

The coming of the child Jesus to the temple to be presented to God according to the Law of Moses took place forty days after his birth. Today's feast day echoes themes of our Christmas celebration. Traditionally it has been a festival of light, with processions of blessed candles. The coming of Spring in the northern hemisphere provided a symbolic setting for recalling the appearing of the Light of the World.

The gospel reading from Luke's Infancy Narrative is a masterpiece, an apparently simple account that weaves together several themes that are fundamental to the gospel story he is about to tell. What a contrast between the prophet Malachi's description of the Lord coming to his temple and the scene sketched by Luke – in which all the characters are from the anawim, the poor and humble ones of God's people to whom first and foremost the messianic blessings were promised. Luke underlines the fact that the Holy Family made the presentation in fulfilment of the Law of Moses. Until his "hour" had come, Jesus himself was a faithful observer of the Law, the God-given prelude and foreshadowing to which he would bring fulfilment. He was truly one with us in the life we lead, as the reading from Hebrews reminds us: "because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help those who are tempted". Luke includes a moving detail, pointing to the fact that Joseph and Mary were not well off. The offering prescribed, in Leviticus 12, was a lamb; the pair of birds was the offering of those who could not afford the lamb.



The Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple

The meeting with Simeon and Anna introduced the dimension of prophecy; Simeon gave God thanks and praise – echoing the phrases used by the prophets of old he declared what they foretold was being fulfilled: "a light to enlighten the pagans, and the glory of your people."

It is Mary that is at the centre of Luke's Infancy Narrative. He closes the scene with the mysterious prophecy of Simeon pointing to Mary's place in this work of God. Christian history was to bring a remarkable fulfilment of Simeon's words to the humble mother of Jesus.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

"Jesus did not come to help Angels, but the descendants of Abraham."

If God is calling you to consider the priesthood or religious life, contact Fr. Hansoo Park
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

PARISH Readings ~ Malachi 3:1-4 ~ Hebrews 2:10-11, 13-18 ~ Luke 2:22-40

Mass Intentions This Week – February 3 to 9

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

	Intention(s)	Offered by
Monday, 9am	✠ Robert Smallhorn	Doris & Steve Vogtle
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Joseph Pizon	His daughter
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Joseph Borges	Margaret & family
Thursday, 9am	✠ Peter Greco	The Sbrolla family
Friday, 9am	✠ Members of the Goseco, Valencia & Feliciano families	Linda Feliciano
Saturday, 9am	✠ Lovey Moran	Paul & Irene Kumli
5:15pm	...our parish and faithful parishioners	
Sunday, 8am	✠ Lena Badali	Barbara & Martin Gorski
9:30am	✠ Al & Helen Parisani	Helen Bernas
11am	✠ Dr. Robert Siebelhoff	Kathy, Justin & family
12:30pm	✠ Ewa Sobera	A friend

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 and Divine Mercy Chaplet are "a spiritual medicine... good for your heart, for your soul, for your whole life."

Franciscus

Stretch & Flex – All Are Welcome! – Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30pm in the Parish Hall

Come and enjoy gentle stretching, gain an awareness of breathing and embrace relaxation. \$10 per session. Bring a yoga-type mat, perhaps a bottle of water and wear comfy clothing!

@FatherNino – Twitter update: 6 tweets, 23 followers & counting! 'Follow' him today!

Reminder Catechetical Sessions for Parents – First Eucharist

A reminder for parents who have registered! Be sure and mark Wed., Feb. 5, 7:30–8:30pm or Sun., Feb. 9, 2–3pm in your calendars. At these sessions, parish catechists will lead parents in a brief reflection on the theology of Eucharist. Parish staff will be present to distribute the 'We Share in the Eucharist' book for parent-child preparation.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry – Call for Volunteers! Does this mean you?

We are looking for volunteers to help with our Children's Liturgy of the Word. If you are a high school youth or young adult interested in this new ministry, please contact Abigail Lofte at abigail.lofte@gmail.com or by calling 647-861-5197.

This Weekend World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life...

...is being celebrated around the world on this Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. As a parish community, let us pray this prayer in thanks to God for those who continue to enrich our Church!

GOD OUR FATHER, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Opening Up to God's Love in Our Experience of Loss – Feb. 4, 7pm

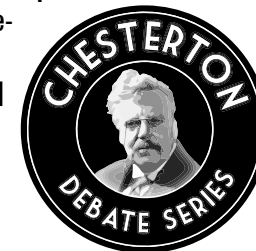
Catholic Family Services of Toronto and New Beginnings invite you to an inspirational talk with Maureen McDonnell, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology at Regis College. The event will take place at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 1155 Yonge St. (at Shaftesbury Ave., next to the Summerhill Subway Station), 4th Floor. Free underground parking. Pre registration is NOT required. For further information, please contact Deacon James Shaughnessy MSW, RSW, Psyn.D. at 416-921-1163, ext. 2227 or via email at jshaughn@cfstoronto.com

On-Air Forum Our Path in Life, God at the Center! – Feb. 4, 8:30–10pm

Jesus said "Come follow me." Young adults and parishioners are invited to an evening of discussion and reflection on our vocation in life and applying our God-given talents. HMWN (Holy Mother World Networks) Radio Maria, 1247 Lawrence Avenue West. Listen live at www.hmwn.net or contact nick.mossa@sympatico.ca

Chesterton Debate Series – Is There a God? – Feb. 7, 7pm, 93 Charles St. W.

Join the Office of Catholic Youth for the inaugural event of this series. Fr. Philip Cleveley (Catholic priest and philosophy professor) and Justin Trotter (founder of the Centre for Inquiry Canada) will argue the question, "Is There a God?" The debate will be moderated by Stephen LeDrew (host/commentator of CP24). Limited seating. Online registration began on Jan. 10 at ocytoronto.org for info call 416-599-7676 or email youth@ocytoronto.org



Holy Name of Mary College School – Open House – Feb. 8, 10am–2pm

We educate, inspire & empower the girls of today to become the next generation of confident female leaders of character. Come and experience the transformative power of an all-girls education at HNMCS in a distinctly Catholic school community. Talk to current students, faculty members, school administrators and parents and get a true sense of student life at HNMCS. For more information go to www.hnmcs.ca or call Giselle at 905-891-1890 ext. 103.

Marriage Sunday Mass w/ His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins – Feb. 9, 4pm

All are welcome to join in this eucharistic celebration at historic St. Paul's Basilica, 83 Power St. A special blessing will be given to couples celebrating 25, 40, 50 and 60+ years in the calendar year 2014. Plenty of free parking. Sponsored by the Worldwide Marriage Encounter. More info can be found at www.archtoronto.org/marriage or email wwmecouple@gmail.com

Brebeuf College School – 50th Anniversary – May 2–4

Events planned include a Pub Night, Gala Dinner and Mass+Open House. All alumni and friends are welcome. Visit www.brebeufalumni.org to RSVP and for more information.

Catholicism Journey Around the World and Deep Into the Faith

Discover the richness of our Catholic faith. Using the renowned DVD series "Catholicism", by Fr. Robert Barron, join us as we engage in a rich exploration of the Catholic faith. Discover the timeless teachings of the Catholic tradition through the use of art, architecture, literature and music. St. Benedict's Parish, 2194 Kipling Ave. – join us for 10 Wed. evenings, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, Mar. 12, 19, April 2, 9, 16, 30, 7:30–9:30pm. To register, call the Office of Formation for Discipleship at 416-934-3400 ext. 523. More information at www.archtoronto.org/discipleship or formation@archtoronto.org



Archdiocese of Toronto