

As we have noted, the readings for many Easter liturgies bring us the meditations of John's gospel upon what the life of the Word made flesh means to the world. Sayings of Jesus beginning with 'I AM' abound in this gospel – clearly intimating the Saviour's claim to the divine name itself (cf. Exodus 3.14). They come readily to mind: 'I AM the bread of life' (6.35); 'I AM the gate' (10.9); 'I AM in the Father' (10.38); 'I AM the way; I AM truth and life. No one can come to the Father except through me' (14.6); 'I AM the true vine' (15.1); 'I want those you have given me to be with me where I AM' (17.24); 'I AM HE ... I have told you that I AM HE' (18.5, 8); and the momentous, 'Before Abraham ever was, I AM' (8.58).



Our Good Shepherd in and through the Paschal Mystery

The gospel reading of today's liturgy, 'I AM the good shepherd', heard against this background, takes us deep into the mystery of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ – and, as we shall see, it tells us of how God's initiative in the Paschal Mystery was conceived in the depths of the Trinitarian Life itself.

The Good Shepherd theme has had a great impact on Christian consciousness. One of the earliest and most repeated motifs of Christian art is the youthful shepherd carrying the lost sheep home on his shoulders.

The image it suggests is so telling that it has featured prominently in the Church's preaching in every age. As so often happens with the best things in life, we tend to take this theme for granted. Today's text helps us to find a fresh appreciation of its implications. In it Jesus explains these implications by reference to the Paschal Mystery.

He says that he is the 'good' shepherd – in contrast to the unfaithful shepherds who have failed God's people, thinking only of their own interests – because, as he three times repeats, he 'lays down his life' for them. He lays it down, he explains, 'in order to take it up again'. In his Resurrection, he will be a source of life for them. And in this drama of his death and resurrection, he is carrying out and making clear to the human family what his Father wills for them – an enterprise so dear to the Father that he looks upon the Son's obedience with a renewed love.

It is a plan that works to bring all those who believe into unity. There are other 'folds', or pens, than the one the community that gave us John's gospel finds itself in. Through his Paschal Mystery, the Good Shepherd will lead them in the forming of a single 'flock', overcoming all the apparently insurmountable barriers that divide the human family.

The other readings illustrate the blessings that belong to those who 'know' the Good Shepherd and 'listen to his voice'. We recall the faith and courage of Peter, as he works the Christian Church's first miracle in the power of the divine name – 'in the name of Jesus'. And we are told that we can become 'God's children', through 'the love that the Father lavishes on us', with a future which when it is fully revealed will give us a share in the intimate life of God.

John Thornhill sm
www.themmassseries.com

The world needs leaders with courage & integrity. The Church also needs good leaders who will unselfishly care for and minister to the needs of God's people.

If you feel God is calling you, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux,
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Today the Church marks the 52nd World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The Holy Father has released a Message on the theme "Exodus, a fundamental experience of vocation". In his Message, Pope Francis states: "... this liberating exodus towards Christ and our brothers and sisters also represents the way for us to fully understand our common humanity and to foster the historical development of individuals and societies. To hear and answer the Lord's call is not a private and completely personal matter fraught with momentary emotion. Rather, it is a specific, real and total commitment which embraces the whole of our existence and sets it at the service of the growth of God's Kingdom on earth."



PARISH

Readings ~ Acts 4.8-12 ~ 1 John 2.1-2 ~ John 10.11-18

Mass Intentions This Week – April 27 to May 3

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Thomas Holden	The family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Peter George	Terry & Jeff Roddick
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Denis Daly	Kathleen Stanley
Thursday, 9am	✠ Giambattista Forte	Josie Valle
Friday, 9am	✠ members of the Goseco, Valencia & Feliciano families	Linda Feliciano
Saturday, 9am	✠ Jose Caceres Montoya	Delia Urosevic
5:15pm	✠ Emile Gumbs	The family
Sunday, 8am	✠ Ruth Gray	Michael Foran
9:30am	✠ <i>For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners</i>	
11am	✠ Catharine Roy	Melba DeWitt
12:30pm	✠ Janina & Kazmir Krol	The family

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.

Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land November 9–17, 2015

This once-in-a-lifetime journey, now under the spiritual leadership of Fr. Nino, marks the 75th Anniversary of our parish. Cost is \$2,490 pp. Contact Halina at 905-886-0232, ext. 315.

ShareLife and the Family of Faith campaign...

This year, Catholics across our archdiocese are being asked to support the Family of Faith campaign. This campaign will provide for the pastoral and temporal needs of the archdiocese, such as campus and youth ministry, communication initiatives that will strengthen our family of faith, and support to help new parishes to celebrate Mass in a new church. The ShareLife campaign provides for the needs of our social service agencies, helps our brothers and sisters in Christ across the world, and supports the education of our clergy. There is no duplication – ShareLife agencies do not receive funding from the Family of Faith campaign. Thus it is important that we continue to support the ShareLife appeal, to provide for the needs of the marginalized both here in our communities and around the world.



ShareLife's campaign continues. Please give generously. You can work wonders!

Speaking of the Family of Faith campaign... how are we doing?

Very well indeed! As of April 14, Our Lady of Sorrows is at 119% of our \$4,000,000 combined goal, or \$4,777,310. Your generosity will most assuredly help to strengthen, inspire and transform the archdiocese and our parish. **Thank you for your support!**

Public Lecture by Dr. Rohan Curnow Wednesday, May 6, 7–9:30pm @OLS

Enjoy an evening of elevated thinking as Rohan Curnow, Professor Extraordinarius of Dogmatic Theology at the Catholic Institute of Sydney speaks about "The Preferential Option for the Poor and the Teaching of Pope Francis". Presented in cooperation with the Dominican Institute of Toronto.



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!

COMMUNITY

Inner Healing Retreat Friday May 1–Sunday May 3, begins at 9:30am

This three-day inner healing retreat is led by Fr. Joby Kachappilly, VC and Divine Team Toronto. Pre-registration is required; \$75. Attendance is mandatory on all three days. For more information, call 647-660-1314 or 647-949-4932 or email drctoronto@gmail.com or enquirydrct@gmail.com. Visit www.divinetoronto.com for more information.

Monthly Mass at Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery – Sat., May 2, 9:30am

Please join us for a special Mass to take place in the St. Anthony Chapel of the Mausoleum. For further information contact the cemetery at 905-851-5822.

Holy Name of Mary College School – Open House – May 2, 10am–2pm



We invite you to visit us to find out more about our school. Talk to current students, faculty members, school administrators & parents and get a true sense of student life at HNMCS. For more information go to www.hnmcs.ca or call Giselle Fernandes at 905-891-1890, ext. 103.

Afternoon Tea & Art at Bloordale United Church Sat., May 9, 2–4:30pm

Enjoy a selection of tea, sandwiches, sweets & savouries. Price is \$15. Original paintings by contemporary local artists on display for viewing and purchase. Artists include Bev Morgan, Nancy Newton, Anne Noble and Eva Eccles. 4258 Bloor St. W. Visit the www.bloordale.ca for more or call Nancy at 416-620-5377 or Pat at 416-622-5274.



Mary, Mother of God School Fundraising Gala – May 9, 7pm

Come out to the Lithuanian Banquet Hall (Keele & Bloor) for a fun-filled evening to support a worthy cause! Tickets are \$100 each. Join us for a 5 course Italian meal, silent auction, balloon surprises and lively entertainment! Call Stephanie at 416-531-7897 for tickets and more information.

Informational Talk – "On Marriage and Annulment" – Monday, May 11, 7pm

Catholic Family Services of Toronto and New Beginnings invite you to this talk by Fr. Brian Clough, Judicial Vicar, Archdiocese of Toronto. He will provide us with an understanding of the Catholic Church's teachings on marriage and annulment. Catholic Pastoral Centre, 1155 Yonge St., 4th Floor. Free underground parking available & adjacent to Summerhill Subway Station. For inquiries, call Mary at 416-921-1163, ext. 2235 or email mbenincasa@cfstoronto.com

Celebrate Your Marriage with a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend!

Married couples: You deserve a weekend to cherish being together; to rediscover each other and focus on ways to make your relationship even better. A WME weekend offers this opportunity. Consider giving each other or another couple you know the gift of a weekend away from daily pressures; time to be with each other and with God. Upcoming weekend: May 22–24. For more information, visit www.wme.org or contact Gerard & Marge McCauley at gerard.marge@rogers.com or call (905) 792-1925.



"Invitation to Joy" – A weekend of prayer & contemplation – May 29–31

Single women are invited to a retreat weekend in Orillia, on Lake Simcoe, offered by a team of Sisters of St. Joseph, a Roman Catholic community committed to nurturing community, making Christ present to the world through personal witness and living lives of service. Cost is \$150 (subsidies available). For info & to register (before May 15, please) contact Sr. Rosemary Fry, CSJ at rfry@csj-to.ca or 416-285-4166.

"Here is the amazing thing about Easter; the Resurrection Sunday for Christians is this, that Christ in the dying moments on the cross gives us the greatest illustration of forgiveness possible." – T.D. Jakes