

Today we begin the Advent season. 'Advent' as we know means 'The Coming'. Already, when the gospels were written, the first Christians had begun to meditate on the significance of the Saviour's birth: the dawn of the world's salvation. The early Church celebrated Christmas in the depths of Europe's winter – probably because most people had traditions of special festivals at mid-winter. And as the days were beginning to lengthen, Christians were prompted to look forward to the springtime, when they would celebrate Easter, their greatest festival.

The feasts of Easter and Christmas are complementary. At Easter, the principal festival of the Church's year, we celebrate the great act of God – making the Risen Christ the source of the life and blessings that will transform creation into God's final masterpiece. It is not surprising that the Church's meditations on the 'dawn' that was the Saviour's first 'Coming' came to be associated with his 'Second Coming' when he will inaugurate God's final kingdom. Our advent liturgies weave together the themes of these two 'Comings'.

Many of the readings of Advent are from the final chapters of the Book of Isaiah (40-66). These chapters, coming from the time of the Exile, are filled with a renewed hope and confidence in the great future God has promised. Today's magnificent text is typical: 'You are our Father, our Redeemer ... tear open the heavens and come down ... we are the clay, you are the potter, we are all the work of your hand'.

One of the insistent themes of the prophets of Israel was 'The Day of Yahweh', when God was to come to rule the earth. Writing to the Corinthians, Paul affirms the Saviour's sharing in the fullness of divine authority, calling this final day, 'the day of our Lord Jesus Christ'. He tells his people that, in this present time of 'waiting', they should look forward to the Saviour's coming with confidence.

During the coming year, our gospel readings will be from Mark. Today's reading recalls a parable of Jesus, urging constant readiness for his return. We have no way of knowing how the end will come upon us. But the first 'Coming' of the Saviour – as truly one of us, born like us and sharing in what we all experience – makes it clear that we can look forward to the final 'Coming' with confidence.



Tear the heavens open and come down

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com



"Into this world, this demented inn in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ comes uninvited."

-Thomas Merton

The season of Advent calls us to be vigilant in anticipation of the Master's return so that we live each day according to the teachings of Christ.

Could God's "particular task" for you be a call to a Church vocation?

If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocations Director, Archdiocese of Toronto

416-968-0997 vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

PARISH
Readings ~ Isaiah 63.16-17; 64.1, 3-8 ~ 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 ~ Mark 13.33-37

Mass Intentions This Week – December 4 - 10

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Peter & Margaret Teewiss	family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Donald Barrett	family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ members of Grogan family	
Thursday, 9am	✠ Wayne Dusk	family
Friday, 9am	✠ Alessandro & Concetta Patullo	family
Saturday, 9am	✠ Robert Capone	Jimmy Magee
5:15pm	✠ Mary & Frank Ferkul	Anne Pohole
Sunday, 8am	☞ Celebrated for the needs of all members of our parish family ☞	
9:30am	✠ Maria Medal	Medal family
11am	✠ Esterina & Modestino Viola	family
12:30pm	✠ Celine Borges	Jim & Roberta Clough

Christmas & New Year's Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23 – 5:15pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 24 – 8, 9:30 & 11:00am. No Mass at 12:30pm today.

Christmas Eve / Christmas Day ♦ Nativity of the Lord*

Sunday, December 24 – 5, 7, 11pm / Monday, December 25 – 8, 9:30 & 11am & 12:30pm

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30 – 5:15pm Vigil Mass

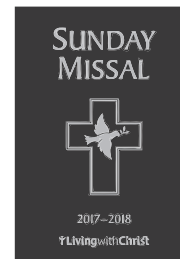
Sunday, December 31 – 8, 9:30 & 11am. No Mass at 12:30pm today.

New Year's Eve / New Year's Day ♦ Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*

Sunday, December 31 – 5pm / Monday, January 1 – 8, 9:30, 11am & 12:30pm

*Indicates a holy day of obligation. As Catholics, we are required to attend Mass on these special feast days.

2018 Sunday Missals – As we start the new liturgical year, 2018 Sunday 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.



OLS Advent All Day Confession – Saturday, December 16, 9:30am-5pm

Find your way back to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Priests will be available to hear confessions in the church from 9:30am-5:00pm. For alternate reconciliation opportunities, visit www.archtoronto.org/confession.

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.

Reminders for Sacramental Preparation

SUPPORT AND DISCUSSION SESSION (Parents only) meets on Sunday, December 10, 2:30pm-3:15pm OR Monday, December 11, 6:30pm-7:15pm.

CONFIRMATION SESSION 2A meets on Sunday, December 10, 3:45pm-5:00pm OR Wednesday, December 13, 6:45pm-8pm, Parish Hall. Note: Parents are asked to participate in the first 10 minutes of the meeting.

Gifts of Securities – Do you have securities that have gone up in value? You can now make your parish offertory and special collections gifts using securities (stocks, mutual funds, bonds). You will not have to pay any capital gains on your securities gift and you will get a tax receipt for the full amount. For more information, contact the parish office at 416 231 6016 or the Development Office of the Archdiocese of Toronto at 416 934 3411. Visit www.archtoronto.org/development.

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 finalizing the list for mailing 2018 offertory envelopes **this week**. Please call the office at 416 231 6016 or email luisa@sorrows.ca to update your address or to request envelopes if you do not already have them.

Special Collection This 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.

Lectio Divina with Cardinal Collins – "Friendship" (Sirach 6.3-22)

Sunday, Dec. 3, St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica
Vespers (evening prayer) begins at 7pm followed by Lectio Divina from 7:30pm-8:15pm. All are welcome! Visit www.archtoronto.org/lectio.

Christmas at Massey Hall: Handel's Messiah – Sunday, Dec. 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: \$20 to \$60. Call 416 872 4255 or visit www.masseyhall.com.

Christmas Bake & Crafters 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.

Victoria Scholars Concert, Sunday, Dec. 17. 7:30pm, Our Lady of Sorrows Church

Ring in the Yuletide with the Victoria Scholars as they present a concert of carols from Christmas past and present by composers from Canada and around the world. Join the Scholars for a festive and spirited celebration of seasonal music. Tickets available at the door \$30 Regular and \$25 senior/student.

Christmas Ornaments for sale – The children of our parish will be selling Christmas ornaments and items they have prepared together with their families to raise money for a Catholic charitable organization. The sale will take place after the 11am and 12.30 pm Sunday Masses on December 17.