

In today's gospel passage, Luke continues his account of Jesus' Galilean ministry, spreading the Good News of the Kingdom. The story he recalls is a very striking one, and Luke tells it with a sensitivity that moves us each time we hear it. As he enters the town, accompanied by a large crowd, Jesus was confronted by a tragic funeral procession. The only son of a widow was being taken for burial. Moved with compassion, Jesus comforted the unfortunate woman, and stopping the procession by putting his hand on the bier carrying the dead man, he called him back to life, and 'gave him to his mother'. To understand fully the pathos of this incident, we must recognise that this widow's situation was a desperate one. She faced more than the loss of her son. In the patriarchal society to which she belonged, the loss of her only son left her without the support of a male relative to protect her interests.

But Luke wants us to find more in this story than evidence of the compassion of Jesus. Immediately after describing this incident, he recalls the messengers who came from John the Baptist to ask Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come?' To this question Jesus replied by reminding them of the signs spoken of by the prophets, signs that would announce the coming of the Messiah: 'Tell John what you have seen and heard, the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the dead are raised to life, the Good News is proclaimed to the poor' (Luke 7.22).

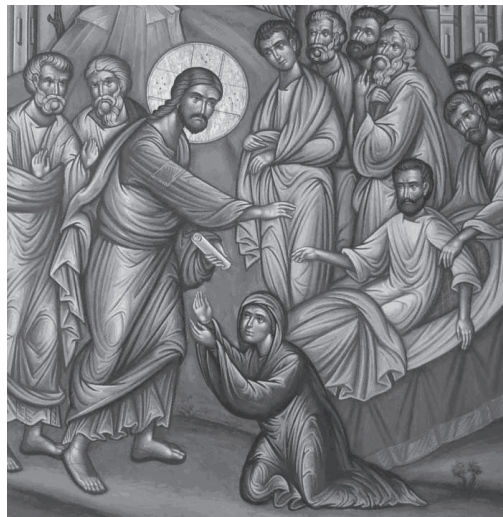
Luke is presenting Jesus as the final prophet of God. In the traditions of old Israel, both Elijah and Elisha restored to life the sons of widows. We hear of Elijah's miracle in today's first reading. What a contrast between the desperate efforts and prayers of Elijah – in many ways the paradigmatic prophet of the Old Testament – to bring the child back to life, so that he could 'give him to his mother', and the sovereign authority with which Jesus performs the miracle in his own name: 'Young man, I tell you to get up'. More than that, he displays an authority that is greater than that of the prophets of the Old Testament – in that his compassion led him to disregard the ritual prescriptions of the Law, which made one who had contact with a corpse 'unclean'.

In this miracle, Jesus demonstrates his invincible power over Death, 'the last enemy to be destroyed' as Paul tells us (1 Cor 15.26). He is anticipating the ultimate triumph of his Paschal Mystery. Today's reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians – recalling his sharing in Christ's triumph, when God 'called him through his grace, and chose to reveal his Son to him' – reminds us that we can all know the compassion of Jesus, as he shares with us his triumph over the reign of death.

John Thornhill sm
www.themaussseries.com

"O God, from whom all good things come, grant that we, who call on you in our need, may at your prompting discern what is right, and by your guidance do it."

If you think God is calling you to consecrated life, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca



A great prophet has appeared among us

Readings ~ 1 Kings 17:17-21a, 22-24 ~ Galatians 1.11-19 ~ Luke 7.11-17

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – June 6–12

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

| | Intention(s): | Offered by: |
|----------------|---|---------------------|
| Monday, 9am | ✠ Aladar Vince | The family |
| Tuesday, 9am | ✠ John Foran | The family |
| Wednesday, 9am | ✠ Edward Ward | Deedee Mungovan |
| Thursday, 9am | ✠ Dolores Devilla Buenafe | The Manion family |
| Friday, 9am | ✠ members of the Mahoney family | |
| Saturday, 9am | ✠ Owen Joseph Jacobs | Mercy & Earl Anselm |
| 5:15pm | ✠ Theresa Dimson | The family |
| Sunday, 8am | ✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠ | |
| 9:30am | ✠ Marguerite Manuel | The Flynn family |
| 11am | ✠ Joseph & Ruth Temple | The Temple family |
| 12:30pm | ✠ Marguerite Guirguis | The family |

OLS Religious Education Program 2016/17 – Registration now open!

Registrations are now being accepted from **registered parishioners** for their children (grades 1–7) who attend non-Catholic schools. Forms are available at the parish office.

Rosary Group stay and pray daily, after 9am Mass + Fridays, 2pm

Five decades daily, fifteen decades on Fridays followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

The Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet are "a spiritual medicine... good for your heart, for your soul, for your whole life."

Franciscus

Gifts of Securities – a great option for all your church giving

If you have stocks or mutual funds that have appreciated, you're likely not keen on paying capital gains tax on them! Consider making them your offertory gift. You can also use securities to consolidate all your Church giving. If you make an annual gift to ShareLife, for example, we will arrange to have the parish credited with your gift. To learn more, call the Archdiocesan Development Office at 416-934-3411 or visit www.archtoronto.org/development



Children's Liturgy of the Word – Join us!

This program for young parishioners (4–10 years of age) takes place on Sundays at the 9:30am Mass. **All are welcome!**

Stretch & Flex Join us! – Tuesdays, 6:15–7:30pm @Running Room, 2nd Floor

Only \$10 per session. Bring a bottle of water, a yoga-type mat and wear comfy clothing!

Working wonders with families in our neighbourhoods...

At age 16, Lauren was hospitalized after receiving a severe beating from her mother. The violence had been going on for several months, and Lauren was afraid to talk about it. Eventually her mother faced charges and Lauren was removed from her family's home, coming to Sancta Maria House in search of a more permanent, safe place to live. Lauren spent 2 years here, making many positive gains, learning to release anger and focus on her bright future. Lauren is grateful for all of the devoted staff at Sancta Maria House for making such a wonderful difference in her life. **Last year, ShareLife-supported Family Service agencies provided family counselling to over 5,100 people in the Greater Toronto Area.**

ShareLife's campaign continues! Please give generously. You can work wonders!



Travelling this summer? Visit www.massimes.org and get to Mass! You may also use their phone-based system at 1-858-207-6277 to search a database of 117,000 diocese-approved Catholic churches in 201 countries!

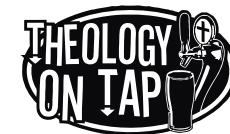
COMMUNITY

Bill C-14, Medical Assistance in Dying Passed 3rd House Reading on May 31

We are continuing to urge the Senate to further protect the conscience rights for physicians and facilities in the legislation. We are pleased to see MPs approved two suggested amendments to the Bill, affirming the protection of freedom of conscience and of religion in the Canadian Charter of Rights and stating that a doctor cannot be compelled to perform euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide. While we oppose any form of assisted suicide/euthanasia, we recognize that Bill C-14 is imminent and that the inclusion of conscience rights is an important first step to protect those who object to hastening death for their patients. There is still time to make an impact. **If you have not done so already, please visit www.canadiansforconscience.ca**

Theology on Tap West: Holiness and Budgeting – June 6, 7pm

Faith Connections, the Office of Catholic Youth (OCY) and local parishes invite young adults (19–39) to join us for an evening of thought-provoking theological discussion in a comfortable and relaxed setting, with special guest, Quentin Schesnuik, BA, CSC, PFP. Takes place at Boston Pizza, 50 Courtney Park Dr. E., Mississauga. For more information, call 416-599-7676 or visit www.faithconnections.ca



Reboot! Live! – A Life Changing Event for Parish and Family June 8, 7pm

Come and join the St. Mary Immaculate Parish Community for Reboot! Live! with internationally acclaimed speaker and author Chris Stefanick. Reboot! Live! is the fun, inspiring and practical experience of applying the beauty and genius of the heart of the Gospel to every aspect of your life. From prayer and spirituality, to work, dating, marriage, parenting, health and more. There is no part of your life that will be left untouched. We look forward to seeing you at the parish, 10295 Yonge St., Richmond Hill. For tickets (\$25) or more info, contact Adam Caldana at 416-567-4336 or email adam.caldana@hotmail.com or visit www.reallifecatholic.com/reboot-live-participants

Toronto Shalom Festival 2016 – June 11, 8:30am

Celebrate life with Jesus! "He crowns you with mercy and compassion" (Psalm 103.4). Powerful talks by international preachers – Fr. George Kumbloomoottil and Patrick Sullivan. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Bishop John Boissonneau. Music by All4Him worship band. Spirit-filled prayer sessions. Takes place at Trinity Hall, Canadian Coptic Centre, 1245 Eglinton Ave. W., Mississauga. Cost is \$20/person (includes lunch) Call 416-913-8230 or email infoca@shalomworld.org for information. Buy tickets at www.shalomworld.org/festivals/events/124



St. Paul's Basilica Taizé Prayer Service June 12, 3:30pm

St. Paul's Basilica Parish (83 Power St.) invites you to meditative scripture-based prayer and music in the Taizé tradition. Meditation: Compelled by the Spirit. Join us in contemplating the presence of the Holy Spirit through song, scripture and silence. All are welcome. Social to follow. RSVPs appreciated. For more information email stpaultaize@gmail.com or call 416-364-7588 or visit www.stpaulsbasilicaparish.com



Focolare Mariapolis – Unity: Gift, Commitment, Goal – July 1, 8:30am–July 3, lunch

Programme includes daily Mass, theme presentations, experiences on living the spirituality of unity in everyday life, parallel programmes for children and teens, sharing groups, games and outdoor activities. Takes place at Trent University in Peterborough. For information, call 416-223-0804 or email focolaretoronto@gmail.com or visit www.focolare.ca