

The last section of Matthew's gospel, before the narrative of the passion and resurrection, is a collection of Jesus' teachings urging readiness for death and judgment. The gospel readings for the liturgies of today and next Sunday (the last Sundays of the year's cycle) are from this section. Today we hear the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. The stern tone of the parable should not obscure for us the festive background this story would have called to mind for the original audience. The wedding customs of Palestine – different from our own – have not changed much over the centuries. They come to a climax with the arrival of the bridegroom and his friends at the home of the bride. Upon his arrival, the friends of the bride, who have been waiting with her, go out to join the groom's party for a ceremonial entrance. Those who heard the parable would have recalled that in the Old Testament, Israel's God was called the bridegroom of Israel. The rabbis used the espousal imagery of the Song of Songs in recalling this theme. The members of Matthew's community would have recalled that Jesus referred to himself as 'the bridegroom' (cf. Mt 9:35). The whole emphasis of the parable story, it is clear, is readiness for the coming of the Bridegroom. The 'cry' that goes up when he arrives, capturing the festive joy of the occasion, tells us of the eagerness with which the first Christians looked forward to the Lord's return. All the bride's friends are asleep – the Saviour's return, whether in the moment of death or at the end of the world's history – will come as a surprise to all. Though they are asleep, the wise bridesmaids are ready. Like the lover in the Song of Songs, they can say, 'I sleep, but my heart is awake'. We should not be distracted by their abrupt refusal to share their oil. Remember, in their original form the parables have one point to make. The foolish bridesmaids are removed from the scene to emphasize the point that only those who are ready will join in the festivities.



The bridegroom is here!
Go out to meet him

The first reading, from the book of Wisdom, is well chosen. In his story, Jesus calls the maidens who are ready 'wise'. Wisdom is greatly prized by the traditions of the world; it is a knowledge that helps us understand the things that really matter. Wisdom belongs to a set of Old Testament writings that give expression to a spirituality nourished by an outlook that comes from living one's life in harmony with the ways of God. As the parable invites us to ask ourselves whether we are ready to meet our Lord, and to review the loyalties and values that shape our lives, we may well ponder what is offered to us by God's Word in the first reading: the joy and peace that come from being in tune with God is there to be 'found by those who look'.

The first Christians looked forward eagerly to the Lord's return. With the passing of time, it became clear to them that their period of waiting would be long. With the Saviour's resurrection, the last moment of God's plan has come; but as the second letter of Peter reminded those concerned about this delay, 'With the Lord, a day is like a thousand years' (3:8). These developments are echoed in the reading from 1Thessalonians. It seems that when they embraced the faith and rejoiced in the union with Christ brought by baptism this community thought that they would not see death before the Lord's return. Some have died, however, and Paul is instructing them to remove their confusion. With them we can look forward to festivities in store for us. 'The Spirit and the Bride say, Come! ... Come, Lord Jesus' (Rev 22, 17, 20).

John Thornhill'sm
www.themaussseries.com

"Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."
Listen with your heart as well as with your ears for then you may accept the call to serve in the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life.
If God is calling you, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Archdiocesan Vocations Director, 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

PARISH

Readings ~ Wisdom 6.12-16 ~ 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18 ~ Matthew 25.1-13

Mass Intentions This Week – November 13 to November 19

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Maureen O'Hanlon	family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ members of Harasium & Dropek family	family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Edward Ducharme	Michael Foran
Thursday, 9am	✠ Larry Crooks	family
Friday, 9am	✠ Newton Vaz	Mercia Vaz
Saturday, 9am	✠ Frank DeWitt	family
5:15pm	✠ Mary & Frank Ferkul	Anne Pohole
Sunday, 8am	✠ Adolf Pawlowski	family
9:30am	✠ members of Grogan family	
11am	... of Daniella Servedio	
12:30pm	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	

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 date from 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.

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.

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.

Shepherds' Trust – Special Collection Nov. 18/19

The mission of The Shepherds' Trust is to help 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 go to: www.shepherdstrust.org.

OLS St. Vincent de Paul Adopt-a-Family

During the year our volunteers serve people who can barely afford life's necessities. For these families, Christmas gifts for the children and a festive meal are impossible. You can change that by adopting a family and sharing your Christmas spirit. Please contact olsadoptfamily@gmail.com or call (647) 770-4805 by December 1st. Tax Receipts Available.

Family Advent Event - Our Children's Liturgy of the Word invites you to a Family Advent Event on **Sunday, November 26, 10:30am-1:00pm** in the parish hall. Bring your children or grandchildren and join your parish family in learning more about this beautiful first season of the church year. Free-will offering welcome. Let us know if you can join us. Email Jennifer at jennifer.wolfs@rogers.com or luisa@sorrows.ca by Thursday November 23.

COMMUNITY

Living with Christ – For those of you who would like a personal copy of the Living with Christ monthly or Sunday Missal, 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.

Christmas Card Sale – Weekend of Nov. 18/19

On the weekend of Nov. 18 & 19, before and after all Masses, Msgr. Joe Shiels will be selling his photo Christmas cards with a Christian Christmas message in each card. They will be in packs of 6 for \$5.00 and 12 for \$10.00. Msgr. Joe himself took all the photos on the cards. Many will have the Christmas pictures of our parish. **He will be selling them for one weekend only.**

Campaign Life Christmas Cakes – Weekend of Nov. 18/19

Campaign Life Christmas Cake available the weekend of Nov. 18/19 after each Mass. The fruitcakes come from the monks of **Val Notre-Dame Abbey in Quebec**. The cakes are scrumptious, rich and exquisitely delicious. They really make wonderful gifts for family and friends. Pricing: traditional bar cakes (600 gms) \$18; while the larger deluxe cakes (1000gms) \$25.

Out of the Cold Concert – Saturday, Nov. 25, 12:30pm & 3:00pm, All Saints Kingsway

The OOTC concerts sponsored by the Kingsway Business Improvement Area is scheduled on Saturday, November 25, 12:30 - 2:00 and 3:00 - 4:30 at the Anglican Church of All Saints Kingsway. The concert features the senior choir of Our Lady of Sorrows, All Saints Kingsway and members of the Royal York United and Lambton Kingsway United Choirs with the Salvation Army Etobicoke Citadel Silver Band. Once again, our special guest narrator will be Michael Kramer from the New Classical 96.3 reading for us a Christmas story. All proceeds go to sustain the Out of the Cold program administered by All Saints Kingsway.

Development & Peace Caritas Canada - Women at the Heart of Peace postcard campaign

Cardinal Collins invites you to participate in an archdiocesan weekend of action to put women at the heart of peace. Women are among the most vulnerable during times of war. But they are also important when it comes to creating and sustaining peace. The weekend of Nov. 25/26, feast of Christ the King, you will be invited to sign a simple postcard from the DPCC. It asks the federal government to give women around the world the resources that they need to be at the heart of peace. For more information visit www.devp.org/en/education/fall2017

The deVeber Institute for Bioethics and Social Research – Free Annual Public Lecture Tuesday, November 14 – 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), Carr Hall, University of Toronto

We invite you to attend our Free Annual Public Lecture. "Conscience and conscientious objection for nurses and other health care professionals: Advancing a way forward for education and practice" with guest speaker Dr. Christina Lamb, RN, PhD. Light refreshments will be served. Lecture to begin at 7:30 p.m. sharp. Please call 416 256 0555 or email bioethics@deveber.org to reserve your seat.

A Singspiration Service! – Sunday, Nov. 19 at 7pm, Islington United Church

Please bring your friends to this fun evening of singing and praise for everyone! It features 80 male voice acappella gospel chorus and is presented by Tri-City Gospel Chorus and the 4Heavens Sake Gospel Quartet. No tickets required. Free will offering will be taken to support work and worship in the community. Call 416 239 1131 for more information.

Work of the Heart: Responding to the 94 Calls to Action – Monday, Nov. 20, 7-9pm

St. Joan of Arc Development and Peace invites you to a special evening with Jennifer Henry, Executive Director of KAIROS Canada. Through KAIROS, 10 churches and religious organizations work together in faithful action for ecological justice and human rights. Join us, as people of faith, in a heartfelt response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its 94 Calls to Action. (St. Joan of Arc Hall – 1701 Bloor St. W. just east of Keele).

Senior Men's High School Retreat Saturday, Nov. 25, 8:30am-5pm, Our Lady of the Airways Parish

This retreat is an invitation for young men, in grades 11 & 12, to cultivate a deeper prayer life and relationship with Christ in order to better discern God's call in their lives. To register online go to www.vocationstoronto.ca. Deadline for online registration is on Monday, November 20.