

Saint Edith Stein Roman Catholic Church

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Rev. Constantin Siarapis

Administrator



COVID-19 UPDATE:

The parish is open with limited masses and restricted to about 80 people.

HELP OUR WORLD OF TODAY...

Could God be calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister in order to help our world of today to truly "prepare the way of the Lord"? If God is calling you, contact

416-968-0997

email.vocations@vocations.ca

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.



2nd Sunday of ADVENT Year C

As we celebrate this second Sunday of the new liturgical year, we note that this is a C year in the three-year cycle of Sunday readings. In C years, we concentrate on the Gospel of Luke. In A years, we read Matthew, and in B years, we delve into Mark.

A gentile convert to Christianity, Luke was a friend and disciple to Paul and possibly a physician. He was a sophisticated literary stylist who produced not only this Gospel but its companion volume, the Acts of the Apostles, as well. More than the other evangelists, Luke presents Christ as a universal figure, one who accepts all kinds of outcasts from shepherds to Samaritans and one whose genealogy can be traced all the way back to Adam.

It is from Luke's Gospel that we receive our fondest images of the events surrounding the nativity. (by Marion Eagen)

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



Prepare the way of the Lord.

Characteristics of Waiting

The weeks of preparation for Christmas is an opportune time for cultivating a spirituality of waiting. The characteristics of the one we await affect the character of our waiting. Jesus is the loved one whose coming we await. And so **joy and hope-filled anticipation** are to characterize all our Advent days and nights.

Today's scripture selections make it clear that the coming of Jesus should prompt even more than joy and hope in us. Because he who comes is **justice and mercy** personified (Baruch 5:1-9, 1st reading), our waiting for him must be marked by similar justice and mercy. Because he who comes is the very **salvation** of God (Lk 3:1-6 gospel), we who await him must give ourselves over to the work of salvation. Paul clearly understood this, as is reflected in his prayer for Philippian converts (Phil. 1:3-6,8-11, 2nd reading); therein, he expresses the wish that his readers be found rich in the harvest of justice. He also prays that they might learn to value the things that really matter while awaiting the coming of Christ. Today's Paul's prayer and the coming Christ challenge our values and priorities, and **they challenge us to be renewed in our efforts in the cause of justice, mercy and salvation.**

How can we, who await a just and merciful and saving Lord, live in constant preparedness for his coming? Author Walter Burghardt, offers five suggestions:

1 - Allow the words of scripture to take hold of us. The word we read and study must be the word we pray, and the word we pray must be the word we live. We should consent to be transformed,

consumed and directed by it.

2 - Be converted by the heart, mind, will and spirit of Christ, who is **justice, mercy and salvation.** This means loving as he loved, serving as he served, living as he lived and, when necessary, suffering and dying as he suffered and died.

3 - Help and serve others in their need, without any consideration of deservedness. Jesus wanted his followers to understand that justice is not simply about giving others what they can prove they deserve.

4 - Recognize poor regardless of their monetary status and attend to their needs. The term "poor" should include not only the economically disadvantaged but also lepers, widows, orphans and sinners.

5 - Let justice be a lens through which we see all of reality; for justice means fidelity to all our relationships – with God, with one another, with the world.

May infant Jesus help us live justly, mercifully and peacefully with all others through him, with him and in him.

Our waiting for God and for Jesus is also to be patient and open-ended. Mary exhibited this manner of spirituality in her waiting when she said, "Let it be done to me according to your word." (Lk. 1:38).

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.

