

Today's liturgy invites us to take up again the reflections on Christian discipleship that we began last Sunday. Last week we considered what Christian discipleship has in common with the following of inspiring human leaders. The vivid picture painted by Mark in today's gospel reading highlights characteristics of Christian discipleship that have no parallel in the world of human discipleship.

In our common human experience, the decision to become a disciple is first and foremost a decision made by the follower. The decision to become a disciple of the Saviour has its origin in the decision and call of the Lord himself. Mark's brief narrative probably has its basis in a more complex sequence of events - in which the four fishermen have already heard the 'Good News' preached by Jesus, that 'the kingdom of God is close at hand': alluded to in the previous verses. But Mark wishes to emphasize the authoritative call of Jesus as the basis of the relationship they enter into, and the unconditional nature of their response. 'You did not choose me, no. I chose you' - these words of Jesus at the supper, in John's gospel, are addressed to each of us. Our relationship with the Lord is grounded in his decision on our behalf and his eternal fidelity.



Follow me and I will make you fishers of men

Responding to the call of Jesus - like all the great decisions of a full and generous life - is not without its cost. We are reminded of this by Mark's stark narrative - as the four leave behind old securities and their kinsfolk to throw in their lot with Jesus.

The choice of Jesus is not related to any previous formation or qualifications. Mark describes the call as coming to them unexpectedly, in the midst of their daily work. As successful fishermen, with hired labour, they were probably literate and relatively well informed in the faith of old Israel. But this is of no consequence in Mark's narrative. We who are called together to form the community of the Lord's disciples come from different backgrounds and outlooks, young and old, rich and poor; united in our discipleship of the one Lord we must show the world all that a generous following of Christ has to offer the human family - nothing less than a foretaste of the final Kingdom.

'I will make you fishers of men' - the call to discipleship is an invitation to share in the mission of Jesus, to share his responsibility for the whole human family. If the Church in which we believe is the community of those who have responded to this call, Mark's account presents Jesus as beginning to create the Church at the very outset of his ministry.

The contrast between the relationship entered into by Jewish rabbi of the time of Jesus, and the relationship the Saviour entered into with his disciples has often been remarked upon. 'Follow me' - these words give expression to a decision made from all eternity, a decision that will never be revoked, as he leads us to share in his own eternal destiny.

John Thornhill'sm  
www.theemmausseries.com

The call of the disciples is so familiar to us that we tend to miss the wonder of the disciples' response, which was immediate and complete; they leave everything and follow Jesus.



Can we do less if we feel that God is calling us to the priesthood, religious life or diaconate?

If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocations Director, Archdiocese of Toronto  
416-968-0997 vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Jonah 3.1-5, 10 ~ 1 Corinthians 7.29-31 ~ Mark 1.14-20

PARISH

**Mass Intentions This Week — January 22 — 28**

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✚ Maria Angelicchio	Luigi Possamai & family
Tuesday, 9am	✚ Alessandro & Faustina Gallon	Possamai family
Wednesday, 9am	✚ Richard Skinner	Morgan family
Thursday, 9am	✚ John Attley	Tim & Angela Attley
Friday, 9am	✚ Monica Heaney	Jennifer & Bill
Saturday, 9am	✚ Lorne Harper	Carmina Lima
5:15pm	✚ Armenio & Carriglio families	family
Sunday, 8am	✚ D'Arcy Brooks	Carl & Joan Nurmi
9:30am	✚ Margaret deGa	family
11am	✚ Michael Chojnacki	family
12:30pm	✚ Orest Derewlany	Irena Sintal

**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 at OLS on **SATURDAY MARCH 24<sup>th</sup> 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 **All day Confession at OLS on Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 OLS — JULY 15-20, 2018**

Totus Tuus is a multi-tiered program for Catholic children & youth in the Archdiocese of Toronto. We invite children and youth parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows to join us for Totus Tuus (Latin for Totally Yours) this summer from July 15 — 20, 2018. The program offers a one-week summer camp broken down into two distinct streams: **Summer Day Camp** which runs 8:45am-2:30pm designed for students in Grades 1-6 and **Summer Evening Program** designed for students in Grades 7-12 which runs from 6:45pm until 9:00pm. The program is facilitated by highly trained, Totus Tuus Missionaries, with support from the local parish coordinator. Interested? Email [totustuus@sorrows.ca](mailto:totustuus@sorrows.ca) for more details.



**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.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, for their regular Sunday offerings plus there is an option to include special Archdiocesan collections. If you would like to participate in this program, download the pledge & authorization forms from [www.sorrows.ca](http://www.sorrows.ca) or 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](http://www.sorrows.ca)

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

**Rosary** - prayed daily prior to the 9am Mass. You are also welcome to join the Rosary Group at 2pm on Fridays in the Parish Hall.

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

**Christians in the Middle East Exhibit at Our Lady of Sorrows — Feb. 3/4, Parish Hall**  
**A people, A face, A newness among the rubble**

Marta Zaknoun, a free-lance journalist living in Toronto and parishioner of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, has been following the situation of persecuted Christians in the Middle East. She was profoundly moved by their witnesses of faith in Iraq and Syria and wanted to meet them and understand their stories. In October of 2015, she travelled to Jordan, where many Christian refugees found temporary asylum following the invasion of northern Iraq by the Islamic State militia in the summer of 2014.

Upon her return, Marta with a group of friends worked together to learn more about the Iraqi and Syrian Christians. This group of friends wanted to get to know the people "who live now where the Christian faith was born", to encounter their faith in Christ, and to understand the relevance of their experience for their own lives.

The exhibit that resulted from this work is an effort to share these stories, images and testimonies with a wider audience. These witnesses can illuminate our own experience as Christians, it can move us to examine the role of faith plays in our lives and open us to the possibility of encountering a Presence and a newness in the everyday rubble. Everyone is invited to come and see the exhibit in the parish hall.

**Movie Time at OLS: The War Room — Sunday, February 11 at 2:30pm, Parish Hall**

In celebration of Marriage Sunday on Feb. 10/11 we are screening the movie "War Room", a compelling drama with humour and heart that explores the power that prayer can have on marriages, parenting, careers, friendships, and every other area of our lives. The movie is a vivid reminder that prayer is a powerful weapon. Hotdogs, popcorn and drinks will be available for a minimal cost. Proceeds will go to ShareLife. Mark your calendars and see you at the movies!

**Pancake Tuesday — February 13, 5-7pm, Parish Hall**

Enjoy pancakes & sausages, along with coffee, tea or juice. Don't forget the maple syrup! All proceeds will go to the 2018 ShareLife Campaign. Mark your calendars! Volunteers Needed: cooks, servers and helpers are needed from 3-8pm. If you are able to help, please contact the parish office at 416 231 6016 and leave your name, phone number and email address.

**Prayer for Peace: An Interfaith Service — Monday, Jan. 29, 7-8pm, Islington United Church**

Join us to build interfaith relationships and to seek justice and peace in our communities as we remember the tragedy of the 2017 Quebec City mosque attack. Donations will be gratefully received for interfaith youth initiatives. Presented by Islington United Church in partnership with Eculinks Etobicoke and Arab Community Centre of Toronto.

**HOLY LAND TOUR with Gordon Mansell**

If you are a singer, then I am inviting you to consider joining me, as part of a massed choir that will include members of St. Michael's Choir School Alumni, Mosaic Canadian Vocal Ensemble and Our Lady of Sorrows. Together, we will tour the Holy Land in March 2019 for 11 days. If you are not a singer but wish to travel with us as a pilgrim, then this would be a tour of a lifetime full of unique experiences few tourists ever get. You will travel to places not normally seen and will be included in our presentation and performance in public concerts, Masses and special events. You will experience a pilgrimage to some of the holiest sites in the world. These sites and our a cappella singing will bring to life many familiar biblical stories. Join me in visiting Nazareth, Cana, Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Emmaus. A General meeting for singers and pilgrims will be on Tuesday night January 30, 7:30 in the parish hall. Please register in advance by sending an email to Music Director Gordon Mansell, [gdmansell@sympatico.ca](mailto:gdmansell@sympatico.ca)

**Marriage Sunday Anniversary Mass - Registration Open (Archdiocese of Toronto)**

As part of Marriage Sunday 2018 celebrations, Cardinal Thomas Collins will preside at a special Mass to honour couples celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2018. If you (or a couple you know) are celebrating a 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> or 60<sup>th</sup>+ wedding anniversary this year, they are invited to join in this special celebration. **The Mass will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 11 at Blessed Trinity Parish.** A reception will follow Mass. All are welcome to attend - couples celebrating milestone anniversaries are asked to register online to ensure reserved seating. Registration and other important information can be found at: [www.archtoronto.org/marriage](http://www.archtoronto.org/marriage)

COMMUNITY