

Another riveting narrative from John's gospel. More than once, Jesus was condemned for healing on the Sabbath. In this reading, one such incident is described at length, in a way that calls to mind words of this gospel's prologue: "The Word was the true light, and his own people did not accept him". The courageous refusal of the 'man born blind' to be intimidated by the authorities of the synagogue, when even his family refuse to stand by him, has given us one of the most memorable incidents in the gospels. Like the story of the Samaritan woman, this incident is recounted in a manner that gives expression to a profound meditation upon the saving work of Christ.

The Saviour himself intones the theme of this meditation: 'I am the light of the world'. The powerful symbolism of light often finds expression in the Scriptures. It is often appealed to in the Psalms, the confession of faith of the ordinary people in old Israel – God's Word is 'a light on the path' of life (Ps 119); Yahweh himself is Israel's 'light and salvation' (Ps 27). The contrast between light and darkness is often appealed to in the New Testament, as in today's reading from Ephesians.



I was blind and now I see

The tragedy of spiritual blindness is vividly exemplified in the refusal of the Pharisees to be open to what was confronting them in the signs given through the ministry of Jesus – as their empty reasoning is made to look foolish by the straightforward honesty of the man they are trying to intimidate. 'You can be his disciple', they declare in their frustration, 'We are disciples of Moses'. And, as he responds to their arguments, pointing out that his miraculous healing shows that Jesus is surely 'a prophet' and that he must have 'come from God', the man who was born blind is progressively 'enlightened' – to be finally welcomed by Jesus into the company of his disciples, making his confession, 'Lord, I believe you are the Son of Man' – the very title that was to seal the fate of Jesus before the Sanhedrin.

As he urges the Ephesians to a life of authentic discipleship, Paul contrasts a life of 'goodness, right living and truth' with the 'shameful' things done in the dark. The story of the 'man born blind' and his courage in the face of great odds reminds a community with deep roots in old Israel of the challenge of genuine discipleship.

It is now well recognised that the meditation upon Christian faith and life that gave us John's gospel was made against the background of the Church's sacramental life. It may well be that today's narrative – with its progressive reference to anointing, washing and confession of faith – is influenced by the baptismal practice of the community. In the early centuries, the instruction of the catechumens concerning the Church's sacramental life was an 'enlightenment'. It is interesting to note, at a time when the catechumenate is assuming an increasing importance in the life of the church, that these instructions made frequent use of John's gospel.

John Thornhill sm  
www.themmasseries.com

"We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day." Are you being called to a life as an ordained or a consecrated person?

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

Readings ~ 1 Samuel 16.1b, 6-7, 10-13 ~ Ephesians 5.8-14 ~ John 9.1-41

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – March 7 to 14

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Margaret Vanty	Randy Twigg
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Theresa Gihlavsky	The rosary group
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Don Sbrolla	The family
Thursday, 9am	✠ Nicholas Korpan	The family
Friday, 9am	✠ Connie Broden	The family
Saturday, 9am	✠ Janina Bulat Wojak	Her stepmother
5:15pm	✠ Thomas Byrne	The family
Sunday, 8am	✠ Kevin & Ann Dowling	Mary & Ava
9:30am	✠ Grace Bodogh	Lisa Manganaro & Henry Yeh
11am	✠ Charles Moreland	The Reilly family
12:30pm	✠ members of the Swikowski, Beldycki, & Dudek families	The family

**All-Day Confessions** Two priests available on Sat., March 12, 9:30am–5pm

**Stations of the Cross** – Fridays during Lent, 7:30pm in the church, 30–35 mins

**Celebrate the feasts of St. Patrick & St. Joseph with your parish community!** Scones & Irish coffee will be served after the 9am Mass on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. March 19 is the feast of St. Joseph. Zeppole, traditional Italian pastries, & coffee will be served after the 9am Mass.

**Tenebrae Responsories** – Sunday March 20, 4pm@OLS – free admission  
The sorrow of Holy Week is conveyed in this service of readings & solemn and noble music.

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

**Celebration of First Reconciliation**  
Children may make their First Reconciliation during all-day Lenten confessions on Saturday, March 12 or on any Saturday between 4–5pm (except Holy Saturday, March 26).

**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.

Working wonders for people locally and around the world...

Pope Francis reminds us that this is the year of mercy. How do we extend the hands of Christ to others in our daily lives? For some, it may be caring for an elderly relative, volunteering at a soup kitchen, or helping to collect food or raise funds for charity. In our busy society, many of us do not have the time to actively participate, and as such we rely on the many agencies within our community to provide love, care and support to those in need. In the Archdiocese of Toronto, our annual ShareLife appeal provides resources to over 40 agencies, bringing much needed programs and services to those both here in our communities and around the world. Collectively, through our support, we share in their success in making a positive difference in the lives of those they serve.

**The ShareLife collection takes place next weekend. Over the coming week, consider your ability to help your brothers and sisters in Christ, and make a contribution to our annual appeal. You will truly be helping to make a difference!**

**March 13 is ShareLife Sunday. Please give generously. You can work wonders!**



"Ten more commandments": 5. Old friends are gold! New friends are diamond! If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold! Because to hold a diamond, you always need a base of gold!

COMMUNITY

Assisted Suicide – Protect the vulnerable and those who care for them!

By June 2016, the Government of Canada is expected to pass legislation to legalize assisted suicide. Cardinal Collins encourages Catholics throughout the archdiocese to support the Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience by visiting [www.CanadiansforConscience.ca](http://www.CanadiansforConscience.ca) today. The coalition represents a group of like-minded partners, including 5,000 doctors across Canada, who are committed to protecting conscience rights for health practitioners and facilities. You can use this website to write directly to your Member of Parliament, respectfully expressing your concerns. Given tight timelines for this legislation, please take action no later than April 1. **Thank you for helping to protect the vulnerable and those who care for them!**

Interfaith Events – Scarborough Missions, 2685 Kingston Rd., various dates



Pope Francis exhorts us to make this Jubilee Year of Mercy a time of ongoing dialogue so that we might better know and understand one another and work to build a better world for all. Scarborough Missions Interfaith Department is sponsoring several evenings on the understanding of mercy from Christian, Jewish & Muslim perspectives. Call 416-261-7135 for more information. **Admission is free & no registration is required.**

**March 8** – A Christian perspective on mercy presented by Dr. Murray Watson

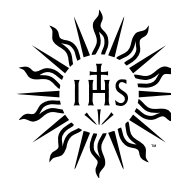
**March 15** – A Jewish perspective on mercy presented by Rabbi Ed Elkin

**March 22** – A Muslim perspective on mercy presented by Dr. Hamid Slimi

Tenebrae Service – Friday, March 25 (Good Friday), 7:30pm

You are all invited to come to this special service of music and scripture for Good Friday. Enjoy this moving experience, featuring a men's chorus of over 30 voices singing the music of Msgr. John Edward Ronan, founder of St. Michael's Choir School. **Our Music Director, Gordon Mansell will be at the organ.** Bring friends and family with you to St. James Catholic Church (Annette and Jane). **There is no charge for this event.**

Jesuit Provincial's Dinner April 13



Come join the Jesuits in honouring Betty Bujold, Michael & Barbara McManus and Bishop Jean-Louis Plouffe with the "Magis Award" for their outstanding work & dedication to Jesuit ministries. The evening begins with Mass at The Church of The Good Shepherd in Thornhill, followed by dinner at Le Parc. To order tickets, call 416-481-9154 or email [jdo@jesuits.ca](mailto:jdo@jesuits.ca)

Celebrate Your Marriage with a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend!

Celebrate your love and take a fresh look at your marriage! Spend a very special weekend together. A weekend of discovery... a lifetime of love! Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a weekend getaway that helps married couples rediscover themselves as individuals and as a couple. The weekend format helps couples communicate openly and honestly without group sharing, therapy or marriage counselling. Upcoming weekend: April 15–17 (Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga) For more info & an application, please visit [www.wmenc.org](http://www.wmenc.org) or contact Gerard & Marge McCauley at [gerard.marge@rogers.com](mailto:gerard.marge@rogers.com) or (905) 792-1925



"Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy" Pilgrimage

Join this pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts from Friday, April 22 through to Sunday, April 24 for an unbeatable price of \$499. Includes double occupancy with 2 nights at the Holiday Inn, 2 full breakfasts, one lunch, and coach transportation. Please note that registration closes on March 31. To view the flyer, visit [www.blessedtrinity.ca](http://www.blessedtrinity.ca) or call Mary at 416-497-7059 for more information or to register.