

Advent means "Coming". During this season the liturgies encourage us – as we look forward to the Christmas celebration – to reflect upon the mystery of God's coming among us. It is a season of expectation, reminding us that we live in time.

The irresistible march of time has puzzled philosophers since ancient times. We shall learn a great deal about ourselves, if we get in touch with the moods that shape our lives – moods that almost invariably involve the passing of time: our hopes and fears, our yearnings and disappointments, our sense of achievement, the lessons life is teaching us. Our faith should help us to situate this pattern of our lives within the designs of God. Where the march of time is leading us has only become clear, of course, because God has made known to us why the world was created. If God had remained silent, time would seem like an ever-going nowhere. Since Old Testament times, however, God's people have been given a growing awareness of God's designs – through the divine gifts of faith and hope. A greater familiarity with the Scriptures – in this time of renewal – can give us a more lively awareness of the unfolding of God's generous plan, and of our place in that plan. An authentic faith is inseparable from a strong Christian hope – the certainty that God's generous and merciful designs will be fulfilled: in the whole of creation, and in the lives of each one of us.



Stay awake, because the Son of Man is coming

Today's readings remind us of this hope. The writings of the prophet Isaiah are filled with the message of hope. It is not surprising, therefore, that they will be used in the Advent liturgies of the coming Sundays. Today's reading speaks of the future God has in store for the whole human family – as the fulfilment of all our hopes. The nations of the earth will live in harmony – swords will be made into ploughshares and spears into sickles. The peoples of the whole world will come to share in the blessings of Israel, knowing the life-giving "ways of the Lord" and "walking in his paths". But the prophet reminds those of us – who, though we claim to be God's people, are often unfaithful to our calling – that we must play our part in God's great plan: "Let us walk in the light of the Lord".

The whole message of Paul's teaching is the Good News that the intervention of God that determines the whole course of the world's history has taken place in the life, death and triumphant resurrection of the Saviour – summed up in his words, 'You know "the time" has come'. And he gives us a vivid comparison: with the coming of Christ it is as if the darkest night has suddenly given way to the full light of day, revealing Christ as our life and our protector. In the gospel reading from Matthew, Jesus urges his disciples to situate themselves within the designs of God, because these designs are approaching their mysterious final climax. Christian hope, he teaches us, lives in constant readiness to welcome the Son of Man.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

The season of Advent calls us to anticipate the Master's return and live each day according to the teachings of Christ. Some are called to teach, preach and witness those teachings as priests and religious.

If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocations Director, Archdiocese of Toronto.
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Isaiah 2:1-5 ~ Romans 13:11-14 ~ Matthew 24:37-44

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – November 28–December 4

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Americo Amorin	the family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ members of Dubrovskis Family	
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Tipping Family	Margaret Tipping
Thursday, 9am	✠ Mario & Norina Bulfon	McCarron/Bulfon family
Friday, 9am	✠ members of the Goseco, Valencia & Feliciano families	Linda
Saturday, 9am	✠ Stella McDonald	Peter Hawn
5:15pm	✠ Laura Sadvari	the family
Sunday, 8am	✠ Peter & Margaret Teewiss	Coutinho family
9:30am	☪ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ☪	
11am	✠ Patricia Cronin	the family
12:30pm	✠ Wayne Dusk	the family

Advent Wreath Workshop TODAY

Our Children's Liturgy of the Word invites you to a family Advent Wreath workshop. Come join us on this afternoon, Sunday, November 27; drop in between 1:30pm-4:00pm, upstairs at the Running Room (Bloor St. entrance). Bring your children or grandchildren and join your parish family in learning more about this beautiful first season of the church year. Free-will offering welcome.

Reminders for Sacramental Preparations

Church Tour for First Communion Children – TODAY November 27, 2-3pm

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! Afterwards, come and join us for the Advent Wreath workshop, 2nd floor of the Running Room, 1:30pm – 4:00pm. Free-will offering welcome.

CONFIRMATION SESSION 1B (last name N - Z) meets TODAY, Sunday, November 27, 4-5:30pm or Wednesday, November 30, 7-8:30pm, Parish Hall. Parent are kindly asked to participate in the first 10 minutes of the session.

Next Weekend: Shared Christmas collection for those in need – Sunday, December 4, 2016

Our annual Christmas Gift for the Poor collection benefits the Canadian Food for Children and The Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Please make all cheques payable to Our Lady of Sorrows. Collection will be divided equally between the two charities. Your generous donation is greatly appreciated.

2017 Offertory Envelopes

The 2017 offertory envelopes will be mailed this week. Please call the parish office at 416 231 6016 or email luisa@sorrows.ca to update your information for any changes. For newcomers who would like to receive offertory envelopes, registration forms are available at the church office or on our website, www.sorrows.ca

2016-2017 SUNDAY MISSAL now available at the back of the church. Please place your \$3.00 payment in an envelope marked "Missal" in the offertory basket or drop it off at the church office.

Rosary – prayed daily at 8:30am prior the 9am Mass. The **Rosary Group** meets every Friday at 2pm, Parish Hall.

COMMUNITY

Children's Liturgy of the Word – This program is adapted for our young parishioners and takes place on Sunday at the 9:30am Mass. **Please note that this is for children 4-10 years of age.**

OUR LADY OF SORROWS ADVENT 2016 DAY OF CONFESSION – Sunday, December 10.

Mark your calendars! Find your way back to the sacrament of Reconciliation. Several priests will be available to hear confession in the church from 9:30am-5:00pm. Visit www.archtoronto.org/confession.

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 5. Tax receipts available.

Stretch & Flex – Join us! – Tuesdays, 6:15–7:30pm @Running Room, 2nd Floor

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

Lectio Divina – The Great Prayer of Repentance (Psalm 51)

Sunday, December 4, 2016, St. Michael's Cathedral.

We begin with vespers (evening prayer) at 7:00pm followed by Lectio Divina from 7:30pm-8:15pm. All are welcome. www.archtoronto.org

Taize Prayer

1. Wednesday, November 30, 2016 at 6:30pm, The Friary, 16 Laxton Avenue in Parkdale (Queen & Lansdowne) - The Presentation Brothers & The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement invite you to a Taize Prayer Session. Please bring a non-perishable item for the Missionaries of Charity. Call 416 537 0327 for more details.
2. Saturday, December 3, 2016, 7:30pm, St. Paul's Basilica, 83 Power St., Toronto - You are invited to a meditative scripture-based prayer and music in the Taize tradition. Join us in celebrating the Advent season through contemplative song, scripture and silence. All are welcome. Visit www.stpaulsbasilicaparish.com

Retreat

1. Preparing the Lord's Prayer – Saturday, December 3, 2016, 9:30am-2:30pm St. Augustine's Seminary of Toronto, Scarborough. For more information email ioft@sastoronto.org. Visit: www.staugustines.on.ca
2. Senior Men's High School Retreat – Saturday, December 3, 2016, 9am-5pm St. Joseph's Parish in Mississauga. For more information and to register email vocations@archtoronto.org.
3. Vocation Discernment Retreat – Friday, December 9, 2016, 7pm to Sunday, December 11 to 1pm. Interested? Email vocations@archtoronto.org

HE IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

Enrich your faith this Advent and Christmas with special programming throughout the season on EWTN. Attend Mass in Vatican City with Pope Francis, enjoy concerts from Europe and travel to the sacred sites of the Holy Land. Find EWTN in your area by visiting www.ewtn.com/channelfinder.