

Saint Edith Stein Roman Catholic Church

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THE PRESENCE OF GOD



The disciples on the road to Emmaus walked and talked with Jesus all day long, but it was not until they offered Him hospitality and He blessed and broke the bread that they recognized Him. Simple acts of loving kindness *still* reveal the presence of God in our midst.

Your ShareLife gift changes lives

Our second ShareLife Collection will be on April 30. Among others, your contributions help people with disabilities and their family members. Your generous support enables our member agencies to provide them with the resources they need.

As the Father has sent me

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” Will you respond to God's call to be sent as priest, sister or brother? If God is calling you, contact **Fr. Matthew McCarthy at 416-968-0997.**
vocations@vocations.ca or visit www.vocationstoronto.ca

Thank you very much for supporting our parish's ShareLife campaign.

Please give

- at the parish using a ShareLife envelope,
- online through our parish website, or
- at sharelife.org/donate.

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



Presence and Reverence

In today's second reading (1 Peter 1.17-21) St. Peter urges his readers to "conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning". Reverence is an essential aspect of good worship, though it is not always as evident as you might wish when we gather for liturgy.

Often reverence is compromised by our penchant for haste. Fostering an atmosphere of reverence requires enough time to enter into the mystery present in our midst. As the revised *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* notes about the liturgy of the word, it "must be celebrated in such a way as to promote meditation. For this reason, any sort of haste that hinders recollection must be clearly avoided" (#56).

Beyond haste, our problems with reverence often flow from a lack of

appreciation for the ways that Christ is present in the liturgy. *Reverence means recognizing and responding to the presence of the divine.* If we do not recognize Christ's presence, we are not likely to respond with reverence.

Today's gospel (Luke 24.13-35) account of the journey to Emmaus gives us a good example of this problem. Only after the two disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread did they respond with awe and reverence. Through most of the account they simply do not recognize that Jesus is with them.

When we take part in the Eucharistic celebration, are we aware of the various ways that Christ is present amidst us: in the assembly, in the presider, in the word proclaimed, and in the sharing of Christ's body and blood in communion? If liturgical ministers are intensely aware of Christ's presence and manifest that in the way they carry out their ministries, this will be conveyed subtly but effectively to the assembly. Let us ask ourselves the following questions. Do the lectors wait until all are really ready before they begin proclaiming the word? Do musicians allow significant time for silence before starting the responsorial psalm and gospel acclamation? Do eucharistic ministers handle the body of Christ with care and grace? Is it not advisable to spend 5 to 10 minutes in silent reflection just before the mass?

Readings:

1st Reading: Acts 2.42-47

2nd reading: 1 Peter 1.3-9

Gospel: John 20.19-31