

In the Risen Lord, his disciples were confronted by God's final achievement in a transformed creation. The overwhelming and mysterious nature of this experience - an encounter that involved every level of their being - is reflected in the various passages of the gospels that attempt to communicate it. On the surface, the symbolic imagery and circumstantial detail they use are difficult to reconcile. Beneath the surface, however, they have a remarkable unity: against all expectations they know the Jesus who has been so long in their company, triumphant in his humanity over death; he greets them generously, and initiates a new relationship with them that they find challenging; he entrusts them with a mission to the whole world, announcing the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Today, our Easter liturgy aims to awaken in us the recognition that we too are called to share in this mission - through the gift of Christ's own Spirit. In our gospel reading from John, 'Advocate' translates the word, 'paraclete', used several times in this gospel. This term indicates far more than one who will speak for us when we are on trial. It signifies someone who will stand by us whatever our need - our 'champion' we could say. The work of the Spirit is clearly expressed in the words of Jesus: 'I will not leave you orphans, he says, 'I will come back to you'. He will be present, however, in a new way, as his own Spirit leads the faith-filled community in a fuller understanding of all that he said and did.

This union with the Saviour, through his Spirit, is to be far more than a comforting spiritual union. 'If you love me you will keep my commandments', he says. What are these commandments? Immediately before the passage selected for our liturgy, Jesus has spoken of the 'works' that will be a sign of true belief in him. In the tradition that gave us John's gospel, we know, all is summed up in a single commandment, 'Love one another, as I have loved you'. The Spirit will lead us into the fullness of truth and life brought by the Risen Lord, as we give ourselves to practical love and service.

In our reading from Acts we see the first Christian community taking up the mission they have received. Philip, one of its seven 'deacons' - remembering, no doubt, the example of Jesus - takes the Good News of reconciliation to the Samaritans, the hated enemies of old Israel. It was through the leadership of the apostles, this incident shows, that the Spirit built up the Church's communion of love and service.

If our union with the Risen Lord must find a practical expression, it is certainly, Peter tells us in his letter, a most personal bond: 'Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts' he tells us, and then your lives will bring true blessings to those around you.



If you love me you will keep my commandments

John Thornhill sm  
www.theemmausseries.com

The Lord said, "I will not leave you orphaned."

Pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life.

If God is calling you, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Archdiocesan Vocations Director.  
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

PARISH  
Readings ~ Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 ~ 1 Peter 3:15-18 ~ John 14:15-21

**Mass Intentions This Week — May 22 to May 28**

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	... of Danuta Barc	Maria Bardowska
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Robert & Neal McCarthy	family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Rona & Irene Newton-John	Michael Foran
Thursday, 9am	✠ Dorothy Miletich	Marianne & Vlad Bobrin
Friday, 9am	✠ Ludvik Bubrin	Margaret Bubrin
Saturday, 9am	✠ Mary Farnsworth	Barbara & Tom
5:15pm	✠ Margaret McKenzie	family
Sunday, 8am	✠ Lena Badali	family
9:30am	✠ Trevor deGa	family
11am	✠ Gerry Brukner	family
12:30pm	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	

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.

**Fr. Ron Krafchik's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination** — On Monday, May 29, we celebrate Fr. Ron' Krafchik's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination. To celebrate this event, refreshments will be served in the parish hall after the 9:00am Mass. All are welcome!

**Coffee Friday — Last Friday of each month**, after the 9am Mass. Everyone is invited to the parish hall for refreshment. This is an opportunity to get to know the members of your parish community. All are welcome. ...bring a friend!

**Refugee Committee Update — Group # 2**

Last week, the Parish Refugee Resettlement Committee provided an update on one family that the Parish is sponsoring. This week, we get to know the second family.

Our Group #2 will be supporting a family of four that includes a 33 year old husband, his 26 year old wife and two young girls aged 6 and 4 with a third child expected sometime in this fall.

After having to leave their home in Baghdad due to war, the family were forced to move several times. They arrived in Lebanon in late 2016 and currently live in Beirut.

The father is a jeweler by trade, having worked in his brother's factory. The mother is a housewife raising their two girls. The mother and father want their children to be able to live in peace and be educated. We have spoken with the family via the internet on several occasions and they are anxious to come to Canada.

This family's application was first processed by Immigration Canada in late January of this year. The next step in the process is for this family to be interviewed and get their medical exams. This family will likely be the second of our families to arrive in Toronto.

In next weeks' bulletin, we will get to know the 3rd family that the Parish is sponsoring. Once again, we would like to thank our dedicated volunteers who have devoted their time and energy to this project over the past year and a half.

**An Invitation to Serve** — We would like to invite children who have received their First Holy Communion to be part of Our Lady of Sorrows Altar Server Ministry. Becoming an Altar Server is a great way for our children to learn more about their faith by playing an important role in assisting our priests in the liturgies. Training is provided, and then they will be placed on a schedule to serve at the weekend mass that they would normally attend. Interested? Call the parish office at 416 231 6016 or email us at olosorrows@bellnet.ca.

**Living the Gospel by caring for the elderly...**



"Words cannot convey our gratitude to Elizabeth and to the Society of Sharing for giving our mother a new meaning to her life. Before the friendly visit program started, our mother was very depressed and unmotivated. However, her life changed when Elizabeth started to visit her. Elizabeth is a very kind, energetic and enthusiastic volunteer and her hobby is artwork. She decided to share her talent with our mother and has been giving her art lessons in acrylic painting. The intellectual stimulation has been tremendous and, as a result, has enhanced her health and her quality of life as she relaxes and focuses on her art projects. Thank you again, for all your support." **Last year, ShareLife-supported agencies provided outreach programs that met the needs of over 2,200 seniors.**

Our parish goal for ShareLife is \$427,000.00; as of May 15<sup>th</sup>, we have raised \$297,669.00!

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

**Congratulations!** Gordon Mansell, OLS Music Director and Titular Organist has been selected for the 2017 National Award of Excellence from the Royal Canadian College of Organists for ORGANIX Concerts, an annual year-long music series featuring international and Canadian organists. Gordon will be honoured with the Award at a gala ORGANIX concert on September 22, 7:30 at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, a concert that will feature Italian virtuoso organist Maestro Mario Ciferri. For tickets to this very special event and reception in support of Gordon's work in the arts and in promotion of the organ, please order online at www.organixconcerts.ca

**We need your help to protect Ontario doctors and their conscience rights.** Bill 84 will soon pass the legislature without any conscience protections. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) still requires effective referral. This is unacceptable to those who conscientiously object to physician-assisted suicide. Take Action! Write to your MPP and Health Minister. Visit www.canadiansforconscience.ca/ontario.

**Celebrate! Summer Sizzler Community BBQ - May 22 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm** Christ Church St. James, 194 Park Lawn Road. Stonegate Ministry & Christ Church St. James Anglican Church invite you to this fun-filled, Free food with kid's games, bouncy castle, face-painting, live music & sing-longs, street theater story-telling and more. Call 416 251 8711. All are welcome!



**Song of the Land: A Celebration of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Presented by the Harmony Singers.** May 26, 8pm & May 27, 2pm, Martin Grove United Church Tickets: \$20, \$15 Seniors/Student. Children under 10 Free. Call 416 2395821 or visit www.harmonysingers.ca

**Retreat Day with Dr. Josephine Lombardi: Journey of Self-Discovery and Healing** Saturday May 27, 2017, 8:00am - daily mass (optional). 9:30am - 2:30pm retreat St. Benedict Parish Hall, 2194 Kipling Ave. Includes praise and worship, sacrament of reconciliation, hot lunch. All are welcome. Cost \$40. For inquiries contact: Inez 416 745 4268

**"Beginning the Healing Journey After Separation & Divorce" - May 27, 9am - 3pm** St. Roch's Church, 2889 Islington Ave., North York. Speaker, Fr. Fred Scinto will expand on this topic. Light lunch will be provided. For more information call 416 921 1163 ext. 2230 or 2235.

**The Victoria Scholars present Sea Fever - Sunday, May 28, 7:30pm at OLS** 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

**Organ Concert & Sung Vespers** — Sunday, May 28, Royal York Road United Church RYR will host an afternoon organ recital at 3 pm followed by a 4 pm sung vespers with the Senior Choir. Concert organist, Christopher Dawes will present a Reformation based program prior to the service and play for the vespers. Afternoon vespers will have the elements of prayer, silence and a candle lighting liturgy. Everyone is welcome. Freewill offering. Visit www.ryru.ca or call 416 231 9401