

**O**ur faith is grounded in the witness of the apostles. This witness had its origins in an overwhelming experience: a meeting, against all their expectations, with the final achievement in God's work of creation, the greatness of the Risen Lord. The gospel accounts echo this experience. Meditating on them gives us a greater appreciation of this foundation of our faith – the 'teaching of the apostles' that has gathered the Church in faith, since its beginnings in Jerusalem.

John's gospel, as we know, is the product of profound reflection on this gospel tradition. The more we come to know it, the more we recognise how much is implied in its apparently simple narrative (even, it seems, reference to the fact that the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection on 'the first day of the week' had its origin in the generation of the apostles).

It has often been pointed out that our understanding of the Easter Mystery has been shaped by Luke's schema of three distinct events: Resurrection, Ascension (40 days later), Pentecost (10 days later). In John's gospel, the Easter Mystery, is already experienced in all its aspects on Easter Day itself. Meeting Mary of Magdala, Jesus speaks of his imminent 'ascent' to the Father; and when he comes to the apostles place of refuge, on the evening of that same day, the Saviour who had 'emptied himself' becoming as we all are, shows himself already one with the Father in divine greatness and authority, as he bestows 'the Holy Spirit' and commissions the apostles to undertake their great mission – 'As the Father has sent me, so am I sending you'. John's narrative tells of the apostles' experience as a passing from apprehension and uncertainty – 'the doors were closed for fear of the Jews' – to the reassurance and joy brought by faith in the Risen Lord. Three times in this narrative he repeats his greeting, 'Peace be with you'. Given the fact that this is their first encounter with the one they had abandoned to his fate, even denied, these words three times repeated are far more than a conventional greeting. They echo down through the ages as words of divine forgiveness and reconciliation for a world whose burdens he has taken upon himself in the terrible drama of the cross. The gospels all speak of the hesitations experienced by the group as they came to terms with their experience, and passed from fear and uncertainty to the joy of believing. In John's narrative, this is all dramatised in the story of Thomas, the outspoken enthusiast, who tells Jesus, 'We do not know where you are going, how we can know the way?' and urges the group, 'Let us go up and die with him!' As in other gospel accounts, Jesus makes it clear that what they have encountered is not a ghostly apparition, but his Incarnate Self: 'Put your finger here, your hand in my side. Doubt no longer but believe'. And so, as John's narrative comes to its climax in Thomas' confession – 'My Lord and my God' – we hear echoes of the gospel's opening, 'The Word became flesh' (1.18), and an echo of its meditation on the Eucharist, 'The bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world' (6.51).

Even for the apostolic group, 'seeing' was not 'believing'. The 'seeing' of their extraordinary and mysterious encounter was an invitation to accept the Saviour's gift of faith. Each Easter brings the same invitation to us all: 'Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe'. Peter has this same message: 'You did not see him yet you love him, filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described'.



Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe

John Thornhill sm  
www.theemmausseries.com

**"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."**  
Will you respond to God's call to be sent as priest, sister or brother?

If God is calling you, contact Fr. Hansoo Park  
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Acts 2:42-47 ~ 1 Peter 1:3-9 ~ John 20:19-31

PARISH

**Mass Intentions This Week – April 28 to May 4**

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ J.J. Flavin	Kathy Marcocchio Citrullo
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Margaret Borron	Theresa & Mary Rickett
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Mary Pat Hay	Margaret Tipping
Thursday, 9am	✠ Mary Menary	Michael & Anne Wiley
Friday, 9am	✠ members of the Goseco, Valencia & Feliciano families	Linda Feliciano
Saturday, 9am	✠ Jose Caceres Montoya	Delia Urosevic
5:15pm	✠ Ivela Cavoto	The Sklar family
8am	For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners	
9:30am	✠ Ken Morgan	The family
11:00am	✠ Nicole Nardi	The family
12:30pm	✠ Mary Agnes Bennett	Peggy O'Neill

**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.

**Stretch & Flex – all are welcome! – Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30pm in the parish hall**

\$10 per session. Bring a yoga-type mat, perhaps a bottle of water and wear comfy clothing!

**Scripture Classes – Wednesdays, 10am + Thursdays, 7pm – all are welcome!**

Morning class in the parish hall, evening class at OLS School, 32 Montgomery Rd., Room 411.

**Parish Survey available at the office or on our website – www.sorrows.ca**

This is your opportunity to assist efforts to enhance our community of faith. **Thank you!**

**Working wonders in our community...**

Of the more than 1 million foreign-born people who arrived in Canada between 2001 and 2006, more than 40% live in the Greater Toronto Area. As a result, nearly 11% of our school system consists of recently arrived residents and over half of the total student population speak a non-official language most often at home.

**Last year, ShareLife agencies provided settlement, advocacy and education programs for more than 40,000 immigrants and refugees in the GTA**



**ShareLife's campaign continues – Give generously... You can work wonders!**

**Attention OLS Youth – Are you ready to step up and serve your parish?**

Join our amazing community of young parishioners serving at Sunday Mass! For more info, contact ministry coordinator Kristen Scanlan via email at kristen@sorrows.ca today!

**Papal Concert – Honouring the Sainthood of John Paul II and John XXIII**

Shaping up to be a big parish and community event, this concert will include most members of our Music Ministry, several guest choirs, soloists, and the Toronto Sinfonietta under the direction of Matthew Jaskiewicz. Musical selections include works by Mark Hayes, Ruth Watson Henderson, Peter Togni, W.A. Mozart and R.V. Williams. This event takes place at OLS on Sunday, June 8 at 4pm. Tickets are \$20 and will be sold at the back of the church in the coming weeks. Early birds may phone Gordon Mansell at 416-571-3680 for tickets.

Point your browser at [www.sorrows.ca](http://www.sorrows.ca) and read Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter *Lumen Fidei* today!

COMMUNITY

**Monthly Mass – Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery – Sat., May 3, 9:30am**

Please join us! This special Mass will take place in the St. Anthony Chapel of the Mausoleum. For further information contact the cemetery at 905-851-5822

**Dorothy Ley Hospice Hike – Sunday, May 4, 11am–2pm, 220 Sherway Drive**

The Dorothy Ley Hospice is a volunteer-based community service organization offering compassionate care to people living with the challenges of life-limiting illness and loss. Our goal is to provide comfort and help them manage so they can live every day to the fullest with dignity, meaning and hope. Join our annual Hike for Hospice! It's fun for the entire family! For info contact Melody at [mcourtney@dlhospice.org](mailto:mcourtney@dlhospice.org) or call 416-626-0116, ext. 236.

**Focus on the Family – 'Movie Night' – May 7, 7:30pm, Cineplex, Queensway**

The timely and provocative documentary, IRREPLACEABLE, asks the important question, "What is family?" and "Does 'family' still matter in today's society?" challenging the audience to take a closer look at their own family and what can be done to make it stronger. It also reinforces that it is never too late to become a good father, mother, sister or brother. For more information on this film, visit the website at [www.focusonthefamily.ca](http://www.focusonthefamily.ca)

**Mary, Mother of God School – now registering for September 2014/2015!**

We are an affordable private school (Grades K-12) which is deeply rooted in the Catholic tradition and located in the Roncesvalles/Parkdale area of Toronto. We have an excellent academic program, a dynamic and joyful student life, and small classes where each student is known and loved. For more info please visit [marymotherofgodschool.org](http://marymotherofgodschool.org) or call us at 416-531-7897.

**Bishop Allen Academy – 25th Anniversary – May 10**

Join the celebration! Daytime events include a Mass, followed by a BBQ Lunch and Alumni Games! Evening Cocktail Party to follow. For more information or to purchase tickets, scan the QR code or call 416-393-5549. **See you there!**

**Day of Reflection For Catholic Parents of Lesbian Daughters and Gay Sons**

Manresa Jesuit Retreat Centre (2325 Liverpool Rd., Pickering) hosts this day of reflection for parents on Saturday May 31, 9am–5pm. The suggested donation is \$40 and includes lunch. **Space is limited!** For a brochure and information call John Montague at 416-523-6449.

**Stonegate Ministry – Call for food bank donations – can you help?**

Christ Church St. James Anglican's Food Pantry – a Stonegate Ministry partner – is asking for help addressing shortages of food supplies. They are in particular need of pasta sauces, cereals, peanut butter, canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.) and size 5 & 6 baby diapers. Donations are gratefully accepted at 194 Park Lawn Rd. For operating hours and more information, visit [www.christchurchstjames.ca/food-bank](http://www.christchurchstjames.ca/food-bank) – **Thanks for your support!**

**19th Annual ShareLife Corporate Golf Tournament – Monday, June 9**

Join us at Markland Wood Golf Club in support of the social service agencies funded by ShareLife. For further information, call ShareLife at 416-934-3411 or visit [www.sharelife.org](http://www.sharelife.org)

**Next Sunday – Petition available for your signature...**

Park Lawn Cemetery, at Prince Edward and Bloor, is proposing to close a main roadway in order to create more burial sites. Rod McQueen, whose wife Sandy is buried in Park Lawn, is seeking support to fight the plan that would limit access for the elderly and disabled as well as disrupt serenity. Rod is seeking signatures on a petition and will be at OLS on Sunday, April 27 to provide additional information after all masses to those who are interested.