

Where is my life leading? A question many people ask themselves today – as the things that really matter are lost sight of in a haze of materialism and hedonism. We read in the weekend papers of people seeking to give their lives a new direction, because wealth and acclaim have left them with a sense of emptiness. If this spiritual emptiness is more widespread in today's world, the problem is not new. St Paul's advice for the Galatians, in our second reading – describing the 'self-indulgence' of the times as a kind of bondage – is as meaningful today as when it was first written.

It is our fundamental decisions that give direction to our lives. In today's gospel reading from Luke, Jesus begins to instruct his disciples, preparing them for the decisions that lie ahead of them. The example of Jesus, in the direction he gives to his life, is clearly affirmed – 'the time draws near for him to be taken up', and 'Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem'. He shared our life to the full; he too had to make the painful human decisions that gave direction to his life. In these decisions, he was 'resolute', faithful to the end in expressing the generous ways of his Father. Our lives are shaped by the basic decisions we have made – concerning family priorities, concerning our professional responsibilities, concerning our attitudes as neighbours and citizens. As this gospel reading takes us into the company of Jesus, let us ask ourselves how responsible we are in the making of these life decisions, and how resolute we are in putting them into practice.

Luke presses home the lesson, recalling, at this point, three surprising responses made by Jesus to those who sought to become his followers. Jesus used words to great effect. The crowds followed him to hear his words of wisdom and encouragement. Many of his off-the-cuff sayings have become proverbial. But the prophet from Nazareth was not the ordinary kind of storyteller, he overturned people's expectations. In the usual way of things, a good story reconciles us, in the end, to the wholesomeness that is inherent to our human affairs; and proverbs sound a note that reassures us that there is a predictable order in things. The parables of Jesus, however, invite us to leave behind the reassurances of our familiar world, and to enter into the new order of things he called the 'Kingdom' of his Father – where the last may be first, and the one who shows himself to be our true friend may be a traditional enemy. Similarly, the three responses in today's gospel, though they are like proverbs, are meant to bring a shock that confronts us with the radical nature of our decision to be a follower of Jesus. They should be taken in this spirit, rather than as literal prescriptions. There may be a little ironical humour implied, also – for instance, if the father who is to be buried is still hale and hearty.

Those who take seriously the invitation to follow Jesus, with all its radical implications, will never regret their decision – as the history of the Church has proved age after age.



Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

Jesus still speaks the invitation "Follow Me."
Pray for the strength and grace of discernment if you feel
He is calling you to a vocation in His church.

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

PARISH

Readings ~ 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21 ~ Galatians 5:1, 13-18 ~ Luke 9:51-62

Mass Intentions This Week – June 27–July 3

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Americo Amorim	The family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Lillian Weiler & Carol Tyrrell	The families
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Barbara Anthony	George & Gloria Glover
Thursday, 9am	✠ M. Downey	Grace
Friday, 9am	✠ members of the Goseco, Valencia & Feliciano families	Linda Feliciano
Saturday, 9am	✠ Margaret McKenzie	The family
5:15pm	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
Sunday, 8am	✠ Guillermo Bernal	The family
9:30am	✠ Audrey Sutherland	Janet Salter
11am	✠ Sam Arrigo	Mom & Brother
12:30pm	✠ Martin Reszetnik	The Ciupak Family

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



Archdiocese of Toronto

Children's Liturgy of the Word going on vacation for July and August!



This program for young parishioners (4–10 years of age) takes place on Sundays at the 9:30am Mass. **The last program before the summer break is this weekend.**

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!

SAVE THE *NEW* DATE Ministry Day of Reflection – Saturday, October 15

If you are in ministry at OLS (or would like to be) you are invited to attend. Details to follow.

Together we are working wonders... ShareLife

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the 2016 ShareLife Parish Campaign. Your generous donation has made a brighter future possible for many of the most vulnerable members of our community. For those who have yet to make a contribution, you are still most welcome to do so. You may drop your ShareLife envelopes in the offertory collection until July 31 or donate online at www.sharelife.org

Thank you for your ongoing generosity! Together we really CAN work wonders!

Travelling this summer? Visit www.masstimes.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 Is Now Law Watch Cardinal Collins' video statement

Please take 6 minutes out of your day to visit www.bit.ly/billc14passage and view the video.

Monthly Mass at Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery – July 2, 9:30am

Please join us for a special Mass at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, 7300 Highway #27, Woodbridge. The Mass will take place in the St. Anthony Chapel of the Mausoleum. For further information contact the cemetery at 905-851-5822.

Kolbe Eucharistic Mini-Retreat: Celebrating the Year of Mercy – July 2, 2pm

Join us in celebrating the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy! Enjoy Eucharistic Adoration, prayer, praise & worship. Father Victor Borg, OCD, will give an inspiring talk, "His Mercies are New Every Morning." St. Brigid's Church, 300 Wolverleigh Blvd. Visit www.kolbeapostolate.com

Street Patrol Every Wednesday in July & August – 6:30pm

Meet on the steps of St. Patrick's Church, 131 McCaul St., and join in a 2–3 hour walk through the **STREET PATROL** downtown streets of Toronto, offering food and friendship to the homeless. Food and drinks are donated and prepared by the participants ahead of the evening. We are now accepting bookings for groups of 12 people or more. Individuals need not book in advance. Please visit www.bit.ly/streetpatrolTO for more information or call 416-738-9197.

Pilgrimage of Love 2016 – Saturday, July 9–Sunday, July 17



The 19th annual "Pilgrimage of Love", organized by The United Society, aims to sponsor underprivileged children's participation in the annual Teopoli Summer Experience. Our long walk will start from All Saints Church (1415 Royal York Rd.) and end at the Holy Cross of Teopoli, near Gravenhurst. All are invited to participate for the whole pilgrimage or for part of it. If you're unable to walk, please consider supporting this effort financially. Call Laura at 416-243-7319 or visit www.teopoli.com

Tour of Historic St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery – July 10, 2pm

Hidden behind the storefronts of Yonge & St. Clair lies the "Quiet Gentle Surprise" that is St. Michael's Cemetery. Join us as we take a step back in time to the infancy of our city and archdiocese by touring this historic cemetery. Call Amy or Frank at 416-733-8544 for more.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd July 11–15, 8:30am–5:30pm

Level I – Part I: Foundations Course – The first part of this 90-hour course will cover the foundations of an internationally recognized, Montessori-based approach to the religious education of children known as the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS). CGS offers children the most essential aspects of our faith, knowing that these truths will nurture their need to love and be loved and their capacity to enjoy God's presence in their life. Takes place at St. Basil's Catholic Church, 50 St. Joseph St. Direct your inquiries to Anna Boyagoda via email at aboyagoda@archtoronto.org or visit www.bit.ly/CGScertificate



Pilgrimage to Canadian Martyrs' Shrine – Saturday, August 20

A grace-filled day! Join in this evangelization event in honour of Our Lady of Kibeho & St Josephine Bakhita. Remember also that a Holy Door is located at the Shrine and that walking through it during a Jubilee Year is one of the conditions for receiving a Jubilee Indulgence. See www.bit.ly/28NxeHn for complete details. For trip information or to reserve a spot on the bus leaving Toronto at 7am (\$25 return), contact Audrey at (905) 472-3337 or email contact@ourladyandstbakhita.com or visit www.ourladyandstbakhita.com