily lives.

If you feel God is offering you the gift of priesthood, religious life or deaconate, and you wish to respond generously, trusting in God, call Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca



Readings ~ Deuteronomy 4.1-2, 6-8 ~ James 1.17-18, 21-22, 27 ~ Mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – August 31 to September 6

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ David Bird	The Murray family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ David Bird	Kathleen Stanley
Wednesday, 9am	✠ David Bird	Marjorie Feheley
Thursday, 9am	✠ Lovey Moran	The Moran family
Friday, 9am	✠ members of the Feliciano, Goseco & Valencia families	Linda Feliciano
Saturday, 9am	✠ Jimmy Daly	Kathleen Stanley
5:15pm	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
Sunday, 8am	... intentions of Lydia Scolli & Chris Powell	Michael Foran
9:30am	✠ Nigogus Altiparmakyan	The family
11am	✠ Romualds Dubrovskis	The family
12:30pm	✠ Desmond McCann	Christine McCann

Weekly Drop-In Bridge Resumes! – Thursday, September 10, 1–3:30pm

Everyone is welcome to join us in our new location at 3067A Bloor Street West, 2nd floor (above the Running Room). No partners required. For more information, call Gail Weiler at 416-239-5337 or Rena Guerard at 416-236-0728.

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 Family that prays together, stays together."

–Father Patrick Peyton

ShareLife Update – Hint: Prepare to use your back-patting hand!

With sincere gratitude to our many generous parishioners, we are very pleased to report that our final ShareLife 2015 total is an exceptional \$398,851. **This amazing result represents a 1% increase over our total for 2014.** Across the Archdiocese of Toronto, parishioners have prioritized the needs of those less fortunate by ensuring that their ShareLife donations are maintained and even increased, notwithstanding their stellar support for ongoing capital campaigns. **On behalf of the 100,000+ people served by ShareLife agencies, thank you!**



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!

"The Sacraments are a privileged way in which nature is taken up by God to become a means of mediating supernatural life." – Pope Francis from *Laudato si'*

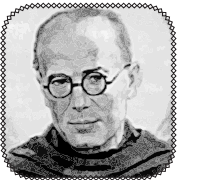
COMMUNITY

14th Annual Education Mass – Sept. 2, 6pm, St. Paul's Basilica, 82 Power St.

All Catholics working in education in the Archdiocese of Toronto are welcome and encouraged to attend this celebration in anticipation of the upcoming school year, sponsored by the Catholic Teachers Guild. After Mass, dinner will be served in the parish hall, followed by a talk by Cardinal Thomas Collins. Tickets are \$50. Please contact barry.white@tcdsb.org

Kolbe Eucharistic Mini-Retreat – September 5, 2pm

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration, prayer, and praise and worship. Father Carlos Sierra Tobon will give an inspiring talk titled, "Do not be afraid." Takes place at St. Brigid's Church, 300 Wolverleigh Blvd. More information at www.kolbeapostolate.com or call 416-696-8660.



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 Matich at 416-234-1770.

Mass of Thanksgiving for the Year of Consecrated Life – Sept. 17, 10:30am

On the occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) joins the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC) to invite all religious, members of societies of apostolic life and secular institutes, as well as all interested Catholics, to a Mass of Thanksgiving at Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, 3800 Queen Mary Rd., Montreal. The Most Reverend Paul-André Durocher, Archbishop of Gatineau and President of the CCCB, will preside at the Mass along with all the Catholic Bishops of Canada. Fr. Eugene King, OMI will deliver the homily. More information at www.bit.ly/MTLmass

Canonization of Blessed Junipero Serra – September 23, 3pm



The Serra Club of Toronto West, which promotes, supports, and prays for religious vocations, invites you to share this historic moment for the Catholic Church. In the 18th century, Fr. Serra left a comfortable life in Spain to come to the New World and share his love of the Gospel. Witness his elevation to sainthood by Pope Francis, live from the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, D.C. Dinner follows. St. Dominic Church, 625 Atwater Ave., Mississauga. \$25 per person. Register before September 15 by contacting David Bain at 905-451-8238 or djbain@rogers.com

Back to the Family: Building a Stronger, Happier Family – October 3, 7pm

Family Enrichment Toronto presents renowned psychologist, speaker and author Dr. Ray Guarendi. Dr. Ray's presentations are packed with humour and real-life experiences that leave his audiences laughing and more self-confident. He gives plenty of practical ideas that parents can relate to. Takes place at the Hawthorn School for Girls (101 Scarsdale Road). Cost: \$25 per person or \$40 per couple. Baby-sitting available upon request. Contact Flor Novak at familyenrichmentgta@gmail.com



Events at Bloordale United Church – Jazz Concert, Dementia Seminar

► Enjoy the acclaimed Richard Whiteman Quintet featuring guest vocalist Terra Hazelton on Friday, October 23 at 8pm. General admission: \$25, Students under 21: \$20.

► Learn and ask questions about dementia & Alzheimer's disease with guest speaker Kari Quinn-Humphrey, Alzheimer Society of Toronto. Thursday, October 29, 1pm. No cost. **Pre-registration is necessary.** Call 416-621-1710. Bloordale United Church, 4258 Bloor St. West. www.bloordale.ca