

We listen fascinated to the story of the meeting by the well of Jesus and the Samaritan woman. Her history reminds us of our own frailties; her finding of faith and a new life encourages us. Thirst and hunger are such elemental experiences that they come immediately to mind, as we try to express the restless quest that shapes every human life. Though her life's searching has led her to make serious mistakes, we warm to the spirited woman from whom Jesus asks a drink. Jesus is thirsty; but what he seeks before all else is that this woman and those like her find true peace. In their memorable exchange he responds to the woman's searching. As she comes to recognise that she has found what her heart has been seeking, she 'puts down her water jar', and runs off to share the good news with the villagers she has been avoiding – by coming to the well at midday when few people are about.

This narrative has been written for a community that has meditated deeply upon basic themes of Christian faith – themes as relevant for us today as they were when the gospel was written. The Saviour is progressively presented as the one in whom humanity's long and troubled search will find what it has been looking for. He is 'greater than Jacob', the ancestor of Israel; he is not only 'a prophet'; he is 'the Christ' of Israel's hopes. In fact – as in many texts of John's gospel – he intimates a claim to the divine name itself; I AM he'.

His coming inaugurates a new order, 'worship of the Father in Spirit and truth' – something far beyond what has been known to Jews and Samaritans. He brings 'living waters, welling up to eternal life'. John's community would have heard in these words overtones of the wonder of their baptism.

The woman's reaction to her enlightenment was a reminder to those who had found faith in Christ that they too were called to be missionaries. And this reminder has a sharp edge. It is not easy for us, today, to appreciate the bitterness of the estrangement between Jews and Samaritans – though the shocking conflicts of recent times may help us to understand the violent attitudes that divided these two groups. Of the Synoptic Gospels, Luke alone – the gentile convert - shows any sympathy for the Samaritans. A missionary outreach to these people, therefore, must have seemed almost unthinkable to early Christians, most of whom were from a Jewish background. The attitude of Jesus, and the success he had in this chance meeting with Samaritans, was an encouragement for them to take up the Church's mission, even though the difficulties seemed insurmountable.

This lesson is hammered home for them - and for us - in the words of Jesus to his bewildered disciples: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me'; the harvest is 'ready' – 'grain for eternal life'. His final lesson is a call to humility – the saving plan he is inaugurating is God's work – among God's workers, 'one sows, another reaps'

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

Living the Gospel by providing for homeless youth...

On a given night, 6,000 people across Canada between 16 and 24 have nowhere to call home. This represents 20 per cent of the total homeless population. In Toronto, estimates of homeless youth range from 900 to 2,000 nightly.



The ShareLife supported *Rights of Passage* program at Covenant House has been active in making a positive difference in the lives of homeless youth on the streets of Toronto. 75 % of these youth have been matched with mentors and have also made progress in strengthening their life skills and family relationships, getting them ready for life on their own. In addition, the ShareLife funded *Youth In Transition* programs which helps youth in foster care to transition to independent living.

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

Readings ~ Exodus 17:3-7 ~ Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 ~ John 4:5-42

Mass Intentions This Week – March 20 – March 26

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Joseph Pizon	daughter
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Doris Vogtle	Herman Rohner
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Arturo Salgado	sister
Thursday, 9am	✠ John Joseph Keane	Philip Keane & family
Friday, 9am	... of Roberto Martella	Rick Ruebusch & family
Saturday, 9am	✠ Fr. Charles Vanitem	Dusk family
5:15m	✠ Corazon & Armando Cachuela	family
Sunday, 8am	✠ Lena Badali	family
9:30am	✠ Americo Amorim	family
11am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
12:30pm	✠ Sam Arrigo	mom & brother

Reminders for Sacramental Preparation

Confirmation Session 3B, TODAY, 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 TODAY, 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.



FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH – Monday, March 20

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

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.



Pancake Tuesday yields \$3,298.35 for ShareLife

Thanks to all 54 volunteers who helped on February 28th and the many people who came out to enjoy the pancakes. Together as a community we raised \$3,298.35 for the 2017 ShareLife campaign! Congratulations to our 50/50 draw winner, Aiden McLean. Thanks, too, to our silent donors who provided much of the food and ingredients for the event. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all!

Come and Pray the Rosary During Lent – The rosary is prayed daily at 8:30am, prior the 9am Mass. The **Rosary Group** invites you to come and pray fifteen decades followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy every Friday in the meeting room at 2pm. All are welcome to join in prayer.

Journey through Lent towards Easter with Salt + Light TV

Visit www.saltandlighttv.org/lent

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

The Government of Canada passed legislation in June 2016, legalizing euthanasia/assisted suicide. Despite wording in the legislation intended to protect doctors and facilities, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario is forcing health care workers to participate in ending the lives of their patients. No other country does this. Provinces across Canada do not do this. Yet, Ontario refuses to protect doctors who object to assisted suicide/euthanasia. Please visit www.CanadiansforConscience.ca to learn more, join the "Call for Conscience" and write directly to your elected Member of Provincial Parliament asking them to protect conscience rights.

Earth Hour: 60 Minutes to Protect the Planet – March 25, 2017 – 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The International Earth Hour calls our attention to the beauty and fragility of our planet. Its goal is to create greater awareness regarding energy consumption and encourage communities to consider turning off non-essential lights for one hour on March 25 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. More information can be found at: www.earthhour.org

Lenten Day of Retreat, Reflection & Prayer – Saturday, March 25, 10am-4pm, Pauline Books and Media (3022 Dufferin).

Reflective talks by Sr. Kathryn James, FSP. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Prayer Exercises. Free event. Bring your own lunch. Donations to support the sisters would be appreciated. Call 416 781 9131.

Spiritual Warfare Lenten Retreat with Rev. Charles Anang – Saturday, March 25, 9:30am-2:30pm

(includes Mass in the seminary chapel), St. Augustine's Seminary of Toronto. Cost: \$50 (lunch included). Register at www.staugustines.on.ca or call 416 267 207 ext. 235.

Mary, Mother of God School Men's Charity Hockey Game & Family Skate!

Priests and seminarians from Serra House, St. Augustine's Seminary, and the Oratory will join students, teachers, parents, and Alumni for our first ever Men's Charity Hockey Game. Join in the fun at McCormick's Arena on Friday, March 31 from 7-9 pm. Tickets are \$20 per person, \$50 per family (which includes a family skate and the hockey game!) For tickets call 416-531-7897.

Kingsway-Lambton United Church Art Show and Sale

Saturday, April 1, 2017, 10a.m.-4p.m. at 85 The Kingsway (Prince Edward Dr. & The Kingsway) For 20 years, Kingsway-Lambton, has been promoting talented Canadian artists to support more than 30 community charities. \$10 admission fee includes entry into a draw. For full details visit www.kingswaylambton.ca/artshow.

Lectio Divina with Cardinal Thomas Collins - Sunday, April 2, St. Michael's Cathedral

The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). Vespers begin at 7pm followed by Lectio Divina from 7:30pm-8:15pm. Visit www.archtoronto.org.

Catholic Missions In Canada invites you to Taste of Heaven 2017

Thursday, April 6, 2017, 6pm Cocktails * 7pm Dinner at Bellvue Manor. For tickets and sponsorship opportunities call 416 934 3424 or visit www.cmic.info.

Tenebrae Service – The Tenebrae responsories convey the sorrow of Holy Week in this solemn and noble music.

1. Presented by the Victoria Scholars at Our Lady of Sorrows Church - Sunday, April 9 at 4:00pm. Admission is free. Donations to Share Life are welcome.
2. Lenten Music to Stir the Soul - SMCS Alumni Choir at St. James Church (728 Annette St.) - Friday, April 14 at 7:30 pm. Join us in the church for this awesome experience! Free will offering. All are welcome!!