

In these final weeks of the Church's year, our readings from Matthew's gospel point towards what lies ahead. Today's gospel and that of next Sunday tell of the growing confrontation with the nation's leaders that will lead to Jesus' death. And in our last three readings from Matthew's gospel Jesus warns his hearers that the end is approaching.

The exchange recorded in today's gospel is well known. Matthew's brief account tells us a great deal about the situation that was developing in the last days of Jesus' life. The Jewish people bitterly resented the Roman occupation of their country; now, those who have turned against Jesus exploit this explosive situation to discredit him. The dilemma that Jesus is placed in by the question put to him about the paying of the Roman tax is brought out in Matthew's account by the composition of the group putting the question – Pharisees and Herodians. The Pharisees represent Jews who have a real problem of conscience paying the tax. Strict Pharisees would have considered the inscription on the denarius handed to Jesus – which almost certainly read, "Tiberius Caesar, son of the divine Augustus, great high priest" – to be blasphemous. This influential group, dedicated to upholding the traditions of God's people, would have asked themselves whether they were compromising their principles by paying their tax with this coin. If Jesus encouraged the paying of the tax, he would not only offend the Pharisees, but also antagonize the common people who so resented the Roman rule. The Herodians, followers of Herod – the puppet ruler in league with the Romans – had no scruples concerning the tax. If Jesus condemned the paying of the tax, he could be denounced for subversion.

The famous reply of Jesus, "To Caesar what belongs to Caesar; and to God what belongs to God" is not a clever evasion, as we may be led to think. With this reply, he turns the question back on his interrogators – taking the discussion beyond the level of the partisanship they are trying to exploit, he tells them that they are faced by a decision of conscience. As is so often the case – think of our own times – involvement in the political life of the nation is not a straightforward matter. The Romans had originally occupied Palestine at the invitation of Jewish leaders, bringing a relative stability, that replaced a situation of continuing anarchy. The contemporaries of Jesus must ask themselves whether the presence of the Romans was the lesser of two evils. Today's first reading from the later Isaian writings is well chosen. Cyrus – who 'does not know' the God of Israel – is called by the prophet, God's 'anointed', as he fulfills God's designs, sending the Jewish exiles back from captivity after his defeat of the Babylonians. God is Lord of all, certainly, Jesus is telling his listeners; but Jewish conscience must judge whether the Roman presence is providential, preventing a worse situation. We should note that Jesus invites the people to make their own judgment of conscience; he does not make it for them. We would misunderstand the reply of Jesus if we thought it was meant to instruct us about the relationship that should exist between Church and State. His reply concerns, not the order of politics, but the order of moral responsibility – the individual's duty to participate in the life of the nation in a way that best promotes the common good of justice and peace. At a later date, when the Roman state became a demonic force intent on destroying the Church, defiance of the authorities was called for, and produced the martyrs who were the glory of the early Church.



Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

**"Give ... to God the things that are God's." That includes you!
Is God calling you to service as a priest, deacon, brother or sister?**

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

Readings ~ Isaiah 45:1, 4-6 ~ 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5 ~ Matthew 22:15-21

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – October 23 to October 29

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

| | Intention(s): | Offered by: |
|----------------|---|------------------------------|
| Monday, 9am | ✠ Paul & Joan Carey | Patricia Cachia & family |
| Tuesday, 9am | ✠ Theresa & Stan Smith | Sal & Patricia Borraccia |
| Wednesday, 9am | ✠ Joan Carey | Barb & Jean Droulin (Cachia) |
| Thursday, 9am | ✠ Joan Carey | Melba DeWitt |
| Friday, 9am | ✠ Ida Giacomini | Rena & Denis Guerard |
| Saturday, 9am | ✠ Josephine Buenafe Kahkonen | Buenafe family |
| 5:15pm | ✠ Mary & Frank Ferkul | Ann Pohole |
| Sunday, 8am | ... of Brian Wilson | Martha Tycholis |
| 9:30am | ✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠ | |
| 11am | ✠ Rebecca Borg | family |
| 12:30pm | ✠ Francesco Valle | Pina Valle |

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
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.

Offertory Envelopes – Please write the amount of your donation onto your envelope. This small step saves a great deal of time for the volunteer teams who process our weekly collections. If you do not have assigned envelopes but wish to begin using them, please visit the parish office.

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.

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!

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.**

COMMUNITY

TODAY IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

The special collection this Sunday is for the Evangelization of the Nations, otherwise known as "World Mission Sunday". This is a worldwide collection for the missionary church. World Mission Sunday is our opportunity to assist Catholic communities in need throughout the world. Visit the Society for the Propagation of the Faith: www.missionsocieties.ca. **Please continue to pray for the missions and thank you for your support of this important work.**

Next Week is the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Bundle Weekend – Oct. 28/29

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is collecting gently used items (think: shoes, clothing, coats, bedding, draperies/towels and toys) to share with others. The SVDP truck will be in the church parking lot on **Saturday, Oct. 28 from 8:30am-6pm and Sunday, Oct. 29 from 7:30am-2:00pm**. Volunteers will be available before and after the scheduled Mass times to assist with loading the truck. Donations of large items (i.e. furniture & appliances), construction materials, dishes, books, video/audio cassettes **cannot** be accepted. Thank you for your support.

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 continue to pray for all those impacted by these tragedies. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to assist those in crisis.

Dine for Dignity: ESS 10th Anniversary Fundraising Gala - Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017
Panemonte Banquet & Convention Center. Tickets: \$80 each. A portion is tax deductible. Silent Auction (preview at 4:30pm), Dinner (served at 5:30pm) and Entertainment. All proceeds benefiting seniors supported by ESS. For tickets call 416 243 0127 or visit bit.ly/ticketsD4D2017.

School Open House

- 1) **St. Michael's College - Tuesday, Oct. 24 from 7:30pm to 9:30pm.**
Visit www.stmichaelscollegeschool.com
- 2) **Fr. John Redmond C.S.S. & Regional Arts Centre – Wednesday, Oct. 25, 6:30pm**
Grade 8 students and their parents are invited to attend our Information Night. Visit www.fatherredmond.com or call 416 393 5540.
- 3) **Holy Name of Mary College School – Saturday, Oct. 28, 10am-2pm**
Holy Name of Mary College School is a university preparatory school for girls in grades 5 to 12. For information visit www.holynamemarycollegeschool.com or call 905 891 1890.

3rd Annual Father Boulad Dinner – Saturday, Oct. 28, Transfiguration of Our Lord
The evening begins with Mass at 5:30pm followed by an authentic Middle Eastern dinner in the parish hall at 6:30pm. Keynote speaker is Fr. Henri Boulad, S.J., renowned Melkite Jesuit who serves as Director of the Cultural Center in Alexandria, Egypt. Proceeds from this dinner will benefit the work of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association in Syria and Iraq. Visit www.boulad.eventbrite.ca for tickets and further information.

27th Annual Mass of Memory - Sunday, Oct. 29 at 3pm, Saint Paul's Basilica
The Mass in Memory is dedicated to the many victims of the Irish Famine of 1847 who died of typhus on arrival in Toronto, those who gave their lives in service of the Irish in the summer of 1847 and all our departed family and friends who passed away in the last year in the Irish Community. Reception to follow downstairs in the parish hall. Proceeds from this celebration go to the Children's Breakfast Club Program of Saint Paul's Basilica. For information call 416 264 5363.