

Seen from a human point of view, salvation history (the story of God's dealings with humanity) is a tragedy; but the divine mercy and generosity has turned this tragedy into God's triumph. This great drama comes to its climax, of course, in the life, death and resurrection of the Saviour: 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son'. The parable of Jesus in today's reading from Matthew's gospel refers to the tragedy that he now recognises to be inevitable. We have already become familiar with the original form of the parables of Jesus: a story that leaves his hearers confronted by an unsettling question. Today's study of the formation of the gospels makes it clear that, as these parable stories were retold in the preaching of the early Church, they were often added to, to bring out lessons for later audiences. And it is evident that this parable – originally a challenge to leaders of the Jewish nation – has become, for those who have suffered persecution from the synagogue, a condemnation of the 'chief priests and elders of the people'. The fact that Jesus foretells his death, but makes no reference to the resurrection that was so central to the faith of the first Christians, makes it clear that the parable is not a creation of the later Christian community, but is recalled as having been told by Jesus himself.

It is not difficult to identify the main elements of the original parable. A story that reflects common experience captures the attention of the audience, and unfolds predictably; the services of tenant farmers was commonly made use of by absentee landlords – a situation that not infrequently gave rise to disputes and conflicts, particularly if the landlord was not close at hand. At the same time, however, in the back of the minds of the audience is an awareness that, in the traditions of Israel, the vineyard theme has often been used to describe God's dealings with Israel. We are told that the prophet Isaiah's 'Song of love for the vineyard', echoed in the parable, was so well known in the time of Jesus that many people knew it by heart. It is a remarkable declaration – a moving expression of faith in the mysterious love and generosity that found expression in the election of Israel in the plan of God; and at the same time it is an acknowledgement of infidelity and failure. According to the usual pattern, as the story unfolds the audience is suddenly confronted by an unexpected turn of events. In this case it is the unreasonable decision of the landlord to send his own son on an errand that has led to so much violence and bloodshed: 'They will respect my son'. Against the background of the vineyard theme, Jesus, who has come to recognise that his death is inevitable, confronts his hearers with the final expression of the folly of divine love.

As Matthew's community tells the story of the parable, some of the modifications are obvious enough. In their account, the question Jesus puts to the leaders of the people has been added – the lesson of the parable is brought out more clearly, as the leaders are condemned out of their own lips. The reference to the psalm's 'stone rejected by the builders', often repeated in the New Testament, is an explanatory addition, as is the conclusion: 'The Kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit'. Matthew's community knows that the parable is also a challenge for them – as the New Israel, they are now God's vineyard: 'Every branch in me that bears no fruit', Jesus declares, 'my Father cuts away'. Paul tells the Philippians that, if they bear good fruit, 'The God of peace will be with them'.



The kingdom of heaven will be given to a people who will produce its fruit

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

Listen for the voice of God.

Are you being called to be a priest, deacon or religious?

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

Readings ~ Isaiah 5.1-7 ~ Matthew 21.33-43 ~ Philippians 4.6-9

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – October 9 to October 15

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

| | Intention(s): | Offered by: |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Monday, 9am | ✠ Joseph Mario Clermont | Dan Kelly |
| Tuesday, 9am | ✠ Helmut Richard Keller | family |
| Wednesday, 9am | ✠ Margaret Thornton | Mary Fay |
| Thursday, 9am | ✠ members of Mahoney family | |
| Friday, 9am | ✠ Angelo Sansano | Giovanna Andreanan & family |
| Saturday, 9am | ✠ Bridget Daly | Kathleen Stanley |
| 5:15pm | ✠ Pasko Pavkovic | family |
| Sunday, 8am | ✠ Lena Badali | family |
| 9:30am | ✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠ | |
| 11am | ✠ Paul Furtado | Mike & Idalia |
| 12:30pm | ✠ Michael Bellew | Bridget Bellew |

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 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.

Church Tour for First Communion Candidates (Parents & Children)
(Choose one of the following tours to attend)

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2:30pm-3:15pm OR Monday, Oct. 23, 6:30pm-7:15pm

Explore and learn about the sacred spaces and liturgical furnishings and vessels that all Catholic churches have in common. You will learn about the beautiful works of art that help us focus on God, Mary and the saints, including mosaics, painting and sculptures. Get to know the beautiful space in which we worship God!

Confirmation Session for Group A (Last Name A-M)

Sunday, Oct. 22, 3:45pm-5pm OR Wednesday, Oct. 25, 6:45pm-8pm, Parish Hall
Parents are asked to participate in the first 10 minutes of the meeting.

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.

World Mission Sunday Special Collection, October 22

Since 1922, the Pontifical Missions Societies through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith has supported the temporal needs of missions as well as creating awareness of the work of the missions throughout the world. Some examples of projects include: building churches, pastoral centers, cathedrals damaged by tsunamis and earthquakes; constructing religious houses of formation and homes for clergy; funding formation programs for lay missionaries, radio and television production, audio visual materials for remote mission areas; as well as supporting pastoral work in various rural dioceses. For more information, visit the Society for the Propagation of the Faith www.missionsocieties.ca. **Please pray for the missions and be generous on World Mission Sunday.**

COMMUNITY

Chalice Speaker – On October 14/15, Deacon Michael Hays will join us to talk about Chalice – a Canadian, Catholic Sponsorship program. He will share how you can help a destitute child at one of the 56 mission sites in 15 developing countries. Visit www.chalice.ca.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Bundle Weekend – October 28/29

On the weekend of Oct. 28/29, volunteers will assist with the collection & loading of securely tied or sealed bags or boxes of gently used items (think: shoes, clothing, coats, bedding, draperies/towels and toys). Large items (i.e. furniture & appliances), construction materials, dishes, books, video/audio cassettes **cannot** be accepted. Your donations in support of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Bundle Up program are greatly appreciated.

Humanitarian Relief – Mexico, Caribbean

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

In an effort to support people 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.

Newman and the Great Apostasia: A Faith & Reason Lecture

Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7pm, Newman Centre

Speaker: Edward Short, Author of "Newman and His Family". To register <http://edwardshortlecture.eventbrite.ca>. Doors open at 6:30pm; reception follows lecture.

The Four Men: Songs of Love, Hope and Inspiration

Friday, Oct. 13 at 8pm, Bloordale United Church

General Admission \$25 / Youth (7-19) \$10. Free admission for children 6 and under accompanied by an adult. For more details, call Nancy at 416 620 5377.

St. Michael's College School Open House

The Office of Admissions of St. Michael's College School is now considering applications for September 2018. St. Michael's College School is the only independent Catholic school for boys from Grade 7 to Grade 12. Open Houses for interested parents and their sons will be held on Thursday, October 19 and Tuesday, October 24 from 7:30pm to 9:30pm. Visit www.stmichaelscollegeschool.com

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.

Life in the Spirit Seminar @ All Saints Church

Life in the Spirit Seminar presents the basic teachings of Jesus in the Gospel, and helps people prepare to receive the Gift of God's Love, who is the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). Wednesdays, beginning October 18 - November 29, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the parish hall. Registration fee is \$10.00 or \$15.00 per couple. To register email: mvolpe404@rogers.com