

The teaching of Jesus in today's gospel, in response to the plea of the apostles, has an important lesson for all Christians. It would be unfortunate if the comparisons he uses - very strange to our ears - got in the way, as we listen to him. Black and white affirmations and vivid images were taken for granted by the cultural tradition in which Jesus shared. Perhaps he was near a mulberry tree as he spoke. That a mulberry bush, a fair sized tree with an extensive root system familiar to his audience, should suddenly be re-established in the sea, was clearly an impossibility in the world of ordinary experience.

But the point Jesus is making is that those who have 'faith' will know things that are impossible, except to God.

The notion of faith with which we are most familiar - knowing, through the authority of God, truths that would otherwise be beyond our grasp - is sound as far as it goes, but incomplete when compared with what the scriptures tell us about God's gift of faith. The 'faith' that Jesus constantly referred to in the gospels was an openness to the coming of God in the miraculous signs he worked. God has been revealed, as the Scriptures constantly remind us, in the 'great things' God has done. The eternal Son was sent by the Father to bring about the final achievement of all. He 'must suffer' and 'rise again' he tells his companions as they press forward to Jerusalem; he looks forward to his 'hour', John's gospel tells us. Though the mission of Jesus meets with resistance, and his followers are told they must expect the same, 'faith' will be their strength - the openness that recognizes - owns, finds new life in - what God has done for the world in the Saviour's Paschal Mystery.

Now the link with the other comparison recalled by Luke in this passage becomes clear. This comparison leaves us uncomfortable, because it refers to the relationship between master and slave that was taken for granted in the world that produced the gospels. Jesus is not approving this system, but he draws a comparison with it to bring out the nature of the relationship with the Lord that the disciple who lives by faith should have. Like the apostles, we are all sent out - given a share in the Saviour's own mission and what God achieves through him. We are reminded, however, that we are no more than God's instruments - whatever has lasting worth for the final kingdom is all God's work. This applies to us all; but it has an obvious importance for those who are called to serve within the Christian community. In the reading from the letter to Timothy, those who have such roles are told, therefore, to 'rely on the power of God' and 'the help of the Holy Spirit'.

The final words of Habakkuk, 'the upright man will live by his faithfulness', had great influence in Christian thought. Paul linked his fundamental principle, 'we are justified by faith', with this text - in his dispute with those who wanted to impose on all the observance of the old Law. Clearly, Paul's principle expresses the mind of Jesus - faith is God's gift, through which we own the new life brought to the world by the Saviour.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

"Increase our faith." Listen for the voice of God.

If God is calling you to a consecrated life in His church, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux.
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca



Lord, increase our faith

Readings ~ Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4 ~ 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14 ~ Luke 17:5-10

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – October 3–9

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Stefania Kazanowski	Mary Ryczko & family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Doris Vogtle	Nicki Law
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Jeanne Narozenski	The family
Thursday, 9am	✠ Rose & Edward Flanagan	The Flanagan/Pool family
Friday, 9am	✠ members of the Goseco, Valencia & Feliciano families	Linda
Saturday, 9am	✠ Jennie Chyz	Rita Boksa
5:15pm	✠ Debby McDonald	Theresa Byrne
Sunday, 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Isilda Goncalves	The family
11am	✠ Sam Arrigo	Mom & brother
12:30pm	✠ Juan Meyer	Sylvia & Emilio Cocq-Giraud

Sacrament of Confirmation – Registration Weekend – October 1/2

BRING YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE Volunteers will be available in the parish hall to process registrations & collect fees after the Saturday, 5:15pm and Sunday Masses.

Life Chain – Corner of Bloor & Islington – Sunday, October 2, 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 2016 "the year everyone showed up again!"**

► **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.**



COMING SOON Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive – Weekend of Oct. 8/9



GOOD SHEPHERD MINISTRIES

Your generous donation of non-perishable food items, including canned meat, fish, fruits, vegetables, soups/stews, peanut butter, ground/instant coffee, tea, breakfast cereals, pasta/sauce, cookies, crackers, jam, sugar, and/or rice will be gratefully received before Mass. **Let's continue the tradition of helping those in need!**

Celebrating Christ in Our Midst – Our Lady of Sorrows Ministry Retreat Day

Saturday, October 15 – with facilitators Jim Dunn and Catherine Ecker

- 9am – Parish Mass • 9:55am – Session 1: Celebrating and Living Sunday**
- 11:30am – Session 2: Living as Disciples – The Hands and Feet of Christ**
- 12:45pm – Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing followed by lunch**

This event is for those serving in ministry at Our Lady of Sorrows and anyone who would like to join a ministry. To register, please email the parish office at olosorrows@bellnet.ca or call 416-231-6016. **Registration deadline is Friday, October 7.**

Rosary Group – stay & pray daily, after 9am Mass + Fridays, 2pm, Parish Hall

Five decades daily, fifteen decades on Fridays followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.



Weekly Drop-in Bridge Thursdays, 1–3:30pm, Parish Hall meeting room

Partners are not required. Please contact Gail Weiler at 416-239-5337 or Rena Guerard at 416-236-0728 for further information.



Children's Liturgy of the Word – We're back!

This program for young parishioners (4–10 years of age) takes place on Sundays at the 9:30am Mass. **All are welcome!**

COMING SOON It's almost time to 'Bundle Up' for St. Vincent de Paul!

On the weekend of **October 29/30**, volunteers will assist with the collection & loading of securely tied or sealed bags or boxes of gently used items (think: shoes, clothing, coats, bedding, draperies). Larger items (i.e. furniture & appliances), computer hardware and toys **cannot** be accepted.



Lectio Divina 2016/17 – Vespers, 7pm – Lectio Divina, 7:30–8:15pm

BEGINS THIS WEEKEND One Sunday evening each month, all are welcome to join Cardinal Collins for Lectio Divina at St. Michael's Cathedral. The theme for this season is "The Freedom of the Kingdom of God." This year, we will meditate upon nine passages of Scripture that illuminate the slavery we experience in our struggle with sin and show the way to freedom. The first evening is Sunday, October 2. For a full list of dates, visit www.archtoronto.org/lectio – each gathering is archived at this website. Episodes also air on Salt + Light TV.



St. Mary of Egypt Refuge: Project Rachel Retreat – October 28–30

Are you longing for mercy from the One who brings peace & healing? We can help. This weekend retreat is for women whose hearts have been broken by abortion. Private & confidential. Call 416-629-8264 or email projectrachel@stmarysrefuge.org

Lay Spiritual Formation Workshop – Oct. 8, 9:30am–2:30pm

The Institute of Theology at St. Augustine's Seminary (2661 Kingston Rd.) is hosting their first workshop of 2016/17. **"Helping Families Through End-of-Life Issues: What Catholics Need to Know"** will be led by Fr. Kevin Belgrave. More info is available at www.staugustines.on.ca



Introducing Merrymakers a dynamic afternoon program for kids aged 3–5

Mary, Mother of God School is now registering children for 2½ hours of enriched programming on Monday & Thursday afternoons from 1–3:30pm. Join us for songs, stories, poems, nursery rhymes, instruments, games, classical music, mime, drama, and lots of play. For more information, call 416-531-7897. **Come and make merry with us!**

"I'm Still Here" – powerful 50-minute drama – October 29, 1–2:30pm

St. James United Church, 400 Burnhamthorpe Rd., presents this play illuminating the realities of living with dementia & Alzheimer's. It is meant to foster meaningful interaction and reduce suffering due to misunderstanding & stigma. Tickets are \$15. Call 416-626-0926.

Planning to be a Catholic Teacher? Information you need to know!

It is critical for you to know that to be hired to teach in any Catholic school board in Ontario, as part of your application for employment there must be a letter of reference from your pastor. If you (or if your adult child) is planning to apply to teach in a Catholic school, it is **highly recommended** you contact the pastor before Thanksgiving. Please plan to have a conversation with Fr. Nino early in the process and you will avoid disappointment and stress at the time when applications are to be submitted.