

Scholarly analysis of today's gospel reading shows how skillfully, and prayerfully, Luke has made use of the materials available to him. Presenting elements that are used differently in other gospels, he creates a tableau rich in meaning, expressing the optimistic outlook of the Church community in which Luke has been nurtured in the faith – probably Antioch in Syria. Jesus is portrayed bringing the Good News of the 'word of God' to an eager crowd. He calls Peter and his associates to join him, becoming 'fishers of men'; and they leave everything to follow him. Luke's narrative is centred, of course, on the Lord; but the figure of Peter stands out in a remarkable way. It is Peter's boat that Jesus teaches from; Peter speaks up for the group; it is Peter who falls on his knees, overwhelmed by his sense of unworthiness. We are left in no doubt that Luke reveres Peter. His warm portrayal invites us to share his reverence for the man to whom Jesus had given a new and symbolic name. Reference to Peter's human frailty is not lacking – Luke is the only evangelist to refer to Christ's prayer for Peter: that 'his faith not fail', so that he may 'strengthen his brothers' (Lk 22:32). In the Acts of the Apostles – Luke's story of the early Church – Peter is leader and anchor-man. Luke is reflecting the importance Peter had for the first generation of Christians.



Put out into the deep for a catch

In his portrayal, Luke is anticipating the outlook of the Fathers of the early Christian centuries, who not only saw Peter as the leader and spokesman of the apostolic Church, but also saw him as giving expression to all that the Church is called to be: in his faith and his response to the call of Jesus – sharing in Jesus' way of life, given completely to the spreading of the Good News of God. There is a rich symbolism to be found in this portrayal of the origins of the Church's response to the call of the Saviour: Peter is the first person in Luke's gospel to respond to the call of Jesus (as time and again, in the Acts of the Apostles, Peter will be the first to make decisive moves in the life of the emerging Church); it is from the boat of Peter that Christ's true teaching is heard; Christ's encouraging words, 'Put out into the deep for a catch', echo down through the ages, bringing encouragement to the Church in all its difficulties and setbacks; Peter's humility in the presence of what Christ has done is an eloquent reminder to all members of the Church, great and small, that the successes of the Church – as it responds to Christ's call – are all the Lord's doing.

For all the human warmth with which it is portrayed, Peter's call is a mystery that has its origins in the eternal designs of God's love and freedom. We are reminded that we too have a place in those designs. Today's first reading – describing the awe-inspiring call of the prophet Isaiah – provides, therefore, a suitable complement to the gospel reading, inviting us to join in the response of the prophet, 'Here I am. Send me'. Paul, too, was to respond to the call to become a 'fisher of men'. In today's second reading, he assures us that the teaching through which he carries out his ministry is one with the teaching of those who first responded to Christ's call.

John Thornhill sm
www.themmasseries.com

Do not be afraid. If the Lord is calling you to a consecrated life, do not be afraid. Jesus calls and will give you the grace to respond wholeheartedly.
If God is calling you, call Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocations Director, Archdiocese of Toronto
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Isaiah 6,1-2a, 3-8 ~ 1 Corinthians 15,1-11 ~ Luke 5,1-11

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – February 8 to 14

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Jose Caceres	Delia Urosevic
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Denis Daly	Kathleen Stanley
Wednesday, 9am	... Wedding Anniversary of Brian & Pamela Nigli	Linda & family
Thursday, 9am	✠ Joe Hall	Brenda McKay
Friday, 9am	✠ Laura Sadvari	MOSAIC Canadian Vocal Ensemble
Saturday, 9am	✠ Drago Bokulic	MOSAIC Canadian Vocal Ensemble
5:15pm	✠ Michael Panak	The Zeglinski family
Sunday, 8am	☞ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ☞	
9:30am	✠ Marguerite Petitclerc	Carmen Petitclerc
11am	✠ Adolfo Scauzillo	The family
12:30pm	✠ Elvyra Vosylius	The Senior Choir

Rosary Group – mornings suspended; Fridays, 2pm, above Running Room
"The family that prays together stays together" – Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. (aka "The Rosary Priest")

Confirmation Catechetical Sessions Sun. Feb. 7, 2–3pm or Thu. Feb. 11, 7–8pm
These sessions are for parents, sponsors and candidates. Parents and sponsors should gather in the parish hall, where catechists will lead a brief reflection on the theology of confirmation. In the church, Fr. Nino will lead a reflection and discussion with candidates. Further instructions for the April retreats & confirmation Masses will be provided at this time.

Stretch & Flex – \$10/session – Bring water & a yoga mat – Tues., 6:15–7:30pm
Takes place in the parish hall; moves to 2nd floor, Running Room, every 3rd Tues./month. Note that the Feb. 9 session moves to the Running Room (2nd floor) on account of pancakes!

Pancake Tuesday Returns! – Tues., Feb. 9, continuous buffet service, 5–7pm
The ShareLife committee will again be hosting this 'most palatable' event in the parish hall. Enjoy pancakes & sausage, along w/coffee, tea or orange juice... please pass the maple syrup!
Cost: \$5 children/\$8 adults in advance & \$7 children/\$10 adults at the door. **Get your tickets today! Last chance for advanced tickets is after each Mass on Sunday, Feb 7.**
Volunteers are needed from 3–8pm. Contact the parish office to offer some of your time.

Ash Wednesday – February 10 – Three Masses To Mark Beginning of Lent
Ashes will be distributed at the 9am Mass, the 1:15pm school Mass and at a special 7:30pm Mass.
Stations of the Cross will be observed every Friday during Lent at 7:30pm in the church.

OLS Refugee Sponsorship Update Donation Sunday coming soon!
As you know, our parish is sponsoring the resettlement of 3 refugee families through the Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto (ORAT). We are hopeful that within the next few weeks ORAT will provide the Parish Refugee Resettlement Committee with a description of the refugee families to be welcomed by our parish community along with timelines for their arrival. Having more specific information about arrival dates, family members' ages and genders will provide an opportunity for parishioners who wish to participate directly in the resettlement initiative to choose which household items they would like to purchase and donate to the refugee families based on what they need through a Donation Sunday. More info on our families and the Donation Sunday program will be published here as we learn more. **Thank you so much for your support!**

For the next few weeks we present in this space: "Ten more commandments" to follow in life: #1 – Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but rather a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.

COMMUNITY

"Hearts Broken Open" – Monday, February 8, 6:30–8:30pm
New Beginnings and Catholic Family Services of Toronto present an inspirational talk by Susan Morgan, M.Div., designed for anyone who has experienced a loss in life and who desires to move forward. The talk will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Centre - 1155 Yonge St. (Shaftesbury Ave.) 4th floor, located at Summerhill subway. Limited underground parking available.

Theology on Tap West Monday, February 8, 7pm
WHO? Young adults 19+ (bring a friend!) • **TOPIC?** Mental Illness
WHAT? An evening of thought-provoking discussions/presentations in a comfy, relaxed setting.
WHERE? Boston Pizza, 50 Courtney Park Drive East, Mississauga, L5T 2Y3
The OCY and Faith Connections, along with representatives from your local parishes invite all young adults to join us. Denis Costello, Executive Director of Catholic Family Services at the Archdiocese of Toronto, will speak on a very real and relevant issue that affects all of us in many ways. **We hope to raise awareness and grow in faith!**
Visit our Facebook event page at www.facebook.com/events/1135634193115498



Canadian Interfaith Response to the Refugee Crisis – Feb. 9, 5pm
Speakers include Doug Saunders, award winning author and journalist; Naomi Alboim, professor of policy studies at Queen's University and board member of Lifeline Syria; Habeeb Alli, Community Development Manager of International Development and Relief Foundation; Martin Mark, Director of Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto. Takes place at Congregation Darchei Noam, 864 Sheppard Ave. W. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

"Movies That Move You" (a film festival) 3rd Wed. each month – Feb. thru May
Want to feel "moved" in today's world? Want to feel surprised, informed and possibly inspired? Kingsway Lambton United Church (85 The Kingsway) presents 4 riveting, enriching and thought-provoking documentary films followed by a Q&A period with subject matter experts including representatives from World Vision, The Alzheimer Society of Toronto and Human Rights Watch. On Feb. 17, see the first movie in the series: "Dukale's Dream" featuring OSCAR® nominee Hugh Jackman – The story of climate change, poverty and the power of fair-trade coffee. Doors open @6:30pm, movie @7pm. **Free admission.**

Opening the Doors to God's Mercy – Saturday, Feb. 20, 9:30am–3:30pm
A New Beginnings Lenten Retreat led by Deacon Curtis and Joanne Boone will be held at St. Patrick's Church, 11873 The Gore Road (Wildfield/Brampton). For more info or to register, contact newbeginnings.st.padrepiorchurch@gmail.com or phone 416-921-1163, ext. 2235.

Men's Day of Retreat – Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre – Feb. 27, 9:30am
The day's theme is "God's mercy as an entrance to prayer and the spiritual life," preached by Deacon Dr. Greg DeMarchi. Includes coffee & muffins and a hot lunch. Call (905) 278-5229.

24th Annual Lift Jesus Higher Rally – Metro Convention Centre – March 5
Be inspired, encouraged and healed! From 9am–5:30pm, Ralph Martin, Sr. Ann Shields, Peter Herbeck and guest speaker Deacon Larry Oney will help you lift Jesus higher! Mass (with Sunday readings) celebrated by Cardinal Thomas Collins. Separate youth event (13–18 years) with great music, dynamic talks & inspirational skits. Tickets are \$20/adults, \$15/youth; available at www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.org or by calling (416) 251-4255.

FertilityCare Toronto Registered charity, member agency of ShareLife
Is your family complete? Do you find yourself wondering what comes next for family planning? FertilityCare Toronto can help you. Visit us online at www.fertilitycare.ca