

# Saint Edith Stein Roman Catholic Church

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**Rev. Constantin Siarapis**

Administrator



## Visit:

**[archtoronto.org/covid19](http://archtoronto.org/covid19)**

- **Links to watch daily mass**
- **how to support your parish priest**
- **spiritual resources**
- **public health resources**

### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

By appointment

### **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

By appointment

### **SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

By appointment

### **SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND HOLY COMMUNION**

Have your health care team page a Catholic priest if you have a family member in hospital needing anointing of the sick.

Communion to those homebound is suspended at this time.

For information on Catholic education in our community or to reach your local school board trustee, contact the Toronto Catholic District School Board at 416-222-8282 or [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org).

#### Schools in the area:

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| St. Anselm       | 416-393-5243 |
| Holy Cross       | 416-393-5242 |
| Canadian Martyrs | 416-393-5251 |
| St. John XXIII   | 416-429-4000 |

## Your Voices Were Heard

From Thomas Cardinal Collins Archbishop of Toronto:

A week ago, we launched the "A Place to Worship" campaign, inviting the faithful to contact their Member of Provincial Parliament to ask for a fair and balanced approach to restrictions for places of worship. More than 13,000 letters were written, with 80 per cent sent within 48 hours of the request. I am grateful to all those who participated in the campaign.

Earlier this week, a diverse group of faith leaders had the opportunity to meet virtually with Premier Ford, Minister Elliott and Dr. Williams to discuss our concerns. I wish to extend my profound gratitude to the provincial government for sharing generously of their time and for the healthy dialogue that was exchanged.

I know that many Members of Provincial Parliament also advocated for a just and equitable approach for places of worship, on behalf of their constituents, and I thank them as well.

### **WorshipSafe Health & Safety Protocols**

As Catholics, the source and summit of our spiritual life is participation in the Eucharist. The faithful have not been able to experience this reality since December 2020 in Toronto and Peel.

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Thank you once again to all those who engaged in respectful dialogue with their elected Member of Provincial Parliament. May God continue to bless you now and always.



**Jesus said to Nicodemus - God did not send the Son into the world to condemn it but to save it, through him.**

## Covenantal Journey

For the first three Sundays of Lent we have been hearing about the covenants that God established with Noah, Abraham and Moses. The covenant with Noah was simply an unconditional promise from God never again to flood the earth with waters that destroy all life. The covenant with Abraham was conditional but only between God and Abraham. By Abraham trusting and obeying God's command, God promised blessings on Abraham and his descendants. The covenant with Moses was also conditional. But this time not just between God and Moses. This covenantal promise to make Israel a holy and great nation was dependent upon the Israelite people following the Law that God gave to Moses in the form of the 10 commandments. **The covenantal promises evolve from unconditional to conditional, from one person to an entire nation.** Each successive covenant called Israel into a deeper and more committed relationship with God.

These readings during Lent reflect the historical journey between God and Israel. It is a journey each of us mirrors in our own Lenten journey with God. **As we journey in our covenantal relationship with God we too are called to a deeper and more committed relationship with God.**

The readings for this fourth Sunday of Lent break

from the pattern of discussing a specific covenant that God established with ancient Israel. The pattern is broken in order to highlight an important moment in Israel's historic covenantal journey with God. **Today's 1<sup>st</sup> reading (2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23) narrates the circumstances that led God to force Israel into Babylonian captivity in the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.** Israel had broken the terms of the Mosaic covenant that God established with her ancestors. Israel was no longer a holy and separate nation. While God sent Israel into Babylonian captivity, it was only for 70 years. Then God gave rise to the King Cyrus of the Persian Empire who released Israel from their Babylonian captors and returned Israel to her promised land.

As Paul tells us in his letter to the Ephesians (2<sup>nd</sup> reading, Ephesians 2:4-10), Israel had become "dead in our transgressions". But "God who is rich in mercy... brought us to life with Christ." **The story of Israel's journey with God is our story.** We too stumble on our journey with God and on our journey through Lent. But we are assured in the knowledge that "God loved the world that he gave his only Son" so that we would have "eternal life" (Gospel, John 3:14-21).

## ALL THAT WE HAVE AND ALL THAT WE OFFER...

All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord. "We are truly his handiwork," says St. Paul in the second reading, "created in Christ Jesus to lead a life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance to be our way of life."

*See Ephesians 2:10*

## CREATED FOR GOOD WORKS

St. Paul reminds us that we are "created in Christ Jesus for good works".

**If you think God's plan for you could be a vocation in His Church, contact:**  
**Vocations @ 416-968-0997,**  
**Email [vocations@vocations.ca](mailto:vocations@vocations.ca)**  
**[www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)**

**NOTE: We will post on the website as soon as the parish can be opened. It will be limited masses and restricted to a small number of people (<30) to meet the latest provincial guidelines for parishes in the grey protection zone.**

## Resources during the pandemic

Visit [www.archtoronto.org/](http://www.archtoronto.org/) for links daily masses including:

1. **Daily Mass from Loretto Abbey** (also broadcast on TV)
2. **Daily Mass and Rosary with Cardinal Collins** live from St. Michael's  
<https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/liveCathedral Basilica>  
7:30am Mon.-Sat.  
10:00am Sunday
3. **ASL Mass Livestream** from the International Catholic Deaf Association, Canadian Section
4. Covid-19 resources: [www.archtoronto.org/covid19](http://www.archtoronto.org/covid19)

### Spiritual Communion

During the pandemic we are unable to physically take part in communion. Spiritual Communion is a way to be united with Christ when we cannot physically receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. When viewing mass online say this prayer at the time of communion.

#### ***St. Alphonsus Liguori's Act of Spiritual Communion***

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

### **Pope's prayer to Virgin Mary for protection**

*O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.*

*We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.*

*At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.*

*You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.*

*We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.*

*Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us.*

*He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.*

*We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.*

*Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.*

