

The Galilean ministry of Jesus has ended in rejection. In today's gospel reading Jesus begins to give his whole attention to preparing his disciples for the final rejection that awaits him in Jerusalem – a rejection God will transform into a victory over all evil in the Saviour's Paschal Mystery. The first reading, from the Book of Wisdom vividly anticipates what lies ahead for Jesus. In fact, it is describing the selfishness and foolishness good people have to contend with in every age. The existence of real and pervasive evil presents a challenge to Christian faith. The freedom and responsibility that are the hallmarks of our human dignity will often be abused and obstruct the purposes of God. How is God to make creation a final masterpiece, by turning all things to good in the end?

There is something truly prophetic in the reading from Wisdom, because it echoes the Songs in the Book of Isaiah concerning God's Servant: 'the punishment reconciling us fell on him, and we have been healed by his bruises' (Is 53.5). These Songs were quoted by Jesus in the synagogue in Nazareth (Lk 4.18-19). No doubt they were of great importance to him as his mission unfolded. God's designs have been patiently prepared. Evil is a problem for all of us: we have to contend with disruptive forces – within ourselves, in our dealings with others, in the wide world in which we live. Like the disciples Jesus is instructing, we are still learning how to cope. Those whom Jesus wants to be the bearers of the Good News of God's ways are still lost in their self-centred ambitions. It is a situation that is so typical of our human experience. It leads Jesus to give the disciples a lesson that is at once radical and simple: 'Anyone who wants to be first must become last of all and servant of all'. Perhaps we have here another echo of the Servant Songs that have been mentioned – Jesus himself will be our example in the living out of this truth. Great teacher that he is, Jesus goes on to give the disciples an object lesson – receive those who have nothing to give you in return, like this child I am embracing, he tells them, and you will be true disciples of mine and dear to my Father.

James' letter, as we have said, reflects the ideals of a Jewish community of Christian faith. Their spirituality has its roots in the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament and its call to live in harmony with God's ways. Today's reading shows how well these first Christians have learned the lesson Jesus was teaching the apostles on their way to Jerusalem. We are all challenged to look into our own lives as James names those things that belong to a world shaped by selfishness: 'jealousy and ambition', 'disharmony', 'battles between yourselves', unrealistic desires 'so that you fight to get your way by force'. It is all too familiar. How much more authentic and attractive is the alternative, shaped by God's ways – 'the wisdom that comes from above' – bringing 'peace', 'compassion' and generosity, fairness and straightforwardness. And James' characteristic practicality helps us to relate to this ideal as something within our reach: we must 'pray properly', not seeking through our prayer 'to indulge our own desires', but finding the joy that comes from identifying with the ways of God, after the example of Jesus.



The wisdom that is a gift from God makes for peace

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

**"Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."
This life is the ministry of a priest, sister, brother or deacon.**
If you feel God is calling you to one such vocation, call Fr. Chris Lemieux.
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Wisdom 2.12, 17-20 ~ James 3.16-4.3 ~ Mark 9.30-37

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – September 21 to 27

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Maria Quintela ✠ Emilia Amaro	The family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ David Bird	Coba Clancy
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Don Maxwell	Winnie & Jim Magee
Thursday, 9am	✠ Joe Stanley	Kathleen Stanley
Friday, 9am	✠ Msgr. Ken Robitaille	Coba Clancy
Saturday, 9am	✠ Cristina DeVargas	Cecilia DeVargas
5:15pm	✠ Thomas & Margaret Byrne	The Byrne family
Sunday, 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Jack Marchand	The family
11am	✠ Theresa & Joseph Cairns	The family
12:30pm	✠ Sr. Barbara Brent RJM	A friend of the family

Public Lecture by Robert Mickens September 29, 7pm

Robert Mickens is a Rome-based journalist who has been reporting and commenting on the Vatican and the Catholic Church for three decades. Make plans to attend his presentation entitled "The Future of Pope Francis' Pontificate – What the papal visit to Cuba and the USA might tell us about the Synod on the Family." Freewill offerings will be gratefully accepted.



Reconciliation, Communion, Confirmation – Registration Sundays

Parish staff will be available in the parish office to process registrations and collect fees after all Sunday Masses on the following dates:

- **First Reconciliation and First Communion – Sunday, September 27**
- **Confirmation – Sunday, October 4**

Life Chain Corner of Bloor & Islington, Sunday, October 4, 2-3pm

Join fellow parishioners in witnessing to the sanctity of life on behalf of the most vulnerable members of our society. **Let's make 2015 "the year everyone showed up!"**

- **What is Life Chain?** Life chain is a prayerful, peaceful, witness to the evil of abortion and to the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception.
- **Why is it Important?** Life Chain is for one hour, on one day of the year. It is a simple and powerful way to spread the Gospel message, to be a light to our nation, and to create a Culture of Life in Canada.

Music Notes – By Gordon Mansell, Music Director

I am pleased to introduce to our parish family Manuel Piazza, our newest member of the OLS music team. Manuel joins us as choir director and organist for the 12:30pm Senior Choir. He is a recent graduate of St. Michael's Choir School and has just entered the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto. While studying music as an undergrad and in particular choral direction and organ performance, his organ studies will be with John Tuttle, one of my former teachers. **Please join me in welcoming Manny to our parish!**

Additionally, if you are interested in singing in one of our five choirs, please contact me (Gordon Mansell) through the parish office. We'll have a chat to determine where you would be best suited. Each of our choirs needs singers so there will likely be a great fit for your talents.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." – Psalm 111

COMMUNITY

Post-Abortion Assistance – "Hope & healing after an abortion"

Have you had an abortion? Have you assisted someone in their decision to have an abortion? Second Chance Ministry is here to help. Call Fr. Vince Heffernan sfm, Second Chance Ministry, 416-261-7135, ext. 279 or co-founder Angelina Steenstra at (905) 430-7990 or visit us online at www.secondchanceministry.ca

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Come & See Weekend – Daughters of St. Paul in Toronto – October 2-5

Daughters of St. Paul Single women aged 18-35 are invited to experience the life, mission and spirituality of the Daughters of St. Paul. This vocation retreat weekend will include conferences, Eucharistic Adoration and a silent retreat day. Learn more at www.daughtersofstpaul.org or contact Sr. Helena Burns at hburns@paulinemediamedia.com or 416-781-9131, ext. 226.

Hearing the Whispers in My Heart: the Art of Discernment

Presented by a team of men and women religious and a married couple, this "day to reflect on making choices in life" takes place on Saturday, October 17, 9am-4:30pm at Loretto College, 70 Saint Mary St. (south of Bay/Bloor subway). Suggested donation is \$25 (breaks and lunch included). To register (by October 12) or for more information contact Sr. Dorothy Schweitzer at dcschweitzer@csj-to.ca



Do people of faith have a role to play in elections?

In Jeremiah 29.7, we are told to seek the welfare of the communities where God has placed us; in Luke 10.28, Jesus commands us to love our neighbours "as ourselves".

With these scriptures in mind we have several weeks to inject compassion and 'care for the other' into the election conversation and ultimately party platforms and the voting choices of our peers.

Here are a few things we can all do as we prepare to cast our votes in Federal Election Day, Monday, October 19:

- **Consider which issues are most important to you as a person of faith;** learn more about them, ask questions and discuss them. Raise the issues with candidates.
- **Pray for candidates and for voters** that we may all be guided not by self-interest, but by genuine caring for all God's people.
- **Engage in dialogue;** discuss the issues on your doorstep or street corners, on the phone or by letter or on social media.
- **Plan to attend an All-Candidates' meeting in your riding;** find out if all the candidates are willing to participate.

According to ECULINKS Etobicoke, an ecumenical social justice organization, we witness to our faith in a just and life-giving God by advocating for justice and peace. An election is a key opportunity to evaluate political issues through the lens of our faith, and help shape the leadership of our country by engaging in the political process.

25th Annual Mass of Memory – Sunday, Oct. 25, Music@3pm, Mass@3:30

Held in memory of the many victims of the Irish Famine of 1847 who died of typhus on arrival in Toronto, the many who gave their lives in service of the Irish in the summer of 1847 in Toronto and of all our departed family and friends who passed away in the last year in the Irish community, this special Mass takes place at St. Paul's Basilica, 83 Power St. Reception to follow. Proceeds to the basilica's Breakfast Club for children. The principal celebrant will be Fr. John Reddy, CSB and the homilist will be Fr. Patrick Fitzpatrick CSSp.