

Saint Edith Stein Roman Catholic Church

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Rev. Constantin Siarapis

Administrator



BLESSED, BLESSED ARE YOU

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven..." Do not be discouraged by jeers when considering being a priest, deacon, brother or sister. If God is calling you,

**Contact: Fr. Matthew McCarthy,
Archdiocese of Toronto at
416-968-0997.**

**email vocations@archtoronto.org
www.vocationstoronto.ca**

BLESSED ARE THE STEWARDS

Blessed are they who are what they are and do what they do for the sake of the kingdom! The Gospel today assures good stewards that their suffering and their service on behalf of the kingdom will be rewarded!

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

For parishes: We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

2023-2024

Kindergarten Registration

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year opens on **Wednesday, January 25, 2023** at 10:00 AM EST.

Important Information: All applications must be submitted online via the [Student Online Application for Registration \(SOAR\)](#) website.

Space is limited in some school locations. Parents are encouraged to apply early. Please check with your local school for details (contact numbers below).

**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



Living the Beatitudes

The proclamation of the Gospel on this Sunday and the next will reacquaint the praying assembly with **the Great Sermon and its challenges**. Although these challenges lie at the heart of what it means to be Christian, **too few of us believe that it is possible to live them out in the context of the daily grind**. Many have attempted to do so – Dorothy Day, Henry Nouwen, Daniel Berrigan, Oscar Romero, Charles de Foucault, Dom Helder Camara, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, to name a few. But more often than not, these have become the exceptions whose absolute adherence to the Sermon's precepts has led them to be labelled as extremists or fanatics, too radical for the “mainstream Christianity”.

“Getting on with it” will require that we be fired by a spirituality that finds blessedness in humility and strength in obedience. In today's first reading (Zeph 2:3, 3:12-13), the prophet Zephaniah holds out to us as an example the anawim or remnant or

poor ones who rely solely on God. In their humble reliance, they may seem weak in the eyes of the world, but they are building their houses on rock. **Zephaniah's description of the poor ones anticipates the spirituality set forth in the Beatitudes (Gospel, Mt 5:1-12) that will introduce the Great Sermon.**

These statements of blessedness, explains C. Milo Connick (“Jesus, the Man, the Message and the Mission”, NJ; 1974), describe the character of the members of the kingdom of God – the followers of Jesus in any age. **It is significant that both Matthew (5:1) and Luke (6:17) made it clear that the Beatitudes and their challenge were directed toward Jesus' disciples who had already opted to make Jesus' way of life their own.** By virtue of that option, grace was available to them, grace that made the spirituality of the Beatitudes possible and practicable.

Whereas some may suppose that the Beatitudes are requisites necessary for entering the kingdom, they are actually the resulting dispositions of those who have already, and by grace, opened their hearts and minds to put on the heart and mind of Jesus. These are not candid camera shots of eight different kinds of character; rather, they represent one character in eight different ways, like so many facets of a diamond. The character described is, of course, Jesus Christ, and the verbal portrait is itself **an invitation not only to do what Jesus did but to become Jesus for the world.**