

Saint Edith Stein Roman Catholic Church

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Pope urges Catholics to pray the rosary in May for end to COVID-19 pandemic

After more than a year, and with the world still in the grips of the pandemic, the Pope and the Church around the world are once again leading the way in imploring God for an end to the suffering which so many people are forced to bear.

Please join the pope in praying the rosary in May.

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.

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

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Masses are cancelled until further notice.

Visit: archtoronto.org/covid19 for

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

ON VOCATIONS

Our second Scripture reading reminds us that we are to love, not in word and speech only, but in truth and action. If God is calling you to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon, call Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997. email vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's readings, both Isaiah and Peter hear the call of God and feel themselves unworthy. But, reassured by the Lord, both answer and follow. Do I hear the Lord asking, "Whom shall I send?" Am I prepared to answer, "Here I am. Send me!"?



"CALVARY LOVE"

It has been pointed out that when all is said and done, love boils down to a question of giving. It is a question of self-giving. It's a question of forgiving. And it's a question of thanksgiving. Today's readings invite us to give ourselves in love.

Jesus describes a particular kind of love in today's gospel (Jn. 15:9-17) He says, "Love one another as I love". Again He says, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends". This assurance was clearly and irrevocably enunciated in Jesus' gift of Himself on the cross. The fact of Jesus' great and incomparable love stands as a challenge to those who would call themselves his disciples. They are called similarly to lay down something of themselves, for love's sake.

Peter for example (Acts 10, 1st reading), had to lay down his prejudices when he was directed by the Spirit to go to Cornelius' home and to accept him and his household as brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. In today's second reading (1Jn. 4:7-10), there is an indirect suggestion that believers must lay down hatred, suspicion and mistrust so as to love one another as

God loves.

Anglican author and missionary to India, Amy Carmichael (1867-1951) has described the laying down quality of love to which believers are called as "Calvary Love". In an article by the same title, Carmichael proposes that if I belittle those who I am called to serve, pointing out their weak points in contrast with what I think of as my virtues, then I know nothing of Calvary Love. If I am content to harbour a hurt although friendship be possible, then I know nothing of Calvary Love. If I cannot in honest happiness take the second place, then I know nothing of Calvary Love. If the burdens of others are not mine too and their joys mine, then I know nothing of Calvary Love. Calvary Love is willing to lay down the self in the service of others. This is the love to which each of us must aspire.

Prayer In Time Of COVID

Gracious God,
you who are the author of all life, and who desire the well-being of all people, during these dark days of COVID-19, increase in us, respect and reverence for all human life.

Grant restored health to the sick, comfort and hope to the dying, strength to family members, friends, relatives, clergy and volunteers, renewed energy to hospital workers, PSWs, nurses and doctors, and perseverance to all in the health care professions.

Grant wisdom to scientists for the development of effective and moral vaccines, discernment and right judgment for legislators, aid to the discouraged, poor and vulnerable, courage and justice for front-line workers, and keep always in our minds the vision of the true common good of all the world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*Bishop Robert Kasun CSB
Auxiliary Bishop Central Region
Archdiocese of Toronto*

Resources during the pandemic

Visit 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

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.*

