

**A**s we begin the journey towards our Easter celebration, today's gospel reading from Luke sets us on our way. For Luke, Jesus' temptations in the wilderness point to the terrible conflict that awaits him at the end of the public life - when 'at his appointed time' the devil returns to frustrate the Saviour's work. In Luke's account, the last temptation takes place in Jerusalem - Jesus' final conflict with the forces of evil will take place in the holy city.

A great realism runs through the biblical story. God's final purposes for the human family and for the whole of creation will only be realised through the Saviour's defeat of the forces of evil. We do not need to be persuaded that evil forces are at work in our world - selfish abuse of the freedom given to God's creatures; but also the destructiveness caused by the blindness of those who have lost their way in a darkened world.

Today's gospel presents the conflict of Jesus with the forces of evil as a very personal one. Perhaps this presentation is a summary of the teaching in which - drawing on the experience of a life shared with us - Jesus warned his disciples of the temptations that would call them away from their commitment to follow him. They will be tempted to give false gods the place the one true God should have in their lives: creature comforts and possessions; power abused for selfish advantage; a 'religious' complacency that presumes on God's favours without a genuine commitment to the ways of God.



Man does not live by bread alone

In the gospel accounts, the temptations of Jesus are closely linked with his baptism by John: 'Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there'. In the Jordan he showed that he had thrown in his lot with struggling humanity - 'put to the test in exactly the same way as ourselves, apart from sin' (Hebrews 4.15). By his example, and finally through the power of his Paschal Mystery, he would make himself the 'Way' to the fullness of life for a lost world. Our reading from Paul to the Romans celebrates this triumphant outcome.

As we reflect upon the conversion to which the Church invites us during our Lenten journey, the Lord's example should be our inspiration. The temptations he faced encourage us to look beyond superficial problems in our lives and characters, and to face up to the root causes of these failings - the false gods that so easily seduce our divided human hearts. Today's liturgy brings us another valuable lesson. The Word of God is a power for good in the lives of those who know and love the Scriptures. The words of Scripture with which Jesus confounds the tempter come from the book of Deuteronomy. Paul cites this same book (30.14) as he proclaims the Church's faith in the risen Lord. This book is one of the high points of the Old Testament. In today's first reading it gives us a summary of Old Testament faith in God's faithfulness - a faithfulness that is finally expressed in the Paschal Mystery.

John Thornhill sm  
www.themmasseries.com

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days of prayer and fasting. Are you open to being led by the Holy Spirit into the life-commitment God has prepared for you?

Is God calling you? Contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocations Director, Archdiocese of Toronto 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Deuteronomy 26.4-10 ~ Romans 10.8-13 ~ Luke 4.1-13

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week - February 15 to 21

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Pasko Pavkovic	The family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Lynne Graham	The OLS bridge group
Wednesday, 9am	✠ members of the Grogan family	
Thursday, 9am	✠ Margaret Stefaniuk	MOSAIC Canadian Vocal Ensemble
Friday, 9am	✠ Laura Sadvari	The Sitarski family
Saturday, 9am	✠ Lynne Graham	Thelda & Jennifer Walsh
5:15pm	✠ Michael Panak	The Kukiel family
Sunday, 8am	✠ Laura Sadvari	Norman Narozenski
9:30am	✠ Cecilia Honner	The Medal family
11am	✠ Theresa Gihlavsky	Jenny Chyz
12:30pm	✠ Betty Smith	Roberta & Jim Clough

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")

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.



Children's Liturgy of the Word Join us! This program for young parishioners (4-10 years of age) has resumed on Sundays at the 9:30am liturgy. All are welcome!

All-Day Confessions - Two priests available on March 12, 9:30am-5pm

Your Offertory Envelopes - please write in an amount Please take a moment each week to write the amount of your donation on your envelope. If you're using the supplied (numbered) envelopes, you need not write your name - we'll know it's you based on the envelope number. If using a surrogate envelope, do please make sure to note your number or name along with the amount! Thank you for your cooperation!

Stations of the Cross Fridays during Lent, 7:30pm in the church, 20-25 mins

Together we are continuing to work wonders... "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy." Matthew 5.7 Our Lord encourages us with a timely reminder about what our actions truly should be - to show mercy to others. Does showing mercy mean to take the time delivering food for the local food bank in our neighbourhood? Do we have time to help by serving on a weekend in the soup kitchen in our city or praying for a family who is dealing with a personal crisis? Or maybe the refugee family who needs some volunteer help resettling their family to a new life here in Canada. In essence, ShareLife becomes that connective bridge between the pulpit and the street. When we are called to action in the Catholic community, we know of so many ways we can make a difference by working together in the lives of those in need. Annually, we share in helping over 114,000 individuals, thanks to the support received through our collective efforts. Please help us celebrate ShareLife's 40th anniversary by supporting our annual Archdiocesan appeal during this Lenten season!

—Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto

Sunday, March 13 is ShareLife Sunday. Give generously. You can work wonders!

"Ten more commandments" to follow in life: #2. So why is a car's windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on.

COMMUNITY

"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.padrepiocurch@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

Young Men's High School Retreat - St. Augustine's Seminary, Sat., March 12

This day-long event will provide a time to pray, to interact & socialize and will include Mass, adoration & confession. Priests and seminarians will deliver talks on practical aspects of our faith. For more information call 416-968-0997 or email vocations@archtoronto.org



Thomas Cardinal Collins Address on Physician-assisted Dying

On February 3, in Ottawa, Cardinal Collins made a presentation to a special joint committee on physician-assisted dying. Please take some time to read the full text of this important address on the archdiocesan website. It can be found here: www.bit.ly/1WbWbms

Dynamic Women of Faith Catholic Women's Conference - March 19, 8:30am-5pm

Our conferences keep getting better ever year! Last year, we had a record number of women attending. Visit www.dynamicwomenfaith.com or call Dorothy Pilarski at 905-279-7702 for a complete list of speakers and more information, including the conference venue and details about registration. Early-bird fee (before Feb. 20) is \$55; Regular fee is \$60 - light breakfast, lunch & parking. The evening before we are hosting a "Calling ALL Girls" event at Markland Wood Golf Club. Moms create a wonderful & thought-provoking event for you and your daughter!

