

Saint Edith Stein Roman Catholic Church

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Rev. Constantin Siarapis

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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

St. Edith Stein Parish is celebrating 50 years serving the Thorncliffe community.

Did you know over 700 baptisms have been performed by 36 different priests over the years?



ADVENT

Advent has a twofold nature: It prepares us for Christmas, when we recall Christ's first coming among us, and it is also a time when we look forward to His second coming at the end of the ages. Advent is a season of joyful expectation.

During Advent, each Sunday's gospel has a specific focus. The Old Testament readings, especially those taken from Isaiah, are prophecies about the Messiah and messianic times. The selections from the writings of the apostles present exhortations and instructions on different themes of this season.

A FOLLOWER OF THE MASTER...

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life." Are worldly cares dragging you down? Be a follower of the Master. If God is calling you, contact

416-968-0997

[email vocations@vocations.ca](mailto:vocations@vocations.ca)

www.vocationstoronto.ca

STEWARDSHIP



"Be on guard," Jesus warns in today's Gospel, "lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence." Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another. See Luke 21:34

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



The Advent Wreath

The **four candles** represent the four weeks of Advent. The **unlighted candles** represent the dark ages before Christ's coming. The **lighted candles** represent Christ, the Light of the World. Each week we light one more candle and that represents the idea that the coming of Christ is closer

A Spirituality of Waiting

A reflection on the book "A Spirituality of Waiting" authored by Henri Nouwen (1993) seems worth considering for this advent. As Nouwen has affirmed, waiting is not a very popular posture. **Many consider waiting a waste of time.** For many waiting is an awful desert between where they are and where they want to go. Think of the "first strike" approach of some nations towards others. The more afraid we are, the more difficult it becomes to wait. But advent is a season that is marked by a spirituality of waiting.

In the pages of Jewish and Christian scriptures, we will find a different attitude toward waiting.

Recall psalmists' prayers. They enunciated the hopes and longings of their people, who awaited God's messianic intervention on their behalf: "Our soul waits for the Lord who is our

help and our shield." (Ps. 30:22) "My soul waits for the Lord more than sentinels wait for the dawn." (Ps. 130:6-7)

In the gospel we find the waiting of Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, Anna, Simeon and John the Baptist setting the scene for the welcome of Jesus.

The quality of waiting in these scriptural heroes and heroines can be characterized in several ways. Nouwen describes them thus: First, theirs

is a waiting with a *sense of promise*. Like a seed growing within, the promise promotes endurance. We can only wait *well* if what we are waiting for has already begun for us. In today's first reading, Jeremiah (33:14-16) reminds us that all God's promises are fulfilled in Jesus, the shoot of David, who comes among those who wait in order to do what is just and right.

Second, the waiting that we see epitomized in the scriptures is *active*. Our ancestors in the faith did not remain in a passive or idle state. They were actively and fully present to each moment. Paul, in today's second reading (1Thes. 3:12-4:2) reminds us that our active waiting for the Lord's second advent must be exercised in love for one another and for all. In the gospel (Lk. 21:25-28, 34-36), the evangelist exhorts us to fill our active waiting with constant prayer and careful watchfulness for signs of the Lord's nearness.

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)