

Today's gospel takes us to the ideal at the heart of Jesus' teaching. In his Sermon on the Mount, as he contrasted the accepted standards of old Israel with his New Law, Jesus warned his followers that their 'uprightness must surpass that of the scribes and Pharisees'. It is not surprising, therefore, that the interpretation of the 'commandments of the Law' was one of the issues at stake in the conflict between Jesus and his enemies.

'Love your enemies', these words were addressed to a people whose traditions urged them to care for their own; but saw no place for good will and generosity to foreigners in general – whom they looked upon as rivals and enemies. Old Israel had been taken into covenant with the living God, shown in the Exodus to be the champion of the poor and oppressed. Through the covenant they were called to identify with the ways of God. In fact, their traditions – as today's reading from the book of Exodus makes clear – were remarkable compared with the outlook of other peoples of their time. As they began to learn what identification with God's ways involved; they recognised that they must care for the powerless – the poor, widows and orphans, the strangers who had settled among them. But they still had much to learn – their good will was not extended to all of God's children without exception. In advocating this as the ideal as his New Law of love, Jesus was not abolishing the old Law, but bringing it to 'fulfilment'. The ideal held up by Jesus as the fulfilment of the Law was clear: 'I say this to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; so that you will be children of your Father in heaven' (Mt 5:44).

Promoting a movement of popular renewal, the Pharisees sought to formulate summary expressions of the requirements of the Law. Their discussion along these lines is echoed in the antagonistic question with which they tried to confound Jesus. In his reply, Jesus refers to two commandments – implying that, in a certain sense, they constitute a single commandment. He refers to two well known texts: 'You must love the Lord with all your heart, soul and strength' (Deut 6:5) – a text familiar to devout Jews, as expressing the obligations of the covenant; and 'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Lev 19:18) – a text that declares, quite explicitly, that the neighbour referred to is a 'member of your race'. His uniting of these texts, in such a way that neither can have its full meaning without the other, takes us to the heart of the 'fulfilment of the Law' announced by Jesus. He has made it clear that his followers must identify with the boundlessly generous and inclusive ways of his Father; now he makes it clear that the outlook of the 'golden rule' – expressed in the second text he has quoted, and found in other ancient writings – must be the expression of a good will that has no limits. The identification with God's ways, called for in the covenant, has now found its full and final expression, as it did in the Good Samaritan parable – probably his best known – in response to the question, 'Who is my neighbour?' Against the background we have described, we recognise the revolutionary nature of Jesus' New Law of love. In fact, the universal good will taught by Jesus became the ideal of New Testament communities: 'When you did it to the least, you did it to me' (Mt 25:40); 'There can be neither Jew nor Greek, you are all one in Christ' (Gal 3:28). Paul recognised that this identification with God's ways is a gift of the Spirit – 'The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit' (Rom 5:5).



Which is the greatest commandment?

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind." Live in that love in the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life.

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

Readings ~ Exodus 22:20-26 ~ 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10 ~ Matthew 22:34-40

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – October 30 to November 5

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Joan Carey	Patricia Cachia & family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ John Joseph Keane	Philip Kean & family
Wednesday, 9am	All Saints' Day	
Thursday, 9am	The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed All Souls' Day <i>During this Mass, the names of those buried from OLS in the last year will be read aloud. A memorial book will be placed at the front of the church to receive the names of our departed.</i>	
Friday, 9am	✠ members of Goseco, Valencia & Feliciano families	Linda Feliciano
Saturday, 9am	✠ Joan Carey	Connie DeWitt
5:15pm	✠ Pasko Pavkovic	family
Sunday, 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Gerry & Rita McKee	family
11am	✠ Rebecca Borg	family
12:30pm	✠ Celine Borges	Gordon Mansell & OLS Music Ministry

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.

November: Month of Remembrance

The month of November is dedicated to commemorating our loved ones who have died in the Lord. The shrine of St. Joseph will be suitably decorated and The Book of the Dead will be available to receive the names of our dearly departed. All Souls' Day envelopes are available.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2017/2018

First Reconciliation Catechetical Session - (Choose one of the following)
Sunday, Nov. 12 (2:30pm-3:15pm) OR Monday, Nov. 13 (6:30pm-7:15pm), Parish Hall

Confirmation Session #1 for Group B (Last Name N-Z)
Sunday, Nov. 12, 3:45pm-5pm OR Wednesday, Nov. 15, 6:45pm-8pm, Parish Hall
Parents are asked to participate in the first 10 minutes of the meeting.

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.

Shepherd's Trust – Special Collection Nov. 18/19


The mission of The Shepherds' Trust is to raise awareness and funds so that elderly and disabled priests are provided with sufficient financial resources to lead a dignified life after many years of ministry. The fund supports the needs of retired clergy in the Archdiocese of Toronto who have served for many years. By supporting The Shepherds' Trust, retired priests are given the dignity of adequate pensions, health care and other assistance in their golden years.

For more information about The Shepherds' Trust please visit www.shepherdstrust.org.



Offertory Envelopes – We are in the process of preparing the 2018 offertory envelopes for mailing. Please call the office at 416 231 6016 or email luisa@sorrows.ca to update your information for any changes or if you do not have assigned envelopes but wish to begin using them.

THIS WEEKEND 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.

27th Annual Mass of Memory - Sunday, Oct. 29 at 3pm, Saint Paul's Basilica

The Mass of 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.

Living with Christ – For those of you who would like a copy of Living with Christ, you can place your orders through <http://www.livingwithchrist.ca/index.php/subscriptions>. You can email living@novalis.ca or call 1 800 387 7164

Bishop Allen Academy Open House – Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 7pm

Grade 8 students and their parents are cordially invited to attend an Information Evening and Open House at Bishop Allen Academy. Learn about the Advanced Placement Program, Enrichment Classes, early and middle French Immersion, Gifted Program, Leadership Development, Athletics, Music, Drama and more. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call 416 393 5549 or visit <https://www.tcdsb.org/schools/bishopallen/Pages/default.aspx>.

Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services Annual All Souls' Day Mass

Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services - Archdiocese of Toronto wishes to invite all families to participate in the All Souls' Day Mass for the souls of the deceased buried in our Catholic Cemeteries on **Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 2 p.m.** All masses will be held indoors at the following locations:

- Assumption Cemetery, Mississauga, Liturgy in English
- Christ the King Cemetery, Markham, Liturgy in English
- Holy Cross Cemetery, Thornhill, Liturgy in Italian and English
- Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Woodbridge, Liturgy in Italian and English
- Resurrection Cemetery, Whitby, Liturgy in English

The Come and See Weekend – November 3-5 at St. Augustine's Seminary

Inviting single Catholic men 17 years and older, to cultivate a deeper prayer life and relationship with Jesus Christ; leading to better discernment of God's call for their lives. Time of prayer, reflection and information on the process of becoming one of Christ's disciples as a Catholic priest. Visit www.vocationstoronto.ca or call the Office of Vocations at 416 968 0997 or email vocations@archtoronto.org

Culture of Life Formation Day with the Sisters of Life

Saturday, November 4, 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall

A Day of Recollection for those interested in building the culture of life. Based on St. John Paul II's Gospel of Life, the day will include talks by Sisters, small group discussions, fellowship, a holy hour at 2:30 p.m. and confessions available. Bring your own bagged lunch. We hope to see you there! For more info call 416 463 2722 or email toronto@sistersoflife.org

COMMUNITY