

Today's gospel reading follows immediately after last Sunday's reading. This linkage is important, because it helps us appreciate Luke's presentation of this incident, as expanding the teaching on 'faith' in last Sunday's gospel. The miracles of Jesus were, before all else, signs pointing to what was to be expected from the Saviour's presence among us. In this miracle, the interaction between Jesus and the Samaritan who returns to give thanks leads us deeper into an understanding of the faith that is God's gift.

Jesus tells the Samaritan that it is 'faith' that has saved him. His companions, too, we may presume, also had faith – evidenced in their common plea with him, and the fact that they too have been healed - because Jesus is surprised that they have not returned. But, unlike the one who returns, they do not have the gratitude that is the expression of a lively faith. If faith is a trusting readiness to receive the great things God does for us, it is also a grateful recognition of what God has done and is doing in our lives. The Samaritan helps us understand what this awareness involves. He 'turned back praising God at the top of his voice'. Our relationship with our God is quite unique; the other relationships that shape our lives cannot be compared with it. Our awareness of our indebtedness to God should deepen more and more this unique relationship, as we grow in wonder at the blessings of each day. It is not by chance that we call our principal act of worship, our 'Eucharist', our 'Thanksgiving'.



The other nine, where are they?

Shouting his praises, the healed man 'throws himself at the feet of Jesus'. His faith is a readiness to receive what only God can give; but he recognises that it is through Jesus that God's blessing comes to him – through the one whose teaching and ministry led him and his desperate companions to appeal to the 'pity' they recognised in Jesus; through the one whose authoritative word they accepted immediately, not yet healed, but ready to do what he commanded. The whole sequence presents Jesus as the Saviour. He sends the band to 'show themselves to the priests' – in accordance with the accepted custom: that the authority to allow those with contagious diseases rejoin the community was given by Israel's Law to the priests. Now, in the case of the Samaritan, Jesus himself assumes this authority, 'Go on your way!'

The gift of God given by God to those who have faith is universal – it excludes nobody. It is not surprising that Luke, the Gentile convert, is especially conscious of this. His care to include reference in his writings to the Samaritans – the renegade group, hated by the Jews as half-pagan – reflects this awareness, pointing to the conversions that were to be so important in the first Christian communities. He alone brings us the story of the Good Samaritan; he devotes a chapter (ch 8) of the Acts of the Apostles to the preaching of the gospel to the Samaritans; and now he alone holds up this Samaritan as an example of lively faith.

John Thornhill sm

ON TV POPE FRANCIS: A MAN OF MANY FIRSTS – Oct. 13, 7:30pm, CNN

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – Oct. 14 to 20

Please join us as we pray for the following announced Mass intentions:

	Intention(s)	Offered by
Monday, 9am	✠ Joe Stanley	Kathleen Stanley
Tuesday, 9am	✠ John Lynskey	Paul & Pat Matthews
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Pauline Oravec	Theresa Gihlavsky
Thursday, 9am	✠ John Lynskey	Sheila Kelly
Friday, 9am	✠ John Lynskey	Helen & Benny Timpson
Saturday, 9am	✠ Mary Culbert	The Family
5:15pm	✠ John Lynskey	Grace Downie
Sunday, 8am	...our parish and faithful parishioners	
9:30am	✠ Maria Possamai	Luigi & Mario Possamai
11am	✠ John Lynskey	Peggy & Paul Hughes
12:30pm	✠ Mary Agnes Bennett	Peggy O'Neill

Save the Date! Lector Workshop – Nov. 16, 11am–1pm

Whether you're a new lector or have been a lector for years, you will learn something new to make you an even better lector. Spouses are invited and lunch will be provided.

Scripture Classes – Wednesdays, 10am & Thursdays, 7pm

All are welcome on Wednesdays in the parish hall meeting room and on Thursdays at OLS School, 32 Montgomery Rd. Our topic is the Gospel of St. John. Bring your Bible!

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.

"The Rosary is the most beautiful and richest of all prayers to the Mediatrix of all grace; it is the prayer that touches most the heart of the Mother of God. Say it each day." –Saint Pius X

OLS Youth and Young Adult Ministry – Anyone interested in participating

this year is invited and encouraged to contact Abigail Lofte, Youth Minister, through the parish office or abigail.lofte@gmail.com or 647.861.5197 or Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/15r1pW0>

Bundle Up for St. Vincent de Paul! Meet the truck in our parking lot

Saturday Oct. 26, 8:30am–6:15pm & Sunday Oct. 27, 7:30am–5pm
Items most in need include: new/gently used textiles, clothing, shoes, bedding, draperies and small household goods; clean and in good condition. Donations should be inside tied-up plastic bags or sealed cartons. Volunteers will be available to assist. **Sincere thanks!**

Help Wanted! Our St. Vincent de Paul group is looking for a few new members

If you are interested in making a difference in the lives of people who are constantly struggling to make ends meet, please contact the parish office. **Help in all possible ways.**

2013 Advent Fair – Nov. 9, 9:30am–2pm, Nov. 10, 9am–2:30pm

Call for vendors, bakers and volunteers! This much-anticipated annual event features crafts, jewelry, CDs & cards, religious books, baked goods and much more! Grab a snack at our café and enjoy! Call the parish office for a vendor information packet or volunteer form.

Stretch & Flex Not 'just for ladies' anymore! – Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30pm

We meet in the parish hall; everyone is welcome to join. \$10/session. Wear comfy clothing!

COMMUNITY

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist Registration Weekend

Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 19/20 after all regular Masses

Confirmation Registration Weekend

Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 26/27 after all regular Masses

Homilies on these weekends will address parents and candidates as they begin the sacramental process. All are **strongly** encouraged to attend.

Parish staff will be available in the parish hall to process registrations and collect fees.

► **Please note that this year's registration deadline is Friday, Nov. 15.**

4th Annual Mass to End Woman Abuse – Oct. 22, 7pm, OLS

Catholic Family Services of Toronto and Our Lady of Sorrows Parish will host this special event in our church. Light refreshments will follow. Let's gather as a parish family to pray for all families who are affected by violence. **Woman abuse hurts us all.**

Celebrate Your Marriage: Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend!

Married couples, you deserve a weekend to cherish being together, to rediscover each other and to focus on ways to make your relationship even better. Consider giving each other or another couple that you know the gift of a weekend away from daily pressures and time to be with each other and with God on a Marriage Encounter Weekend. Visit www.wmwe.org

Upcoming Weekend Date: November 1–3. For further information or registration please call Cora & Mike Bryce at 905-896-2958, or email cora-mikebryce@sympatico.ca

34th Annual Cardinal's Dinner Thursday, Oct. 17, 6pm, MTCC

This fundraiser supports many charities across the GTA and raises over \$120,000 per year. To order tickets online, please see <http://bit.ly/CardinalsDinner> or call 416-934-3400, ext. 567.

In Search of Truth: A Call to Conversion – Oct. 19, 9:30am–4pm

Be inspired by renowned Catholic apologist & EWTN host **Marcus Grodi** and one of Toronto's finest catechists, **Patrick Sullivan** during what promises to be an amazing day filled with prayer, faith and fellowship. Meet hundreds of other Catholics and be nourished and educated in the faith! Visit <http://bit.ly/16FznBT> or email info@catholicchapterhouse.com

Exploring the Catechism: Faith Alive! – Wednesdays, 7:30–9:30pm



Participants will explore the four major sections of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Profession of Faith, Celebration of the Christian Mystery, Life in Christ and Christian Prayer. Presentations, multimedia, reading, discussion, prayer & reflection will provide a way for participants to deepen their understanding of Catholicism and to live their faith more eagerly as disciples of Jesus Christ. Hosted by St. Benedict Parish, 2194 Kipling Ave. Call 416-934-3400 ext. 523, email formation@archtoronto.org or visit www.archtoronto.org/discipleship

Holy Name Parish 100th Anniversary – Concert – Oct. 22, 7pm

Centennial celebrations continue as the **University of Notre Dame Glee Club** performs. For more information, call 416-466-8281 or visit www.holynametoronto.com

"From Pope to Saint" Pilgrimage to Italy – Apr. 24 – May 3, 2014

Once-in-a-lifetime! Be in Rome for the canonization of **Blessed John XXIII & Blessed John Paul II** and visit the shrines of Italy. Tour is organized by the **Knights Watchmen for Christ**, a charity initiative promoting pilgrimages to deepen faith in Christ. For more info, email knightswatchmen@yahoo.com or visit <http://pilgrimages.com/knightswatchmen>