

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.

MAY GOD'S BLESSING BE WITH YOU ALL

May the babe of Bethlehem help us hasten the day when nations will share with one another, races will reach out to one another, families will embrace one another, and people everywhere will clasp hands in friendship. May God's special blessings be with each and every one of you this Christmas season.

A Christmas Blessing..

May God shelter you through life's storms and seasons... and bless your holidays with His richest gifts.

May your needs be supplied, and your lives filled with all the joys of life and gifts of God's greatest blessings! And may your love continue to glow and light up the lives of those hearts you have touched.

PRAYER before Christmas Dinner



Leader: Lord Jesus, in the peace of this season our spirits are joyful: with the beasts and angels, the shepherds and stars, with Mary and Joseph we sing God's praise. By your coming may the hungry be filled with good things, and may our table and home be blessed.

All: Bless us O Lord, and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Christmas season celebrates the birth of the Lord Jesus and the ways he manifested the presence of God among us. For the Church, only the Easter celebration of the Lord's death and rising is more important than the Christmas season. On Christmas day masses, the use of the Nicene Creed is recommended.

Merry Christmas

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 |



Babe of Bethlehem

God chose Bethlehem for his Son. Why? If Jesus was born in Rome or Alexandria or Athens or Corinth, it would have made more sense from the point of view of spreading His message. Sophisticated Rome would have been an excellent home base for Christianity. Jesus would have found a warm welcome in Alexandria because that city was famed for its cultural, educational and commercial offerings.

Home to Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, wouldn't Athens have welcomed the wisdom that Jesus had come to impart? Wouldn't the thousands who passed through Corinth, who gathered there for business and pleasure, have been interested in Jesus' words and works?

Given the divine power and purpose, Jesus could have entered into the human situation at any time in any place. So why Bethlehem? According to the prophet Micah (1st reading, Micah 5:2-5a), Bethlehem was small and insignificant compared to the other clans of Judah. Perhaps it was chosen because Bethlehem was David's family home and the place of his anointing as king. The very name Bethlehem means, "house of bread", an appropriate title that anticipated the one who would give bread for the life of the world.

Aside from its association with David and the nurturing symbolism of its name, another aspect of Bethlehem's history suggests its special importance. The village of Bethlehem was about five miles south of Jerusalem and the main livelihood of the village was shepherding. People on pilgrimage to the Holy City for Passover purchased their lambs in Bethlehem. How significant that Jesus, the Lamb of God, sacrificed for the salvation of the world was to be born in Bethlehem!

In today's 2nd reading from Hebrews (10:5-10), the author reminds us of the saving power of Jesus' sacrifice. While we celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth, and while we rejoice in his coming among us – just as did Mary, Elizabeth and John (gospel, Lk. 1:39-45) – our focus must not be solely on the baby of Bethlehem and the peaceful crèche. **Christmas' greatest gift was nailed to a cross, and through Him all other good gifts have come – life, light forgiveness, peace, justice, hope, faith and joy.**

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.

