

After his baptism in the Jordan, Jesus set out on his great mission. Throughout this year, we follow the course of his mission in readings from the gospel of Mark. The gospel readings of this Sunday (from John) and next Sunday (from Mark) invite us to set out on this journey of discovery as disciples of the Lord. Just as he called the first disciples, the Saviour has a personal call for each one of us to become his 'disciple'. The recovery of the long neglected them of 'discipleship' is one of the signs of new vitality on today's Church. The word, 'disciple', occurs many times in the New Testament. Why was it so important for the first Christians? Discipleship, the privileged relationship one can have with a great and inspiring leader, has been an important factor in the shaping of human history. The leader's vision and commitment call forth admiration and confidence – the lives of their followers are changed, and they face life with a new inspiration and hope. Clearly, those who made up the communities of the New Testament experienced this kind of relationship with the Risen Lord. Today's reading from John's gospel helps us to understand how we too can have this kind of relationship with the Saviour.



'Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit'

Many factors are at work, as disciples come to meet and appreciate their leader. Those who met the Saviour in today's reading, we are told, have been 'disciples' of John the Baptist. It is his selfless witness that leads them to 'follow' Jesus. In the gospel story, of course, the Baptist represents the faith and expectations of the Old Testament. Knowledge of the great themes of the old Israel's hopes is fundamental if we are to understand the message and vision of the Saviour. Closer to home, it is often unselfish expressions of faith, hope and love on the part of other members of a vital Christian community that are important in our coming to know the Saviour.

It is important that we seek that incomparable intimacy with the Saviour that is our birthright through baptism – not relating to him as a remote figure, but confidently sharing our lives, in all their complex tangles, with him. Today's story of the two disciples encourages this trust and confidence. Encouraged by the Baptist, they approached Jesus; he gave them a warm welcome – 'Come and see'; and they spent the rest of the day with him.

As disciples of inspiring leaders, many men and women have had the experience of finding themselves, and giving a meaning to their lives. We can look forward to that same experience, if we accept the Lord's invitation to share our lives with him. Today's reading reminds us that Peter found his true self in the new name Jesus gave him. The Scriptures reflect the fact that for many cultures a personal name points to the mysterious identity of each person. For the wisdom of Christian faith, this personal identity has its origin in the eternal designs of God. Samuel was called by name. Simon's unique place in the plan of God was declared in the new name Jesus gave him. He still had much to learn, but the path that was to lead to his eternal glory had been made clear.

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www.themmauseries.com



A World Day of Migrants and Refugees is observed in many places in solidarity with the World Refugee Day promoted by the United Nations and observed since 2001 on 20 June. This January observance was instituted by Saint Pius X in 1914. "The phenomenon of migration today is a providential opportunity for the proclamation of the Gospel in the contemporary world. Men and women from various regions of the earth who have not yet encountered Jesus Christ or know him only partially, ask to be received in countries with an ancient Christian tradition. It is necessary to find adequate ways for them to meet and to become acquainted with Jesus Christ and to experience the invaluable gift of salvation."
~ Pope Benedict XVI, 2012 (Source Ordo 2017-2018)

The theme announced by His Holiness Pope Francis for the 2018 World Day of Migrants and Refugees is "Welcoming, Protecting, Promoting and Integrating Migrants and Refugees". In his message, Pope Francis reminds us that "every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age. . . ." A special Mass commemorating the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees will be celebrated **THIS WEEKEND** on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 1 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Chaldean Catholic Cathedral, located at 2 High Meadow Place in North York. Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick will be the homilist for this Liturgy. A reception will follow with a number of dignitaries in attendance. **All are welcome to attend!**

PARISH

Readings ~ 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19 ~ 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-30 ~ John 1:35-42

Mass Intentions This Week – January 15 – 21

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✚ Mary Lucey	John & Ursula Matthews
Tuesday, 9am	✚ Carl O'Grady	Linda McCarron
Wednesday, 9am	✚ Joseph Mario Clermont	Dan Kelly
Thursday, 9am	✚ Pasko Pavkovic	family
Friday, 9am	✚ Newton Vaz	Mercia Vaz
Saturday, 9am	✚ Emilia Amaro	family
5:15pm	✚ Pasquale & Lucia Sorrini	Michael Foran
Sunday, 8am	☞ Celebrated for the needs of all members of our parish family ☜	
9:30am	✚ Antoinette Zimmerle	Jeannette
11am	✚ Marianna Luciano	family
12:30pm	✚ Raoul Leduc	Margaret Leduc

2018 Sunday Missals – Sunday Missals are available on the book rack at the back of the church. Please place your \$3.00 payment in an envelope marked "Sunday Missal" into the offertory basket or drop it off at the church office. 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 to Mass, please write your name on the inside cover.

Reminders for Sacramental Preparation RECONCILIATION SESSION 2 (Children Only) - Choose **ONE** of the following sessions to attend Sunday, January 21 (2:30pm-3:15pm) **OR** Monday, 22 (6:30pm-7:15pm). **We meet in the parish hall.**

Reconciliation for First Communion candidates – Children preparing to receive their First Holy Communion are invited to attend a time of reconciliation on **Saturday, March 24th from 3-5pm.** Two priests will be available to help you celebrate the sacrament for the first time.

Note - if your child cannot come on this specific day, you are welcome to come to the **OLS All Day Confession on Saturday, March 17th, 9.30 am- 5 pm.** You are also welcome to come for reconciliation on any given Saturday, 4-5pm.



Totus Tuus Summer Camp Comes To Our Lady Of Sorrows!
Totus Tuus is a multi-tiered program for Catholic youth in the Archdiocese of Toronto. The program offers a one-week summer camp to parishes looking for youth programming during the summer. The Totus Tuus Summer Camp at OLS will be held the week of July 15-20. More details to follow!

Parish Administration

2018 Offertory Envelopes - Offertory envelopes for 2018 were mailed before Christmas. If you haven't received your envelopes yet, please place your donation in any envelope labelled with your name and address. For the first few weeks, please write your name/address on the envelope so we can verify our records. Also, please make an effort to write the amount of your donation onto your envelope. This small step saves a great deal of time for the volunteer teams who process our weekly collections. Thank you!

Pre-Authorized Giving – The PAG program allows parishioners to request that a monthly total be transferred from their bank account to OLS Parish on the 20th of each month, for their regular Sunday offerings plus an option to include special Archdiocesan collections. If you would like to participate in this program, please contact the parish office for details.

Parish Registration – If you attend OLS parish regularly, please ensure that you are registered with the parish office. (Young adults who have completed their education should be registered as individuals.) Registration forms are available on the parish website at www.sorrows.ca

Please also inform your previous parish of your move so they can remove you from their active records.

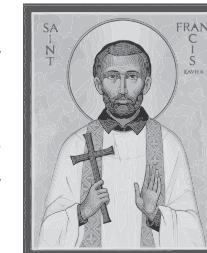
COMMUNITY

A good vocation prayer to say every day from the time we are young until we are in our golden years is found in today's first Scripture reading: "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening". Visit www.vocationstoronto.ca today!

OLS Refugee Resettlement Committee Update - Our Lady of Sorrows' Refugee Resettlement Committee had a very busy fall and early winter with the three members of our first group of refugees arriving in November and December. Our volunteers did a great job to ensure that all of the refugees' government documents were in order, that they were enrolled in an ESL program as soon as possible and that they had all of the other items required to thrive in the city of Toronto including getting them warm winter clothing. For this group, the focus will now shift to getting employment for our three new friends. Our second and third families have had meetings scheduled in Beirut for mid-January which suggests based on our past experience that they might be arriving in Toronto in late winter or early spring. Group volunteers are gearing up to welcome these people to Toronto.

Major relic of Saint Francis Xavier to visit the Archdiocese of Toronto Jan. 12 – 14

A first-degree relic of missionary Saint Francis Xavier is coming to the Archdiocese of Toronto, January 12-14, 2018. The forearm of the saint, permanently displayed at the Church of the Gesù in Rome, will be in Canada from December 29 – February 2, as part of a 14-city Canadian visit. The relic will be hosted by St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica (Jan. 12), St. Francis Xavier Church, Mississauga (Jan. 13) and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Toronto (January 14). More information about the visit and a full schedule of events can be found at: www.cco.ca/relic



The Faces of Christ in the Book of Revelation—Jan. 20, 9:30am-3pm, St. Augustine's Seminary. St. Augustine's Lay Spiritual Formation program presents. . . The Faces of Christ in the Book of Revelation. The day includes Mass in the seminary chapel. Cost \$50 (lunch included). Register online www.staugustines.on.ca or call 416 261 7207.

Understanding Our Abrahamic Roots: An Interfaith Lecture Series
Building interfaith relationships increase our understanding and respect for all faiths. Join us at this lecture series to learn more about each other, and our common roots, to seek peace and justice. **Wednesdays Jan. 10: Christianity; Jan. 17: Judaism; Jan. 24: Islam and Feb. 7: Speaking Together – A Panel Discussion.** Location: Islington United Church. For more information email Barbara Sheffield b.sheffield@rogers.com.

2018 Marriage Preparation Courses presented by Catholic Family Services of Toronto – Visit www.cfstoronto.com for the complete schedule of programs for 2018. For more information call 416 921 1163.

Walk-in Counselling Services - Catholic Family Services of Toronto offers walk-in counselling services at two locations. The single-session consultation is aimed at helping individuals, couples, or family clients address their concerns. No appointment required. Central office address: 1155 Yonge St. Suite 100, Toronto. Every Tuesday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call 416 921 1163. North office address: 5799 Yonge Street, Suite 300, North York. Every Thursday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call 416 222 0048. Email info@cfstoronto.com

Living with Separation and Divorce - Catholic Family Services of Toronto is offering a psycho-educational program for those dealing with the stress of the ending of a relationship. The sessions facilitated by a clinical social worker will be held February 13 to April 3, 2018 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at 1155 Yonge St. There is a \$30 fee per session. Please contact Alpana Das at 416-921-1163 x2232 or email adas@cfstoronto.com for more information.

School Kindergarten Registration - TCDSB looks forward to welcoming new students for September 2018. On-line Registration for Kindergarten begins Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 10 a.m. est. Apply for registration at soar.tcdsb.org or visit your local Catholic school on January 17th.

The following documents are required for registration: Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate, Birth Certificate, Immunization Record and 2 documents for proof of residency.

In order for your September 2018 registration request to be processed, the application must be entered on or after January 17, 2018 at 10:00 am est.