

Today's gospel reading from Mark has a lesson as telling today as it was when Jesus was instructing his disciples. The seriousness that characterises groups upholding a religious tradition often becomes exclusive and intolerant. The apostle John reports disapprovingly that they had seen a man 'casting out devils' in the name of Jesus. How precious in the memory of Christian faith is the Lord's response. Authentic faith and discipleship must reflect the inclusive ways of God, proclaimed by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount: 'Love your enemies ... you must set no bounds to your love, just as your heavenly Father set none to his' (Mt 5:48). 'Anyone who is not against us if for us' – words filled with wisdom and generosity. The Lord is at work in every human heart, and who are we to make judgments that may obstruct the mysterious purposes of God?

The rest of the reading provides an important complement to the great lesson concerning outsiders that has just been given. Those who are within the community of faith have a great responsibility to uphold and protect the truth and values of the Gospel – 'these little ones who have faith' are not the children in the community, but members of the community who may be led astray. What are we to make of Jesus' drastic advice to 'cut off' bodily members that may 'cause sin'? If they refer to person morality – the more frequently heard interpretation – they are a reminder that faithful discipleship may call for heroically painful decisions. (As we know, the Semitic forms of expression used by Jesus are surprisingly strong to our ears.) There is a strong case, however, for an interpretation of these words as following on from reference to the 'little ones'. In this interpretation they would refer to exclusion from the community, of persons who would corrupt the faith of insecure believers.

The first reading from Numbers provides a remarkable parallel to the gospel text. Now it is Joshua – the leader who was to succeed Moses and lead the Israelites into their Promised Land – who reacts in too exclusive a fashion. The response of Moses has a timelessness that is breathtaking; it sums up the ideal that should animate any leader of God's people: 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!' Prophets are those who speak out in God's name, pointing the way forward to God's people. Vatican II stressed the need to foster such gifts of the Spirit in the Church.

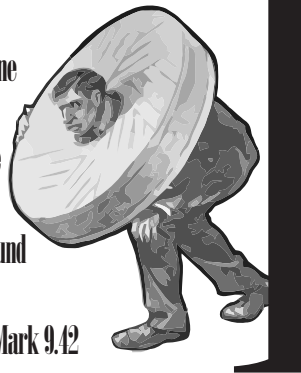
The reading from James reminds us of another exclusiveness, the sense of power and difference that can close off wealthy people from their fellow human beings. Our passage follows an ironic description of the plans of the wealthy. In the spirit of old Israel's Wisdom tradition, it goes on to declare that these grand plans will have no lasting outcome. It is not rich people in the Christian community who are being referred to, but the wealthy and unscrupulous of the surrounding society. Even so, they carry an implicit reminder for believers of the Saviour's words: 'It is harder for someone rich to enter the kingdom of Heaven' (Mt 19:23; see also Paul's rebuke to an early Christian community in which the behaviour of the wealthy was forming 'factions' 1 Cor 11:18-21).

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

Today's readings speak of the gifts of prophesy and of casting out demons.

If you feel that God is calling you with the gift of a Church vocation, call Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto. 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

"If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea." —Mark 9:42



Readings ~ Numbers 11:25-29 ~ James 5:1-6 ~ Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week — September 28 to October 4

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Marguerite Riley	Ann Creighton & family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Marguerite Riley	Kathleen Stanley
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Patricia Murray	The Sklar family
Thursday, 9am	✠ Marguerite Riley	Friends
Friday, 9am	✠ members of the Feliciano, Goseco & Valencia families	Linda Feliciano
Saturday, 9am	✠ Secondo Pontarollo	The family
5:15pm	✠ Abel Leal	His daughter
Sunday, 8am	✠ Jeanne Narozenski	The family
9:30am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
11am	✠ Breda & Gerard Dolan	The Dolan family
12:30pm	✠ Raymond & Beverly Giacomini	Rena & Denis Guerard

Public Lecture by Robert Mickens September 29, 7pm

► THIS WEEK 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.



75th Anniversary Ministry Day — November 7

Save the Saturday! This activity-filled day is for those in ministry and those who wish to join one! We hope to be able to host this in our newly refinished parish hall. More details to come!

Social Justice Initial meeting — September 29, 7pm

Thank you to those who responded to our call for volunteers! Our first meeting takes place in the meeting space above Running Room. We hope to see you there!

Confirmation — Registration Sunday — Sunday, October 4

The parish office will be open to process registrations & collect fees after all Sunday Masses.

Life Chain Corner of Bloor & Islington, Sunday, October 4, 2-3pm

Join fellow parishioners in witnessing to the sanctity of life on behalf of the most vulnerable members of our society. Let's make 2015 "the year everyone showed up!"

► What is Life Chain? Life chain is a prayerful, peaceful, witness to the evil of abortion and to the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception.

► Why is it Important? Life Chain is for one hour, on one day of the year. It is a simple and powerful way to spread the Gospel message, to be a light to our nation, and to create a Culture of Life in Canada.

Young Singers Welcome! Will this be the year you join our Music Ministry?

Our Lady of Sorrows is blessed with 2 vibrant choirs for young people. The Youth Choir is for grades 3-6 and rehearses Thursdays from 4-5pm. The Chamber Choir, for grades 7-12, rehearses Thursdays from 5-6pm. We sing alternating Sundays at the 9:30am Mass. Supervision is available at the church from 3:15-6:00pm. For more info, please contact Michele DeBoer at micheledeboer@yahoo.ca or (289) 521-3710.



"The only man who never makes mistakes is the man who never does anything." —Theodore Roosevelt

COMMUNITY

Giant Used Book Sale — Tuesday, September 29 — Saturday, October 3

Head to the Kelly Library, 113 St. Joseph Street, and help to raise funds for the Kelly Library at Saint Michael's College at the University of Toronto. The closest major intersection is Bay & Bloor. There is convenient subway & bus access as well as nearby parking. Choose from the largest selection of Catholic books in the GTA and a full selection of other subjects such as French, Italian, Art, Celtic Studies, & books for children. Details at www.stmikes.utoronto.ca/booksale

Special Mass Being Offered to End Woman Abuse — October 1, 7pm

Woman abuse is a problem that affects the total community, not just the woman and her children. We continue to work to end woman abuse and we ask the Lord to bless our efforts. All are welcome to come and pray for the many women and families affected by abuse. Takes place at St. Timothy's Parish, 21 Leith Hill Road. Visit www.cfstoronto.com

Catholic Singles Socials — Oct. 2, 7:30pm, Newman Centre, 89 St. George St.

Join us for the next Catholic Singles Social. CSS is not a speed dating event; just an opportunity for Catholics to come together and meet other singles in the area. We have been getting close to capacity at these events so be sure to register ASAP to secure your place. This event is open to Catholics 19+. Register at www.catholicsinglesocials.com

Latin Mass Revisited — October 3, 5pm — St. James Parish, 728 Annette St.

Rediscover the beauty of the solemn Latin Mass in this modern Eucharistic celebration on the first Saturday of every month (Sept. to June). We will be celebrating the Mass using the original Latin text of the Third Edition of the Roman Missal. Side-by-side Latin and English texts will be provided for those attending. A true uplifting experience that is both ancient & new, bridging past & present. For more info call 416-767-6451 or email st.james@sympatico.ca

St. Joseph's College School — Open House — October 13, 7pm

Grade 8 female students and their parents/guardians are invited to an information evening and open house. St. Joseph's College School is located at 74 Wellesley Street West, Toronto.

Call for Volunteers!

Birthright, a pro-life crisis pregnancy service, needs your help — counselling, odd jobs, administrative or marketing. Volunteers — men and women — are needed to assist those facing an unplanned pregnancy, to provide support and comfort as well as practical solutions. Training is provided. Please help us to "love them both... mother and child." For more information call 416-469-1111 or email toronto@birthright.org

New Beginnings Inspirational Talk — Monday, Oct. 19, 6:30 pm

"The Role of Spirituality/Religiosity in the Movement through Loss and Grief" with Dr. Ken Fung, M.D. F.R.C.S. takes place at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 1155 Yonge St. 4th Floor. Dr. Fung will explore the benefits of spirituality and religiosity in our movement through loss and grief, illustrating how the pathways of faith — experienced, affiliative, searching, and owned — inspire well-being. All are welcome to attend. There is no cost for this event.

25th Annual Mass of Memory — Sunday, Oct. 25, Music@3pm, Mass@3:30

Held in memory of the many victims of the Irish Famine of 1847 who died of typhus on arrival in Toronto, the many who gave their lives in service of the Irish in the summer of 1847 in Toronto and of all our departed family and friends who passed away in the last year in the Irish community, this special Mass takes place at St. Paul's Basilica, 83 Power St. Reception to follow. Proceeds to the basilica's Breakfast Club for children. The principal celebrant will be Fr. John Reddy, CSB and the homilist will be Fr. Patrick Fitzpatrick CSSp.