

Today's feast is a relative newcomer to the Church's liturgy – established by Pius XI, last century, as the Church's response to the emergence of totalitarian regimes. There is a certain irony in the fact that when it was established earthly kings and queens had become little more than figureheads. The gospels of the liturgies of this feast in the three year cycle, however, make it clear that this symbolic theme can still invite us to deepen our appreciation of the role of the Saviour in the designs of God. The first and second readings – from the prophecy of Daniel, concerning 'the Son of Man', and a reading from the Apocalypse proclaiming the fulfilment of the prophecy in Christ – remind us of the deep roots this theme has in the Scriptures. This year's gospel reading from John takes us to the heart of the drama being enacted before the Roman governor – as, according to the words of Jesus at the Supper, the 'Son of Man' is being 'glorified', and in him God is being glorified. Jesus will reign, but he assures Pilate that his kingdom – 'not of this world' – is not in competition with the earthly powers Pilate represents. He will establish God's reign, not by power and violence, but by bringing his 'truth' to the world, the truth that is one of the principal themes of John's gospel ('Father, consecrate my disciples in the truth, your word is truth', Jn 14:6; 'I AM truth and life', Jn 14:6). This truth is a sharing in the wisdom of the Father, the personal truth in which we come to know who we are in the plan of God, the truth that 'sets us free' (Jn 8:32). The Kingdom announced and inaugurated by Jesus is a renewed creation, ruled by the ways of God – shaping all things, liberating them and leading them to their fullness. When Jesus teaches that this reign of God has already begun in a hidden way (Mk 4: 26 etc.) he is telling us that we can know something of this final achievement of God, when the truth he has brought to the world shapes our lives.



My kingdom is not of this world

The exchange between Jesus and Pilate also makes it clear that the execution of Jesus is a consequence of his rejection by the establishment of the Jewish nation. In John's gospel, this conflict is described in terms of the 'truth' that he has brought from his Father: 'It is because I speak the truth that you cannot believe me' (8:45). He has urged his people to find again their true calling in the designs of God, to be 'a light to the nations', showing the world the life and joy of a people living according to the ways they have learned from his Father.

John's gospel, as we have seen, portrays Jesus as reigning on the Cross. His exchange with Pilate echoes through the continuing narrative, 'Here is your king', Pilate declares (18:14); the governor's 'notice' reads 'King of the Jews' (18:19); Jesus entrusts the beloved disciple – standing for us all – to his mother (19:26); 'the blood and water' from his side are solemnly proclaimed as a blessing upon us all. What Jesus foretold early in his ministry has been realized: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life' (Jn 3:14). The symbol of kingship may have become archaic, but what it speaks of in the Scriptures, concerning the role of the Saviour in the reign of God, has an everlasting relevance, far removed from the politics of this world.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

Today we hail Christ as our King. He Who is King continues to choose men and women to serve as priests, sisters, brothers or deacons, so that the faithful may know Him, love Him and serve Him as well.

If you feel God is calling you to a Church vocation, call Fr. Chris Lemieux 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Daniel 7:13-14 ~ Revelation 1:5-8 ~ John 18:33b-37

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – November 23 to 29

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Ismael Caceres Quispe	Delia Urosevic
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Anne Dowling	Mary & Ava Boa
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Romualds Dubrovskis	The family
Thursday, 9am	✠ Louis Anthony Coutinho	The Coutinho family
Friday, 9am	✠ Joseph Hazel	Anne Langlois
Saturday, 9am	✠ Americo Amorim	The family
5:15pm	✠ Abel Leal	His daughter
Sunday, 8am	✠ Tekla Dubrovskis	The family
9:30am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
11am	✠ Mildred Freyer	Melba DeWitt
12:30pm	✠ Rev. Charles Vanitem	The Senior Choir

Toronto Right to Life Christmas Cards – now available



View the 2015 designs at www.righttolife.to and visit the parish office to purchase: an affordable \$8 per 10-pack, including envelopes. All proceeds go to TRTL's pro-life educational network.

Social Justice at OLS November 24, 7:15pm, above Running Room

Join us for our second meeting! We will continue to explore how social justice will play a part in the life of our parish and delve further into Pope Francis's latest encyclical, Laudato Si'.

Public Lecture by David Pereyra, PhD – Thursday November 26, 7pm@OLS

"Preparation for the Rite of the Opening of the Door of Mercy in Local Churches" Sponsored by The Dominican Institute of Toronto, Our Lady of Sorrows, Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College. For info, contact: dominican.toronto@gmail.com or 416-231-6016

Campaign Life Christmas Cakes – November 28/29 & December 5/6

In the past, your purchase of fruitcakes has raised over \$100,000 annually in support of CL's baby-saving efforts. Produced by a Toronto pro-life baker, these scrumptious 'traditional recipe' cakes are \$15/regular & \$25/deluxe.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul 'Adopt a Family' Help in all possible ways

All year 'round our volunteers serve people who can barely afford life's necessities. For these families, Christmas gifts for the children and a festive meal are simply impossible. You can change that by adopting a family and sharing your Christmas spirit. To help, please contact carolmurray@rogers.com or call 647 770-4805 by December 1. Tax receipts available.

Stretch & Flex – Join us! – Running Room, 2nd Floor, Tuesdays, 6–7pm

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

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

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

"Those who say the Rosary frequently and fervently will gradually grow in grace and holiness and will enjoy the special protection of Our Lady and the abiding friendship of God."

– Bishop Hugh Boyle

"It is necessary to place the precious pearl of the kingdom before all other earthly goods; it is necessary to put God in first place in our life" – Pope Francis

COMMUNITY

Theology on Tap: Being Faithful in a Secular Society – Nov. 23, 7pm

Young adults (19-39) are invited to join us for an evening of thought-provoking conversation on theological topics! Special guest Justice Peter Lauwers, Court of Appeal for Ontario, will speak as a Catholic about the challenges we face & the importance of cultivating the virtues & disposition needed to be authentic witnesses to our faith. Munchies provided, cash bar available. Duke of York Pub, 39 Prince Arthur Ave. Email faithconnections@csj-to.ca for info.

Care For Mother Earth – Nov. 24, 7–9pm, St. Joan of Arc Parish (1701 Bloor St. W.)

The St. Joan of Arc Development and Peace group invites you to a special evening with Professor Stephen Scharper, based on Pope Francis's encyclical Laudato Si'. Light refreshments will be served, and fair trade products will be available for purchase.

HNMCs – Special Grade 9 Information Evening – Nov. 24, 7–9pm

You are invited to attend our Information Evening to find out more about transitioning to Holy Name of Mary College School. Topics will include programme highlights, OSSD requirements, university preparation, applications & scholarships, alumnae success, etc. 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 visit www.hnmc.ca or call Giselle Fernandes at 905-891-1890, ext. 103.

Christmas Craft & Bake Sale – Sunday, November 29, 9am–3pm

Mary, Mother of God School warmly invites you to join our Christmas Sale at St. Vincent de Paul Church Hall, 263 Roncesvalles Ave. Come shop for one-of-a-kind Christmas gifts and savour lots of yummy baked goods, our lunch bar of delicious sandwiches, soup and sweets!

Celebrating the Mercy of God: Our Call to Reconciliation – Dec. 2, 9, 16, 7:30pm

This three-part reflection invites participants to deepen their understanding of Jesus' message of mercy and reconciliation. God calls each of us to be reconciled and to reflect on mercy. The sessions will focus on the gifts that flow from reconciliation: freedom, forgiveness and peace. Discussion and reflection will assist participants in recognizing God's healing and transforming work of reconciliation in their lives and offer a fresh approach to celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation. Participation at all three Wednesday sessions is encouraged. Holy Family Parish, 60 Allan Dr., Bolton. Contact Brenda at 416-934-3400, ext. 523.

Can You Provide A Home?

Romero House welcomes and supports refugees from around the world, providing a year of transitional housing to newly arrived refugee families. At the end of this year, we continue our support by helping these people of courage in their search for independent living. If you or someone you know has a self-contained unit for rent (\$750-\$1200), please contact Matthew at matthew@romerohouse.org or 416-763-1303. Presently, a mother with 4 young children is in need of a 2 bedroom apartment by December; there is a constant need for affordable apartments for Romero House families. Thank you for your help.

Support for Recently Separated or Divorced Catholics

Catholic Family Services of Toronto is offering a 6 week group program for adult men and women coping with the many struggles involved in the process of separation and divorce. Group participants will receive support and guidance as they move through this difficult period of transition. The group will run on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 beginning January 5 to February 9, 2016 at our Central Office, 1155 Yonge Street (Summerhill Subway Station). For further information, please contact Alex Lopechuk at 416-921-1163.