

Our readings from the Gospel of Mark make us aware of the way in which this gospel makes use of material concerning the life of Jesus – perhaps supplied in part by the apostle Peter. While he allows the events speak for themselves, Mark’s presentation points to implications he wishes to emphasise. Today’s reading concerns the healing of a deaf man with a speech impediment. While the healing and the wonder it provoked are described in detail, the fact that Jesus ‘ordered them to tell no one’ is again emphasised. Mark is maintaining a delicate balance: Jesus was truly a miraculous healer, but Mark wants those who hear the gospel to look beyond this fact to the nature of the mysterious mission Jesus has received from his Father, as the messiah who ‘must suffer’.

‘Be opened!’ These dramatic words of Jesus are the climax of the story. In Mark’s text, the Galilean mission of Jesus has ended with rejection by those of his ‘home town’. Mark begins his account of the cure by describing the strange route taken by Jesus – through pagan territories – probably pointing to the infant Church’s mission to the gentiles and the openness with which that mission to preach the gospel truth was received. We too are invited to reflect upon the importance of openness, and to acknowledge the many ways in which we can be more open to God’s call to the fullness of life. For Mark, life and joy will be found by those who become true disciples of the Crucified One, and so enter with him into his glory.

The second reading, from the Letter of James, brings this whole program down to earth. Let us be open and generous to those around us, and not imprisoned in our selfish outlooks, ‘making distinctions between classes of people’. The teaching of James does not remain an abstraction. Who is not moved to reflect upon assumptions taken for granted, when confronted by the simple example of the ‘beautifully dressed’ person and the poor person ‘in shabby clothes’? But for James this is more than a moral story; it is a story about discipleship – learning, in the company of Jesus, to identify with the ways of God: ‘those who are poor according to the world God chose to be rich in faith and to be heirs to the kingdom’.

The first reading from Isaiah – describing the liberating ways of God – comes from the final pages of the first part of the Isaian tradition. It is taken from a passage that proclaims the magnificent future God has in store for Israel. The confidence of the Prophet’s expectations is amazing – in the continuation of the passage, he foresees God’s people ‘shouting for joy, their heads crowned with joy unending’. We can rejoice, with James, that we know already the mysterious intimations of that future. We are challenged by the prophet’s confidence, to become a Church giving the vital witness our troubled world needs, if that world is to find hope by being ‘open’ to God’s future.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

Did not God choose those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom? Count your blessings, then come and help others count theirs too, as a priest, religious or deacon.

If you feel you have such a vocation, call Fr. Chris Lemieux.
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca



Ephphatha! Be opened!

PARISH

Readings ~ Isaiah 35:4-7 ~ James 2:1-5 ~ Mark 7:31-37

Mass Intentions This Week – September 7 to 13

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Joseph Malinowski	The family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ David Bird	Sonja deVerteuil & Rosemary Cronyn
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Lena Badali	The family
Thursday, 9am	... intentions of the Fernandez & Elbo families	Dorothy Elbo Fernandez
Friday, 9am	✠ Giuseppina Boschetti	Her daughter
Saturday, 9am	✠ Maria DeVittor	Alice Dean
5:15pm	✠ Andrew Brozina	The family
Sunday, 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Numeriano Chua	The family
11am	✠ Edyta Czartoryjska	The family
12:30pm	✠ Wladyslawa Maternicki	Katherine Maternicki

Weekly Drop-In Bridge Resumes! – Thursday, September 10, 1–3:30pm

Everyone is welcome to join us in our new location at 3067A Bloor Street West, 2nd floor (above the Running Room). No partners required. For more information, call Gail Weiler at 416-239-5337 or Rena Guerard at 416-236-0728.

Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows – Tuesday, September 15, 7:30pm

Plan to attend this special Mass! Coffee & Timbits will be served after Mass in the garden beside the parking lot. Treats are contingent upon the weather, as the parish hall is still under construction.

Blue Diamond Dinner Dance – Saturday, September 19, 7pm

Tickets are \$50 per person and include: a full course gourmet dinner catered by Chef John from Cirillo’s Culinary Academy; wine on the table; a silent auction with proceeds to ShareLife; a cash bar and dancing. Only 300 tickets will be sold. Donations to the Silent Auction welcomed! Please contact the parish office.



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.

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

Why not take this opportunity to pray the Holy Rosary every evening, at home with your family!

“If families give Our Lady fifteen minutes a day by reciting the Rosary, I assure them that their homes will become, by God’s grace, peaceful places.”

–Father Patrick Peyton

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!

Social Justice at Our Lady of Sorrows – Call for Volunteers

There’s an effort afoot to develop a social justice movement at OLS. Are you ready to lend your support? Email socialjustice@sorrows.ca and volunteer to help shape this effort!

MUSIC NOTES

By Gordon Mansell, Music Director, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish

Last month I returned to Europe for my second concert tour in Poland, performing evening organ concerts in architecturally stunning churches. Each concert seemed to be filled with very enthusiastic and knowledgeable organ concert-goers as evidenced by the long line-ups to purchase tickets. The first concert was in a church built in the first part of the 1300s and is now a Lutheran parish. The Baroque organ was built in 1736 with periodic restorative upgrades through the years and finally a new console a little more than 10 years ago. The sound of that very old instrument was stunningly beautiful, full and elegant. Remarkably, the feel and sound was quite similar to that of our own organ, Opus 2805. I was the first Canadian organist to perform in this festival and on this organ. The second concert was performed at the massive Oliwa Cathedral in Gdansk and in the 58th annual Oliwa Music Festival, one of Europe’s oldest and most respected organ festivals. The five-manual organ in Oliwa is slightly younger than the first organ I played and has had several expansions making it quite robust. The organ is also famous for its many moving carved figures and angels with trumpets and bells that actually make sounds, controlled by the organist. The final concert was in a Baltic resort town on a four-manual Von Beckerath masterpiece, one of the finest organs I have ever had the privilege of performing on. With capacity audiences for each concert, it was a great experience and an honour for me to once again perform solo concerts in Poland.

OLS music-making has been an integral part of spiritual and social life of the community. This summer also marked the retirement of a much loved music-maker amongst us. Daniel Kelly served in various leadership roles for over 43 years, most recently as Choir Director of the Senior Choir and organist for the 12:30 Mass. Highly respected by the choir, the community and his peers, Dan Kelly has devoted his church music career to OLS. We will miss him greatly, particularly his drive for excellence, his knowledge and his unique teaching skills. We wish him well in his retirement and look forward to providing him with a proper send-off once the basement is fit for use. We have initiated a search for his replacement and hope to have more on this in coming weeks.

The OLS choirs plus the touring choir MOSAIC have been preparing for our 75th Anniversary Concert scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, 7:30. We will perform with an orchestra several contemporary choral works including Karl Jenkins’ Te Deum.

Finally, if you are interested in joining any of our choirs, please do not hesitate to contact me through the office. I would be happy to chat with you and see where your talents might best be put to use.

Ecumenical Bible Study – Tuesday, September 15, 9:30–11:30am

The Fall session is about to begin at Islington United Church (25 Burnhamthorpe Rd., just north of Dundas St.) Sister Judith Kidd, I.B.V.M. who holds degrees in sacred theology from the Universities of Toronto and Windsor will continue to lead us through ‘The Women in the Bible’. All are welcome. For further information please call Helen Matich at 416-234-1770.

Canonization of Blessed Junipero Serra – September 23, 3pm

The Serra Club of Toronto West, which promotes, supports, and prays for religious vocations, invites you to share this historic moment for the Catholic Church. In the 18th century, Fr. Serra left a comfortable life in Spain to come to the New World and share his love of the Gospel. Witness his elevation to sainthood by Pope Francis, live from the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, D.C. Dinner follows. St. Dominic Church, 625 Atwater Ave., Mississauga. \$25 per person. Register before Sept. 15 by contacting David Bain at 905-451-8238 or djbain@rogers.com – Serra is the only lay organization to be aggregated to a Pontifical Work. Find out more about Fr. Junipero Serra and the good works of Serrans worldwide by visiting www.serrainternational.org



“Interdependence obliges us to think of one world with a common plan.” –Pope Francis from Laudato si’