

We listen fascinated to the story of the meeting by the well of Jesus and the Samaritan woman. Her history reminds us of our own frailties; her finding of faith and a new life encourages us. Thirst and hunger are such elemental experiences that they come immediately to mind, as we try to express the restless quest that shapes every human life. Though her life's searching has led her to make serious mistakes, we warm to the spirited woman from whom Jesus asks a drink. Jesus is thirsty; but what he seeks before all else is that this woman and those like her find true peace. In their memorable exchange he responds to the woman's searching. As she comes to recognise that she has found what her heart has been seeking, she 'puts down her water jar', and runs off to share the good news with the villagers she has been avoiding – by coming to the well at midday when few people are about.



Anyone who drinks the water I shall give will never thirst

This narrative has been written for a community that has meditated deeply upon basic themes of Christian faith – themes as relevant for us today as they were when the gospel was written. The Saviour is progressively presented as the one in whom humanity's long and troubled search will find what it has been looking for. He is 'greater than Jacob', the ancestor of Israel; he is not only 'a prophet'; he is 'the Christ' of Israel's hopes. In fact – as in many texts of John's gospel – he intimates a claim to the divine name itself, 'I AM he'.

His coming inaugurates a new order, 'worship of the Father in Spirit and truth' – something far beyond what has been known to Jews and Samaritans. He brings 'living waters, welling up to eternal life'. John's community would have heard in these words overtones of the wonder of their baptism.

The woman's reaction to her enlightenment was a reminder to those who had found faith in Christ that they too were called to be missionaries, and this reminder has a sharp edge. It is not easy for us, today, to appreciate the bitterness of the estrangement between Jews and Samaritans – though the shocking conflicts of recent times may help us to understand the violent attitudes that divided these two groups. Of the Synoptic Gospel writers, Luke alone – the gentile convert – shows sympathy for the Samaritans. A missionary outreach to these people, therefore, must have seemed almost unthinkable to early Christians, most of whom were from a Jewish background. The attitude of Jesus, and the success he had in this chance meeting with Samaritans, was an encouragement for them to take up the Church's mission, even though the difficulties seemed insurmountable.

This lesson is hammered home for them – and for us – in the words of Jesus to his bewildered disciples: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me'; the harvest is 'ready' – 'grain for eternal life'. His final lesson is a call to humility – the saving plan he is inaugurating is God's work – among God's workers, 'one sows, another reaps'

John Thornhill sm
www.themmasseries.com

The Lord is kind and merciful and calls us to proclaim His Name. Consider service in the priesthood or consecrated life.

If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Exodus 17:3-7 ~ Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 ~ John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39, 40-42

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – February 29 to March 6

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Josephine Bondi	Cousins Mary & Nataline Bondi
Tuesday, 9am	✠ David Bird	The Brennan family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Joan Brady	John & Ursula Matthews
Thursday, 9am	✠ Anthony & Josephine Morrell	J & L Sheppard
Friday, 9am	✠ members of the Valencia, Goseco & Feliciano families	Linda Feliciano
Saturday, 9am	✠ Betty Anne Wile	Lisa & John Cairns
5:15pm	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
Sunday, 8am	✠ Mrs. Nunziata	Jim Regan & family
9:30am	✠ Carla Villa	The family
11am	✠ Eva & Stanislaw Pizon	Their goddaughter
12:30pm	✠ Maria Colaricci	Emilio & Nelly Patullo



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

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

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

If you have stocks or mutual funds that have gone up in value & you're not keen on paying capital gains tax on them, consider using them to make 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, please call the Archdiocese Development Office at 416-934-3411 or visit www.archtoronto.org/development

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

Reflection Session on First Reconciliation and First Communion

Choose one of the following reflection sessions to attend: (a) Sunday, February 28, 2–3pm or (b) Wednesday, March 2, 7–8pm. At these sessions Fr. Nino will lead a reflection for children and their parents in preparation for the celebration of First Reconciliation & First Communion. More info regarding the celebration of both sacraments will be provided at this time.

Working wonders for those in our community...

"At Mary Centre, the residents of our homes have developed friendships, yet they maintain their own individuality," says Denise Tremblett, Program Manager, "Although some of their relatives may have passed on, they love to remain active with healthy recreational activities and visiting regularly with the rest of their friends and family members. We enjoy cooking and providing for them so they can remain at home here and enjoy their lives. We are extremely grateful that ShareLife donors have helped to make a difference for these very special people!" Last year, over 1,500 people with special needs received outreach services from ShareLife-supported agencies.

March 13 is ShareLife Sunday. Please give generously. You can work wonders!



"Ten more commandments": #4. All things in life are temporary. If it's going well, enjoy it, that won't last long. If it's going badly, don't worry, that won't last long either.

COMMUNITY

Tabernacle Sponsors Found – "Ask, and it will be given to you" (Matthew 7.7)

A group of parishioners has come forward to sponsor the refinishing of the tabernacle. Their generosity will ensure our masterfully-crafted tabernacle will continue to be a beautiful and fitting place for the reserved Eucharist for many years to come. Thank you!

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

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

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

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!

Interfaith Events Scarboro Missions, 2685 Kingston Rd., various dates

Pope Francis exhorts us to make this Jubilee Year of Mercy a time of ongoing dialogue so that we might better know and understand one another and work to build a better world for all. Scarboro Missions Interfaith Department is sponsoring several evenings on the understanding of mercy from Christian, Jewish, & Muslim perspectives. Call 416-261-7135 for more information. Admission is free & no registration is required.

March 8 – A Christian perspective on mercy presented by Dr. Murray Watson

March 15 – A Jewish perspective on mercy presented by Rabbi Ed Elkin

March 22 – A Muslim perspective on mercy presented by Dr. Hamid Slimi

Knights of Columbus – Divine Mercy Hour – Friday, March 18, 8pm

To be held at Resurrection of Our Lord Parish (1 Resurrection Rd., M9A 5G1) All are welcome.

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, 7:30–9pm. Registration fee to cover materials is \$20/person or \$30/couple. To register, email daprile60@rogers.com or amdg@rogers.com



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

Jesuit Provincial's Dinner – April 13

Come join the Jesuits in honouring Betty Bujold, Michael & Barbara McManus and Bishop Jean-Louis Plouffe with the "Magis Award" for their outstanding work & dedication to Jesuit ministries. The evening begins with Mass at The Church of The Good Shepherd in Thornhill, followed by dinner at Le Parc. To order tickets, call 416-481-9154 or email jdo@jesuits.ca

