

The baptism of Jesus in the Jordan initiated the Saviour's public life. In the liturgies of each of the three yearly cycles (A, B and C), the readings from the synoptic gospels of that year give way to a reading from John's gospel – helping us to look back at the baptism of Jesus, as a mysterious anticipation of all that his life was to mean. This brief passage from John's gospel helps us to understand the nature of the faith-filled meditation that finds expression in the fourth gospel.

John's gospel does not mention the actual baptism of Jesus, though its reference to it is unmistakable. 'Behold the lamb of God' – this title of the Saviour is so familiar to us that it comes as a surprise to learn that it is only found in the New Testament writings associated with the community for which John's gospel was written. It is a title rich in implications. It calls to mind the Servant Song of Isaiah 53, in which God's Servant – the one who will bring healing to God's people by bearing their burdens – is compared to 'a lamb led to the slaughter house'. In telling the story of the Passion, John's gospel associates the death of Jesus with the slaughtering of the paschal lambs – a theme already anticipated by Paul: 'Christ our paschal lamb has been sacrificed' (1 Cor 5:7). It is through the Paschal Mystery that will end his life's journey that the Saviour will 'take away our sins', and lead creation into the eternal embrace of God.

This mystery, John foretells, will be a 'baptism with the Holy Spirit'. In the other gospels' accounts of Christ's baptism – as in Matthew's, read last Sunday – the Spirit's presence is described as momentary. John's account stresses the abiding presence of the 'Paraclete' of which so much will be said later in the gospel – as the principle of new life in Christ. Here John's original text uses a word with strong implications that is to appear often in what follows, frequently translated as 'abide': Jesus tells us, through the Apostle Philip, 'You must believe that I abide in the Father and the Father abides in me'; and in the allegory of the vine, he declares, 'Whoever abides in me bears much fruit'. The Spirit is manifested as 'abiding' permanently in the Saviour – one with him as Author of the blessings his incarnate presence among us will bring.

In the deceptively simple words of this gospel, the Baptist's witness takes us deep into the divine mystery of Jesus: 'he ranks before me because he existed before me'. The opening words of Paul's letter to the Corinthians make a similar confession, clearly affirming Jesus as 'Lord' – one with the Father in the divine name itself, and in the bestowing of 'grace and peace' upon the world.



Look, there is the Lamb of God

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

St. Paul tells us that we have been sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be a holy people. Could it be that you or someone in your family is being called to consider priesthood or religious life?

If you think God is calling you to ministerial service, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocations Director, Archdiocese of Toronto. 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 ~ 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 ~ John 1:29-34

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – January 16 – January 22

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Doris McKenney	Sonja DeVerteuil
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Ida Giacomini	Gail Weiler & Dave Tyrrell
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Ida Giacomini	Kathleen Stanley
Thursday, 9am	✠ Rosemary Cronyn	Sonja DeVerteuil
Friday, 9am	✠ Eli Batangantang	Michel Moisan
Saturday, 9am	✠ Jessie Armamento	Ivee & Raymond Jalea
5:15pm	... of Joe Conrath	Steve Vogtle
Sunday, 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Frank Prince	family
11am	✠ Doris Vogtle	Herman Rohnar and family
12:30pm	✠ Jan Tomaszewski	Risavy family

Reminders for Sacramental Preparation

The RITE OF ENROLMENT FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES will be celebrated at all Masses next weekend: Saturday, January 21–Sunday, January 22. Parents and candidates should choose ONE Mass to attend. Candidates will be called forward to receive a blessing after a special homily directed at parents and candidates for Confirmation.

At this time, candidates will present their **two documents**: a completed enrolment promise form and their personal 'letter of intent'. The letter should express the candidate's (a) Understanding of Confirmation (b) One or two reasons why s/he is seeking the sacrament. The letter itself should be no longer than one or two paragraphs and may be attached to the enrolment form. Please note that the registration form submitted at the beginning of the year is different from the promise form.

CONFIRMATION SESSION 2B meets on Sunday, January 22, 2017, 4-5:30pm or Wednesday, January 25, 2017, 7-8:30pm, Parish Hall.

FIRST COMMUNION CATECHISM FOR PARENTS meets on Sunday, January 22, 2017, 2-3pm or Thursday, January 26, 2017, 7-8pm, Parish Hall.

SINGING OPPORTUNITIES

If you have an interest in singing, please contact Gordon Mansell, OLS Music Director for a no-obligation chat by email at gdmansell@sympatico.ca.

- 1) Our **OLS 11:00 Choir** would like to grow. If you have a love of sacred music, consider joining this choral ensemble.
- 2) The **MOSAIC Canadian Vocal Ensemble** is a concert and touring choir which rehearses at OLS. Performing concerts and events with OLS choirs at OLS and elsewhere in Toronto, this choir also tours and has performed in the Cathedral's of Ottawa, Kingston and in Europe at Basilica churches in Florence, Assisi and Rome and three occasions at the Vatican.

Turning Concern Into Action – A word of gratitude..

The Our Lady of Sorrows Conference of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul would like to thank our parishioners and the 9 classes from Our Lady of Sorrows School (students, parents, teachers, and administrators) who adopted a family at Christmas. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is greatly appreciated.

COMMUNITY

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School – Kindergarten Registration for September 2017

Imagine the Possibilities: Junior Kindergarten in the Toronto Catholic District School Board provides children with a variety of learning experiences in a caring, faith based environment. Students develop a positive attitude about themselves and others, become more independent and responsible, develop self-regulation and social skills, and learn to solve problems. The Toronto Catholic District School Board invites families with children born in 2013 to register for Kindergarten beginning Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 10 a.m. Registration options:

- Online: Parents will be able to complete their application online at, (click ctrl + left mouse button to access): <https://soar.tcdsb.org/Login.aspx>
- At the end of the on-line application, kindly select "Appointment" in order to book a convenient date/time with the secretary to present the required documents. Only those with a scheduled appointment will be processed.

For more information please call the Board office at: 416-222-8282 ext. 5320 or 5314, or click on the following link www.tcdsb.org/kindergartenregistration

Children's Liturgy of the Word – This program is adapted for our young parishioners and takes place on Sunday during the 9:30am Mass. **Please note that this is for children 4-10 years of age.**

Rosary – prayed daily at 8:30am prior to the 9am Mass. The **Rosary Group** meets every Friday at 2pm in the Parish Hall and prays fifteen decades followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. All are welcome to join in prayer.

NAVIGATING THE Health Care SYSTEM

Saturday, January 21st, 2017 * 10:30 am to 12noon
The Village of Humber Heights, 2245 Lawrence Avenue West (at Royal York Road), Etobicoke
Join us to learn about how to proactively prepare and work within Etobicoke's Healthcare System. Meet with Gary Hepworth who will speak about the importance of understanding how to prepare and educate yourself on the following important topics:

- The availability and limitations of the Community Care Access Centres
- The differences between retirement homes and long term care facilities
- The common misconceptions and inconsistencies regarding availability of healthcare services
- How to proactively and effectively advocate for a loved one in a complex healthcare system

RSVP Call Olesya or Lisa 416.235.0201 Ext. 6858

Emotional Healthy Toolbox: An 8-week program for women to work on speaking their voice, boundaries, and understanding their emotions. This program is held at Cornerstone Church on Friday mornings starting Jan.20. **Needs:** bakers willing to make muffins, cookies, sandwiches etc. If you are interested in registering or volunteering for any of the above programs please contact Emily at Emily.stonegatemistry@gmail.com or (416)523-8611.

Interfaith Awareness at All Saint's Parish, 1415 Royal York Rd., 9:30am-11:00am
Fr. Scott Lewis, SJ, Dean, Regis College, School of Theology, U of T, will present three Ecumenical and Inter-Faith talks. Interested to attend? Email franca.gallucci28@gmail.com
Saturday, Feb. 4: What does Catholicism have in common with non-Catholic Christianity?
Saturday, Feb. 11: What does Catholicism have in common with Judaism?
Saturday, Feb. 18: What does Catholicism have in common with Islam? How to read the Bible.