

Good leadership is essential, if human associations are to achieve their goals. God's ultimate designs for the human family are carried forward by the human communities called to be God's collaborators – first, the people of old Israel, and now the Church, the New Israel. The readings of today's liturgy remind us that many problems in the history of God's people have been caused by flawed leadership. The corrupt rule of the kings of old Israel and their disregard of God's covenant are notorious in Old Testament history. In our first reading, the 5th century B.C. prophet, Malachi reproaches the priests of the temple for the scandal they are giving the people – showing partiality; offering 'stolen, lame and diseased animals' in sacrifice (Malachi, 1:13). The conflict that will lead to the rejection and execution of Jesus is provoked by leaders who are blind to the truth he brings. Paul's concern to leave an example of selfless leadership in his ministry to the Thessalonians was motivated by his knowledge that the Church would suffer if its leaders did not exercise a leadership that was inspired by the Saviour's example.

Today's gospel reading tells us how the community for whom Matthew wrote recalled the Saviour's teaching concerning leadership of God's people. The leadership Jesus criticised was the outcome of a complex development. There was no single authority that interpreted the faith of old Israel. The Law of Moses, the 'torah', was handed down in the biblical traditions as the expression of God's authority. The priests of the temple were the traditional custodians of the rituals that gave expression to the people's covenant obligations. The teaching of the prophets was a spontaneous expression of guidance, like a conscience of the nation. The scribes were students of the Law who interpreted its contents. The Pharisees formed a popular movement, seeking to revive the nation's religious practice. Jesus acknowledged that it is these various groups who 'occupy the chair of Moses' – if the Law is to be interpreted faithfully, it is only these various authorities who can provide this interpretation. He criticised them, however, because they 'do not practice what they preach'. His criticism echoed the age-old teaching of the prophet. If they had the true spirit of the covenant (that should have been the very soul of Israel's faith) they would not interpret what the covenant required of God's people in a way that made it next to impossible for the common people to give faithful observance. Though they should have helped the nation to be one family under their 'one Father in heaven', they interpreted the Law in such a way that their elaborate observance gave them an elite status - which they celebrated by wearing the trappings of self-importance and seeing themselves as deserving of the admiration of the common people they despised.

In the stern words of Jesus we have another example of a peculiarity of the Aramaic idiom that is puzzling to our ears – its lack of a manner of expressing a qualified negative. Clearly, Jesus is not denying the role of 'fathers' and 'teachers' in our human life. He is condemning the elitist pretensions currently being associated with such terms by the scribes and the Pharisees. Heeding the teaching of Christ, God's people will recognise their fundamental equality before their common Father. Those called to positions of leadership among them will make themselves 'the last of all and the servants of all' (Mk 9:35); and all those who claim to be committed followers of the Lord must be on their guard against the spirit of self-importance that can be so damaging to the life of the Christian community.



You have only one teacher, the Christ

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

"The greatest among you will be your servant."

Can I respond to God as a priest, deacon, brother or sister?

If God is calling you, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Archdiocesan Vocations Director, 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Malachi 1:14-2:2, 8-10 ~ 1 Thessalonians 2: 7-8, 13 ~ Matthew 23:1-12

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – November 6 to November 12

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Hugh Kunkel	family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ members of Pizon/Szczuka family	family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Joseph Mario Clermont	Dan Kelly
Thursday, 9am	✠ members of Mahoney family	
Friday, 9am	... of Alfonso Del Valle	family
Saturday, 9am	✠ Odette & Noel Sakr	Cynthia & Tony Ashkar
5:15pm	✠ John & Margaret Reilly	Christine McCann & family
Sunday, 8am	✠ Lena Badali	family
9:30am	✠ Andrew Bozina	family
11am	✠ Christine Manning	Berringer family
12:30pm	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	

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.

November: Month of Remembrance

The month of November is dedicated to commemorating our loved ones who have died in the Lord. The shrine of St. Joseph will be suitably decorated and The Book of the Dead will be available to receive the names of our dearly departed. All Souls' Day envelopes are available.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2017/2018

First Reconciliation Catechetical Session - (Choose one date from the following) Sunday, Nov. 12 (2:30pm-3:15pm) OR Monday, Nov. 13 (6:30pm-7:15pm), Parish Hall

Confirmation Session #1 for Group B (Last Name N-Z)

Sunday, Nov. 12, 3:45pm-5pm OR Wednesday, Nov. 15, 6:45pm-8pm, Parish Hall Parents are asked to participate in the first 10 minutes of the meeting.

Offertory Envelopes – We are in the process of preparing the 2018 offertory envelopes for mailing. Please call the office at 416 231 6016 or email luisa@sorrows.ca to update your information for any changes or if you do not have assigned envelopes but wish to begin using them.

Phase II Renovation -The entire Cliveden south stairwell as well as the north exterior basement stairwell are closed during construction. Basement hall and washrooms can be accessed through the glassed-in stairwell on the west side of the church.

While access is limited, please contact the parish office if you wish to receive Communion at home.

Shepherds' Trust – Special Collection Nov. 18/19

The mission of The Shepherds' Trust is to help raise awareness and funds so that elderly and disabled priests are provided with sufficient financial resources to lead a dignified life after many years of ministry. The fund supports the needs of retired clergy in the Archdiocese of Toronto who have served for many years. By supporting The Shepherds' Trust, retired priests are given the dignity of adequate pensions, health care and other assistance in their golden years. For more information about The Shepherds' Trust please go to: www.shepherdstrust.org.



COMMUNITY

Living with Christ/Sunday Missal—For those of you who would like a personal copy of Living with Christ monthly or Sunday Missal, you can place your orders through <http://www.livingwithchrist.ca/index.php/subscriptions>. You can email living@novalis.ca or call 1 800 387 7164.

Lectio Divina : Practical Advice for Daily Life (Sirach 5:1-6:14)

TONIGHT, November 5 - St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica Vespers (evening prayer) begin at 7pm followed by Lectio Divina from 7:30pm-8:15pm. All are welcome! Visit www.archtoronto.org/lectio.

Invitation from the Knights of Columbus – Nov. 4/5

If you're 19 or older and wishing to find out more information about the Knights of Columbus we invite you to see any of our members at the back of the church.

Christmas Card Sale – Weekend of Nov. 18/19

On the weekend of Nov. 18 & 19, before and after all Masses, Msgr. Joe will be selling his photo Christmas cards with a Christian Christmas message in each card. They will be in packs of 6 for \$5.00 and 12 for \$10.00. Msgr. Joe himself took all the photos on the cards. Many will have the Christmas pictures of this parish last Christmas. He will be selling them for one weekend only.

Out of the Cold Concert – Saturday, Nov. 25, 12:30pm & 3:00pm, All Saints Kingsway

The OOTC concerts sponsored by the Kingsway Business Improvement Area is scheduled on Saturday, November 25, 12:30 - 2:00 and 3:00 - 4:30 at the Anglican Church of All Saints Kingsway. The concert features the senior choir of Our Lady of Sorrows, All Saints Kingsway and members of the Royal York United and Lambton Kingsway United Choirs with the Salvation Army Etobicoke Citadel Silver Band. Once again, our special guest narrator will be Michael Kramer from the New Classical 96.3 reading for us a Christmas story. All proceeds go to sustain the Out of the Cold program administered by All Saints Kingsway.

Family Advent Event - Our Children's Liturgy of the Word invites you to a Family Advent Event on Sunday, November 26, 10:30am-1:00pm in the parish hall. 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.

Let us know if you can join us. Email Jennifer at jennifer.wolfs@rogers.com or luisa@sorrows.ca by Thursday November 23.

Magic & Wonder' - Benefit Concert for Hope for Children Fund, Catholic Children's Aid Society, Sunday, November 5 – 2 p.m., St. Paul's Basilica

Join us for an afternoon of Magic & Wonder, a benefit concert in support of the Hope for Children Fund. For information call Henry Tang at 416 464 8215 or email HenryTang@TangInc.com Visit <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/hfc-tickets-37316221824> (donations and tickets).

Free Public Lecture: "Conscience and conscientious objection for nurses and other healthcare professionals: Advancing a way forward for education and practice"

Tuesday, Nov. 14 at Carr Hall, 100 St. Joseph St., University of Toronto.

Presented by The deVeber Institute for Bioethics and Social Research. Guest speaker is Dr. Christina Lamb, RN, PhD. Doors open at 7:00pm. Light refreshments will be served. Lecture starts at 7:30pm. Call 416 256 0555 for more information or email bioethics@deveber.org to reserve your seats.

A Singspiration Service! – Sunday, Nov. 19 at 7pm, Islington United Church

Please bring your friends to this fun evening of singing and praise for everyone! It features 80 male voice a cappella gospel chorus and is presented by Tri-City Gospel Chorus and the 4Heavens Sake Gospel Quartet. No tickets required. Free will offering will be taken to support work and worship in the community. Call 416 239 1131 for more information.