

Genuine Christian faith does not make us long-faced; it should make us enthusiastic and happy. Even in Lent, the most serious season of the Church's year, the Sunday at the midpoint of the journey to Easter has a theme of rejoicing. In the same way, on this third Sunday of Advent, our liturgy takes up a joyous theme.

In our first reading, from Isaiah, the prophet is filled with joy. He has the anointing of the Spirit to bring, in the name of God, 'good news' of encouragement, healing, freedom, and an outpouring of God's special favour. This message is especially for 'the poor' – those who have no security except in God. Originally addressed to God's people in their exile – this proclamation was read by Jesus in the synagogue of Nazareth. And he added, 'This text is being fulfilled today, even as you listen'. As the text continues, the prophet 'exults for joy', using marriage themes to express the covenant bond of love between the chosen people and their God; and he looks forward to their renewed life becoming an inspiration to all the nations of the world.

To read Fr. Thornhill's entire reflection, scan the QR code or visit his website at www.theemmauseries.com/badvento3.html



Restore, Renew, Rejoice! Our Local Projects

Last week, we shared information regarding the transformative Family of Faith campaign. Thank you for your prayers and generosity in joining parishioners from across the archdiocese in this special endeavour.

The majority of funds raised will remain at Our Lady of Sorrows to address our most pressing capital needs. This historic campaign will make a long-term investment in upgrading our 75-year-old building so that it continues to respond to the needs of our community.

After a dedicated planning process, we developed a project list that responds to building safety standards, government accessibility requirements, and the feedback and wishes from our parishioners.

We are excited to make improvements in the following areas:

- Hall: new lighting & ceiling; repainting; storage
- Nave: new lighting; ceiling (side aisles); sound system
- General: plumbing; mechanical; HVAC
- Electrical Upgrades: new lighting; fire alarm system; emergency lighting; address circuit overloads
- Organ: cleaning & repairs
- Barrier Free Entrance: full size elevator; new interior stairway to church and hall from ground level; roof, doors, flooring, elevator electrical; two new accessible washrooms; plumbing, gas, HVAC; exterior glass
- Renewal of exterior stairs to parish hall at Cliveden north
- Landscaping; courtyard
- Flat roof: sealant and repairs
- Masonry & window: repairs

For more information on the planning process, please visit the parish website at www.sorrows.ca and click on the Restore, Renew, Rejoice! tab. Construction will begin in 2015 in coordination with our 75th Anniversary celebrations. The church will remain open during the entire process.



We need the commitment of our entire parish to realize this vision. Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to our Church.

There was a man named John, sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is it possible God could be calling your name to witness to the Light of Christ in our day?

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

Readings ~ Isaiah 61.1-2a, 10-11 ~ 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 ~ John 1.6-8, 19-28

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – December 15 to 21

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Lorraine Redmond	The family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Ken Morgan	The family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Mary & Enio Biason	The family
Thursday, 9am	✠ John Lynskey	Helen Martin
Friday, 9am	✠ Patrick Guilmette	The family
Saturday, 9am	✠ Frank DeWitt	The family
5:15pm	✠ Nicole Nardi	The family
Sunday, 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Elzbieta Ros	Louisa Piccirilli
11am	✠ members of the Ploskonka, & Strejczyk families	The families
12:30pm	... of Josie & Silvano Tatangelo on their 25th Wedding Anniversary	

Priest, Prophet, King – Mondays, 7:30–8:30pm, until Dec. 22, parish hall

This video presentation is a great way to prepare for Christmas! **In HD on the 'big screen'.**

► Visit Fr. Barron's new website – www.adventreflections.com – for free daily Advent reflections emailed directly to you. Join 190,000 Catholics (and counting) on this journey!

Advent All Day Confessions Saturday, Dec. 20, 9:30am–5pm @OLS

Prepare the way of the Lord! This cherished parish tradition continues, with two priests available all day to help you prepare for Jesus' birth via the sacrament of reconciliation.



Children's Liturgy of the Word

This program for children 4–10 years old continues throughout the year at the 9:30am liturgy. **Please note:** On Sunday, Dec. 28, there will be NO Children's Liturgy of the Word. **We will resume on January 4.**

Christmas & New Year's Schedule

Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24

9am – regular weekday Mass

Nativity of the Lord*

Vigil Masses at 5pm, (Cantor), 7pm (Cantor+Chorale), 11pm (Cantor+Sr. Choir)

Carols & music begins 30min prior to vigil Masses

Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25

Nativity of the Lord*

Regular Sunday schedule (8, 9:30, 11am, 12:30pm)

New Year's Eve – Wednesday, December 31

9am – regular weekday Mass

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*, World Day of Peace – 5:15pm vigil Mass

New Year's Day – Thursday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*, World Day of Peace

Regular Sunday schedule (8, 9:30, 11am, 12:30pm)

* Indicates a holy day of obligation. As Catholics, we are required to attend Mass on these special feast days.



COMMUNITY ROME

"God Is Born" – Celebrating Polish Christmas in Song – Jan. 4, 4pm @OLS

The OLS Chorale and Toronto Ecumenical Chorale join with the Novi Polish Choir and the Toronto Sinfonietta to present this annual Christmas concert celebrating Polish Christmas. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors. Free for children under 12. A portion of the proceeds will go to the OLS capital campaign, Restore, Renew, Rejoice! For more information and tickets, contact Gordon Mansell at 416-769-3893 or email gdmanzell@sympatico.ca

Confirmation – Candidate Promise Forms + Instructions for Letter of Intent

In mid-December 2014, candidates will receive the requisite forms and instructions for completing the 'promise form' and 'letter of intent.' At this time, candidates will be informed of their respective retreat and confirmation Mass dates. Parish staff can accommodate a limited number of changes for legitimate reasons. Enrolment Weekend is Jan. 24/25, 2015.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols December 16, 7:30pm

This special celebration tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus and follows the tradition established by King's College, Cambridge. Sacred stories will be read and classic songs performed by 175 vocal students of Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts. St. Gabriel's Parish Church, 670 Sheppard Ave. East.

Solemn Eucharistic Adoration with His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins

The Office of Catholic Youth invite all to join the young adults of the archdiocese for solemn eucharistic adoration at St. Basil's Parish, 50 St. Joseph St., on Dec. 18, beginning at 7pm. A professional choir will offer chant for a portion of adoration and Cardinal Collins will provide a brief reflection. The sacrament of reconciliation will also be made available. A social for young adults will follow in the parish hall from 8:30–10pm. For more information, contact the OCY at 416-599-7676, youth@ocytoronto.org or visit www.ocytoronto.org

Oratory Marriage Preparation Course – seven Mondays, begins Jan. 26

Registration takes place at the first session. Sessions run from 7:30–9:30pm. Cost is \$150 per couple. Holy Family Parish Hall, 1372 King Street W. For more information call the Oratory at 416-532-2879 or email mail@oratory-toronto.org

Mass of Thanksgiving for the Equivalent Canonization of Two Canadian Saints Homily Of Pope Francis (Excerpt) – Vatican Basilica – Sunday, 12 October 2014

We have heard Isaiah's prophecy: "The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces..." (Is 25.8). These words, full of hope in God, point us to the goal, they show the future towards which we are journeying. Along this path the Saints go before us and guide us. These words also describe the vocation of men and women missionaries.

Missionaries are those who, in docility to the Holy Spirit, have the courage to live the Gospel. Even this Gospel which we have just heard: "Go, therefore, into the byways...", the king tells his servants (Mt 22.9). The servants then go out and assemble all those they find, "both good and bad", and bring them to the King's wedding feast (cf. v. 10).

Missionaries have received this call: they have gone out to call everyone, in the highways and byways of the world. In this way they have done immense good for the Church, for once the Church stops moving, once she becomes closed in on herself, she falls ill, she can be corrupted, whether by sins or by that false knowledge cut off from God which is worldly secularism.

To read the complete text or to watch a video of the Holy Father's homily, visit www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/homilies/20141012_homily_fr.html or scan the QR code to the right.

