

The Church begins its new liturgical year with a season of hope. Advent time – when we look forward to the celebration of the birth of the world's Saviour – has produced liturgies filled with joy and expectation. Advent's liturgies also look forward to Christ's 'Second Coming', to gather all things into the final Kingdom of God. The liturgy nourishes our faith in the Lord, risen and triumphant. His birth, which we look forward to celebrating, will not take place again. We remember it as the dawning of the final moment of God's eternal plan, a dawning full of promise for the whole of creation. This fundamental theme of Christian faith and hope - encouraging us to look forward to a 'new heaven and new earth' - has been obscured in recent centuries. For sincere believers, expectation of 'the end of the world' should convey far more than the uneasiness and dread it so often arouses.

The readings of today's liturgy show us something of the development of this theme in the faith of God's people. In the first reading, Jeremiah promises that the messiah – 'a virtuous branch', a ruler of honesty and integrity, belonging to the family of David – will realise all that old Israel hopes for. It is a reassuring message, indeed, for a people whose history had been presided over by rulers who were for the most part corrupt and selfish. We see this prophecy being fulfilled in the gospel reading from Luke. Jesus – knowing that the final moment of God's designs for creation had come – made use in his teaching of the symbolic imagery of the prophets and the current ('apocalyptic') literature. But he also introduced a startling new dimension to these expectations by uniting them with the coming the 'Son of Man' foretold in the Book of Daniel – 'coming with power and great glory' to establish God's eternal reign. The first Christians, who recognised Jesus as the 'Son of Man' who had been foretold, and lived in wonder at what God had done in the Lord's Paschal Mystery, faced a perplexing question. They rejoiced that old Israel's hopes had been so wonderfully fulfilled in the coming of the Son of God and his victory over all evil. But what were they to make of the fact that the world seemed to go on as before? It is not surprising that they saw themselves living in brief time of waiting before the Risen Lord returned to inaugurate God's 'new heaven and new earth'. The Thessalonians to whom, in our second reading, Paul is writing a friendly letter – the earliest Christian writing we possess, written about twenty years after the Resurrection – were wrestling with this problem. They looked forward, in the near future, to 'the Lord Jesus Christ coming with all his saints'; but, as the letter makes clear, they were confused as they tried to anticipate how this will happen (see 4:13-18; 5:1-11). Paul himself was still coming to terms with the problem we have described. His message to them, however, is reassuring and meaningful, even today: Trust in the Lord, as it becomes clear how this final moment of God's plan is to unfold; remember the gospel teaching of Jesus - be alert and prepared; above all, prepare for what lies ahead by living according to the Lord's commandment of love: 'Love one another, and the whole human race, as much as I love you'.



Love one another and the whole human race

John Thornhill sm  
www.theemmauseries.com

**"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life."**  
**Are worldly cares dragging you down? Be a follower of the Master.**  
If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, call Fr. Chris Lemieux 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Jeremiah 33:14-16 ~ 1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2 ~ Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

PARISH

**Mass Intentions This Week – November 30 to December 6**

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Emil Jokay	The family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Adam Beldycki	The family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Ralph Fitzpatrick	Linda McCarron & family
Thursday, 9am	✠ Rudolph Balazik	Mom
Friday, 9am	✠ Peter & Margaret Tewiss	The Coutinho family
Saturday, 9am	✠ members of the Goseco, Feliciano & Valencia families	Linda Feliciano
5:15pm	✠ Mary & Frank Ferkul	Anne Pohole
Sunday, 8am	☞ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ☞	
9:30am	✠ Patricia Cronin	The family
11am	✠ Modestino & Esterina Viola	The family
12:30pm	✠ Wayne Dusk	The family

**ShareLife 2016 – Call for Volunteers!**

Volunteers are needed to help with our ShareLife campaign. For more information or to participate, please call the parish office.



**Toronto Right to Life Christmas Cards – now available**



View the designs at [www.righttolife.to](http://www.righttolife.to) and visit the parish office to purchase: \$8 per 10-pack, including envelopes. Proceeds go to TRTL's pro-life educational network.

**Reminder: Grade 2 Children Church Tour – Nov. 29, 2pm or Dec. 1, 7pm**

**Kids, don't forget to bring your parents!** Fr. Nino will help you explore the sacred spaces and liturgical furnishings and vessels that all Catholic churches have in common. You will learn about the beautiful works of art that help us focus on God, Mary, and the Saints, including mosaics, paintings and sculptures. You'll all enjoy this tour of the beautiful space in which we worship God!

**THIS WEEKEND Campaign Life Christmas Cakes – Nov. 28/29 & Dec. 5/6**

Your purchase of fruitcakes has raised \$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**

For many 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](mailto:carolmurray@rogers.com) or call 647 770-4805 by December 1. Tax receipts available.

**NEXT WEEK 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert – Tuesday, December 8, 7:30pm**

Don't forget to join us for an evening of beautiful music! **There is no charge for this event.**

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

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



*"Never will anyone who says his Rosary every day be led astray. This is a statement that I would gladly sign with my blood."*

–Saint Louis de Montfort

"Let us allow ourselves to be guided by [Mary this Advent], she who is mother, a mamma and knows how to guide us. Let us allow ourselves to be guided by her during this season of active waiting and watchfulness." –Pope Francis

COMMUNITY

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

Mary, Mother of God School warmly invites you to attend 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 soup, sandwiches 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](mailto: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.

**Advent Retreat – Becoming Another Mary – December 5, 9:30am**

Dr. Josephine Lombardi, Assistant Professor of Pastoral and Systematic Theology and Director of the Lay Spiritual Formation Program at St. Augustine's Seminary, will lead you through a reflection on the life and words of Our Lady. Time will be given to share and reflect on the mystery of Mary's inner life and how we can be like her. The workshop will also include Mass in the seminary chapel and lunch in the refectory. St. Augustine's Seminary, 2661 Kingston Rd., Scarborough. Cost is \$40 and includes lunch. To register, call 416-261-7207, ext. 235 or email [iofft@sastoronto.org](mailto:iofft@sastoronto.org) or visit [www.staugustines.on.ca](http://www.staugustines.on.ca)



**Advent Retreat – An Examen of God's Coming Presence in Your Life – Dec 5, 12:30pm**

Faith Connections, Jesuits Volunteers Canada and St. Peter's Young Adult Ministry invite young adults (18-39 years) for an afternoon retreat for Advent. Advent is a time of eager anticipation and longing for God's presence in our lives. While on retreat we will reflect with other young adults about God's presence within your own life, being mindful of your personal spiritual journey while moving forward. Andrea Scapinello, coordinator of JVC, will teach us discernment tools used to develop faith-based practices for making life affirming choices during the Advent season, and beyond. St. Peter's Parish Centre, 830 Bathurst St. Cost is \$15 (if cost is a concern please contact us). Snacks provided. Please register by Monday, November 30 by emailing [faithconnections@csj-to.ca](mailto:faithconnections@csj-to.ca) or by visiting [www.bit.ly/adventretreatreg](http://www.bit.ly/adventretreatreg)