

In last week's gospel reading, Matthew celebrated Peter's commission as the guardian of unity in the Church. The continuation of that passage, in today's reading, recalls the rebuke Peter received from Jesus after his confession. It was the mission of Jesus, to fulfil all the expectations of the Old Testament. In the questions put to the disciples that led to Peter's confession, Jesus speaks of himself as the 'Son of Man', and he repeats this reference in the concluding words of today's reading. The 'Son of Man' was the triumphant figure of the book of Daniel who was to come on the clouds to establish God's universal reign. Now, in the first of three predictions of his passion, he identifies himself with the 'Servant' of the Isaian writings who, by his sufferings, would lead God's people to the fulfilment of their God-given destiny. These references would have been treasured by Matthew's community, as they recalled their great theme that the life and death of the Saviour took place 'to fulfil the scriptures'. In Peter's condescending response to Jesus' prediction of the outcome of his rejection by the leaders in Jerusalem - 'This must not happen to you' - we glimpse something of the trusting relationship Jesus maintained with his disciples. But the sharp reaction of Jesus makes clear the seriousness of Peter's mistake. There is a great irony in the rebuke of Jesus: the 'rock' is told that he is a 'stumbling block'.

Jesus is forming his disciples, and now he challenges them to begin to come to terms with the mystery of the Cross - his reconciling and healing of a shattered world. Though Jesus was aware that his conflict with the Jerusalem authorities was a matter of life and death - 'the elders, chief priests and scribes' were the three groups of leaders who made up the Sanhedrin that was to condemn him - his words do not necessarily involve a miraculous foreknowledge of his fate. 'Taking up the cross' was a proverbial way of referring to the bearing of adversity and suffering. Under Roman rule, crucifixion - with its prelude of the criminal's bearing of the heavy crossbeam to the place of execution - was a familiar reality. Those who wish to be his followers, Jesus declares, must be warned that this means a readiness to bear the burden of suffering. The community, from a Jewish background, that Matthew is writing for have been filled with wonder and gratitude, as they recalled the Isaian description of the Suffering Servant: 'He was being wounded for our rebellions ... the punishment reconciling us fell on him, and we have been healed by his bruises' (Is 53). Now they recall the words of Jesus inviting them to enter into this mystery of reconciliation: 'Anyone who wants to save his life will lose it' - a reference to the martyrdom that has already been the fate of some of their fellow Christians; 'Anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it'. These words of Jesus imply an astounding claim. 'For my sake', Jesus says. For Old Testament faith, it is only God who deserves to be loved with all one's heart, soul and mind' (Deut 16); now Jesus is claiming the same absolute allegiance for himself. For Jesus, this taking up of the cross is a daily, life-long calling. The other readings of today's liturgy help us to reflect upon what this call involves in practical everyday terms. Jeremiah's heroic faithfulness was to become a source of blessings and encouragement for God's people of every age. Today's passage from Paul to the Romans can serve as a commentary on the call of Jesus. We can offer our faithfulness as a 'living sacrifice', uniting our offering to the Saviour's gift of himself for the sake of the world. It is the mystery of the Eucharist that makes this possible.



Anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

Welcome Back from Vacations!

We hope everyone has had a wonderful and safe summer, and enjoyed experiencing the Eucharist at different parishes during your travels. We pray for a successful school year for our students and teachers.

As we continue celebrating Ordinary Time, we are reminded that Sacred time is never ordinary. Ordinary Time is the longest season of the Church's year of grace and throughout it, we gather to celebrate what we ordinarily do. We gather, Sunday after Sunday, to listen to the Word proclaimed and to celebrate the Eucharist.

"For what will it profit anyone to gain the whole world but forfeit their life?" Isn't there more to life than chasing the dollar? Are you being called to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister? Humbly ask the Lord.

If God is calling you, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Archdiocesan Vocations Director. 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Jeremiah 20:7-9 ~ Romans 12:1-2 ~ Matthew 16:21-27

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week — September 4 to 10

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Guido Dean	family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Jimmy Daly	Kathleen Stanley
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Christopher Farrar	family
Thursday, 9am	✠ Maria Carreiro	Kelly & Kevin Dolton and Grace Guilfoyle
Friday, 9am	✠ Maria DeVittor	family
Saturday, 9am	✠ Herve Basset	Aida & Raymond
5:15pm	✠ Lorne Harper	Carmina & family
Sunday, 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Andrew Brozina	family
11am	... of Daniella Servedio	family
12:30pm	✠ Peter Madunicky	mother

Happy Birthday Fr. Nino!

We offer prayers and best wishes for our pastor, Fr. Nino as he celebrates his birthday on Monday, September 4.

Children's Liturgy of the Word resumes **NEXT SUNDAY**, September 10 at the 9:30am liturgy. All young parishioners ages 4-10 are welcome! Please note that access to the hall is through the West glassed in stairwell or the basement Northeast Cliveden stairwell.

Feats of Our Lady of Sorrows — additional Mass on Thursday, September 15 at 7:30pm followed by light refreshments in the parish hall.

2017 SHARELIFE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thanks to YOU, our generous parishioners, we achieved our goal of \$446,394.28 in support of ShareLife supported agencies. For a complete list of agencies, visit www.sharelife.org.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR 2017/2018 (September 23/24)

First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation — Registration Weekend PLEASE BRING YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE. Volunteers will be available in the parish hall to process registrations and collect fees on Saturday, September 23 after the 5:15pm Mass and on Sunday, September 24 after all the Masses.

General Notes: The Sacraments of Initiation are significant milestones in the faith journey of our young parishioners. The Archdiocese notes that preparation for initiation is the shared responsibility of parents, the local Catholic school and the parish community. To be eligible to receive a sacrament at OLS, participants and their families must fulfill 3 conditions:

- They must be registered as parishioners of OLS (NB: registration at OLS School or family history of sacraments received at OLS do NOT constitute parish registration);
- They must regularly attend Sunday Mass;
- Parents & children must participate in the relevant aspects of the program.
- Those not attending a Catholic school must attend the 7 year Monday night Religious Education program.

If your family does not regularly attend Sunday Mass at OLS and/or is not officially registered with a parish, you are welcome to register with parish at this time and begin attending regularly. All other families should, at their earliest convenience, contact the parish nearest their home or the parish they regularly attend, for information on sacramental preparation.

Weekly Drop-in Bridge resumes Thursday, September 7. Join us in the Parish Hall meeting room from 1-3:30pm. Partners are not required. Please contact Gail Weiler (416) 239-5337 or Rena Guerard (416)236-0728 for further information.

Phase II Renovation has begun. The entire Cliveden South stairwell is closed during construction. Basement washrooms can be accessed through Cliveden North exterior staircase and through the glassed in stairwell on the West side of the church.

COMMUNITY

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Designed to respond to a call for renewal by the Second Vatican Council, the modern Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) aims to prepare unbaptized individuals to receive the sacraments of initiation and baptized non-Catholic Christians to be received into the Catholic church. Combining catechesis with small-group discussion, scriptural reflection and liturgical celebration, this holistic process of faith formation typically begins in the Fall and culminates in the celebration of the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. Supported by carefully-selected sponsors, team members and the witness of the wider parish community, candidates are invited to explore and deepen their relationships with God in the context of the Catholic tradition and to harness their gifts in service to the parish and broader world.

If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about the process, **you're invited to attend the Introductory Evening on Thursday, September 7, 7:30pm in the parish hall.** Contact the parish office at 416 231 6016 or email olosorrows@bellnet.ca. If you would like to assist as a presenter or team member, please call Angela Olkovich at 416 767 3214.

Planning to be a Catholic Teacher? Information you need to know!

It is critical for you to know that to be hired to teach in any Catholic School Board in Ontario, as part of your application for employment there must be a letter of reference from your pastor. If you, or if your adult child, are planning to apply to teach in a Catholic School, it is highly recommended that you contact Fr. Nino this month. Plan to have a conversation with your pastor early in the process and you will avoid disappointment and stress at a time when applications are to be submitted.

2017 Taste of the Kingsway Festival

Friday, Sept. 8, 6pm-10pm/Saturday, Sept. 9, 11am-10am, Sunday, Sept. 10, 11am-6pm. Parishioners are reminded that Bloor St. will be closed next weekend for the Taste of the Kingsway Street Festival. Mass times will remain unchanged, and the parish parking lot will be open but only accessible from the South. Parking will be unavailable along Bloor Street and may be restricted elsewhere. Please plan your attendance at Mass accordingly and enjoy the festival!

Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Martyrs' Shrine, Midland

Saturday, September 9 — 10:30am-4:00pm
Parishioners from across the archdiocese are encouraged to come together in faith and fellowship as we celebrate our 175th Anniversary together at Martyrs' Shrine. All are welcome to join the celebration that will include the Rosary, Mass with Cardinal Thomas Collins and personal time to enjoy the shrine grounds. Visit www.archtoronto.org/175

PRAYERS FOR PEACE: Ecumenical Prayer Service

Sunday, September 10 at 3pm, St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica
We remember victims of violence, terror and persecution around the world, especially our Christian brothers and sisters in Egypt and throughout the Middle East. Hosted by Cardinal Thomas Collins. All are welcome. "Violence will not win over violence. Violence is won over by peace!" - Pope Francis

Archdiocese of Toronto 175th Anniversary—Western Pastoral Region Celebration Tuesday, September 12, 2017, 7 p.m. — Merciful Redeemer Parish (Mississauga)

As we celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Toronto, Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, extends an invitation for all to join him for Mass and a reception to commemorate this historic milestone. For more information, visit www.archtoronto.org/175

Mario Ciferri in Concert

Friday, September 22 at 7:30pm, Timothy Eaton Memorial Church
Presented by Organix 17 in collaboration with Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, Royal Canadian College of Organists and Istituto Italiano di Cultural. On the same evening, Gordon Mansell, OLS Music Director will be presented with the 2017/2018 RCCO National Award of Excellence. Catered Reception to follow this concert. Tickets: \$35 General, \$25 RCCO Members, 18 and younger: free! For details call/text 416-571-3680 or visit www.organixconcerts.ca.