

Saint Edith Stein Roman Catholic Church

16 Thorncliffe Park Drive, Toronto, ON M4H 1H4



Phone: 416-696-8427, Fax: 416-696-5287

Online: <http://www.stedithstein.ca>

Email: bulletin@stedithstein.ca

Rev. Constantin Siarapis

Administrator



COVID-19 UPDATE:

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

ANNOUNCE THE GOOD NEWS ...

Could God be calling you to be a priest or religious and announce the Good News to His People as John the Baptist did? If God is calling you, contact

416-968-0997

email vocations@vocations.ca

www.vocationstoronto.ca

ON STEWARDSHIP

Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

See Luke 3:11

What Must We Do?

John the Baptist preached that the end of the world was coming soon. He urged people to get ready for this event by literally "washing" away their sins in the Jordan river. However, this was not to be a symbolic experience.

It must be accompanied by a real change of attitude. He counseled dramatic changes in the lives of the baptized. We see him giving pastoral advice to various power groups. They must stop doing the things which resulted in sin. The basic idea is that they must end using their authority to take advantage of others. John also demands charity towards the poor--sharing warm clothing with those who lack it.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

- all by appointment only

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



"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." (Ph. 4:4)

Rejoice

Step by step we are processing to the nearness of God. The step to be taken this week is symbolized in the pink candle we light on the Advent wreath. The mission we receive through the readings of this Sunday is to rejoice. And that is a special type of rejoicing. The special nature of this rejoicing unravels itself in today's 2nd reading from Philippians (4:4-7).

Paul's enthusiastic exhortation, **"Rejoice in the Lord always!"** and his repeated affirmation of the same, "Rejoice!" become pregnant with unusual meaning if we are aware of the circumstances he and his beloved Philippian converts happened to be in. Paul was writing from jail and Paul's readers in Philippi were about to experience the pain of persecution.

The circumstances of both the author and his audience force us to attend to his advice with the utmost seriousness. They emerge from – and are directed to – what some would call the dark and seamy side of the human experience. **As Paul's words to the Philippians are read in our hearing this Advent, 2009, they call for authentic joy amid the pain of war; true joy despite the car-bombings, terrorist threats and attacks, deep joy despite the disappointment of poor leadership, bad example, moral scandal etc.** Paul knew that joy was possible because, as he assured his readers then, and assures his readers now – "The Lord is near" (v.15)

The same trend we find in the first reading (Zeph. 3:14-18) also. Two times the prophet exults in the fact that the Lord is in our midst. This realization should strike a joyful chord in the hearts of all who believe. **"Shout for joy!" commands the prophet. "Sing! Be glad! Fear not!"** When we come to the gospel (Lk. 3:10-18), we find John the Baptist encouraging joy in us... joy over what God has done and will do. It is a joy that is anchored to an assurance of God's love and presence in human life. It is a joy that is wonderful because it is kindled amid circumstances in which joy is least expected.

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*

ON STEWARDSHIP

Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

See Luke 3:11

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.

