

Today's gospel reading begins with Luke's famous account of the care with which he has researched the traditions of the first Christian communities; it then omits the account of Christ's infancy, his baptism by John, and his forty days in the wilderness (which feature elsewhere in the year's liturgies); and it continues with a text describing the beginnings of Jesus' ministry, preaching the Kingdom of God in Galilee. Adopting the pattern established by Mark before him, Luke has the ministry in Galilee leading into the courageous journey of Jesus towards Jerusalem to meet his fate, as he prepares his disciples for what lies ahead.

The teaching of Jesus in the synagogue of Nazareth, concerning his fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies, and Luke's emphasis upon the traditions of the community, remind us that the world's great religious traditions venerate the writings and teachings that put them in touch with their past. A healthy community keeps alive the memory of what inspired its origins. The first reading from the chronicles of Nehemiah describes a moving moment in the reestablishment of the Jerusalem community, after return from the Exile. The common people, ignorant now of Israel's traditions, are overwhelmed with concern when Ezra, the scribe, reads and explains for them the long neglected Book of the Law. They are reassured, however, being told that the joy brought by renewed observance of old Israel's traditions will be their 'stronghold'. How much more grateful and responsive should we be, as today's renewal makes available to us the far superior treasures of the New Testament!

Luke tells his readers that the gospel he is introducing is a faithful expression of the faith that has been handed on in the community (a common theme of New Testament writers, see, 1 Cor 15:1-11 etc), handed on by 'those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word'; his investigations confirm as 'well founded' the teachings they are familiar with. Prior to the writing of the four gospels that have become the heart of the New Testament, the bulk of the material they were to use was circulating in the many small stories told of Jesus by those who were spreading the Good News. Our four gospels put that material together within the time line of a continuous story leading to the passion, death and resurrection of the Saviour. As they make use of this material, each of the four brings out themes that are dear to them and the communities they belong to. In his gospel, Luke – a well educated, gentile convert, conscious of the needs of his fellow converts – reveals himself as a warm hearted and sensitive interpreter of the faith, bringing out such themes as: the joy of believing, the blessings found in prayer, the central role of the Spirit in our Christian lives, the important place of women in the public life of Jesus, and the privileged place the poor of the world have in the designs of God.

The climax of today's gospel, of course, is the claim of Jesus that he brings 'fulfilment' to the splendid hopes of old Israel. The Christian Church is following the example of Jesus himself, as it treasures the traditions in which the faith of God's people has been expressed.

John Thornhill sm
www.themmasseries.com

You are the body of Christ; every one of you is a member of it. As a member of the body, we serve different roles. Are you willing to do your part?

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



This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen

Readings ~ Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 ~ 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 ~ Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – January 25 to 31

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Mirta Poce	KOTP House Committee
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Armando Bellisario	The family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Lynne Graham	Howie Moran
Thursday, 9am	✠ Rocco Alessio	Franca Ciacco
Friday, 9am	✠ Lynne Graham	Margie Uyeda
Saturday, 9am	✠ Stephen Rakoczy	The family
5:15pm	✠ Shelagh Donovan	The Byrne family
Sunday, 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Tommy Kerkos	
11am	✠ Yolanda Taylor	Madeleine Harris
12:30pm	✠ Vincent LaVecchia	The family

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

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

First Communion Catechetical Sessions – Sun. Jan. 31, 2pm or Wed. Feb. 3, 7pm

These one-hour info and instructional sessions are for parents only. Parish catechists will lead parents in a brief reflection on the theology of Eucharist; staff will be present to distribute the 'We Share in the Eucharist' book for parent-child preparation.

Children's Liturgy – Returns to the 9:30am Sunday Mass on February 7

Confirmation Catechetical Sessions – Sun. Feb. 7, 2-3pm or Thu. Feb. 11, 7-8pm

These sessions are for parents, sponsors and candidates. Parents and sponsors should gather in the parish hall, where catechists will lead a brief reflection on the theology of confirmation. In the church, Fr. Nino will lead a reflection and discussion with candidates. Further instructions for the April retreats & confirmation Masses will be provided at this time.

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

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

Pancake Tuesday Returns! Feb. 9, continuous buffet service from 5-7pm

The ShareLife committee will again be hosting this 'most palatable' event in the parish hall. Enjoy pancakes & sausage, along w/coffee, tea or orange juice... please pass the maple syrup!
Volunteers are needed from 3-8pm. Please contact the parish office if you can help.

Ash Wednesday – February 10 – Three Masses To Mark Beginning of Lent

Ashes will be distributed at the 9am Mass, the 1:15pm School Mass and at a special 7:30pm Mass.

'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!**



"I am a Jew, but I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene...No one can read the Gospels without feeling the actual presence of Jesus. His personality pulsates in every word." –Albert Einstein

COMMUNITY

Taizé Prayer with the Presentation Brothers – various dates

"Had you not the strength to keep awake with me for one hour?" (Lk 26.40)



The brothers are hosting their monthly Taizé Prayer session at the Friary (15 Laxton Ave. in Parkdale – Queen & Lansdowne) on Jan. 27, Feb. 24 and March 30 (all Wednesdays) at 6:30pm. Light refreshments will be served and you are invited to bring a non-perishable item for the Missionaries of Charity. Call (416) 537-0327 for info. Limited parking is available

Holy Name of Mary College School – Open House – Sat, Feb. 6, 10am-2pm

We invite you to visit us to find out more about our school. Talk to current students, faculty members, school administrators and parents and get a true sense of student life at HNMCS. For more info, visit www.hnmcs.ca or call Giselle Fernandes at 905-891-1890, ext. 103.

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

A Celebration of Marriage – Mass with Cardinal Collins – Feb. 13

The Archdiocese of Toronto will celebrate Marriage Sunday in our parishes the weekend of February 6/7. On Saturday, February 13 at 4:30pm, couples from across the archdiocese will gather for A Celebration of Marriage with Cardinal Collins at St. Andrew Kim Parish (849 Don Mills Rd., North York). A reception will follow. All are welcome! Couples celebrating special milestone anniversaries – 25th, 40th or 50+ anytime in 2016 are asked to RSVP online at www.archtoronto.org/marriage by February 1 to ensure reserved seating. Call (416) 964-8694 or visit the website above for more information.

'Come and See' Weekend – St. Augustine's Seminary – Feb. 26-28



"The Love of Christ urges us on" to radically respond to His call to follow Him whole-heartily. Jesus is inviting you to spend time with Him so that you may discover His desire for you. This will be an opportunity for young men, 18 years and older, to spend a weekend with time for prayer, reflection and information on the process of becoming one of Christ's disciples through the Catholic priesthood. Interested young men should contact Fr. Nino for info.

'From Desert to Dessert' – Lenten Mini-Retreat – March 5, 10am

It has been said that our ability to experience joy depends on our ability to experience suffering. In Lent we reflect more on the passion of Christ, and join our sufferings with his. When Easter arrives we put on our robes of joy. We sing: "Alleluia, He is Risen. He is Risen indeed." This reflection and discussion on Biblical narratives will help participants to make the most of "desert" time, in order to better experience the joy that is ours as Easter people. St. Ambrose Parish (782 Browns Line, Etobicoke) is invites you to share in this day, facilitated by Laurie van den Hurk, Office of Formation for Discipleship. To register, contact Brenda Voisin at (416) 934-3400, ext. 523 or visit www.archtoronto.org/discipleship