

The theme of today's liturgy is the role of the prophet. Prophets have always had an important place in the life of the Church. This comes as a surprise to most people – probably because they think of prophets as those who predict future events: something that rarely happened. Prophets are people who – because they are in tune with God – help us to see things as God sees them. They point out the way God is calling us to follow, and remind us of the future God has in store for those who trust in him. At Vatican II, it was recognized that the important contribution such people can make has been neglected in the life of the Church in recent centuries. Every healthy Christian community has its prophets; we should be grateful for them and open to what they have to contribute to our life together. As Vatican II has told us, we are all called - through our baptism - to share in Christ's role as the Father's great Prophet.



No prophet is ever accepted in his own country

The first reading from the prophet Jeremiah reminds us of the importance of the prophets of the Old Testament. In tune with God's ways, they called the people and their rulers to recognize these ways and to live by them. Jeremiah knew that he was called to a difficult role. His life was in constant danger, and he knew great suffering, because he answered God's call. We are all called to stand up for the ways of God. Down through the ages, even to our own day, many Christians have given their lives because they knew that they were called to challenge the world's selfishness and blindness.

Jesus - sent to give his witness to the ways of his Father - was the greatest of all prophets. In the end, he gave his life for the truth he brought to the world. In today's gospel reading from Luke – a continuation of the passage we heard last Sunday – we see Jesus sharing in the kind of experience many have had, as they have tried to build up the life of a small, closed community. When they heard him speak, the people of his village were filled with surprise and admiration at first; but they found it hard to accept the new role Jesus had assumed – why had he ministered in rival towns before coming to them? In the end, however, Jesus experienced the violent reaction Jeremiah had known. As he challenged them to broaden their horizons and recognize that God's blessings were to be given to the gentiles, their mood changed, and they came close to lynching him. It is obvious that this took place when the ministry of Jesus was well established. However, Luke begins the story of the ministry in Galilee with this incident because it provides a kind of summary of what is to follow – the Good News of God's generous ways is rejected by the people of the synagogue, who seek his death. Luke may well, in the mysterious escape of Jesus, be foreshadowing the final triumph of the Resurrection.

Today's familiar reading from St. Paul to the Corinthians is a splendid complement to our main theme. Having 'the gift of prophecy' and an 'understanding of all the mysteries' will achieve nothing if it is not inspired by love. Nothing opens the way to the hearing of a challenging message more effectively than an approach full of good will - if faith, hope and love are the constants in the shared life of the Church, 'the greatest of these is love'.

John Thornhill sm  
www.themmasseries.com

No prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. Do not be discouraged by jeers when considering religious life or priesthood.

Call Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocations Director, Archdiocese of Toronto  
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

PARISH

Readings ~ Jeremiah 1.4-5, 17-19 ~ 1 Corinthians 12.31 - 13.13 ~ Luke 4.21-30

Mass Intentions This Week – February 1 to 7

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Rene & Bertha Lefebvre	Janet Salter
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Julia & David Sutherland	Janet Salter
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Jozef Pizon	his daughter
Thursday, 9am	✠ Ann & Tony Dineno	Gloria & George
Friday, 9am	✠ members of the Valencia, Goseco & Feliciano families	Linda Feliciano
Saturday, 9am	✠ Deceased members of the Mahoney family	
5:15pm	✠ Mary & Frank Ferkul	Anne Pohole
Sunday 8am	✠ Joseph Borges	The family
9:30am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
11am	✠ Michael Bellew	Frank & Lorraine Mullin
12:30pm	✠ Joanne Militar	Anne

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

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

"The rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world, and open on the substance of the next. The power of the rosary is beyond description."

– Archbishop Fulton Sheen

First Communion Catechetical Sessions – Sun. Jan. 31, 2pm or Wed. Feb. 3, 7pm

These one-hour info and instructional sessions are for parents only. Parish catechists will lead parents in a brief reflection on the theology of Eucharist; staff will be present to distribute the 'We Share in the Eucharist' book for parent-child preparation.

Next Week Children's Liturgy – Returns to the 9:30am Sunday Mass

Confirmation Catechetical Sessions – Sun. Feb. 7, 2–3pm or Thu. Feb. 11, 7–8pm

These sessions are for parents, sponsors and candidates. Parents and sponsors should gather in the parish hall, where catechists will lead a brief reflection on the theology of confirmation. In the church, Fr. Nino will lead a reflection and discussion with candidates. Further instructions for the April retreats & Confirmation Masses will be provided at this time.

Stretch & Flex – \$10/session – Bring water & a yoga mat – Tues., 6:15–7:30pm

Takes place in the parish hall; moves to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Running Room, every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues./month. Note that the Feb. 8 session moves to the Running Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) on account of pancakes!

Pancake Tuesday Returns! Tues., Feb. 9, continuous buffet service from 5–7pm

The ShareLife committee will again be hosting this 'most palatable' event in the parish hall. Enjoy pancakes & sausage, along w/coffee, tea or orange juice... please pass the maple syrup! Cost: \$5 children/\$8 adults in advance & \$7 children/\$10 adults at the door. **Get your tickets today! Last chance for advanced tickets is after each Mass on Sunday, Feb 7.**

**Volunteers are needed** from 3–8pm. Contact the parish office to offer some of your time.

Ash Wednesday – February 10 – Three Masses To Mark Beginning of Lent

Ashes will be distributed at the 9am Mass, the 1:15pm School Mass and at a special 7:30pm Mass.

"I believe in God, not in a Catholic God, there is no Catholic God, there is God and I believe in Jesus Christ, his incarnation. Jesus is my teacher and my pastor, but God, the Father, Abba, is the light and the Creator." –Pope Francis

This Weekend Mass to Close the Jubilee Year for Consecrated Life

On Sunday, January 31 at St. Paul's Basilica, 3pm, Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick will preside at a Mass in celebration of the vocation & witness of these special men and women religious who are such a vital & important part of the life & ministry of the Church in our archdiocese. All are welcome.



Holy Name of Mary College School – Open House – Sat, Feb. 6, 10am–2pm

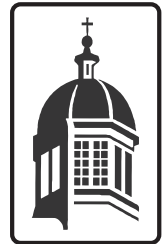
We invite you to visit us to find out more about our school. Talk to current students, faculty members, school administrators and parents and get a true sense of student life at HNMCS. For more info, visit www.hnmcs.ca or call Giselle Fernandes at 905-891-1890, ext. 103.

A Celebration of Marriage – Mass with Cardinal Collins – Feb. 13

The Archdiocese of Toronto will celebrate Marriage Sunday in our parishes the weekend of February 6/7. On Saturday, February 13 at 4:30pm, couples from across the archdiocese will gather for A Celebration of Marriage with Cardinal Collins at St. Andrew Kim Parish (849 Don Mills Rd., North York). A reception will follow. All are welcome! Couples celebrating special milestone anniversaries – 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup> or 50+ anytime in 2016 are asked to RSVP online at www.archtoronto.org/marriage by February 1 to ensure reserved seating. Call (416) 964-8694 or visit the above website for more information.

A Lenten Retreat with Jesus in the Desert – Feb. 20, 9:30am–2:30pm

As we begin our Lenten journey, Fr. Charles Anang, Asst. Professor in Systematic Theology at St. Augustine's Seminary, will utilize three tools to help attendees 'meet Jesus in the desert of our hearts': surrendering our hearts to Jesus (Carmelite charism); meeting Jesus daily through the Examen Prayer (Ignatian); & following Jesus through practice of discernment of spirits (Ignatian). Cost is \$40. Visit www.bit.ly/1UqV4Pq to register or call 416-261-7207, ext. 235 for more information.



'Come and See' Weekend – February 26–28

"The Love of Christ urges us on" to radically respond to His call to follow Him whole-heartily. Jesus is inviting you to discover His desire for you. This will be an opportunity for young men (18 years+) to spend a weekend at St. Augustine's Seminary with time for prayer, reflection & information on the process of becoming one of Christ's disciples through the Catholic priesthood. Interested young men: contact Fr. Nino.

24<sup>th</sup> Annual Lift Jesus Higher Rally – Metro Convention Ctr. – March 5

Be inspired, encouraged and healed! From 9am–5:30pm, Ralph Martin, Sr. Ann Shields, Peter Herbeck and guest speaker Deacon Larry Oney will help you lift Jesus higher! Mass (with Sunday readings) celebrated by Cardinal Thomas Collins. Separate youth event (13–18 years) with great music, dynamic talks & inspirational skits. Tickets are \$20/adults, \$15/youth; available at www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.org or by calling (416) 251-4255.

'From Desert to Dessert' – Lenten Mini-Retreat – March 5, 10am

It has been said that our ability to experience joy depends on our ability to experience suffering. In Lent we reflect more on the passion of Christ, and join our sufferings with His. When Easter arrives we put on our robes of joy. We sing: "Alleluia, He is Risen. He is Risen indeed." This reflection and discussion on Biblical narratives will help participants to make the most of "desert" time, in order to better experience the joy that is ours as an Easter people. St. Ambrose Parish (782 Browns Line, Etobicoke) invites you to share in this day, facilitated by Laurie van den Hurk, Office of Formation for Discipleship. To register, contact Brenda Voisin at (416) 934-3400, ext. 523 or visit www.archtoronto.org/discipleship