

What does the Church celebrate on Ascension Day? We are being invited to have faith in an important aspect of the Risen Lord's Paschal Mystery. The Saviour was present to his chosen disciples after the Resurrection, laying the foundations of the Church's faith. That extraordinary presence was of limited duration, and soon gave way to another manner of presence - as the Saviour guides the Church through the blessings of his own Spirit. Today's liturgy gathers three passages of the New Testament that give expression to the faith of the first Christians in this phase of the Paschal Mystery.

The concluding passage of Matthew's gospel is deceptive in its brevity. It is in fact a masterly summary of the teaching of the whole gospel - as the Risen Lord himself sends his disciples on a mission with words of encouragement. He gives expression to the fullness of the divine authority that 'has been given to Him' by the Father. He sends them on a mission that is universal: 'Make disciples of all the nations'. They are to teach them to 'observe all his commandments' - the New Law of his Sermon on the Mount. They are to carry out their mission by preaching the Good News and by baptising 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'. And, as he echoes the words of the covenant that was the foundation of Israel's faith - 'I am with you' - he assures them that he is truly Emmanuel.



Know that I am with you always

Luke's account, in the opening passage of the Acts of the Apostles, is the work of a skilful teacher - concerned to help his readers understand the mystery of the Lord's new manner of presence. Luke alone in the New Testament speaks of the Lord's dealing with his disciples as lasting 'forty days' - a round number frequently used in the scriptures; though it may be linked with the fifty days between Passover and the Pentecost celebration of old Israel. It is made clear that this period is a time of preparation and anticipation - the disciples can look forward to 'what the Father promised'; not many days hence they 'will be baptised with the Holy Spirit'. Luke's account is centred in Jerusalem. (In fact he has omitted any reference to the disciples' withdrawal in discouragement to Galilee.) Though the divine plan that shaped the Old Testament is being fulfilled, a new era is beginning - shaped, not by false messianic hopes of the restoration of the kingdom of Israel, but by the Father's mysterious authority. It is the era of the Church's earthly pilgrimage. The Acts of the Apostles (like a second volume of Luke's gospel) will present the Church as carrying out its mission through the blessings of the Holy Spirit - 'You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth'. Luke, the careful teacher, sketches a graphic word picture for his readers: the Lord is 'lifted up', and a 'cloud' (Old Testament sign of God's presence) takes him from their sight. Perhaps the mystery of the Saviour's heavenly exaltation (see the early hymn of Philippians 2) has given rise to this kind of description in some circles. But Luke subtly modifies the crudeness of such a presentation. The two heavenly messengers make it clear that what is taking place is not an event of this world. Their advice to the disciples is not to stare into the sky, but to give themselves to the Church's earthly mission until the Lord returns.

The reading from Ephesians is an eloquent testimony to the way in which the Church understood this mission, carried out under the authority of the Risen Christ, who has made Himself 'the head of the Church which is his body'.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

Jesus said, "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

If you are discerning God's call for the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Archdiocesan Vocations Director. 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Acts 1.1-11 ~ Ephesians 1.17-23 ~ Matthew 28.16-20

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week — May 29 to June 4

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Domenico Valle	family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Delia Montoya	Delia Urosevic
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Jack Piazza	Gloria & George Glover
Thursday, 9am	✠ Dolores DeVilla Buenafe	Buenafe-Manion family
Friday, 9am	✠ members of Goseco, Valencia & Feliciano families	Linda Feliciano
Saturday, 9am	... Maria and Jon Tyzka	family
5:15pm	✠ Pasko Pavkovic	family
Sunday, 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Geri Ploskonka	Teresa Strejczyk & family
11am	✠ John Foran	family
12:30pm	✠ Manuel Soler	family

Stretch and Flex

As one ages, muscles tighten and have less range of motion in joints. A regular stretching program may help strengthen muscles and make daily activities easier and more enjoyable. Come join us, Tuesdays from 6:30pm-7:30pm, 2nd floor Running Room. \$10/class. Bring water and yoga mat.

Refugee Committee Update — Group # 3

Here's a brief update regarding the 3rd family that the Parish is sponsoring.

Group #3 has been successful in bringing the three men together for regular meetings and communication. One of the three men has good English language skills. He is proving to be an invaluable help to his future roommates in communicating with the members of Group #3.

The three men have all had their interviews and medical exams. Given the significant progress that has been made in getting their applications processed, Group #3 has signed a lease for an apartment in the area with occupancy slated for July 1, 2017.

The sense of anticipation continues to build as we communicate with our families, exchange photos with them and encourage them to hang in there as the application process plays itself out.

As further progress is made, the Committee will reach out to the Parish community to give parishioners an opportunity to contribute further to our families' successful resettlement

Your continued prayers for the 3 families, the volunteers and committee members are greatly appreciated.

Fr. Ron Krafchik's 60th Anniversary of Ordination — On Monday, May 29, we celebrate Fr. Ron' Krafchik's 60th Anniversary of Ordination. To celebrate this event, refreshments will be served in the parish hall after the 9:00am Mass. All are welcome!

OLS Bundle Weekend — June 24 / 25

It's almost time to 'Bundle Up' for St. Vincent de Paul! On the weekend of June 24/25, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be collecting gently used clothing, shoes, linens and household goods to support our neighbours in need. **SVDP is currently looking for volunteers** to help with Bundle Weekend. Interested? Email Nick Straatsma at nstraatsma@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY

Living the Gospel by providing a summer camp experience for young boys...

During his years as a young camper at Camp Ozanam, Niro experienced significant moments of personal growth in his life, which had a lasting impact on him. Later on, he became a staff counselor at Camp Ozanam, where he now has the opportunity to become involved in and positively influence the lives of current camp participants. "When you are with your brothers at camp, it is okay to show your feelings. These memories become important, because these kids really get to know each other and stand by each other. Thank you, ShareLife, for all the work you do to make this possible at Camp Ozanam!" says Niro. **Last year, ShareLife-supported Camp Ozanam provided a unique camping experience for 600 boys from underprivileged homes in the GTA.**



Our parish goal for ShareLife is \$427,000.00; as of May 15th, we have raised \$297,669.00!

ShareLife's campaign continues! Please give generously. You can work wonders!

TODAY — Sunday, May 28

1) **The Victoria Scholars present Sea Fever - 7:30pm at OLS.** The Scholars and accompanist William O'Meara join together for a celebration of choral "water music". An evening full of nautical surprises awaits...and you won't even get wet....Ahoy! Doors open 7:00pm. Tickets available at the door: Regular \$30, Student/Senior \$25

2) **Organ Concert & Sung Vespers — 3pm at Royal York Road United Church.** RYR will host an afternoon organ recital at 3 pm followed by a 4 pm sung vespers with the Senior Choir. Concert organist, Christopher Dawes will present a Reformation based program prior to the service and play for the vespers. Afternoon vespers will have the elements of prayer, silence and a candle lighting liturgy. Everyone is welcome. Freewill offering. Visit www.ryru.ca or call 416 231 9401

Archdiocese of Toronto 175th Anniversary Mass - Live Stream! — Tue., May 30, 10:30am
Visit www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live

Cadence Vocal Band in Concert — Wed., May 31, 7:30pm, Humbercrest United Church
Four Men. No instruments. See Canada's premiere vocal group. Based in Toronto, this a cappella ensemble has been wowing audiences across the country and around the world for nearly 20 years. Tickets sold at the door. \$20 for adults. \$5 for children & students. For info call 416 767 6122.

Movies that Move You featuring After the Last River — Wed., May 31 at 7pm Kingsway-Lambton United Church. Doors open at 6pm. Admission is Free!
Named "Best Canadian Feature Film — 2015 Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival. Filmed over 5 years, After the Last River is a documentary that connects stories of First Nations voices, community poverty, environmental impact, human rights and the agendas of the mining industry and government.

Project Rachel Retreat - June 2-4
A weekend retreat for women whose hearts have been broken by abortion. Do you need to rest your burden? We can help. Private and confidential. Call 416-629-8264 or e-mail ProjectRachel@stmarysrefuge.org.

"Lost and Found on the Path of the Spirit" — Saturday, June 3, 9:30am-3:30pm
A New Beginnings Retreat led by Deacon Curtis Boone and Joanne La Mere-Boone at Holy Family Church in Bolton. Light lunch will be provided. For info, call 416 921 1163, ext. 2230 or 2235 or email Deacon Curtis and Joanne at newbeginnings.stpadrepichurch@gmail.com

St. Augustine's Annual Retreat for Women — "At His Service, At His Feet, In His Name" with Dr. Josephine Lombardi, Saturday, June 3, 9:20am-2:30pm (Mass, lunch and the Sacrament of Reconciliation)
Join us for a day of reflection on what it means to know, love, and serve Jesus. We are all called to experience a unique relationship with our Lord. Come for a day of reflection, prayer, and mass. Bring a friend! Cost: \$50. Register online www.staugustines.on.ca or call 416 261 7207 ext. 235