

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus has already warned his disciples three times that he is to suffer; and he has indicated that the chief priests and leaders of the people will be responsible for his death. The brief parable in today's reading, addressed to the chief priests and the elders, reflects the growing confrontation with these authorities that will lead, in the end, to his death. He knows that, in their opposition to him, they see themselves as upholding the traditions of Israel - giving expression to their faithfulness to the Lord. His parable gently confronts them with their tragic miscalculation. In Matthew's narrative, immediately before Jesus tells this parable, he was challenged by these leaders: what authority did he have for teaching in the Temple precincts? He showed up their hypocrisy, putting them in a dilemma - asking them what authority John the Baptist had when he preached to the people.

The simple story of the parable he now addresses to them ends with a question. His parables, we recall, were designed to leave the hearers pondering an unsettling question. Because the answer to the question he put to them is straight forward - the son who initially refused, and afterwards thought better of it and went, was the one who did the father's will - the opponents of Jesus answered accordingly. But as they do so, they begin to realise what Jesus' parable is driving at. As the defenders of the nation's faith traditions, they see themselves as always saying 'Yes' to God. But now Jesus is inviting them to reflect that their actions may not match their professions of faithfulness. John the Baptist called the people to a conversion whereby they would be open to what was about to take place in the great plan of God. The very ones these leaders despised, as 'outside the law' - tax collectors, sinners, those whose busy lives and slender means made it impossible for them to observe all the rituals and customs they emphasised - were listening to the teaching of the one announced by the Baptist, while they themselves were intent on destroying him, not recognising that he came from God. The ironic lesson of the parable would have been very real to the Jewish converts of Matthew's community.



Which of the two did the father's will?

The old proverb, 'Actions speak louder than words', reminds us of the inconsistencies that can be present in the lives of all of us. The parable of Jesus reminds us that these inconsistencies can be present in our Christian lives - when we see ourselves as fervent believers, always faithful to our devotions and religious observances, but with little practical expression to show of our following of Christ. St Paul's exhortations to the Philippians in today's reading provide simple but telling examples of the practical attitudes that true followers of Jesus should have: no competition or petty rivalry, putting the wellbeing of others before our own, being genuinely concerned to assist those around us. And, as always, Paul leads us back to the ultimate pattern of our life as disciples of the Lord - the Son who said 'Yes' to the Father, came to work in God's vineyard, setting aside his divine glory and making himself the Servant of us all. 'In your attitudes you must be the same as Christ'.

Jesus may well have told the same parable in different forms. As we hear today's brief parable we may well ask whether it is related to the great parable, in Luke's gospel, of the wayward son who found his way back to his father's love and welcome.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

The invitation to serve often comes more than once; are you being invited? Are you prepared with your answer?

Consider ministry as a priest, deacon or in consecrated life.

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

Readings ~ Ezikiel 18:25-28 ~ Philipians 2.1-11 ~ Matthew 21.28-32

PARISH Mass Intentions This Week - October 2 to October 8

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Maria Lisanin	FileBank employees
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Raymond & Beverly Giacomini	Rena & Denis Guerard
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Rosemary Cronyn	Sonja DeVerteuil
Thursday, 9am	✠ Rose & Edward Flanagan	Flanagan-Pool family
Friday, 9am	✠ members of Goseco, Valencia & Feliciano families	Linda Feliciano
Saturday, 9am	✠ Ellen Mullin	Doug & Maxine Cramp
5:15pm	✠ Norah Travers	Anne Pohole
Sunday, 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	... of Daniella Servedio	
11am	✠ Matilde Reposar	Ramos family
12:30pm	✠ Alina Bandrowski	friend

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 2017/2018

First Reconciliation and Communion Introductory Meeting (Parents ONLY)
(Choose one of the following sessions to attend)

Sunday, October 1, 2:30pm-3:15pm OR Monday, October 2, 6:30pm-7:15pm, church
This session includes an introduction of the program and additional information on contents of upcoming sessions and use of the resources.

First Communion Enrollment Weekend - Saturday, Oct. 14 / Sunday, Oct. 15 (at all Masses)
Children will be called up after the homily to participate in a short ritual to mark the beginning of their journey.

Confirmation Introductory Meeting
(Parents are asked to participate in the first 10 minutes of the meeting)
Sunday, October 1, 4-5pm, Parish Hall (ALL candidates should be at this session)
Fr. Nino and the catechists welcome the candidates and will introduce the program for this year.

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.

Phase II Renovation - The entire Cliveden south stairwell as well as the north exterior basement stairwell are closed during construction. Basement hall and 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.

OLS Bundle Weekend - October 28/29

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul will be collecting gently used clothing, shoes, linens and household goods to support our neighbours in need and our residential programs the weekend of Saturday, October 28 and Sunday, October 29. Please bring your donation and help others in your community. More details to follow.

COMMUNITY Humanitarian Relief - Mexico, Caribbean

Over the course of the past several weeks, hurricanes, tropical storms and violent earthquakes have devastated a number of countries in the Caribbean and Mexico.

Hurricanes Irma, Jose, Maria destroyed thousands of homes, businesses and churches and left thousands of people without water, shelter or power. Places such as Anguilla, Antigua, The Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Florida, Puerto Rico, St. Martin, the Turks and Caicos Islands all suffered crippling damage. As well, on September 19, a massive earthquake hit Mexico City, causing 286 deaths - just two weeks after an earthquake leveled buildings and killed at least 90 people in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. The situation remains grave for the injured and displaced.

In an effort to support people in that region who have been impacted by these disasters, the Archdiocese of Toronto is accepting funds that will be sent through Catholic relief channels. Contributions can be made through our parishes and through the Archdiocese of Toronto online portal at www.archtoronto.org.

Relief workers from the official Catholic relief agency, Caritas Internationalis, are on the ground. Caritas Mexico teams are determining how the earthquakes have affected local populations. Catholic partners in other affected regions are also actively caring for the victims of these disasters and determining the long-term needs for recovery.

Those wishing to help may do so in the following ways:

- Online through the Archdiocese of Toronto website: www.archtoronto.org
- By phone through the Development Office - 416-934-3411
- Through the parish, making cheques payable to:

Name of Parish - 2017 Hurricane, Earthquake - Disaster Relief

We offer our prayers for all those impacted by these tragedies. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to assist those in crisis.

COMMUNITY Life Chain - TODAY, October 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.

Lectio Divina with Cardinal Thomas Collins - "Compassion and Humility"

TONIGHT, 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.

2000 Hail Mary Crusade - Sunday, Oct. 7, 7am-7pm, Transfiguration of Our Lord Church

All are welcome to join in this day long intercessory prayer and take heed to our Lady's call at Fatima to "Pray, Pray, Pray". Holy Mass at 9:30am & 5:30pm. Opening prayers begin at 7:00am. Call 416 247 0513 for more details or email charmainecorrea@gmail.com to sign up.

Nonnina's Table - Saturday, October 21, Riviera Parque

Cocktails at 6pm / Deluxe Antipasto at 6:30pm / Dinner at 8:15pm
Raffle/Silent Auction/Door Prizes. \$110 adults / \$50 children
Join us for our 5th Annual Gala. Father Gregory Botte's famous quote to Joan Yim.....Joan, Don't forget the poor! and so we have not. Contact Joan Yim at nonninas.table@gmail.com. 100% of the funds go to feeding the less fortunate throughout the year.

Journey to the Holy Land with Rev. Father Martin Pereira

February 18-27, 2018 * Price \$3,395.00 per person * Book by Oct. 20 and save \$200 per couple. Details of the tour available at the back of the church.

Intergenerational Healing Retreat "Healing Family Tree"

Saturday, October 21, 9am-5pm (Canada Christian College)
Featured speakers are Fr. Denis Phaneuf and Moira Noonan. For more information and to register, visit www.avemaria.events or call 416 251 4245. Free admission ~ Love offering.