

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



The Advent Wreath Ceremony Week 2



The following prayer can be said before the evening meal each night during the second week in Advent.

Father: **O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Then the eldest child lights not only the first but a second purple candle. Both candles burn during the evening meal as before.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

In order to ensure that tax receipts are processed correctly, we encourage everyone to advise the office now if your address has changed since January and you have not yet notified us. The name and address you registered with the parish is what will appear on your tax receipt. Note that for married couples it doesn't matter which name appears on the receipt. Either spouse is permitted to use it. It is suggested that the spouse who will gain the most benefit from the deduction should be the one to claim it.

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" 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**

BE GOOD STEWARDS

We must be good stewards of God's gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care, lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today, cautioning us, "Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

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



“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near,”

An Agenda for Advent

"Justice for Peace" may be the right caption for this agenda. **There are literally millions who suffer from injustice from the point of view of earthly blessings.** One answer to this inequity is offered to us today through the person and ministry of John the Baptist.

John is portrayed in today's Gospel (Mt. 3:1-12) as turning away from the blessings and securities he could have enjoyed, e.g., sufficient food, decent living conditions, comfortable clothing and the companionship of family and friends, in order to embrace a life of penance and fasting and a ministry that would not gain him any measure of popularity. He was to be the voice that truthfully pointed out sins and persevered in calling the guilty to repentance. John's was not a pleasant job or a pleasing message, because preparations for welcoming the One who would bring peace, justice, harmony and the gifts of the Spirit can only be described as drastic and radical. **John is held out to**

us each Advent not simply as Jesus' herald but also as the one after whom the church is to model itself. Just as John's was the voice that prepared for the first appearance of Jesus, so the church must be the voice that readies first itself and then all of mankind for Jesus' second and ultimate coming. To put it in another way, John's agenda dictates and continues to drive the church's agenda: **to work for peace and to struggle for justice and for an enduring harmony among the desperate peoples of this world.**

In today's first reading (Is 11:1-10), the prophet Isaiah gives beautiful lofty and poetic expression to our most fervent hopes for justice and peace. He speaks of wolves being the guests of lambs and babies playing by the dens of cobras. But in order for lofty poetry to become living policy, the church must continue to struggle to make the message of John the Baptist its own agenda, this Advent and all through the year. **For more than a century, the church has openly declared its social agenda as one that has necessarily evolved from offering charity to the promotion of justice.** As Thomas Massaro (*Living Justice, Sheed and Ward 2000*), has pointed out, where charity tends to involve individuals or small group of people acting to meet the immediate needs of others, work for justice involves a more communal and even global awareness of problems and their potential long term solutions. **Where the notion of charity calls to mind voluntary giving out of one's surplus, the demands of justice point to an absolute obligation to share the benefits of God's creation more generously.**

Lord Jesus,

may your peace dawn on me when I struggle for justice.