

Today's reading from Mark's gospel reminds us what a great teacher Jesus was. The object lesson he gives, as he watches people making their donations, is one of the best remembered stories of the world's religious traditions – the 'widow's mite' has become proverbial. Mark sharpens the lesson by linking this incident with what Jesus has to say about 'scribes' who 'swallow the property of widows while making a show of lengthy prayers'. The situation of widows was insecure. The 'scribes', so often mentioned in the gospels, were interpreters of the Law of old Israel – the lawyers of the day. They benefited as trustees for the estates of widows, and a reputation for piety could be good for business. Jesus' words, of course, have a lesson for all of us – people who make a selfish show of their piety, instead of making it a 'secret' they share with their heavenly Father (Mt 5:6), give Christianity a bad name.



She has put in everything she possessed

Mark gives the little widow a privileged place in his telling of the story of Jesus. Having entered Jerusalem to meet his fate, Jesus is giving his final instructions concerning the discipleship to which he is calling those who wish to follow him. Using the widow's example, he goes to the very heart of the matter – a giving that counts. Is there any more telling way of expressing the fundamental truth, that as responsible persons we are made in the image of God, than by unselfish giving to others? The most precious things in life – in our family, in the community in which we live – come through the selfless generosity with which we give to others. We know from experience that it is a giving that costs us something that brings real happiness to ourselves and to those around us.

Mark is linking the generous giving of the widow with the great drama of God's generosity soon to take place – as Jesus gives himself into the hands of his Father for the sake of the whole human family. Our liturgy takes up Mark's lesson. Today's reading from Hebrews – a central passage in this great treatise – explains how the ritual of old Israel was only a foreshadowing of the Saviour's Paschal Mystery. The old sacrifices, offered time and again – in a 'man made' temple that was only a model of God's dwelling place, and making use of the blood of animals – have now given way to the world's final act of worship. The Saviour enters 'the actual presence of God on our behalf', making a gift of himself 'once and for all'. He shows us how true it is that a giving that really counts brings true blessings – in his total gift of himself he has become the source of all the blessings that will fill our eternity.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

How are you contributing to the treasury? God knows what gift we give to Him in love. Let us then be faithful to whatever vocation God calls us to live. Does Jesus want you to give your life to the Church?

Is God calling you to serve Him in a Church vocation? Contact Fr. Chris Lemieux 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ 1 Kings 17:10-16 ~ Hebrews 9:24-28 ~ Mark 12:38-44

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – November 9 to 15

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Peggie Weller	Marjorie Feheley
Tuesday, 9am 7:30pm	... of Alfonso Del Valle	His parents
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Lety Baquedano	The family
Thursday, 9am	✠ John Paul Murphy	The Grant family
Friday, 9am	✠ Aileen & Harold Kelson	Agnes Burke
Saturday, 9am	✠ Robert Cleary	Winnie & Jim Magee
5:15pm	✠ Mary & Frank Ferkul	Anne Pohole
Sunday, 8am	✠ Edward Ducharme	Michael Foran
9:30am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
11am	✠ Jose Guerrero	Evelyn Edralin
12:30pm	✠ Andrew Brozina	The family

Toronto Right to Life Christmas Cards – now available



View the 2015 designs at www.righttolife.to and visit the parish office to purchase: an affordable \$8 per 10-pack, including envelopes. All proceeds go to TRTL's pro-life educational network.

Project Hope Update – Refugees to begin arriving soon; call for volunteers

The parish has received notice from the Archdiocesan Office for Refugees that the first refugees under Project Hope might arrive in Canada within the next 3 months. Our parish will have the opportunity to support two families through the generosity of the parish and also through the generosity of a parish family who has donated \$30,000 for an additional refugee family. At this point we'd like to reach out to members of the parish to seek volunteers to assist with all of the work required to prepare for the arrival of the two families (finding housing, furniture etc.) and to assist in their successful settlement once they arrive (school, ESL and health care registration, finding jobs) in Toronto. Based on our recent experience with the Iraqi refugee family that was successfully resettled, the role of the parish team will also involve ongoing interaction over time to ensure that their chances of success are enhanced. We would encourage all those interested in volunteering in this worthwhile and very rewarding endeavour to please contact Tim Murray at murray4668@rogers.com.

Parishioners! Mark these upcoming events in your calendars!

- ▶ Thursday, November 26, 7pm – Public Lecture by David Pereyra, PhD entitled "Preparation for the Rite of the Opening of the Door of Mercy in Local Churches"
- ▶ Saturday, November 28, 1:30pm (doors open at 12:45pm) – "Out of Cold" Concert

Campaign Life Christmas Cakes – November 28/29 & December 5/6

In the past, your purchase of fruitcakes has raised over \$100,000 annually in support of CL's baby-saving efforts. Produced by a Toronto pro-life baker, these scrumptious 'traditional recipe' cakes are \$15/regular & \$25/deluxe.



Rosary Group – mornings suspended; Fridays, 2pm, above Running Room

Take this opportunity to pray the Holy Rosary every evening at home with your family!

"What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God." – Hans Urs von Balthasar

COMMUNITY

"Two Collars & a Habit" with St. Basil's Church November 10, 7:30pm

"Two priests and a nun walk into a bar..." Join us for an evening of stories, humour & a whole lot of personality. Featuring Fr. Chris Valka, CSB, Fr. Frank Portelli and Sr. Helena Burns, FSP. @7:30 – Q&A (ask a question, any question), @8:15 – Speed dating (have a more in-depth conversation, one-on-one or in a small group). At The Foxes Den, 1075 Bay St. All are welcome!

Meagan's Walk Circle of Hope Soiree – November 12, 7pm–midnight

Meagan Bebenek was a student at Our Lady of Sorrows School who passed away quietly on June 17, 2001 after a brave battle with a cancerous, inoperable brain tumour. The Circle of Hope Soiree benefits Meagan's Walk in support of paediatric brain tumour research. Attendees will have an exclusive first look at the world renowned Brain Tumour Research Centre at the new SickKids research tower with guided private tours of the Brain Tumour Research Centre. You'll also enjoy live musical performances, an open bar with imported cocktails, wine & champagne, hors d'oeuvres & desserts by executive chefs from across the city. Contact smckechnie@meaganswalk.com for tickets and more information.



The 10th Annual Evening to Feed the Soul Gala – November 13, 6pm

Join The Angel Foundation for Learning for an evening of music, exquisite food, door prizes, dancing, a silent auction & much more! Tickets are \$115 each (a \$50 tax receipt will be issued per ticket) and all funds raised support the work of The Angel Foundation for Learning, which provides assistance to students across the Toronto Catholic District School Board through four wings of support: Student Nutrition Programs, School Allocations, Guardian Angel Funds, and Bursaries & Awards. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit www.angelfoundationforlearning.org



Shepherds' Trust Special Collection Weekend of November 14/15

The mission of The Shepherds' Trust is to help ensure that elderly & disabled priests are provided with sufficient financial resources to lead a dignified life after many years of ministry. Your generous gift will help our priests to maintain a modest but active & independent lifestyle in their retirement years. For priests who are ill or otherwise infirm, the Trust ensures they have access to nursing home facilities & medical care. Thank you for your support of this important work.



Jazz at RY – Special Event – Sunday, November 15, 2pm

Featuring the renowned Gene DiNovi Quartet! Do the names Artie Shaw, Charlie Parker and Benny Goodman mean anything to you? What about Peggy Lee, Mel Tormé and Tony Bennett? How about Lena Horne? Gene DiNovi (now 87 years young) has been a treasured musical partner to them all. Come out & experience live jazz at its very best. \$20 tickets available at the door. Net proceeds to the Refugee Support Fund. Complimentary refreshments. Royal York Road United Church, 851 Royal York Rd. (3 blocks south of Bloor St.) For information, call Bill Wilson at 416-231-1207



Free "Looking Ahead" Planning Seminar Saturday, November 21, 9am

Catholic Cemeteries will share information about Catholic teachings on cremation and burial options at Queen of Heaven Cemetery and the advantages of pre-arranging funeral, burial and cremation plans. An estate planning kit will be provided at no cost. Takes place at Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery in Woodbridge. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Frank Jannetta at 416-733-8544, ext. 2023 or fjannetta@cc-fs.ca