

Each year on the second Sunday of Lent, the liturgy's gospel reading tells of the Transfiguration. This year we hear Matthew's account. Throughout our long Lenten observance, we are encouraged to keep in mind the triumphant glory of the Saviour that we are preparing to celebrate, and the challenge it brings to us. All three gospels link the Transfiguration with the warning of Jesus, that he was 'destined to suffer' in Jerusalem, and that those who are his true followers must 'take up their cross and follow him'.

What is the basis of this mysterious narrative, that is not easy to relate to the later attitudes displayed by the apostles as the story of the gospels unfolds? It had obvious importance for the Church of the beginnings, because it is given in all three synoptic gospels. Luke associates this experience of the three apostles - who were to witness the agony of Jesus in the garden - with a moment in which Jesus led them in prayer. Perhaps the narrative has its basis in an ecstatic prayer experience. Perhaps the more restrained presentation of Luke, the gentile convert, is significant. Luke avoids reference to a metamorphosis ('transfiguration'), a phenomenon associated with the gods of the pagan mythology. He merely states that 'the aspect of Jesus' face was changed'. No doubt, the early Church saw this narrative as an important expression of their faith in the Saviour - as sharing in the Father's greatness and glory, even in the obscurity of his earthly life.

Matthew's recounting of this tradition, with its many references to biblical themes familiar to the Jewish converts of his community, presents the Jesus of the Transfiguration as fulfilling what was prefigured in the history of old Israel: the 'mountain' reminds us of the defining moment of the Sinai covenant; 'Moses and Elijah', representing the Law and the Prophets, both have close links with Sinai; the 'cloud' recalls the 'shekinah' cloud that was an expression of Yahweh's presence during the Exodus; the shining face of Jesus reminds us of the face of Moses when he came down from the mountain; Peter's reference to the 'three tents', or booths, recalls the Jewish feast of Tabernacles, when the people lived in booths celebrating their arrival in the promised land - a celebration of the kingship of Yahweh that came to be filled with messianic expectations. Matthew adds to the words of the Father from the cloud a reference to one of the songs of the Suffering Servant (Is 42:1), bringing us back to the association of the Transfiguration with the warning of Jesus - of the ordeal that lay ahead of him in Jerusalem, and the challenge of discipleship.

The term used by Mark and Matthew for the transformation that took place in Jesus - that we are accustomed to translate, 'transfiguration' - is also used in the New Testament to describe the spiritual transformation brought by life 'in Christ'. For the first Christians, it had overtones of the blessings of the final kingdom announced by Jesus. The journey begun so long ago - in the story of Abraham's heroic response to the call of God, and the promises that accompanied it - has brought God's people to the moment of fulfilment.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

"Living the Gospel" by providing for vocations to the priesthood...

"Living and studying at St. Augustine's can bring untold blessings into the lives of those entering ministry," shares Matt McCarthy, a current Seminarian. Matt's interest in sports and his desire to enter the priesthood and minister to those in his community, gives him an opportunity to serve the Church in a unique way. At ShareLife-funded agencies such as Serra House, St. Augustine's and Redemptoris Mater Seminaries, individuals undergo extensive theological education and practical field training. Through ShareLife, you are helping to sustain vocations to the priesthood and inspire discernment for God's call. Last year ShareLife helped support 70 seminarians in their formation studies.



Sunday, April 2, 2017 is ShareLife Sunday. Please give generously.

Readings ~ Genesis 12:1-4 ~ 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 ~ Matthew 17:1-9

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week — March 13 — March 19

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	... of Angela Olkovich	Mike & Lydia Sherlock
Tuesday, 9am	✠ members of Grogan Family	
Wednesday, 9am	✠ John Kuruzovich	Erv Schleimer
Thursday, 9am	✠ Carmen Garavito	family
Friday, 9am	✠ Waclan & Jadwiga Milanowski	a friend
Saturday, 9am	✠ Sandra Heggie	Kevin & Diana
5:15m	✠ Laura Di Giovanni	Carlo Di Giovanni
Sunday, 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Charles Wilson	Kevin & Diana
11am	✠ Thomas Byrne	Byrne family
12:30pm	✠ Stasia Zelenczuk	Bookman family

Reminders for Sacramental Preparation

Confirmation Session 3B, Sunday, March 19, 4-5:30pm, Parish Hall OR Wednesday, March 22, 7-8:30pm, Parish Hall

First Reconciliation and First Communion Reflection for Parents & Children Sunday, March 19, 2-3pm OR Thursday, March 23, 7-8pm (both dates: Church & Parish Hall)
At these sessions, Fr. Nino will lead a reflection for children and their parents in preparation for the celebration of First Reconciliation and Communion.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Celebrated each Friday of Lent at 7:30pm in the Church
Parishioners are encouraged to make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, through meditating upon Christ's suffering and death.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY— Friday, March 17

Join us in the parish hall after the 9:00am Mass for Irish Coffee and Tea Biscuits

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH — Monday, March 20

Join us in the parish hall after the 9:00am Mass for coffee/tea and "Zeppole".

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE

Beyond the Box . . . Turning Concern into Action! TODAY, 9am-2pm, 2nd floor, Running Room
If you've ever wondered how the Parish's generosity is applied in real and meaningful ways to help our neighbors in need, or considered volunteering for the Society, please join us at your leisure anytime during the hours of this event.



OLS LENTEN DAY OF CONFESSION - Saturday, April 1 from 9:30am-5:00pm

Find your way back to the sacrament of Reconciliation. Priests will be available to hear confession in the church from 9:30am-5:00pm. Prayerfully prepare to participate in this healing sacrament of reconciliation. Visit www.archtoronto.org/confession



Gentle Reminder - For the health consideration of some of our parishioners, we encourage you to please try to refrain from using perfume/cologne & other scented beauty products. Thank you.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our Pastor, Father Nino Cavoto celebrates his 40th Anniversary of Ordination on Sunday, April 16. Plans are in the works for a pot luck reception to celebrate this occasion on Friday, April 28 starting with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 7pm. More details to follow.

COMMUNITY

Journey through Lent towards Easter with Salt + Light TV— Visit www.saltandlighttv.org/len

Join the "Call for Conscience" — February 6 — March 31, 2017

Canada legalized euthanasia/assisted suicide in June 2016. Between June and December, 2016, more than 740 people across the country died from what is now being referred to as "medical aid in dying". Meanwhile, only 30% of Canadians have access to quality palliative (end of life) care. Please visit www.CanadiansforConscience.ca to learn more. **TAKE ACTION.** Join the "Call for Conscience" and write directly to your Member of Provincial Parliament asking them to protect conscience rights.



TREASURES OF THE PIANO: The Musical World of David Potvin
Today, Sunday, March 12, 2017, 3:00pm, Islington United Church
25 Burnhamthorpe Road (at Dundas). For information, call 416 239 1131 or visit www.islingtonunited.org. Free will offering. Please bring a Food Bank donation.

ANNUAL MASS OF ST. PATRICK — Friday, March 17 at 10am, St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. Presider and Homilist is Bishop John A. Boissonneau, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto. All are welcome!

St. Augustine Seminary: Come and See Weekend

We are hosting a Come and See Weekend for men 18 years and older at St. Augustine's Seminary from Friday, March 17 at 7 p.m. to Sunday, March 19 at 1:30 p.m. This weekend offers a way for men to discern a possible call to priesthood at our seminary. For more information, please call 416 968 0997 or email vocations@archtoronto.org.



2017 BACH WALK — The Kingsway Celebrates Johann Sebastian Bach's 332nd Birthday. Join us on a walk to three Casavant organs to learn more about these fine instruments. On **Saturday, March 18**, the Royal Canadian College of Organists and Gordon Mansell will present the organs of the Kingsway. First stop, All Saints Kingsway with a performance by Stefani Bedin at 1:00pm. The second visit will be to Kingsway Baptist Church for a 2:00pm performance from Mel Hurst & Michelle Cheung with guest singers. The organ crawl will end at Our Lady of Sorrows with a 3:00pm performance by our own assistant organist, Manuel Piazza. A splendid birthday cake in the OLS parish hall will top the afternoon off. This is a FREE event and all are welcomed. For more information, please contact Gordon Mansell at gdmanzell@sympatico.ca

Dynamic Women of Faith Events at John Paul II Polish Cultural Center, 4300 Cawthra Rd, Mississauga.

- Calling All Girls —** Friday, March 24, 7pm-10pm. A special evening of short, high-powered talks for mothers and daughters. Call 905 279 7702. Register at www.dynamicwomenoffaith.com.
- Catholic Women's Conference —** Saturday, March 25, 2017, 8am-4pm. Topics include: The Call to Holiness; Why Minister to Moms?; Finding Your Catholic Voice; Marriage and Sanity?; and How Does CatholicMomsGroup.com work? Register at www.dynamicwomenoffaith.com. Call 905 279 7702.

Lenten Day of Retreat, Reflection & Prayer — Saturday, March 25, 10am-4pm, Pauline Books and Media (3022 Dufferin). Reflective talks by Sr. Katheryn James, FSP. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Prayer Exercises. Free event. Bring your own lunch. Donations to support the sisters appreciated. Call 416 781 9131.

STOP A Fall Before It Happens! — Thursday, March 23, 1-3pm, Bloordale United Church
Are you 55 or older? Or caring for a senior? Join us to learn some helpful tips. Get healthier . . . One step at a time. Presented by Toronto Public Health. Register with Irene at 416 621 5272.