

The last will be first and the first last. These words of Jesus, with which today's reading from Matthew concludes, occur in different contexts in all three synoptic gospels – God's ways constantly overturn our human expectations. And that is the lesson of the parable in today's gospel. Of all the parables of Jesus, the story of the labourers in the vineyard is probably the most puzzling for Christians of successive generations. That means that it is a great success, that it achieves what Jesus intended. A plausible story, reflecting the common experience of his hearers begins to unfold. It was normal for day labourers seeking employment to gather in public places. One denarius would have been a normal day's wage. We are given a hint where the story is leading however; Israel, the Lord's vineyard, was a familiar theme of the scriptures. An element of suspense holds the attention of the listeners – what is the unusual behaviour of the landowner leading to? Then the conclusion of the story comes as a shock, leaving us unsettled, as our reasonable expectations are not fulfilled.

That is the purpose of the parable, to invite us to leave aside the human logic and predictability with which we shape our world, and to enter the Kingdom announced by the Saviour, the new world shaped by God's generous and merciful ways. This parable may have been directed originally at the Pharisees' refusal to hear the Good News of God's ways brought by Jesus; but the fact that we still find ourselves challenged by the story indicates that it has a lesson that is valid for every generation.

Did we not agree? Take your earnings. God will never be unjust. But the Lord's great plan for the human family has a measure that goes far beyond our human calculations of what is appropriate and just – designs of generosity and mercy conceived in the eternal depths of the divine freedom. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways.

Jesus is calling us to bow down before the mystery of God's 'grace'. 'Why be envious because I am generous?' 'Grace' is the term used by the scriptures, for this new world of God's generosity announced by Jesus. In a sense, 'grace' is the essential message of the New Testament - where the term occurs countless times: 'God's grace has been revealed to save the whole human race' (Titus 2:11); 'It is by God's grace you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own ... so that nobody can claim the credit' (Eph 2:8). The 'grace' or favour of God announced in the Christian gospel is God's generous outreach to each one of us determined before time began. Because God's will is effective and all-powerful, 'grace' also refers to the many blessings of our new life in Christ. Our Catholic upbringing has stressed these created effects; but we should have given more attention to the folly of divine love made known to us through these blessings. This, we could say, is the point of Jesus' parable: 'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ' (Eph 1:3).



Why be envious because I am generous?

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

"Seek the Lord while he may be found..."

While searching, listen; could it be that you are being called to serve as a priest, deacon, sister or brother?

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

PARISH

Readings ~ Isaiah 55.6-9 ~ Philipians 1.20-24, 27 ~ Matthew 20.1-16

Mass Intentions This Week – September 25 to October 1

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Stefanie Romano	Justin Jalea & family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Lorraine Durand	Becky Gent
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Ben Montemayor	Patricia Patel
Thursday, 9am	✠ Nen Roa	Patricia Patel
Friday, 9am	✠ Jacqueline Gorski	Nadia
Saturday, 9am	✠ Javier Del Valle	John & Michelle Scullion
5:15pm	✠ John Calleja	wife & children
Sunday, 8am	✠ Genevieve de Montferrand	Sneyd family
9:30am	✠ Margaret Byrne	Byrne family
11am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
12:30pm	✠ Witold Matulewicz	family

Children's Liturgy of the Word – This program for young parishioners (4-10 years of age) takes place on Sundays at the 9:30am Mass. Please note that access to the hall is through the west glassed-in stairwell.

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 **this weekend, 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 a 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.

Young Singers Welcome! – Our Lady of Sorrows is blessed with 2 vibrant choirs for young people. The Youth Choir is for grades 3-6 and rehearses Thursdays from 4-5pm. The Chamber Choir, for grades 7-12, rehearses Thursdays from 5-6pm. Each choir sings on alternating Sundays at the 9:30am Mass. For more information, please contact Michele DeBoer at micheledeboer@yahoo.ca or call 289 521 3710.

Rosary prayed daily prior to the 9am Mass. You are also welcome to join the Rosary Group at 2pm on Fridays in the Parish Hall.

Congratulations! Gordon Mansell, our Music Director and Organist has been awarded this weekend by the national body of the Royal Canadian College of Organist for an Award of Excellence. This is a distinction given for significant contribution to the promotion and value of the organ and its music in Canada.

Coffee Friday – Last Friday of each month, after the 9am Mass. Everyone is invited to the parish hall for refreshments. This is an opportunity to get to know the members of your parish community. All are welcome...bring a friend!

COMMUNITY

Stretch and Flex - As one ages, muscles tighten and have less range of motion in joints. A regular stretching program may help strengthen muscles and make daily activities easier and more enjoyable. Come join us, **Tuesdays from 6:30pm-7:30pm, 2nd floor Running Room. \$10/class. Bring water and yoga mat.**

OLS PARKING LOT POLICY - We would like to remind everyone of the Parking Lot Policy here at Our Lady of Sorrows which is **now being strictly enforced.**

- The OLS Church parking lot is private property and is intended for the use of those attending Mass or a parish function. Anyone using the parking lot for any other reason will be asked to leave at the discretion of the parish office.
- Unauthorized VEHICLES** in the Church parking lot will be TAGGED/TOWED at owners' expense.
- Unauthorized VISITORS** using the parking lot will be asked to remove themselves and/or their car from the lot.
- LOITERING** in the church parking lot and on church grounds is strictly prohibited and those refusing to leave will be reported to the police.
- ILLEGAL PARKING** within the lot which blocks other cars will not be tolerated. Those parking in aisles or blocking the entrance or exit to the lot may be towed. This is a safety issue.

Phase II Renovation is underway. The entire Cliveden south stairwell is closed during construction. Basement washrooms can be accessed through the glassed-in stairwell on the west side of the church.

While access is limited, please contact the parish office if you wish to receive Communion at home.

Hearing Assist Headsets – Parishioners who have trouble hearing at Mass are welcome to request a Hearing Assistance device from the ushers when they enter the church. They are available on a 'first come-first served' basis. The headsets pick up the feed directly from our sound system and can be used with or without hearing aids.

THIS SUNDAY Special Collection – Needs of Canadian Church
 The special collection today is for the Needs of the Canadian Church. Your gifts are used by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops to represent Canadian Catholics in national and international pastoral activity. Thank you for your support of this important work.

Come and See (Daughters of St. Paul)
Friday, September 29 to Sunday, October 1 - 3022 Dufferin St., North York
 Young single women (18-33) are invited to a vocational discernment retreat with the Daughters of St. Paul. The weekend retreat will include daily Mass, morning and evening prayer, conferences, Eucharistic Adoration and a silent retreat day. Contact Sr. Helena Raphael at 617-850-5584 or email: srhelenaburns@gmail.com. Visit www.daughtersofstpaul.ca

Seven Decades of Michael Power/St. Joseph
 September 30 & October 1. For more information visit www.sevendecadesofmpsj.weebly.com

Lectio Divina with Cardinal Thomas Collins – "Compassion and Humility"
Sunday, October 1 – St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica
 Vespers (evening prayer) begin at 7pm followed by Lectio Divina from 7:30pm-8:15pm. All are welcome! Visit www.archtoronto.org/lectio.

Life Chain – Sunday, Oct. 1, 2-3pm corner of Bloor and Islington
 Join pro-lifers in a peaceful prayer for the end of abortion. **What is Life Chain?** Life Chain is a prayerful, peaceful witness to the evil of abortion and to the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception. Why is it important? Life Chain is for one hour, on one day of the year. It is a simple and powerful way to spread the Gospel message, to be a light to our nation, and to **create a culture of life in Canada.** Visit www.campaignlifecoalition.com for more details.

Our Lady of the Cape Pilgrim Statue from the National Shrine of Trois-Rivieres, Quebec will be in Toronto, Hamilton and St. Catharines Dioceses with Fr. Wedner Berard, O.M.I. to celebrate Marian Evenings (celebration of the Holy Mass and candlelight procession and crowning of Our Lady). Visit www.pelerinages@ndc-cap.com.