

During the Easter Season, the Church seeks a greater appreciation of all that the Saviour's Resurrection means for the human family. Christ's Resurrection is far more than his coming back to life. It is nothing less than the final achievement of God's work of creation. It is God's intention that, ultimately, the whole human family, together with creation itself, shall be caught up in this great event. To help us find a fuller understanding of this truth, the gospel reading of the Easter liturgies have been taken from the treasures of John's gospel. Today's reading takes us to the heart of this gospel's understanding of the Saviour and what he came to give the world.

The second reading, from the letter of Peter, serves as a splendid complement to our gospel reading. Peter describes the achievement of the Saviour in biblical terms - his words echo, no doubt, the first Christian preaching, as it presented the Risen Lord as the fulfilment of Old Testament hopes. Peter refers to a verse of the processional psalm we met last week (Ps 118:22): 'The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men, but chosen by God', to become the 'keystone' of God's work. This stone is proving a 'stumbling block' to unbelievers; but it is precious to God; and those who are believers recognise in him the realisation of Israel's hopes. Peter sums up these hopes in a series of biblical allusions. The Lord's promise to Moses on Sinai - 'Out of all peoples, you shall be my personal possession. For me you shall be a kingdom of priests, a holy nation' (Exod 19) - has now been fulfilled. United in the Risen Lord, believers are 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood' offering 'the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God'.

It is good to nourish our faith and hope in this way, from the long biblical tradition of God's dealings with his people. The gospel of John, however, brings us a presentation of what the Saviour can mean for us in a different key. The great disciple of Jesus who inspired the deep meditations of this gospel appeals to themes that speak to the common experience of humanity. In today's gospel we meet several of such themes. As we ponder them, we should recall that the Saviour is portrayed in the fourth gospel, bathed, as it were, in a subtle light that is the expression of his risen glory.

What 'way' should our personal journey take us, if we are to avoid life's frustrations and disappointments? - Jesus assures us that 'in him' our journey will lead to authentic life - 'I am the Way'. In a world filled with the voices of false hope and self-indulgence, where are we to find 'truth', a truth that we can 'see for ourselves'? - 'I am the Truth. To have seen me is to have seen the Father'. Where shall we find the 'place' where a truly loving welcome brings an end to our seemingly endless wandering? - 'I shall take you to my Father's house'. And, in the end, what manner of 'life' may we look forward to? - Something that is beyond the imagining of the human heart, nothing less than sharing all things with God - 'I am in the Father and the Father is in me'.

John Thornhill sm
www.themmasseries.com

"The one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these..."

Are you willing to do the work of the Lord?

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



To have seen me is to have seen the Father

Readings ~ Acts 6.1-7 ~ 1 Peter 2.4-9 ~ John 14.1-12

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – May 15 to May 21

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Laverigne Heimann	Michael Foran
Tuesday, 9am	... of Martin Nantel & family	Peggy Werhun
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Mario Pitoscia	Margaret Tipping
Thursday, 9am	✠ Peggy Kirby	family
Friday, 9am	✠ Dennis Patrick Morgan	Barbara Morgan & family
Saturday, 9am	✠ Kitty Ryan	family
5:15pm	✠ Maureen Keane	Philip Keane & family
Sunday, 8am	☞ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ☞	
9:30am	✠ Lovey Moran	Moran family
11am	✠ Horace McCubbin	family
12:30pm	✠ Jack Panoyan	Helen

Please keep the young people of our parish in your prayers as they celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation this Easter Season. The last First Holy Communion Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, May 27 at 10:30am. Confirmation Masses will be celebrated on May 30 & 31 at 7:30pm.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)



*Is God calling you to join the Catholic Church?
Are you baptized in another denomination and would like to be received into the Catholic church?
Are you an un-catechized, baptized Catholic who would like to finish your initiation into the Church and celebrate the sacraments of Confirmation & Eucharist?*

Designed to respond to a call for renewal by the Second Vatican Council, the modern Rite of Christian of Adults (RCIA) aims to prepare unbaptized individuals to receive the sacraments of initiation and baptized non-Catholic Christians to be received into the Catholic church. Combining catechesis with small-group discussion, scriptural reflection and liturgical celebration, this holistic process of faith formation typically begins in the Fall and culminates in the celebration of the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. Supported by carefully-selected sponsors, team members, and the witness of the wider parish community, candidates are invited to explore and deepen their relationships with God in the context of the Catholic tradition and to harness their gifts in service to the parish and broader world.

If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about the process you may contact the parish office at 416 231 6016 or email olosorrows@bellnet.ca

Living the Gospel by welcoming refugee families to Canada...

Julie and her younger sister arrived in Canada through the help of the Office for Refugees to meet a resettlement group that welcomed them with a home and open arms. As orphans from a Refugee Camp in Ghana, they now have a safe place to call home in a country where their lives are not threatened. Julie is interested in studying and becoming a nurse in the maternity ward. She feels it is a passion she wants to pursue after watching her mother become ill and pass away after her sister's birth. They now have hope for a better future and are no longer alone because of the work done through ShareLife-supported Office for Refugees. **Last year, the ShareLife-supported Office for Refugees assisted 6,000 people with their resettlement needs.**

Our parish goal for ShareLife is \$427,000.00; as of May 8th, we have raised \$278,731.00.

ShareLife's campaign continues! Please give generously. You can work wonders!



Happy Mother's Day!

COMMUNITY

Refugee Committee Update – Group # 1

The Parish's Refugee Resettlement Committee is pleased to provide the Parish with an update regarding its activities and the status of the three family groups that the Parish is sponsoring. Our first group of volunteers (Group #1) will be working with a family of five from Ninevah in Iraq. The husband and wife are both in their mid-thirties. They have two daughters, aged 9 and 6 and one son who is 4. The family currently resides in Beirut.

The husband has a university diploma in physical education and worked as a teacher. He was also part owner and employee of a computer shop and a cafeteria. He does not speak English well. His wife has a diploma in English Literature and has some facility with English. The mother and father are looking forward to knowing that their family is safe and secure and that their children are able to attend school and live their childhood years peacefully.

Immigration Canada just started processing this family's application, so they will likely be the third of our families to arrive in Toronto. Group #1 will now begin the process of preparing this family for their interviews and in communicating with them about the process and what they should expect.

As further progress is made, the Committee will reach out to the Parish community to give parishioners an opportunity to contribute further to our families' successful resettlement. More information will follow as the first family's arrival date is firmed up.

A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers who have devoted quite a bit of their time and energy to this project over the past year and a half. The sense of anticipation is building as we communicate with our families, exchange photos with them and encourage them to hang in there as the application process plays itself out. Our families are learning about Toronto via the internet and are trying to improve their English proficiency while living in Beirut.

Financial Report – The Financial Report to Parishioners was issued last weekend. Copies are still available from the ushers this weekend, after wards, from the Parish Office.

Conscience Rights in a Faith Context – Monday, May 15, 7pm, St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. A Catholic Response to Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Death. Presented by The Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. Keynote address by Cardinal Gerhard Müller, Prefect, Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith (Vatican). Free event. Call 416 353 4224. All are welcome.

Conference on Conscience Rights and Healthcare Professionals – Tuesday, May 16, 1-5pm & 7-9pm, University of St. Michael's College (The Coop, Brennan Hall). Presented by the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. Cost \$60. For more information, call 416 353 4224 or visit www.ccbi-utoronto.ca.

Life in the Spirit Seminar – Wednesday, May 17, 7:30pm-9:00pm, All Saints RC Church 7 week seminar. Cost \$10 per person, \$15 per couple. Students/Young Adults are free. To register, email daprile60@rogers.com or call Jean Ann at 416 274 1220.

Annual Christianity and Arts Lecture: The Church and Contemporary Art Tuesday, May 16, 2017 - 7:30 p.m., Muzzo Family Alumni Hall (Rm 400), 121 St. Joseph St., Toronto. Delivered by His Excellency Bishop Paul Tighe, Adjunct Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture. This event is free and open to the public, however please RSVP. Call the University of St. Michael's College at 416 926 2251

Marian Day Retreat with Michael H. Brown – Saturday, May 20, 9am-6pm, Canada Christian College (50 Gervais Dr., Toronto). Topics include The Afterlife, Spiritual Warfare, Family Healing, Prophecy, Reclaiming Christianity. Tickets: \$20/adult in advance, \$10 students. Visit www.marianday.ca or call 416 251 4245.

The Victoria Scholars present Sea Fever Sunday May 28 2017, 7:30pm at Our Lady of Sorrows Church. The Scholars and accompanist William O'Meara join together for a celebration of choral "water music". An evening full of nautical surprises awaits...and you won't even get wet... Ahoy! Doors open 7:00pm. Tickets available at the door: Regular \$30, Student/Senior \$25