

# Saint Edith Stein Roman Catholic Church

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**Rev. Constantin Siarapis**

Administrator



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**Sat. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve**  
6:00pm - (Vigil) Mass

**Sun. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> - 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. 1<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Day**  
11:30am Mass  
- last mass for New Year's Day

## "LET IT BE DONE TO ME "

The shepherds who heard the joyous news from the angels on that first Christmas night and then hurried to find the infant Saviour must surely have been changed by that experience. How has His coming changed my life?

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Lord God, we praise you for creating man, and still more for restoring him in Christ.

Your Son shared our weakness; may we share his glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



### 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](http://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



Today is born our Saviour,  
Christ the Lord.

## Christmas - The Story of Love

We have just finished lighting our way around the advent wreath, moving from darkness of winter nights to the bright Christmas lights representing for us the light the birth of Christ brought into our world. We call this incarnation, God becoming one of us in the person of Jesus Christ. We call this a mystery not because it is something we must solve but something we must ponder, think about carefully and deeply. What are some things we can reflect on to take home into our lives this Christmas?

**First, the feast of Christmas tells us God wants to be close to us.** That is why he chose to share the experience of being human which means to laugh and cry, be hurt and comforted, to grow and learn, to be born and die. Christmas can remind us God wants to be close to us. It prompts the question, "How do I live so I grow close to God?"

**Second, it tells us that we should look for God not in the powerful and the rich but**

**in the most unlikely places,** the vulnerable, the young, the poor, the frail, in the one who may need our care and protection... like a baby, like that baby Jesus came as. Wouldn't you have expected God to want to come fully grown, perhaps as a king or president in charge and skip the whole part of being a child in the care of others much less a baby who was completely helpless?

**Third, the Christmas story tells us that family must be very important** because when God came to be close to us, willing to be vulnerable, the setting of choice was to be born without much, barely even a shelter, but in the arms of a family. We all come from families of some kind though they may look different. Christmas absolutely declares the family is a sacred place.

Christmas teaches us that God, because of becoming human in Jesus Christ wanted to be close to us and we must make room for God everyday. We do this through prayer and by living in a way that Jesus taught us, serving others in ways we can and forgiving others when we need to and being the hope to others that Jesus wants us to be. By the little acts of everyday life, speaking with kindness, being the person who tries to create peace, letting others be first are very real ways we say to God **"I want to be close to you, too"**.

Let the Christmas story of scripture remind you God wants to be the centre of every family. **Let us live our lives making every gesture, word and act an invitation, a little Christmas, giving birth to Christ's spirit in our families and in our world.**