

In Mark's telling of the story of his final journey to Jerusalem, Jesus three times warns the twelve of the fate that will overtake him in the Holy City. During this time, Jesus must have reflected frequently upon the Servant Songs of the Isaian writings, and their paradoxical anticipation of the way in which God would fulfil the hopes of Israel. Our first reading is a brief excerpt from the greatest of these Songs. The Servant who will bring to realisation the true destiny of Israel will know great 'suffering ... offering his life as an atonement'; he will take the 'faults' of the people 'upon himself'. But by doing so he will turn the nation's failure into God's final triumph, as he achieves 'what the Lord wishes'. 'By his suffering my servant shall justify many'.

With these things in his mind, Jesus has to contend with the naïve ambitions of James and John – and with the indignation of the 'other ten', resentful that the sons of Zebedee have tried to steal a march on them. Given the context we have described, it comes as no surprise that the response of Jesus refers to the ordeal that lies ahead of them. 'You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink with me the cup of suffering, share in the ordeal in which I am soon to be plunged?'

Our Christian language often speaks of 'conversion'. The incident we are considering points to the fact that true conversion is much more than a reform of personal morals. It is a revolution in our understanding of what our life 'in Christ' means; it is the starting point of true discipleship. Jesus now urges the twelve to be converted, to broaden their vision, change their values – by identifying with the paradoxical ways of God that are the subject of his reflections as he journeys to Jerusalem. If they are to be leaders and guides in the community of disciples, their exercise in authority must be more than the realisation of their ambitions for a place of prestige and power. If they want to be truly great, they must make themselves 'servants' – even 'slaves' – of all.

Jesus will teach us, not merely by his words, but also by the living witness of his example: 'For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve' – words that sum up the whole tenor of his life. The reading from Hebrews reminds us how truly he lowered himself to share our life: 'feeling our weaknesses with us ... tempted in every way that we are, though without sin'. These are amazing words; truly, God's Servant is also our brother. This reading introduces the great theme of Hebrews, Jesus 'the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven'. This theme will interpret the saving mission of Jesus to Jewish converts – for whom the temple observances meant so much – by a comparison with the role of the priests in temple worship.

We live in the time of fulfilment. The Spirit of Christ has been given to the Church; and great heroes down through the ages have followed Christ's example, making themselves servants of all. Genuine renewal is linked with such a conversion to God's ways making the Church a sign of hope in a world without hope, a true foreshadowing of the final Kingdom in which God's ways will shape all things.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

Jesus' life was the best 'job description': sympathy; mercy; service; compassion; and total giving. Life is rewarding when one lives for others.

Do you want to serve or be served?

If you are willing to serve as a priest, religious or deacon, call Fr. Chris Lemieux. 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca



The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve

Readings ~ Isaiah 53:10-11 ~ Hebrews 4:14-16 ~ Mark 10:35-45

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – October 19 to 25

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Martin Resznetnik	Joe Conrath
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Patrick, Joan, & Ellen Brennan	The family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Michael Feheley	Aunt Marj & family
Thursday, 9am	✠ Margaret Costello	The family
Friday, 9am	✠ Leo Arrigo	Maria
Saturday, 9am	✠ Angelito Sablay Jr.	Winnie & Jim Magee
5:15pm	✠ Abel Leal	His daughter
Sunday, 8am	✠ members of the Ploskonka/Strejczyk family	
9:30am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
11am	✠ Horace McCubbin	His family
12:30pm	✠ Francesco Valle	Pina Valle

Young Singers Welcome! Will this be the year you join our Music Ministry?

Our Lady of Sorrows is blessed with 2 vibrant choirs for young people. The Youth Choir is for grades 3–6 and rehearses Thursdays from 4–5pm. The Chamber Choir, for grades 7–12, rehearses Thursdays from 5–6pm. We sing alternating Sundays at the 9:30am Mass. Supervision is available at the church from 3:15–6:00pm. For more info, please email Michele DeBoer at micheledeboer@yahoo.ca or call 289-521-3710.

Stretch & Flex – Join us! – Running Room, 2nd Floor, Tuesdays, 6–7pm

Only \$10 per session. Bring a bottle of water, a yoga-type mat and wear comfy clothing! Please note that Stretch & Flex will not take place this Tuesday, October 20.

Social Justice at OLS October 27, 7:15pm, above Running Room

During our (rescheduled) first meeting we will explore how social justice will play a part in the life of our parish. We will also introduce Pope Francis's latest encyclical, Laudato Si'.

All Saints' Day+All Souls' Day – Sunday Nov. 1+Monday Nov. 2

We'll celebrate the Feast of All Saints at the regular liturgies on Saturday evening (Oct. 31) & Sunday morning/afternoon. This special day commemorates all those who have attained the beatific vision in Heaven; members of redeemed humanity in the communion of saints; those whom we should model; those who have attained perfect salvation in its entirety. We commemorate all our faithful departed the following morning at the 9am Mass.

Project Hope – \$3 Million Emergency Refugee Settlement Campaign Continues

The 100-day campaign has a goal of settling 100 refugee families within the GTA as soon as possible & will prioritize those fleeing war & violence in areas of greatest need, including Syria & Iraq, regardless of religious affiliation. If you'd like to support the campaign financially, please visit www.archtoronto.org or call 416-934-3411 or drop a cheque in the regular Sunday collection, payable to: OLS – Project Hope – Refugee Sponsorship. Thank you so very much!

An Invitation to Serve Help Lead the Whole People of God Into His Presence!

Do you feel God is calling you to serve? Are you nervous or unsure? Please, have no fear! Take the first step in your amazing learning & faith journey as an altar server! Email Kristen, altar server coordinator, at kristen@sorrows.ca today or speak to her in person after the 8 or 9:30am Sunday Masses. Keep your heart right with God, be a disciple, join this important youth ministry.



“Especially in the world in which we live, but really in all periods of history, a certain heroism is required in the Christian life.” – Cardinal Thomas Collins

COMMUNITY

St. Michael's College School – Open House – October 22+27, 7:30–9pm

The Office of Admissions is now considering applications for September 2016. Interested parents & their sons are invited to register at www.stmichaelscollegeschool.com/admissions at their earliest convenience. St. Michael's is a private school located at 1515 Bathurst St. (at St. Clair Ave. W.) and offers academic scholarships & financial aid to qualifying students.



Project Rachel Retreat – Let God show you His love – October 23–25

“The Lord is my shepherd. There is nothing I shall want.” – Psalm 23

Do you need to rest from your burden? We can help. This weekend retreat is for women whose hearts have been broken by abortion. Private, confidential and non-judgemental. Call 416-629-8264 or email projectrachel@stmmarysrefuge.org

Holy Name of Mary College School – Open House – Oct. 24, 10am–2pm

Find out how HNMCS is transforming the educational journey for girls in a distinctly Christ-centered environment for grades 5 to 12. Visit www.hnmcs.ca or call 905-891-1890, ext. 103.

MOSAIC Canadian Vocal Ensemble – Concert Sunday, October 25, 4pm

Enjoy sacred music including contemporary choral works by Karl Jenkins, Jonathan Elias, Morten Lauridsen and Peter Togni as MOSAIC performs at Toronto's historic St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 72 Mansfield Ave. Freewill offerings (suggested offering \$10) gladly accepted. The choir is based out of our parish and is directed by our own Music Director, Gordon Mansell. For more information, please call 416-571-3680.

Dementia & Alzheimer's Disease – Thursday, October 29, 1–3pm

Entitled “Supportive Communication Strategies for People with Dementia”, this afternoon features Q&A and a talk by Kari Quinn-Humphrey of the Toronto Alzheimer Society. Takes place in the sanctuary at Bloordale United Church, 4258 Bloor St., W. Elevator and free parking available. TTC via #49 Bloor West Bus. For info, visit www.bloordale.ca or call 416-621-1710. No cost for this event, but pre-registration is necessary. To register, call 416-620-4098.

36th Magnificat Breakfast for Women – October 31, 9:30am



An inspirational morning that includes a hot breakfast, songs of praise and worship led by our spirit-filled music ministry, a personal testimony of the transforming love of Christ in the life of a speaker. Guest Speaker: Mary Jane Norris. Takes place at the Julius Banquet Centre, 2201 Finch Ave. W. #32, North York. Call Inez at 416-745-4268 for tickets. Cost is \$20.

Lectio Divina with Cardinal Thomas Collins November 1, 7pm

Lectio Divina (“divine reading”) is a form of prayer involving reading, reflection and silence. We begin with Vespers followed by Lectio Divina. All are welcome for this special evening. During the renovations at St. Michael's Cathedral, Lectio Divina will be traveling to parishes around the archdiocese. Visit www.archtoronto.org/lectio for a full listing of locations.

Come and See Weekend – November 6, 7pm – November 8, 1:30pm

Men, 18 years+, who are discerning a possible call to the priesthood are invited to St. Augustine's Seminary. For info, call 416-968-0997 or email vocations@archtoronto.org

All Souls' Day Masses – Saturday, November 7, 2pm

Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services - Archdiocese of Toronto invites you to participate in All Souls' Day Masses. These Masses will be held indoors at various locations throughout the archdiocese. Visit www.bit.ly/allsouls2015 to view a poster with more information.