

Today's gospel reading continues the Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes of Matthew ended with a reference to the 'abuse' and 'persecution' that will be the lot of those who heed the call of Jesus – no doubt reflecting the situation of a community of Jewish converts that have been expelled from the synagogue. Against this background, we can understand why Matthew now incorporates two parables of Jesus concerning the witness that is expected from his followers.

These brief but powerful parables put us in the presence of Jesus the teacher who made such an impression, as he appealed to the basic things of life familiar to all his hearers. Salt is a commodity prized by all peoples for its flavouring and preservative qualities. Though pure salt is very stable, the salt of common use, referred to by Jesus, was far from pure and could easily become useless. Light is such an eloquent symbol that all the world's religious traditions have appealed to it. As today's first reading reminds us, the prophets made use of this image. In the Isaian writings, God's people had not only found the light, they were called to be bearers of the light – 'I shall make you a light to the nations, so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth' (Is 49.6). This great theme finds its ultimate expression in the Church, the final People of God – through our union with the Saviour, whose life is 'the light of all people' (Jn 1.4).



You are the salt of the earth, the light of the world

For Matthew, therefore, the words of Jesus, 'You are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world', are addressed to the members of a community in the midst of rejection and difficulties, and in danger of losing heart. And for the Church down through the ages, as it has proclaimed the Sermon on the Mount, the words of Jesus are addressed to the Church as it faces similar situations. In the present moment of history, when the tide seems to be running strongly against the things the Saviour stands for, we know the temptation to lose heart before the task of evangelisation. But, as we hear the brave words of Jesus we should recognise their realism – as if Jesus anticipates these misgivings. The magnificent light that has been entrusted to us, bringing us life and hope, must not be 'put under a tub'. The Church community must offer its light to a desperate and struggling world, like a beautiful city built on a hilltop. If we have received this charge from him, we can rely upon the help that only he can give.

Even the great Paul, whose witness to faith in Christ has proved so fundamental in the life of the Church since the beginning, came to recognise – as we are reminded in today's second reading – that the sharing of his faith did not depend upon brilliant oratory or argumentation. Instead, the 'power of the Spirit' was made manifest through the sincerity of his simple faith in 'the crucified Christ'. And so, while Jesus tells us that we must be evangelisers, he also gives us practical advice as to how we are to give our 'witness' to the Good News he brings. Our light should 'shine', first and foremost, through the 'good works' that make it clear that we are true offspring of our 'Father in heaven'. The quality of truly Christian lives can change the world.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

"You are the light of the world."

Are you willing to let your light shine as a priest, deacon or religious?

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 58.7-10 ~ 1 Corinthians 2.1-5 ~ Matthew 5.13-16

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – February 5 – February 12

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Ted McConvey	Melba DeWitt
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Ralph Carragher	Flynn family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Jose Caceres	Delia Urosevic
Thursday, 9am	✠ Denis Daly	Kathleen Stanley
Friday, 9am	✠ Ruth Gray Schatz	Hugh & Laura MacKinnon
Saturday, 9am	✠ Fr. Alphonso Giappatao	Jalea family
5:15pm	✠ Philip Anthony	family
Sunday, 8am	☞ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ☞	
9:30am	✠ Gary Redmond	family
11am	✠ Edward & Veronica Beringer	family
12:30pm	✠ Fr. Michael Ross	Peter & Elsie Black

Reminders for Sacramental Preparation

CONFIRMATION SESSION 3A, Sunday, February 19, 4-5:30pm, Parish Hall or Wednesday, February 22, 7-8:30pm, Parish Hall

Children's Liturgy of the Word – We welcome our young parishioners aged 4-10 years old to celebrate a children's version of the Liturgy of the Word every Sunday during the 9:30am Mass in the Parish Hall. The children will process as a group to the hall after the opening hymn.

INVITATION TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN YOUR PARISH COMMUNITY – If you've thought about assuming an active role in the life of the parish, we invite you to email the church office at olosorrows@bellnet.ca or call 416 231 6016 to discuss volunteer opportunities. There are several ministries in the parish that you might be interested in: Music Ministry, Ministers of Hospitality/Ushers, Altar Servers, St. Vincent De Paul, Social Committee and more.

The Importance of Welcoming! New parishioners can bring gifts to the parish that had never been present before – new talents, new experiences, new ideas and new commitments. By welcoming new parishioners appropriately, we have the opportunity to grow into a new and better parish. **Welcome, we're glad you joined us!**



OLS PANCAKE TUESDAY – February 28, 2017 from 5pm-7pm, Parish Hall

Everyone is invited to our annual Pancake Tuesday. Come and enjoy pancakes, sausage, blueberry topping, juice, tea and coffee. Cost: \$5 children / \$8 adults in advance and \$7 children / \$10 adults at the door. Tickets on sale February 12 after each Mass. Proceeds go to ShareLife.



Volunteers needed: set up/tear down, cooking pancakes, servers & helpers from 3pm-8pm. Volunteer forms are available at the back of the church this weekend or you can contact the parish office. **Many hands make light work!**

FR. MARTIN'S RETIREMENT RECEPTION – Please join us in celebrating Fr. Martin Pereira's Retirement on Friday, February 10, 2017 from 6:00pm-9:00pm in our parish hall. Pot luck. Bring your favourite dish/dessert. Send your RSVP to pereirarsvp@gmail.com. Fr. Martin will continue to celebrate Masses at Our Lady of Sorrows.

COMMUNITY

Lectio Devina with Cardinal Thomas Collins: Merciless and Merciful (Matthew 18:15-35) Sunday, February 12, 2017, St. Michael's Cathedral. We begin with Vespers (Evening Prayer) at 7 p.m., followed by Lectio Divina from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. www.archtoronto.org/lectio

Valentine's Dinner Dance – Saturday, February 11 at 6:30pm, Nativity of Our Lord Parish Hall. Cost: \$35/ticket. Call Julius Bueno at 416 998 8693 for more information.

GTA Young Women's Retreat hosted by the Sisters of Life: Going deeper to encounter His peace, love and mercy. Young women, ages 18-35 are invited to this retreat on Friday, February 17 to Sunday, February 19. For more information call 416 463 2722 or email toronto@sistersoflife.org.

Catholic Leadership: Lead like Jesus – Saturday, February 18, 9:30am-2:30pm (includes Mass in the seminary chapel), St. Augustine's Seminary. Cost: \$50 (lunch included). Register online: www.staugustines.on.ca or call 416 261 7207.

TAIZE PRAYER INVITATION: February 22nd @ 6:30 p.m., The Friary, 15 Laxton Avenue in Parkdale (Queen & Lansdowne). You are invited to bring a non-perishable item for the Missionaries of Charity. For more information call 416-537-0327.

The Source - Thursday, February 23 St. Peter's Church, 840 Bathurst Street (across from Bathurst subway). Come experience the peace and healing of Jesus. Holy Hour with music led by the Sisters of Life, 7-8pm (Confession Available), 8-9pm Social. For more information: 416.463.2722 or visit www.sistersoflife.org

St. George's on-the-Hill presents: "Icons" – TODAY, February 5, 2017, 4:00pm Discover the rich history, tradition, and devotional use of icons within the Christian tradition. Learn about the meaning and symbolism of various icons, as well as their use in prayer as a means of contemplating the mystery of God. All are welcome. Refreshments served. Free will donations gratefully accepted. All are welcome. For more information visit www.stgeorgesonthehill.ca

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. 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.

Keeping the Faithful Connected – The goal of the National Catholic Broadcasting Council (NCBC) is to insure that Catholics are able to experience the Mass each day when they are unable to attend their local parish. The primary way we enable this across Canada is through our Broadcast Partners at [Salt + Light Television](http://Salt+LightTelevision.com), [VisionTV](http://VisionTV.com) and [yesTV](http://yesTV.com). [The Daily TV Mass is now available Monday-Saturday **anytime** from **anyplace**.] Visit www.dailytvmass.com to find out more about how to stay connected with our faith. Call NCBC at 1-888-383-6277 for more information.