

Saint Edith Stein Roman Catholic Church

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Rev. Constantin Siarapis

Administrator



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sat. Dec. 24th - Christmas Eve

6:00pm - (Vigil) Mass

Sun. Dec. 25th - Christmas Day

11:30am Mass with carols

- last mass for Christmas obligation

NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES

(Feast of Mary, Mother of God)

Sun. Jan. 1st - New Year's Day

11:30am Mass

- last mass for New Year's Day

ARE YOU WILLING TO RESPOND?

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife... When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." Are you willing to respond as Joseph did? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister

Fr. Matthew McCarthy @ 416-968-0997

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www.vocationstoronto.ca

BE OPEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother, Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit!

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



Keeping "God-with-us"

In his classic Christmas story *The Story of the Other Wise Man* (Harper, N.Y., 1899), Henry Van Dyke wrote of keeping Christmas not just one day but every day: "Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world – stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death – and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem... all those years ago is the image and brightness of Eternal Love? Then", said Van Dyke, "you can keep Christmas, and if you can keep it for a day, why not always?" Why not, indeed?

In today's liturgy, each of the three scripture texts offered by the prophet Isaiah, the apostle Paul and the evangelist Matthew reminds us that the reason we can keep Christmas today and every day is because Christmas celebrates the gift of God-with-us. Through the incarnation and birth of

Jesus, an event that is prophesied in today's first reading (Is 7:10-14) and celebrated as fulfilled in today's Gospel (Mt 1:18-24), God has become forever involved and fully invested in humanity.

One connotation of "God-with-us" is worth noting, suggests Karl Rahner (*The Great Church*, N.Y.: 1994). "When we say that God is the Lord and goal of humankind, that without God there is no meaning to our lives, that God is our helper and saviour on whose providence we are dependent, that God in mercy, will forgive our guilt... that for those who believe in, hope in and love God, God prepares an eternal life of happiness, then we shall have interpreted "God-with-us" in the right way".

Bearing witness to the gift of "God-with-us" in one of his Christmas homilies, Oscar Romero, martyred Archbishop of San Salvador, affirmed that "Jesus' birth attests that God is now marching with us in history, that we do not go alone and that our aspiration for peace, for justice, for a reign of divine law, for something holy, is far from earth's realities. We can hope for it, not because we humans are able to construct that realm of happiness which God's holy words proclaim but because the Builder of a reign of justice, of love and of peace is already in the midst of us".

God in our midst, God-with-us, Emmanuel, this is the ultimate gift of Christmas that gives all our other days and nights meaning, purpose and vision. This is the reason we may choose to skip all else in order to keep Christmas truly... to keep the gift of God-with-us.