

The parable, about the king who welcomed to his son's wedding all who could be found, when those who had been invited refused to come, has a message similar to that of the parable we heard last week (which it immediately follows in Matthew's gospel). Old Israel has not responded to God's call, and now a New Israel will include all peoples, giving expression to God's inclusive ways as it carries forward the designs of God. Again, we can recognise that the original parable of Jesus has been modified, as it was retold by the Church's early preachers. Comparing Matthew's presentation with Luke's account of the same parable (Lk14: 15-24) makes it possible to recognise the additions Matthew has made. Luke's much simpler presentation is no doubt closer to the parable as Jesus told it. Matthew's presentation is embroidered with additions that give us a valuable insight into the themes that gave expression to the faith life of that early Christian community – themes that can help enrich our faith.

In Luke's account, Jesus responds to the remark of someone at table with him ('Happy those who will share the meal in the kingdom of God') beginning his parable, 'There was a man who gave a great banquet'. Matthew takes up and develops the theme of joy and celebration essential to Christian faith implied in this beginning, and opens the parable, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding'. The es-pousal theme was fundamental to the biblical tradition. The prophets compared God's relationship with the chosen people with that of a loving and faithful husband. For the first Christians, the Saviour was 'the Bridegroom' (Mk 2:20), and the life they shared in the Church was described as joining in 'the wedding feast of the Lamb' (Rev 19:9). A banquet - especially that which celebrates a wedding - is an outstanding moment of fellowship. In the traditions of Israel, familiar to Matthew's community, the blessings promised by God to those who have been faithful were likened to sharing in a banquet at the Lord's table - as we hear in the reading from Isaiah in today's liturgy. As they heard this reading, and rejoiced in its fulfilment in Christ, this community would have given thanks for the universality of God's generous designs: 'all peoples and nations' will share in God's blessings 'everywhere on earth', the prophet declares. Already, they knew, the faith was beginning to spread. Long familiar with the biblical themes, they would have seen the prophet's associating of the messianic blessings with, 'this mountain' as a reference to the old temple. But if, as is likely, the old temple had already been destroyed by the Romans (A.D. 70) when Matthew's gospel was written, they would have been reminded that the shared life of Old Testament faith was only a foreshadowing of the eternal realities brought by Christ.

Matthew's account includes the note of urgency characteristic of the outlook of the first Christians - three times, the king declares that all is 'ready'. The final age has come, all must be ready to respond to the Lord's call. And so, along the same lines, Matthew concludes his presentation by adding the short parable about 'the man without a wedding garment' - that would originally have been quite independent of the original story. Again the lesson is clear: although, in the present age, Matthew's Church receives 'the good and bad alike' to rejoice at the wedding feast of the Lamb, let them know that their presence must be more than nominal adherence - they must be converted and live a life worthy of their calling.



Come to the wedding

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

How has Jesus touched you and made you whole? Ask Him how He would like you to respond. Could Jesus be calling you to follow Him as a priest, deacon, brother or sister?

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

Readings ~ Isaiah 25,6-10a ~ Philipians 4,12-14, 19-20 ~ Matthew 22,1-14

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – October 16 to October 22

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Michael Chojnacki	Stefan Oliver
Tuesday, 9am	✠ members of Grogan family	
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Inga Dowrick	friends of the OLS morning rosary group
Thursday, 9am	✠ John Pastorek	Patricia Borraccia
Friday, 9am	... of Sadie Wong	
Saturday, 9am	✠ George Buck	Don & Mary McDonald
5:15pm	✠ Mirta & Pat Poce	family
Sunday, 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Romeo Colacitti	Angela Colacitti
11am	✠ Horace McCubbin	family
12:30pm	✠ Slusarczyk	Maria, Chester, Ziggy & 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 2017/2018

First Communion Enrollment Weekend – Saturday, Oct. 14 / Sunday, Oct. 15 (at all Masses)
This weekend, children will be called up after the homily to participate in a short ritual to mark the beginning of this stage in their initiation 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, stained glass windows 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.

Next weekend is World Mission Sunday (Special Collection) – October 22

ince 1922, the Pontifical Mission Societies have been the official missionary arm of the Church charged with the work of evangelization and charitable works throughout the world. It provides mission awareness and supported by benefactors, raises funds for the poorest mission churches of the Catholic Church. The Pontifical Mission Societies are Roman Catholic mission societies active throughout the whole world. Offices for the Pontifical Mission Societies in Canada are located in Toronto and Montreal. 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.**

Chalice Speaker – Deacon Michael Hays joins us this weekend 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

 Bring your gently used clothing, shoes, linen and household goods to share with others the weekend of Oct. 28/29. The St. Vincent de Paul truck will be in the church parking lot and volunteers will be available to accept donations and load the truck that weekend. Donations of gently used items (think: shoes, clothing, coats, bedding, draperies/towels and toys) are appreciated. Large items (i.e. furniture & appliances), construction materials, dishes, books, video/audio cassettes **cannot** be accepted. Thank you for your support.

PARISH REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT UPDATE

Our Parish Refugee Resettlement Committee is happy to report that two of the three men in our third group have apparently cleared all the hurdles involved in having their resettlement claims processed and they've been informed that they will be traveling to Canada on November 1st and 7th, respectively. The Committee has rented an apartment for this group and are preparing for their arrival. Your financial support of our three groups is very much appreciated. As more information becomes available on our sponsored refugees we will pass it along to you.

Humanitarian Aid

In an effort to support people who have been impacted by hurricanes, tropical storms and violent earthquakes, the Archdiocese of Toronto is accepting funds that will be sent through Catholic relief channels.

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.

FRAUD: Know It Before It Knows You!

Thursday, Oct. 19, 1-2:30pm, Bloordale United Church

Speaker: Constable Michael Burgess, Crime Prevention Officer, 22 Division. To register, call Jill at 416 621 8214. This event is free. Visit www.bloordale.ca.

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. Flyers with details of the tour are available at the back of the church.

The Source: Holy Hour with music lead by the Sisters of Life – Saturday, Oct. 21

St. Peter's Church. 7-8pm Holy Hour / 8-9pm Social. For more information, call 416 463 2722 or www.sistersoflife.org/the-source-toronto.

Rosaries on Sale Next Weekend – Sunday, October 22

After each Mass on Sunday, October 22nd, Carmela Loconte will be selling rosary bracelets for Dr. Simone's Canadian Food for Children. All proceeds collected will go towards feeding the poorest of the poor in developing countries throughout the world.

Celebrate Your Marriage with a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! October 20-22, 2017 (Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga)

Visit www.wmme.org or contact: Gerard & Marge McCauley at gerard.marge@rogers.com or 905 792 1925.

COMMUNITY