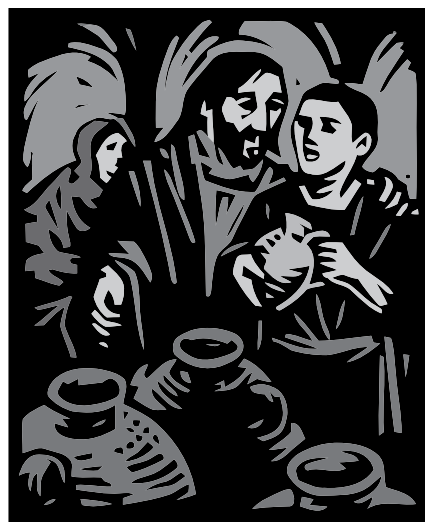


In today's liturgy - as we begin the cycle of the Sundays of the Year - the gospel reading from John tells the story of the 'first sign' worked by Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, in Cana in Galilee. With it we round off the celebration of the Lord's Epiphany, or 'manifestation'. The meditative tradition of the community that gave us this gospel has gathered together several 'signs' - miracles or works of Jesus - in which they have found a rich symbolism that nourishes their faith in the Eternal Son who came forth from the Father. As it concludes, this gospel is called a 'book of signs', put together so that the reader 'may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God', and believing this 'have life through him'. In this 'first' sign, it is solemnly announced, Jesus 'revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him'. We are given notice that we should find here far more than the moving story of a wedding celebration that was saved from disaster by a miracle worked by Jesus.



The first of the signs given by Jesus

There are few occasions in our human experience that bring the joy and celebration brought by a wedding. The presence of Jesus and his recently-called disciples has unmistakable overtones. In the gospel's next chapter, John the Baptist will describe himself as 'the bridegroom's friend', who must disappear before Christ, 'the bridegroom who has the bride'. We are reminded that the great prophets of Israel dared to call Yahweh, the God of the covenant, the devoted 'Husband' of the Chosen People; reminded also that Jesus referred to himself as 'the Bridegroom' (Mt 9:15). This theme is taken up in the first reading - like last week's taken from the later writings of the Isaian tradition. Now the forthright message of hope is given to an exiled community struggling to re-establish themselves after their return from Babylon: 'I will not grow weary until Zion's integrity shines out like the dawn'. Past infidelity will not be remembered, as the Lord bestows new names of endearment: 'As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you'.

These great promises will be realized, the gospel tells us, with the coming of the Saviour's 'hour'. In the seven days described beforehand, Jesus has called his first disciples. Now they must look forward to something that far surpasses the grandeur of the first Creation - called to mind by the reference to seven days. The abundant wine reminds us of the 'new wine' spoken of by Jesus: the new order of things that he was inaugurating through his Paschal Mystery. In contrast, the water jars of 'the Jews' - representing those who refuse to believe in Christ - are empty. The quantity of wine produced (120 gallons - far more than required for the occasion!) underlines the abundant generosity of what is to be hoped for. When she makes her request on behalf of God's simple people, Mary - the 'woman' who personifies the Church, the new Bride - is reminded that the generous realization of the hopes of Israel depends entirely upon the will of the Father. In response, she shows herself a model disciple, with words that are meant for all of us: 'Do whatever he tells you.'

John Chornhill sm
www.themaussseries.com

Pray to know how God wants to use your talents and abilities. Could it be He is calling you to consider priesthood or religious life?

Is God calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon? Call Fr. Chris Lemieux 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Isaiah 62:1-5 ~ 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 ~ John 2:1-12

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week — January 18 to 24

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ members of the Mahoney family	
Tuesday, 9am	✠ David Armstrong	The family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Barbara Zegarowicz	Natalie Swanek
Thursday, 9am	✠ members of the Grogan family	
Friday, 9am	✠ Susan Rudd	Greg & Lina Pimento
Saturday, 9am	✠ Joe & Angela Delcogliano	Nancy Wilker
	✠ Jon Fisher	Fr. Martin Pereira
5:15pm	✠ Margaret O'Neill	Mary Bennett
Sunday, 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Paul Gubasta	The family
11am	✠ Denis Roy	Fred Fulton & family
12:30pm	✠ Elvyra Vosylius	The Senior Choir

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

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

Offertory Envelopes — Delivered to Canada Post in Mid-December

If you have not yet received yours, please use any envelope clearly marked with your name and envelope number. If you have not received your envelopes by the beginning of February, please contact the parish office. **Thank you for your continued support!**

Confirmation Enrolment Weekend January 23/24

Candidates will be called upon to present their promise form & letter of intent to Fr. Nino after a special homily directed at parents & Confirmation candidates. Candidates & parents may attend any Mass this weekend including Sat., 5:15pm or Sun., 8, 9:30, 11am, or 12:30pm.

Stretch & Flex — \$10/session — Bring water & a yoga mat — Tues., 6:15—7:30pm

Takes place in the parish hall; moves to 2nd Floor of Running Room every 3rd Tues./month.

Rosary Mornings? Children's Liturgy? Your Patience is Appreciated!

The coming weeks will see the restart of a number of ongoing parish programs. Stay tuned to your parish bulletin for more. We'll let you know as soon as information becomes available.



Are You Ready To Serve Your Parish? Why Wait?

If you've thought about assuming an active role in the life of your parish, wait no longer! There are myriad opportunities available for parishioners of all ages. Why not contact the parish office today to discuss? **We'd love to hear from you!**

'Thank You' from Canadian Food for Children

The generosity of our parishioners for the December shared collection for the poor will allow CFFC to provide over 200,000 meals. We have shipped 329 containers to countries in need during 2015. The following items are welcomed year-round at our (1258 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga) warehouse: clothing, soap, tools, rope, plastic pails, school supplies, plastic mats, bags, seeds, candles, rice, cereal, flour, powdered eggs, biscuits, beans, pasta, soup mix, candy, medical supplies & pneumonia vests. Visit www.canadianfoodforchildren.net for more information. **Thank you so very much!**



"A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just." — Pope Francis

COMMUNITY

Taizé Prayer Service — Sunday, Jan. 17, 3pm, St. Paul's Basilica, 83 Power St.

St. Paul's Basilica Parish invites you to join in celebrating the Year of Mercy by having "an encounter with God's mercy in song, scripture and silence" through meditative scripture-based prayer & music in the Taizé tradition. Social & light refreshments to follow. RSVPs appreciated via email to stpaultaize@gmail.com

Hymn Sing — Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Sunday, Jan. 17, 7:30pm

Kingsway-Lambton United Church (85 The Kingsway) is hosting this special event and you are invited to attend! The theme is "Called to Proclaim the Mighty Acts of the Lord (1 Peter 2.9)". A freewill offering in support of Kingsway-Lambton's Special Music Fund will be taken-up. For those who'd like to sing with the Chancel Choir, your call is 6pm.

Palliative Care: The Family Story — Jan. 18 & Feb. 1, 5:30pm, 89 St. George St.

On Jan. 18, we'll watch *The Final Word* - a documentary on the final days of Dr. Larry Librach who said, "a good death means patients are involved in decision-making, supported by family and friends, and receive the best pain management." On Feb. 1, we will have a more in-depth discussion on life in a palliative care unit. Open to all working or studying in Health Sciences or Bioethics. RSVP to sonal@newmantoronto.com or call 416-979-2468, ext. 244.

Lectio Divina with Cardinal Thomas Collins — February 7 & March 6, 7pm

► February 7 — St. Clement's Parish, 409 Markland Drive
 ► March 6 — St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 263 Roncesvalles Avenue
 Lectio Divina ("divine", or "sacred reading") is the name given to a spiritual tradition among Christians over the last two thousand years. This form of prayer involves three distinct stages: a) reading a short scripture passage b) reflecting on the passage and c) a short period of silence. We begin with Vespers at 7pm, followed by Lectio Divina from 7:30—8:15pm. All are welcome to join in this special evening of prayer. During the extensive renovations at St. Michael's Cathedral, Lectio Divina will be traveling to parishes around the archdiocese. Visit www.archtoronto.org/lectio for more info and a complete list of dates and locations.



Archdiocese of Toronto

Serviam Ministries — Men's Conference March 19, 9am—5pm

Join Cardinal Collins, Matt Fradd & Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers for the Band of Christian Brothers Men's Conference at Canada Christian College in Toronto. The day will strengthen and challenge men to grow in faith and virtue while also addressing the struggles that men face. Special father/son rates are available. For more information and tickets, visit www.bandofchristianbrothers.com or email info@serviamministries.com or call 1-888-522-2070.

Bloordale United — Seminar on "Brain Health" — Thursday, March 31, 1-3pm

Kari Quinn-Humphrey and Joanne Tandoc from the Alzheimer Society of Toronto, will be the guest speakers. This free presentation is intended to better participants' understanding of the risk factors of dementia and to improve/maintain brain health. Topics will include: understanding some of the research findings on reducing the risk of developing Alzheimer's Disease; recognizing that lifestyle plays a role; applying strategies to reduce risk. 4258 Bloor Street West. Pre-registration is required. Call Nelsona at 416-620-4098. Visit www.bloordale.ca for more info.

13-Day Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome — June 13—25

"Jesus is the Pilgrimage" will be a wonderful journey. Beginning in Rome and continuing to the Holy Land to visit Jesus' birthplace; the River Jordan; Cana, the site of his first miracle, and much more. For more info please contact Henry at Gideon Travel Agency: 905-949-5533.