

Saint Edith Stein Roman Catholic Church

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Rev. Constantin Siarapis

Administrator



The Advent Wreath Ceremony Week 3



ARE YOU ONE TO BE SENT?

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Are you one to be sent? If God is calling you to be sent as a priest or religious contact

Fr. Matthew McCarthy @ 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."

This joyful Sunday in Advent (known as Gaudete) is represented by a rose (or pink) candle in the Advent wreath instead of the penitential purple color. Each night during the third week the mother of the family lights the pink as well as the two previously burned purple candles after the following prayer has been said.

Father: O Lord, we beg Thee incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The three candles are extinguished following the meal.

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.

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

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.



Transformative Grace

During this month, transformation seems to be the order of the day. In preparation for Christmas, most of us will transform our homes and businesses with decorations that celebrate this happy season.

While this transformation is only a cosmetic and a temporary one, the liturgy for today puts us in touch with a transformation of another sort, viz., the profoundly transformative power of the coming of our God. Isaiah (35:1-6,10) describes this transformation in terms of a desert blooming and of the fearful and feeble becoming brave and strong. His vision of the blind gaining their sight, the deaf beginning to hear, the mute being able to speak and the lame leaping bears eloquent witness to the conviction that nothing is impossible for God. As evidence of the power and possibilities of God at work in him, Jesus, in today's Gospel (Mt 11:2-11), will allude to these very healings and add to them the even greater transformation of lepers being made whole, the dead being raised and the poor hearing the good news of salvation preached to them. Like Isaiah before him, Jesus

understood that nothing is impossible for God.

The Bible is relentless in its conviction that nothing that is distorted or deathly need remain as it is. God's power and God's passion converge to make total newness possible. God's promises of messianic possibility work against our exhaustion, our despair and our sense of hopelessness.

Newness is indeed possible, and this God has affirmed in Jesus. In embracing this hope, Christians distinguish themselves from those who despair, and from the self-sufficient who believe that they themselves can produce the newness. To avoid both the despair that kills hope and the pride that ignores grace, believers are called home each Advent to a renewed reliance on God.

For too long we stood on this earth in a false security. In our spiritual insanity we dared to think that we could, by our own power, avert the dangers and banish the night. We believed that we could harness everything and order the universe to our liking. But, over and against our daring and desires stands the message of Advent; it is the Lord, the Coming One who came and who will come again, who will bring about the transformation of our human hearts by Gospel grace. If we want to transform life again, if Advent is truly to come again, the Advent of home and of hearts, the Advent of the people and the nations – then we must allow ourselves to be shaken and sifted and if need be, to be shattered by grace.