

Each year of the three-year cycle, the gospel of the second Sunday of Lent tells of the Transfiguration. This year we have Luke's account which presents this incident as Jesus instructs his disciples – preparing them for his journey to Jerusalem to meet his fate. The liturgical tradition echoes this outlook, inviting us to learn the lessons of this mysterious incident as we begin our journey of Lent. In Luke's account, in the verses immediately preceding, Jesus has warned the apostles of what lies ahead: "The Son of Man will be rejected and put to death; more than that, everyone who wants to be his follower 'must take up his cross every day and follow him' (9.22-23). Luke's account clearly has these warnings in mind. It is filled with reassurance for the chosen followers Jesus has brought up the mountain with him. Moses and Elijah (representing the Law and the Prophets, the great bearers of old Israel's hopes) are conversing with Jesus concerning 'his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem' (the destiny of Israel was established in the original Passover and Exodus; in what lies ahead, this great destiny is to reach its final moment – as the shadows of the old order give way to the reality they prefigure, the Paschal Mystery). From the 'cloud', so often a symbol of God's presence in the first Exodus, the voice of the Father confirms what Jesus has told them of this new Passover: "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him."



They were speaking of the passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem

As he tells the story of Jesus, Luke often emphasises the place of prayer in our Christian life. The Transfiguration took place in a moment of prayer; Jesus had taken the chosen apostles 'up the mountain to pray'. There he communed with the eternal Father, readying himself for the mission he was soon to accomplish for the life of the world. As we make the journey of Lent, this example of his – making himself truly our brother and companion – should inspire us to make the journey with him, eager to give ourselves more fully to that personal mission to which the eternal Father has called us – in our families, our parish community and the broader world.

Paul's exhortation to the Philippians is along these lines. The Easter celebration we look forward to reminds us of our final 'homeland'; to share in all that lies in store for us, we will be transformed by the power through which our Saviour brought the whole universe into existence. The rationale of the Liturgy's choice of Old Testament passages during Lent is different from that of the Sundays of the year – chosen because they chime in with the theme of the gospel. The Paschal Mystery is the final climax of God's saving interventions. Each Sunday in Lent, therefore, a great event of God's saving history is recalled, reminding us of the one great story told in the Scriptures. Today it is the Lord's promise to Abraham, made according to a strange old ritual whereby earthly rulers confirmed their commitment to their subjects by oath.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

Peter, John and James had a mountaintop experience with Jesus by witnessing His transfiguration. We too can have a mountaintop experience when we open our minds and hearts to following God's Will for our lives.

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

Readings ~ Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 ~ Philippians 3:17 - 4:1 ~ Luke 9:28b-36

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – February 22 to 28

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Anastasia Coutinho	The Coutinho family
Tuesday, 9am	... of Vince & Jeanne Roddy	Mary Kulycki
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Olivia Faminial	Mr. & Mrs. J. Angeles
Thursday, 9am	... of the Gombita family	Petra Dlabalova
Friday, 9am	✠ Rose Lorenc	The family
Saturday, 9am	✠ Leo Arrigo	Maria
5:15pm	✠ Pacita Ventura	The family
Sunday, 8am	☞ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ☞	
9:30am	✠ Denise Cameron	The Simandl family
11am	✠ Patricia Cronin	The family
12:30pm	... of Leokadia Duda, in thanksgiving	



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 Mass. All are welcome!

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

'Final Fridays' Fellowship – last Friday of each month, after 9am Mass

Everyone is invited to the parish hall for coffee, tea and breakfast rolls. Take advantage of this special opportunity to get to know your neighbour. All are welcome... bring a friend!

Stations of the Cross – Fridays during Lent, 7:30pm in the church, 30–35 mins

OLS Pancake Day (yes, there were blueberries) yields \$2,226 for ShareLife

Thanks to all 48 volunteers who helped make this annual event such a success! Thanks also to the many parishioners and visitors who came out to enjoy our pancake feast; a wonderful evening was enjoyed by all! The 50/50 draw was won by minister of hospitality Don Buckley, who promptly donated his winnings in memory of his father, Frank, who recently passed away. Coincidentally, Frank was very active in assisting Archbishop Phillip Pocock in his organizing efforts for ShareLife in the 1970s – so this was a touching gift from Don. The large gift basket was won by Michael Bahr. Thanks also to our silent donors who provided much of the food and ingredients for the event! If you missed out this year, be sure and join us on Feb. 28, 2017!

Working wonders for those entering the priesthood...

"I am aware that what is given to me here is because of the generosity of many benefactors, including ShareLife, to whom I am very grateful. Last year, I graduated from Philosophy at St. Philip Neri Oratory summa cum laude, and this would not have been possible without the contribution of many benefactors. I am sure that whatever is given to me is for the sake of the mission that the Lord is preparing for me, and I thank ShareLife for their generous contribution to the work that God has prepared for me." —Simon Ibrahim, Redemptoris Mater seminarian



At ShareLife-funded agencies such as Serra House, St. Augustine's and Redemptoris Mater Seminaries, individuals undergo extensive theological education and practical field training. Through ShareLife, you are helping to sustain vocations for the priesthood and inspire discernment for God's call. Last year ShareLife helped support 80 seminarians in their formation studies.

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

"Ten more commandments" to follow in life: #3. Friendship is like a book. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.

COMMUNITY

Tabernacle Sponsor Needed Please contact the office if you can help

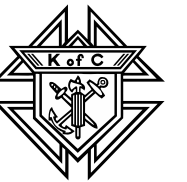
Our beautiful tabernacle has served us well for the last 27,448+ days (that's 75 years and a bit!) and the finish is certainly showing its age. We are looking for an individual or family to sponsor the refinishing of the tabernacle; the cost is estimated at \$6,000. Thank you!

Victoria Scholars – Masterpieces of the Renaissance – Feb. 28, 7:30pm@OLS

Listen to the Victoria Scholars perform the music of their namesake composer, Tomás Luis de Victoria, and his contemporaries; our core repertoire and truly a concert to please music lovers and casual listeners alike! Tickets are available at the door on concert night.

Knights of Columbus – Fish & Chip Dinner – Feb. 26, 5pm

Once again this year Kingway Council #3387 are hosting this tasty event in the parish hall at St. Clement Church (409 Markland Dr., M9C 1S5) with proceeds going to the Coats for Kids program. Tickets are available via email at kofckingsway3387@yahoo.ca – \$10 for adults, \$7 for children.



ALSO The Knights will be holding a Divine Mercy Hour at Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, (1 Resurrection Rd., M9A 5G1) on Friday, March 18, at 8pm. All are welcome.

Cuba 2016 – World Day of Prayer Friday, March 4, 2pm

St. Leo's Church (277 Royal York Rd., at Stanley Ave.) is hosting this ecumenical service, written by Cuban women. Refreshments to follow. Parking is available. All are welcome!

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. Fee is \$60 which includes a light breakfast and lunch. Free parking.

ALSO The evening before we are hosting a "Calling ALL Girls" event at Markland Wood Golf Club. Moms: this is a wonderful & thought-provoking event for you and your daughter!

All Saints' Parish – Life In The Spirit Seminar



Thirsting for an ever deeper relationship with God? Longing to be more alive in your faith? What is God's Will for you? The Life in the Spirit seminar is a series of teachings & reflections on how to draw closer to God, how to recognize and be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit, and how to deepen your prayer & faith life. The seminar takes place in the parish hall for eight Wednesdays, beginning March 30, from 7:30pm to 9pm. Registration fee to cover cost for material is \$20/person or \$30/couple. Register by email: daprile60@rogers.com or amdg@rogers.com