

The tableau in today's gospel concludes Matthew's collection of the teachings of Jesus concerning the End. Unique to Matthew's gospel, it is a masterpiece. Strictly speaking, it is not a parable, but an allegory – a narrative in which details have symbolic significance. It may be the development of a simple parable, in which Jesus likened the expected coming of the 'Son of Man' with divine authority (Dan. 7) to a shepherd 'separating sheep from goats'. It provides, in a simple form, a splendid summary of the teaching of Jesus in Matthew's gospel, concerning the living of our Christian faith.

For the first Christians, Jesus was the 'Son of Man', invested in his risen glory with divine authority (Mt. 26.64). In today's second reading, Paul celebrates the divine authority with which the Saviour brings his saving work to completion. In the triumph of the resurrection he has authority over the whole of creation; when 'the end' comes, having overcome all the forces of evil, he will deliver the New Creation into the hands of his Father, and those who share in his triumph will rejoice in a divine generosity that has no limits. Paul's account of 'the end' is somewhat overwhelming. Matthew's tableau, on the other hand, presents the final Judgment in terms that are easy to understand – terms that can be related to the ways of God that found expression in the Sermon on the Mount. Despite its simplicity, however, the more we ponder this tableau the more we come to appreciate how rich it is in inspiration for those who want to live as followers of Jesus.



When the Son of Man comes, all the nations will be gathered before him

The criterion by which we will be judged when we come into the presence of God is practical, simple and clear. It is not so much what we do for the God 'we cannot see' that matters, in the end, but what we do for one another – expressing the fact that we are true children of the same Father (cf. 1 Jn. 4.20). And among God's children it is the poor and needy who should have our special care – our 'preferential option'. The things that will establish our worth in the sight of God, and our readiness to share in God's friendship, are simple things, possible to all, learned and simple, rich and poor. What overturns our expectations and is immensely reassuring is the fact that those who have proved themselves worthy of hearing the Lord's invitation – 'Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world' – may well be taken unawares. Responding to the grace of God, working in them 'in a hidden way' (Gaudium et spes, n.22), they have shown themselves true children of the Father – helping for the sake of those in need, without any thought of a reward. Matthew's tableau finds a place among the elect for all who fight unselfishly humanity's ancient enemies: 'ignorance, poverty, disease, injustice, bigotry, death of body or soul' (B. Vawter). The greatest inspiration of all, however, is found in the Lord's affirmation, 'You did it to me'. Sharing our humanity and experience in a struggling world, the 'Son of Man' has made himself one in a privileged way with those in greatest need.

Placing us on the threshold of the final Kingdom, this tableau gives us a glimpse of what it will be like – one family of the Father, united in God's generous and merciful ways. Today, we venerate Christ the King; today's gospel reminds us that it is only in his final 'glory' that he exercised his kingship. Among us, he makes himself the 'Servant' of all.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

"Lord, when was it that we saw you ...?"
Have you heard the Lord as well?

If God is calling you to serve as a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact
Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

PARISH

Readings ~ Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17 ~ 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28 ~ Matthew 25:31-46

Mass Intentions This Week – November 27 to December 3

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

| | Intention(s): | Offered by: |
|----------------|--|----------------------------|
| Monday, 9am | ✠ Americo Amorin | family |
| Tuesday, 9am | ✠ Ted McConvey | Holy Angels Breakfast Club |
| Wednesday, 9am | ✠ Paul Gubasta | family |
| Thursday, 9am | ✠ Milan & Joseph Mruz | sister |
| Friday, 9am | ✠ Tekla Dubrovskis | family |
| Saturday, 9am | ✠ members of Goseco, Valencia & Feliciano families | Linda Feliciano |
| 5:15pm | ✠ members of Mahoney family | |
| Sunday, 8am | ☞ Celebrated for the needs of all members of our parish family ☞ | |
| 9:30am | ✠ Patricia Cronin | Jack & family |
| 11am | ✠ Adam Beldycki | family |
| 12:30pm | ✠ Yong Tjan | family |

2018 Sunday Missals – The new liturgical year begins next weekend and missals are available for purchase on the book rack. Please note, the hymnals for 2018 will not have readings included. Parishioners are encouraged to prepare for Mass by reviewing the readings before coming to Mass and listening to the proclaimed Word of God during Mass. If you wish to bring your personal copy of the Sunday Missal, please put your name on the inside cover.

Liturgy of the Word for Children – 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.

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.

This Sunday, Nov. 26! Drop In Family Advent Event – Stop by anytime between 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the parish hall. Learn about this beautiful first season of the church year. Enjoy all new crafts, treats & holiday music. Bring your children or grandchildren. Presented by our Liturgy of the Word for Children. Free-will offering welcome.

Special Collection Next Weekend: Christmas Gifts for the Poor – Dec. 2/3
Our annual *Christmas Gift for the Poor* collection benefits the work of the Canadian Food for Children and The Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Please make all cheques payable to Our Lady of Sorrows. Donations will be divided equally between the two charities. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

OLS St. Vincent de Paul Adopt-a-Family – Deadline is December 1st
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.



COMMUNITY

Support Pro-Life efforts – Items will be on sale this weekend after each mass

- 1) Campaign Life Christmas Cakes - The fruitcakes come from the monks of Val Notre-Dame Abbey in Quebec. The cakes are scrumptious, rich and exquisitely delicious. They make wonderful gifts for family and friends. Pricing: traditional bar cakes (600g) \$18; larger deluxe cakes (1kg) \$25.00.
- 2) Toronto Right to Life Christmas Cards - \$8.00 per pack (tax included) / 10 cards & envelopes per pack. Mixed packs include a variety of popular designs.

Development and Peace Caritas Canada (DPCC) Postcard Sunday!

Let's put Women at the Heart of Peace!



Today Cardinal Collins invites you to participate in an archdiocesan weekend of action with Development and Peace 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.

Please show your support for women working for peace by signing postcards available at the back of the church, asking the government to give women the resources they need to be at the Heart of Peace! There is a box at the main entrance of the church where you can deposit your signed postcards. Thank you for your time and support! For more information, visit www.dev.org/en/education/fall2017.

New Beginnings Dinner & Seminar – Thursday, November 30, 6-8pm, St. John of the Cross
New Beginnings Ministry is hosting a Dinner and Seminar with Dr. Josephine Lombardi on *Being Our Best Self*. To register for this free event, please search: "Eventbrite New Beginnings Fall 2017" or call 416 921 1163. Please RSVP by November 24.

Advent Retreat: Faithful as the Father - Saturday, Dec. 2, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
The Mary Ward Centre, 70 St. Mary St, Toronto
Young adults (18-39) are invited to an Advent retreat for busy people! The Gospel reading on the first Sunday of Advent talks about us being watchful and alert. What does this mean? How can we be faithful like our Father? How can we prepare ourselves best for Advent? Facilitator: Joe Egan. Cost: \$25 (includes lunch). To register, call Kataryna Ryba at 416-467-2645 or visit www.faithconnections.ca



Christmas at Massey Hall: Handel's Messiah - Dec. 2/3 at 3pm
In celebration of the 80th Anniversary of St. Michael's Choir School, the choristers will be performing *Messiah* Part I, as well as a musically rich blend of both secular and sacred carols to usher in the Christmas season - a Toronto holiday tradition. Tickets price: \$20 to \$60. Call 416 872 4255 or visit www.masseyhall.com.

Lectio Divina with Cardinal Collins – "Friendship" (Sirach 6:3-22)
Sunday, Dec. 3, St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica
Vespers (evening prayer) begin at 7pm followed by Lectio Divina from 7:30pm-8:15pm. All are welcome! Visit www.archtoronto.org/lectio.

Holly Tea and Cookie Sale – Saturday, Dec. 2, 1-3pm, Bloordale United Church
You're invited to enjoy tea/coffee and scones with whipped cream and jam! \$7.00 per person. You can also choose your Christmas cookies at our delectable cookie corner. For information call 416 621 1710.



Christmas Bake & Crafter's Sale – Saturday, Dec. 9, 9am-3pm, Mimico Presbyterian Church
Let us bake for you this Christmas! We have shortbread, mincemeat tarts, homemade Christmas cake, Christmas cookies and much more. Visit our vendor booths for that last-minute gift. For information visit www.facebook.com/mimicopresbyterianchurch.