

Today's gospel reading from Matthew comes from a collection of Jesus' teachings applicable to life within the community of the Church, as it awaits the coming of the final Kingdom. In the passages that precede this one, Jesus has warned against arrogance on the part of those called to be leaders: 'the one who makes himself as little as this child is the greatest'; he has pronounced a terrible judgment on those who lead astray 'these little ones who have faith'. Matthew also includes here the parable of the lost sheep, as indicating the generous zeal that should be shown by leaders in the community. This reference to those who have gone astray leads into today's reading. It describes the manner in which these people are to be dealt with within the Church community. Clearly, the community Matthew is writing for has developed procedures to be followed in such cases, and they see themselves as acting in accordance with the Lord's own mind. When we recall the authoritative spirit that was taken for granted by those with leadership roles in the ancient world, we recognise how the listening and dialogue of these procedures reflect the fraternal love that was taught by Jesus - and recalled by Paul in our second reading.



Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them

In these procedures, we see the origins of the sacrament of reconciliation that is an essential part of the life of the Church during its time of pilgrimage. It was not a question of some private offence committed against the one who admonishes the wrongdoer. In referring to the need for 'two or three witnesses to sustain the charge', this procedure echoes the community's Jewish background, citing a prescription of the Old Testament (Deut 19:15), thus making it clear that it is a question of serious and public faults. When these procedures, calling the wrongdoer to conversion, have failed, this person is to be 'excommunicated' - excluded from the community. We know from comments of St Paul concerning such cases, that this exclusion aimed to help the wrongdoer find forgiveness: 'Do not treat them as enemies, but warn them as believers', Paul writes (2 Thess 3; cf. 1 Cor 5). Being welcomed back to share in the life of the community - especially the Eucharist - was the sacramental sign of reconciliation with God. Note that Matthew follows these procedural instructions with a second reference, in his gospel, to the power to 'bind and loose' in God's name. This time it is given to the Church community, acting through the ministry of those who carry on the leadership role of the apostles. As we said, the sacramental sign of reconciliation with the Lord is being received back into the Church community.

'The Son of Man has power to forgive sins', Jesus declared (Mk 2:10). The reconciliation available in the life of the Church is the reconciliation he brings to the world. The words with which our reading ends, though brief, have immense importance for us, as we seek to understand and enter more fully into the mystery of the Church's common life. You come together 'in my name', Jesus tells us. In the biblical tradition, these words have a great depth of meaning: they imply our identification with the Lord through our baptism, and to the fact that he continues to be present in the world of our time through our coming together as his Church and celebrating the Church's common life. They also remind us of the Saviour's presence in the public prayer of the Church, uniting our prayers with his, as he intercedes for the world before the Father.

John Thornhill sm  
www.theemmausseries.com

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The community that gathers needs leadership; consider the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life.

Contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocations Director, Archdiocese of Toronto.  
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Ezekiel 33:7-9 ~ Romans 13:8-10 ~ Matthew 18:15-20

PARISH

**Mass Intentions This Week — September 11 to 17**

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Desmond McCann	Christine McCann & family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Lidio Iacobelli	Jimmy & Winnie Magee
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Edyta Czaratoryjska	friend
Thursday, 9am	✠ Robert LeFave	Jimmy & Winnie Magee
Friday, 9am	<b>Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows</b>	
Saturday, 9am	✠ members of Mahoney family	
5:15pm	✠ Mary & Frank Ferkul	Ann Pohole
Sunday, 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Numeriano Chua	family
11am	✠ Marco Michele	Gianna Michele Ponzo
12:30pm	✠ Alfredo Ventura	Gloria Ventura

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** — This program for young parishioners (4-10 years of age) takes place on Sundays at the 9:30am Mass. Please note that access to the hall is through the west glassed in stairwell or the basement northeast Cliveden stairwell.

➔ **Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows**—additional Mass on Friday, Sept. 15 at 7:30pm followed by light refreshments in the parish hall. There will also be a Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows school at 1:15pm.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR 2017/2018 (Sept. 23/24)**

**First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation — Registration Weekend PLEASE BRING YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE.** Volunteers will be available in the parish hall to process registrations and collect fees on Saturday, September 23 after the 5:15pm Mass and on Sunday, September 24 after all the Masses.

**General Notes:** The Sacraments of Initiation are significant milestones in the faith journey of our young parishioners. The Archdiocese notes that preparation for initiation is the shared responsibility of parents, the local Catholic school and the parish community. To be eligible to receive a sacrament at OLS, participants and their families must fulfill 3 conditions:

- They must be registered as parishioners of OLS (NB: registration at OLS School or family history of sacraments received at OLS do NOT constitute parish registration);
- They must regularly attend Sunday Mass;
- Parents & children must participate in the relevant aspects of the program.
- Those not attending a Catholic school must attend the 7 year Monday night Religious Education program.

If your family does not regularly attend Sunday Mass at OLS and/or is not officially registered with a parish, you are welcome to register with a parish at this time and begin attending regularly. All other families should, at their earliest convenience, contact the parish nearest their home or the parish they regularly attend, for information on sacramental preparation.

**OLS PARKING LOT POLICY** - We would like to remind everyone of the Parking Lot Policy here at Our Lady of Sorrows which is now being strictly enforced.

- The OLS Church parking lot is private property and is intended for the use of registered parishioners and/or those attending Mass or a parish function. Anyone else using the parking lot for any other reason will be asked to leave at the discretion of the parish office.
- Unauthorized VEHICLES** in the Church parking lot will be TAGGED/TOWED at owners' expense.
- Unauthorized VISITORS** using the parking lot will be asked to remove themselves and/or their car from the lot.
- LOITERING** in the church parking lot and on church grounds is strictly prohibited and those refusing to leave will be reported to the police.
- ILLEGAL PARKING** within the lot which blocks other cars will not be tolerated. Those parking in aisles or blocking the entrance or exit to the lot may be towed. This is a safety issue.

COMMUNITY

**Phase II Renovation** is underway. The entire Cliveden south stairwell is closed during construction. Basement washrooms can be accessed through Cliveden North exterior staircase and through the glassed in stairwell on the west side of the church.

**Hearing Assist Headsets** — Parishioners who have trouble hearing at Mass are welcome to request a Hearing Assistance device from the ushers when they enter the church. They are available on a 'first come-first served' basis. The headsets pick up the feed directly from our sound system and can be used with or without hearing aids.

**Weekly Drop-in Bridge** - Join us in the Parish Hall meeting room on Thursdays from 1-3:30pm. Partners are not required. Please contact Gail Weiler (416) 239-5337 or Rena Guerard (416)236-0728 for further information.

**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, are planning to apply to teach in a Catholic School, it is **highly recommended** that you contact Fr. Nino this month. Plan to have a conversation with your pastor early in the process and you will avoid disappointment and stress at a time when applications are to be submitted.

**Special Collection — Needs of Canadian Church / September 24**  
The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) is involved in national and international areas of pastoral activity, including social justice, ecumenical and interfaith relations, collaboration with Aboriginal Peoples, life and family issues, liturgy, catechesis, doctrine and relations with Catholic associations and movements. Each year the CCCB is asked to speak out, give leadership, or provide guidelines for the faithful on a wide variety of topics. In order for our bishops to make proper judgments on modern topics, they must have the benefit of research, expert advice and capable administration which is also funded by this collection. In addition to contributions, we are also asked to pray for the work of the bishops and to participate in and cooperate with the various projects of the CCCB.

**Rosary** prayed daily prior to the 9am Mass. You are also welcome at 2pm on Fridays in the Parish Hall.

**Lectio Divina 2017/2018: Holy Wisdom**  
Lectio Divina ("divine, or sacred, reading") is the name given to a spiritual tradition among Christians over the last two thousand years, in which *they attentively and prayerfully read the word of God*. Join Cardinal Collins as he reflects on the theme of "Holy Wisdom."

Life is difficult, and we often make mistakes. We seek to understand how to make good decisions, and how to live in a healthy relationship with God, our neighbours, and ourselves. We need all the help we can get as we navigate through life, and that can come from friends, and from wise reflection upon experience. The wisdom tradition of the Bible is a treasure, divinely inspired and humanly insightful, that can guide us on our way.

**Resumes tonight, September 10, St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. Vespers (Evening Prayer) at 7 p.m., followed by Lectio Divina from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.** All are welcome. Visit [www.archtoronto.org/lectio](http://www.archtoronto.org/lectio) for more information, including the full schedule for 2017-2018.

**PRAYERS FOR PEACE: Ecumenical Prayer Service Sunday, September 10 at 3pm, St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica**  
Cardinal Thomas Collins will host an ecumenical prayer service to remember victims of violence, terror and persecution around the world, especially our Christian brothers and sisters in Egypt and throughout the Middle East. All are welcome. "Violence will not win over violence. Violence is won over by peace!" - Pope Francis

**Archdiocese of Toronto 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary—Western Pastoral Region Celebration Tuesday, September 12, 2017, 7 p.m. — Merciful Redeemer Parish (Mississauga)**  
As we celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Toronto, Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, extends an invitation for all to join him for Mass and a reception to commemorate this historic milestone. For more information, visit [www.archtoronto.org/175](http://www.archtoronto.org/175)