

Saint Edith Stein Roman Catholic Church

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Rev. Constantin Siarapis

Administrator



A REAL SIGN OF UNITY

Receiving Eucharist is a real sign of unity in our Church. God nourishes us with the "Bread from Heaven" if we have ordained priests to celebrate the Liturgy. If you feel the inclination towards a Church vocation, call

Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997. email vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

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:

The parish is open with limited masses and restricted capacity.

GREAT THINGS SMALL BEGINNINGS

Today's readings remind us that great things often have small beginnings. If you feel God is calling you to a Church vocation call

416-968-0997

email: vocations@vocations.ca
www.vocationstoronto.ca

STEWARDSHIP

Like the sower in today's Gospel, I scatter as seed my gifts of time, talent, and resources; and I trust that, by God's grace and in God's time, these small gifts of myself may grow and flourish and help to bring about the kingdom of God.



Thorns that Perfect

In his book "The cost of Discipleship" (1963), German martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: **"When Jesus Christ calls us, he bids us come and die."** Obviously, the same could be said of any call from God. **As is evident in today's 1st reading, Ezekiel (2:2-5) knew quite well the costliness of answering God's call to be a prophet to his contemporaries.**

"Dying" for Ezekiel would entail communicating an unpopular message to a rebellious people and bearing with the consequences of their rejection. Such suffering was and is an integral aspect of the ministry of the Word: "they shall know that a prophet has been among them" (v. 5)

That this suffering and dying for the sake of the Gospel was known to Jesus is sadly attested in today's Gospel (Mk 6:1-6). As far as his hometown folks were concerned, he was just too local to be important. Even Jesus' relatives thought him to be "too much for them".(v.3)

When Paul following in the footsteps of Ezekiel and others, became a minister of God's word, and when he attached himself to Jesus, he knew the suffering, rejection and dying that are intrinsic to such a relationship. **In today's 2nd reading (2Cor 12:7-10), Paul gives a name to his struggle for Christ and the Gospel – " a thorn in the flesh"**. The thorn from which Paul wished to be relieved may have been anything from a physical malady to a particular temptation or short temper.

More important than an accurate identification of Paul's "thorn", however, was the manner in which he learned to deal with it. First, he wanted to be rid of it; as he regarded the "thorn" as a hindrance that kept him from giving his all in God's service. Gradually and only through prayer, Paul was led to understand that his "thorn" and whatever

weakness it unmasked in him combined to create a venue wherein the power of God were clearly and undeniably manifested in him. **Not only did Paul become content to bear the burden of his "thorn" but he also regarded his struggle as a matter for boasting.** His boast lay not in himself or in his ability to grit his teeth against the suffering but in the power of God that he had begun to realize was at work and alive within him.

Paul's frankness in sharing his weakness begs us to think of those thorns that we consider as impediment to our ministry, those people, things, circumstances or situation that, if they were absent, would render us so much more effective and our work so much more successful. For each of us the thorn shall have a different name. **Like Paul, we are invited to rejoice and even boast of the thorn that reveals our weakness.** For it is in the acknowledgement of our utmost weakness that God's grace can act most powerfully.

"My grace is enough for you", says God; " in your weakness, my power reaches perfection."

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.

