

Today's liturgy begins with the commemoration of the triumphant entry of Jesus into the holy city. This year we hear Matthew's account. Its messianic emphasis is clear. The Master's foreknowledge and authority are affirmed. A prophecy of Scripture (a combination of verses from Isaiah and Zechariah) is being fulfilled; but his coming is in humility and peacefulness. The people cry, 'Hosanna to the Son of David'.

The first reading from Isaiah invites us to learn from the example of the Saviour, the trust we should have in our Father in heaven, whatever trials we face. But it is something else that makes this reading appropriate on the threshold of Holy Week – with God's true Servant, we must be open to a new meeting with our God in what lies ahead – glad that the Lord 'wakes us to hear, to listen like disciples'.

In the second reading, from the letter to the Philippians – echoing a hymn used in the liturgy of the first generation of the Church – Paul summarises with majestic brevity the drama of the Paschal Mystery we are about to celebrate: Jesus 'emptied himself', sharing our human condition, even to 'accepting death on a cross'; and then, for our sake, he is 'raised high', one with the Father in the glory of the divine name.

Matthew's account of the Lord's passion has the features we have come to associate with this gospel. Faith in Jesus as the messiah has already been clearly affirmed in the description of his entry into Jerusalem; and the ultimate outcome is clearly anticipated: 'After my resurrection, I shall go before you to Galilee'. But the subtlety with which Matthew's account makes an affirmation of faith in the Saviour seems to indicate that he has his Jewish audience in mind. The refrain of fulfilment – as 'the Son of Man goes to his fate' – echoes through the narrative. The titles attributed to Jesus are few, 'the Christ', 'Son of God' and 'Son of Man'. But they are crucial for converts from a Jewish background. The first raises the great issue that confronted the Jewish people. The title, 'Son of God' (which was to become an ultimate expression of the absolute claim of Christian faith) was opened to the ears of old Israel, indicating one who has God's special favour. It was the title, 'Son of Man', crucial at the trial of Jesus, that removed all ambiguity. 'You will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power (Yahweh himself)', Jesus declares (referring to Psalm 110), 'and coming on the clouds of heaven', (a reference to Dan. 7). 'What need of witnesses have we now!' exclaimed the high priest. The rending of the veil of the Temple and the apocalyptic events in the holy city, are a divine confirmation that, with the Lord's death, the old order has given way to the new. And the centurion's words, 'In truth this was a son of God', are an expression of the Church's newfound faith.

The liturgies of Holy Week will teach us, not with fine oratory, but by recounting the great events in which the generous ways of God found a final expression in our human history. Let this recognition set the tone for our participation in the liturgies of these days.



John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

"Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord!" Are you being called to proclaim Jesus as a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister?

If God is calling you, contact Fr. Hansoo Park
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

PARISH

Readings ~ Matthew 21.1-11 ~ Isaiah 50.4-7 ~ Philippians 2.6-11 ~ Matthew 26.14-27:66

Mass Intentions This Week – April 14 to 20

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



	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Bert Simpson	Julie & Family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Jean Pierre Zimmerle	Jeannette
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Jim Sharples	The family
Holy Thursday	Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:30pm	
Good Friday	Celebration of the Lord's Passion – noon & 3pm	
	Stations of the Cross – 7:30pm	
Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil – Resurrection of the Lord – 8pm	
Easter Sunday	Resurrection of the Lord	
	8am, 9:30am, 11am, 12:30pm	

Rosary Group – stay and pray daily, after 9am Mass + Fridays, 2pm

Five decades daily, fifteen decades on Fridays followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Stretch & Flex – all are welcome! – Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30pm in the parish hall
\$10 per session. Bring a yoga-type mat, perhaps a bottle of water and wear comfy clothing!

Scripture Classes – Wednesdays, 10am + Thursdays, 7pm – all are welcome!
Morning class in the parish hall, evening class at OLS School, 32 Montgomery Rd., Room 411.

About the Good Friday collection – "Needs of the Holy Land"

This collection, coordinated by the Holy Land Commissariat, is a Pontifical request for the Holy Land in support of many Christian communities, the works of the Holy Land and the upkeep of Holy Sites. These funds are used to maintain these sanctuaries and to help with pastoral work, Catholic schools and social assistance in the Holy Land. For more, please visit www.commissariat.ca



Working wonders for people locally and around the world...

ShareLife provides everyone in our archdiocese with access to a Catholic Family Services counselling office, regardless of their background or religious affiliation. Housebound seniors receive care from Society of Sharing volunteers. Our brothers and sisters in Christ receive assistance overseas through Development & Peace, Canadian Food for Children and the Pastoral Mission Fund. Immigrants and refugees are helped through Catholic Crosscultural Services and the Office for Refugees. ShareLife supports the education of our priests and deacons at Serra House, Redemptoris Mater and St. Augustine's seminaries.

ShareLife creates a happier, brighter and safer community for us all.



ShareLife's campaign continues – Give generously... You can work wonders!

ORGANIX 14 – Opening gala concert – Friday, April 25, 7:30pm @ OLS

This annual international music festival showcasing Toronto's finest pipe organs opens with UK virtuoso organist Kerry Beaumont (Coventry Cathedral). For concert or festival details and ticket information visit www.organixconcerts.ca or phone Gordon Mansell at 416-769-3893.



Attention OLS Youth Are you ready to step up and serve?

Please consider joining our amazing community of young parishioners in their mission to serve at Sunday Mass. For more info, contact ministry coordinator Kristen Scanlan via email at kristen@sorrows.ca today!

COMMUNITY

Events @ Catholic Pastoral Centre, 1155 Yonge St.

On Marriage & Annulment – a talk by Fr. Brian Clough – Tuesday, May 6, 7pm
This event is free of charge and pre-registration is not necessary. Phone and email below.
Living with Separation + Divorce – Tuesdays, April 15–June 17, 6:30–8:30pm
For adults looking for a support group to help them cope with the difficulties of being separated or divorced. **Registration required.** Call 416-921-1163 or email info@cfstoronto.com

Kingsway–Lambton United Church – Flea Market – April 26, 8am–1pm

Come find your "Golden Oldie" treasures at our 50th annual Flea Market celebration this year – books, clothing, toys, jewelry, antiques, framed art, china, silver, music, linens, electronics, small appliances & furniture, sports & camping gear, luggage, tools, white elephant, BBQ, bake sale, coffee & donuts. Donations gratefully accepted prior to April 23 at West entrance, 85 The Kingsway (at Prince Edward Dr.) Proceeds to benefit over 20 local charities. For more information, please call 416-239-7967. **We hope to see you there!**

Mary, Mother of God School – now registering for September 2014/2015!

We are an affordable private school (Grades K-12) which is deeply rooted in the Catholic tradition and located in the Roncesvalles/Parkdale area of Toronto. We have an excellent academic program, a dynamic and joyful student life, and small classes where each student is known and loved. For more info please visit marymotherofgodschool.org or call us at 416-531-7897.

Catholic Family Radio – Gala Concert – May 3, 7pm, Queen Elizabeth Theatre

In celebration of the Canonization of John XXIII & John Paul II, this event will bring together Canadian soloists, the acclaimed trio of Irish clergy – THE PRIESTS, and the Toronto Sinfonietta, conducted by Matthew Jaskiewicz. Video excerpts will highlight various events and pilgrimages of John Paul II. For more information or tickets visit www.radiorodzina.com or call 416-588-0555.

Pope Francis' great gift to the Church in Canada and all Canadians

With great joy & thanksgiving the Bishops of Canada welcome Pope Francis' proclamation that the Universal Church recognize two wonderful examples of holiness & service as saints. **Saint François de Laval (1623-1708)** was the first Bishop of New France. His diocesan territory originally included most of what is now Canada, much of upper New England and all the Mississippi Valley, extending even to the Rocky Mountains. He is admired for his pastoral work among the Aboriginal Peoples and the settlers of New France, and for trying to defend Native People from being exploited by merchants and governors through the sale of alcohol. He was especially committed to education, founding both a major and a minor seminary. The Séminaire de Québec, which later established Laval University, has made major contributions in the intervening centuries to higher academic education not only in Quebec and the rest of Canada, but throughout North America. Saint François de Laval was known for his commitment to evangelization and his generosity to the poor. After his resignation as Bishop of Québec, he devoted his final years to prayer, penance and the care of the poor. **Saint Marie of the Incarnation (1599-1672)** was an Ursuline nun who founded a convent and school to educate girls in New France. Daughters of the French settlers and of the Aboriginal Peoples were educated together, sharing the same table and the same dwelling. After learning several Aboriginal languages, she compiled catechisms and prayers in Huron and Algonquin, as well as an Algonquin dictionary. She also maintained a voluminous correspondence. Her letters remain today an important witness to her deep and generous mystical spirituality, as well as to the day-to-day history of New France. Saint Marie of the Incarnation began a long tradition throughout our continent of Ursuline elementary and secondary schools, dedicated to the education of girls and young women of all faiths and languages. Her canonization happily coincides with the 375th anniversary of her arrival in what is today Quebec City.