

Today's gospel reading from Matthew comes from a collection of Jesus' teachings applicable to life within the community of the Church, as it awaits the coming of the final Kingdom. In the passages that precede this one, Jesus has warned against arrogance on the part of those called to be leaders: 'the one who makes himself as little as this child is the greatest'; he has pronounced a terrible judgment on those who lead astray 'these little ones who have faith'. Matthew also includes here the parable of the lost sheep, as indicating the generous zeal that should be shown by leaders in the community. This reference to those who have gone astray leads into today's reading. It describes the manner in which these people are to be dealt with within the Church community. Clearly, the community Matthew is writing for has developed procedures to be followed in such cases, and they see themselves as acting in accordance with the Lord's own mind. When we recall the authoritative spirit that was taken for granted by those with leadership roles in the ancient world, we recognise how the listening and dialogue of these procedures reflect the fraternal love that was taught by Jesus – and recalled by Paul in our second reading.



Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them

In these procedures, we see the origins of the sacrament of reconciliation that is an essential part of the life of the Church during its time of pilgrimage. It was not a question of some private offence committed against the one who admonishes the wrongdoer. In referring to the need for 'two or three witnesses to sustain the charge', this procedure echoes the community's Jewish background, citing a prescription of the Old Testament (Deut 19.15), thus making it clear that it is a question of serious and public faults. When these procedures, calling the wrongdoer to conversion, have failed, this person is to be 'excommunicated' – excluded from the community. We know from comments of St Paul concerning such cases, that this exclusion aimed to help the wrongdoer find forgiveness: 'Do not treat them as enemies, but warn them as believers', Paul writes (2 Thess 3; cf. 1 Cor 5). Being welcomed back to share in the life of the community – especially the Eucharist – was the sacramental sign of reconciliation with God. Note that Matthew follows these procedural instructions with a second reference, in his gospel, to the power to 'bind and loose' in God's name. This time it is given to the Church community, acting through the ministry of those who carry on the leadership role of the apostles. As we said, the sacramental sign of reconciliation with the Lord is being received back into the Church community.

'The Son of Man has power to forgive sins', Jesus declared (Mk 2.10). The reconciliation available in the life of the Church is the reconciliation he brings to the world. The words with which our reading ends, though brief, have immense importance for us, as we seek to understand and enter more fully into the mystery of the Church's common life. You come together 'in my name', Jesus tells us. In the biblical tradition, these words have a great depth of meaning: they imply our identification with the Lord through our baptism, and to the fact that he continues to be present in the world of our time through our coming together as his Church and celebrating the Church's common life. They also remind us of the Saviour's presence in the public prayer of the Church, uniting our prayers with his, as he intercedes for the world before the Father.

John Thornhill sm  
www.theemmausseries.com

**"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."**

The community that gathers needs leadership; consider consecrated life or priesthood. Contact Fr. Chris Lemieux 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

**PARISH**

Readings ~ Ezekiel 33:7-9 ~ Romans 13:8-10 ~ Matthew 18:15-20

**Mass Intentions This Week – September 8 to 14**

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Jimmy Daly	Kathleen Stanley
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Iain Blair	The OLS Counters
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Lena Badali	The family
Thursday, 9am	... of Lee & Tom Inglis on their 60th Wedding Anniversary	
Friday, 9am	✠ Adelina Serrago	The McCarthy family
Saturday, 9am	✠ Edita Czartoryjska	A friend
5:15pm	✠ Fr. Paul Switalski	John & Alice Hergel
8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Gerald & Rita McKee	The family
11am	✠ Pat Poce	The family
12:30pm	✠ Wayne Dusk	Paul & Pat Matthews

**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!

**Parish Vitality Survey – Final call for your input!**

We have been compiling the results of our Parish Vitality Survey and will publish them this fall. If you have not yet participated, the survey is available for a limited time at [www.sorrows.ca](http://www.sorrows.ca)

**Children's Liturgy of the Word – Sunday, September 14**

After the 9.30am liturgy, in the parish hall there will be an open house reception and informational session for parents and anyone else wanting more information on the Children's Liturgy of the Word. All are welcome. Children's Liturgy of the Word for children 4-10 years old will begin on September 28 at the 9.30am liturgy & continue throughout the year. For more info, contact Abigail Lofte, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at [abigail.lofte@gmail.com](mailto:abigail.lofte@gmail.com)

**First Reconciliation & First Communion – Registration Weekend**

Parish staff will be available in the parish hall after all Masses, Sat. & Sun., Sept. 27 & 28.

**First Reconciliation, First Communion & Confirmation – General Notes**

The Sacraments of Initiation are significant milestones in the faith journeys of our young parishioners. The Archdiocese notes that preparation for initiation is the shared responsibility of parents, the local Catholic school and the parish community. To be eligible to receive a sacrament at Our Lady of Sorrows, participants and their families must fulfill three conditions:

- They must be registered as parishioners of OLS (NB: registration at OLS School or family history of sacraments received at OLS do NOT constitute parish registration);
- They must regularly attend Sunday Mass;
- Parents & children must participate in the relevant aspects of the program.

If your family does not regularly attend Sunday Mass at OLS and/or is not officially registered with a parish, you are welcome to register with the parish at this time and begin attending regularly. All other families should, at their earliest convenience, contact the parish nearest their home or the parish they regularly attend, for information on sacramental preparation.

**COMMUNITY**

**FEAST OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 7PM**  
 Parishioners! Come On The Feast Day Of Our Patroness For A 30-Minute Concert, Holy Mass, Followed By Refreshments In The Hall.

*Come Holy Spirit  
Fill the hearts of your faithful!*  
**Mass of Anointing of the Sick**  
 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> – 11AM  
 LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW IN THE PARISH HALL

**Lectio Divina with Cardinal Collins – September 7, St. Michael's Cathedral**

This year's theme is The Gospel of Mark. All are welcome to attend. Each session begins with Vespers (Evening Prayer) at 7pm, followed by Lectio Divina from 7:30–8:15pm. Visit [www.archtoronto.org/lectio](http://www.archtoronto.org/lectio) for more information and a full listing of 2014/15 dates & topics.



Archdiocese of Toronto

**Municipal Elections 2014 – Cast Your Vote!**

A municipal election will be held on Monday, October 27, 2014. All Catholics are strongly encouraged to exercise their democratic right to vote. To help us all get to know the candidates for Catholic School Board Trustee, Cardinal Collins has given permission for candidates to distribute literature to parishioners departing Mass on weekends from September 27/28 to October 25/26. We hope you'll take the time to get to know those seeking elected office. To ensure your vote for Catholic School Trustee, at the polling booth, verify that you are registered as a separate school supporter. If your support status is incorrect ask for an Application to Amend Voters' List. This form may be completed and submitted at the polling station. Thank you for your interest and involvement in this fall's municipal election!

**Ancient Wisdom for Persons Suffering Loss (+ Some Modern Common Sense)**

Catholic Family Services and New Beginnings invites you to an inspirational talk with Fr. Fred Scinto, CR. Fr. Fred brings with him many years of experience working with widowed, separated and divorced persons. All are welcome to hear this presentation aimed at helping us live better, happier, fuller and more developed lives. September 9, 7pm, Catholic Pastoral Centre, 4th Floor 1155 Yonge St. For more information, please call 416-921-1163, ext. 2235

**OCY Concerts: A Night of Worship with Audrey Assad – Sept. 16, 7pm**

A new initiative of the Office of Catholic Youth, the inaugural OCY Concert will take place at St. Michael's College School Centre for the Arts. The concert will feature renowned singer/song-writer Audrey Assad, Bellarive & Toronto's Joe Zambon. Tickets, \$25, at [www.ocyconcerts.com](http://www.ocyconcerts.com)

**Retrouaille Toronto: Help for Troubled Marriages – Sept. 19–21**

A live-in weekend in Mississauga, followed by six post-sessions to help couples experiencing troubles in their marriage. For info, call 416-281-6007 or visit [www.torontoretrouaille.com](http://www.torontoretrouaille.com)

**The Book of Isaiah – Catholic Bible Study – Tuesdays, 7:30–9:30pm**

All are welcome to attend a Catholic Bible study presented by Deacon Brian Du Quesnay, entitled "A Prophet for Our Times!" Takes place at Merciful Redeemer Parish, 2775 Erin Centre Blvd., Mississauga, from Sept. 16–Dec. 9. Registration is required. Please call Rosie Uy at 289-997-6778 or email [ruy2930@gmail.com](mailto:ruy2930@gmail.com) with the subject "Bible Study Fall 2014."

**Joyfully Rebuilding Faith – "Come and See" Reflection Retreat**

Join the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood for a half-day retreat for young adult women as a preparation for the 2015 Year of Consecrated Life. The day will include input/sharing, time for personal prayer, Eucharist and supper. Sept. 20, 2-4pm, Stella Maris Residence, 114 Madison Ave. For info, call 416-920-6958 or [stellamariscps1954@gmail.com](mailto:stellamariscps1954@gmail.com)