

The image of Jesus, as a shepherd, established itself early in the outlook of the first Christians. The letter of Peter, identifying Jesus with the Suffering Servant of the Isaian writings, calls him their 'shepherd and guardian'. It is a pity that this great theme is associated for many people with a sentimental image of the Saviour. Today's gospel reading invites us to reflect that for Jesus himself the comparison would have suggested the rough and tumble of a world in which widespread poverty led to theft of livestock, and the disputes and violence arising from such a practice.

The image of the shepherd was long established in the biblical tradition. It was used by the prophets to challenge Israel's corrupt rulers; Israel's Lord, the familiar psalm tells us, will care for them 'like a shepherd'. When, in the passage following today's reading, Jesus declares, 'I AM the Good Shepherd', he is making a messianic claim. In the sequence of John's gospel, today's reading follows immediately after the healing of the blind man. The implication is that the conflict between Jesus and the opponents whose bad faith had been demonstrated on that occasion could be compared to the conflicts that arose between honest shepherds and the thieves who preyed on them.

The shepherd theme gives rise in this passage to a whole complex of comparisons. They can be confusing if they are not considered separately. As our passage begins, Jesus compares himself with his opponents. He comes to God's people with the 'messianic signs' that confirm his mission from the Father. His enemies, on the other hand, are robbing God's people of the blessings he brings – using their authority to undermine the trust and enthusiasm with which he was initially received.

As the passage continues, Jesus – having identified himself with the shepherd who enters the sheepfold with proper authorisation – speaks of the relationship that exists between such a shepherd and his sheep. They recognise his voice when he calls them – as the common people did when he began his ministry. He knows them and leads them to pasture.

The obtuseness of those he is challenging leads Jesus to take up a new comparison – one that makes more clear the claim that he is making for his mission from the Father: 'I am the gate of the sheepfold'. This comparison may have been suggested by words of Psalm 118, a psalm used as a processional hymn for the Feast of Tabernacles (cited several times in a messianic sense in the New Testament): 'This is the gate of Yahweh, where the upright go in'. 'I am the gate' Jesus says, 'Enter through me; you will be safe, and be sure of finding pastures'.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord – these words were to become one of the most meaningful phrases of the Church's common life. In a sense, they sum up the whole of Christian faith: Jesus is for us, 'the Resurrection and the Life'; he is the 'mediator' of the new and everlasting covenant; he is our 'way to the Father'.



You have come back to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls

*John Thornhill sm*  
www.theemmausseries.com

**The Good Shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them.**

**Is He asking you to help others to find Him?**

**Pray for an increase in vocations, especially for our archdiocese, that God will raise up good shepherds in our midst**

If God is calling you to serve him as a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocations Director, Archdiocese of Toronto. 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

**PARISH**

Readings ~ Acts 2.14a, 36b-41 ~ 1 Peter 2.20b-25 ~ John 10.1-10

**Mass Intentions This Week — May 8 to May 14**

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

|                | Intention(s):   | Offered by:            |
|----------------|---|------------------------|
| Monday, 9am    | ✠ members of Mahoney family                               |                        |
| Tuesday, 9am   | ✠ Maria Rysia Kudlik Gorecka                              | Teresa & family        |
| Wednesday, 9am | ✠ Lorna Murphy  | Flynn family           |
| Thursday, 9am  | ✠ Doris Vogtle  | family                 |
| Friday, 9am    | ✠ Jerry Forhan  | Temple family          |
| Saturday, 9am  | ✠ members of Goran family                                 |                        |
| 5:15pm         | ✠ Gladys Grys   | Ben & family           |
| Sunday, 8am    | ✠ Delia Montoya   | Delia Urosevic         |
| 9:30am         | ✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠ |                        |
| 11am           | ✠ Doris Vogtle  | Herman Rohner & family |
| 12:30pm        | ✠ Ewa Sobera  | friend                 |

**Living the Gospel by providing for those in need...**

"One of the core components of our Pastoral Plan is Catholic Outreach in Justice and Love. As a Catholic community, we are called to be the hands and face of Jesus in our communities. One of the ways that we do this is through our annual ShareLife appeal, which provides resources to agencies serving the poor and marginalized not only in our archdiocese, but also around the world. ShareLife is a tangible way that we can put the Gospel value to love one another as I have loved you into action, and I invite all parishioners to support the mission work of the Catholic church by making a sacrificial gift to ShareLife." —Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto.



**Thank you for your generosity and continued support.**

As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, we have raised \$276,826.59 — that's almost 65% of our \$427,000.00 parish goal!

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

**A BIG THANK YOU** is extended to everyone who attended the celebration of Fr. Nino's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination. Thank you to all who donated food and drinks and to those who assisted in the preparation and clean up. We also would like to acknowledge our corporate donors: Cirillo's Culinary Academy, the Kingsway BIA, Pizza Nova, Pristine Printing, Turner and Porter Funeral Directors, 10tation Event Catering and the Bratty Family (for the lovely photo displays and decorations... ). **Your continued prayers are greatly appreciated.**

**Living with Christ Sunday Missal** — Our NEW Green Hymnals include the Sunday readings. We encourage you take the red Living With Christ Sunday Missal home and read the scriptures in preparation for the Sunday Eucharist. The red missals are found in the entrance to the church.

Please keep the young people of our parish in your prayers as they celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation this Easter Season. First Holy Communion Masses will be celebrated on the Saturdays of May 13 & 27 at 10:30am. Confirmation Masses will be celebrated on May 30 & 31 at 7:30pm.

**An Invitation to Serve** — We would like to invite children who has received their First Holy Communion to be part of Our Lady of Sorrows Altar Server Ministry. Becoming an Altar Server is a great way for our children to learn more about their faith by playing an important role in assisting our priests in the liturgies. Training is provided, and then they will be placed on a schedule to serve at the weekend mass that they would normally attend. Interested? Call the parish office at 416 231 6016 or email us at olosorrows@bellnet.ca.



**COMMUNITY**

**Lectio Divina with Cardinal Thomas Collins : "The Prodigal Son" — Sunday, May 7** Vespers (evening prayer) begin at 7:00pm followed by Lectio Divina (divine, or sacred reading) from 7:30pm-8:15pm at St. Michael's Cathedral. All are welcome.

**Archdiocesan Day of Prayer — Friday, May 12, 2017**

On this day, Cardinal Collins has asked that we all take the time, as a community, to pray for all vocations; priesthood, religious and consecrated life. During this time, we also ask that you pray for our five soon-to-be priests along with all those who are discerning or who are currently in formation. For more information, call the Office of Vocations at 416-968-0997 or email vocations@archtoronto.org



**Annual March for Life — Thursday, May 11, Toronto to Ottawa**

This year marks the 20th National March For Life in Ottawa and the 150th anniversary of Canada's confederation. Pro-lifers will gather on Parliament Hill to demand that our laws once again uphold the right to life which is inherent to every human being, as they once did, even 150 years ago. The March for Life is the largest annual demonstration on Parliament Hill, and a sign that ending abortion is the civil rights movement of our day. If you would like to participate, there is a 56 passenger highway coach shared with other churches going to Ottawa. 12 seats are allotted for OLS. Cost: \$45 per person. Pick up time is at 6:00am. Call the church office to reserve your spot. Payment due upon reservation. For more information visit www.marchforlife.ca.

**Conscience Rights in a Faith Context — Monday, May 15, 7pm, St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica**

A Catholic Response to Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Death. Presented by The Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. Keynote address by Cardinal Gerhard Müller, Prefect, Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith (Vatican). Free event. Call 416 353 4224. All are welcome.

**Conference on Conscience Rights and Healthcare Professionals — Tuesday, May 16, 1-5pm & 7-9pm, University of St. Michael's College (The Coop, Brennan Hall).**

Presented by the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. Cost \$60. For more information, call 416 353 4224 or visit www.ccbi-utoronto.ca.

**Life in the Spirit Seminar — Wednesday, May 17, 7:30pm-9:00pm, All Saints RC Church**

7 week seminar. Cost \$10 per person, \$15 per couple. Students/Young Adults are free. To register, email dapri60@rogers.com or call Jean Ann at 416 274 1220.

**The Marylake Marian Series — Marylake, Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in King City**

Monday, May 15 at 7pm — Welcome Mass for the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Tuesday, May 16 at 7pm — Talk by Christine Foisy-Erickson on "Our Lady of Guadalupe — The Story" followed by Q&A and refreshments. Wednesday May 17 at 7pm - Talk by Christine Foisy-Erickson on "Our Lady of Guadalupe & the New Evangelization" followed by Q&A and refreshments. Call 905 833 5368 or visit www.marylake.com.

**Catholic Family Services of Toronto**

- 1) offers walk-in counselling services at two locations. The single-session consultation is aimed at helping individuals, couples, or family clients address their concerns. No appointment required. Central office address: 1155 Yonge St. Suite 100, Toronto. Every Tuesday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call 416 921 1163. North office address: 5799 Yonge Street. Suite 300, North York. Every Thursday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call 416 222 0048. Email info@cfstoronto.com
- 2) offers a 6-8 week professional psycho-educational group for people who have faced relationship loss, separation & divorce. The sessions held in a safe supportive context and facilitated by a clinical social worker will utilize evidence based information aimed at assisting each participant in their healing journey. For more information about topics, dates and fees and to register for an upcoming group, please contact Alpana Das at 416 921 1163 ext 2232 or email adas@cfstoronto.com.