

Saint Edith Stein Roman Catholic Church

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VOCATION RELECTION

Mary treasured all that God had done for her, and pondered these things in her heart. Do you treasure God and ponder what He wants from you? You may have a vocation to a life in the Church serving Christ. If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister

**Contact: Vocation Director,
Archdiocese of Toronto at
416-968-0997.**

**email vocations@archtoronto.org
www.vocationstoronto.ca**

OFFERING ENVELOPES READY FOR PICKUP

The Offering Envelopes are available for pickup.

Please write your full name and address clearly on the first few envelopes. If you move during the year please notify the parish office. Please use your envelopes with prayer and reflection.

ON STEWARDSHIP

Today's second reading reminds us that through Christ we have been delivered from the old law and have become sons and daughters of God. New Year's Day provides a perfect opportunity to ask ourselves the question: Does my life reflect my gratitude for all that my loving Father has given me?

FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

God our Father, may we always profit by the prayers of the Virgin Mother Mary, for you bring us life and salvation through Jesus Christ her Son who 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.

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



They brought the child Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

Mother of God - Mother of Prayer

Today we honour Mary with a solemnity mass acknowledging a title for her that dates back to the Council of Ephesus in 431: "Mother of God". **The speciality of this year is that it coincides with the beginning of the New Year 2017.**

In his infancy narrative Luke twice tells us that **Mary was a mother of deep, reflective prayer**. First, shortly after the birth of Jesus, the shepherds came from their fields and told Joseph and Mary of the angelic vision they had experienced about the infant child. In the vision the shepherds were told that the new-born child was the "Messiah and Lord" (see Lk 2:2-14). What was Mary's reaction to this astonishing news? **"Mary kept all these things, reflecting upon them in her heart"** (2:19). Second, Luke preserves another tradition about Mary that points to her as a mother of deep, reflective prayer. When the boy Jesus was 12, Mary and Joseph, had a startling experience in which

they believed they had lost Jesus in Jerusalem after celebrating the annual feast of Passover. In a state of "great anxiety" they found Jesus in the Jerusalem temple sitting among the teachers, listening and asking questions. Jesus' response to his relieved and anxious parents was thus: "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" What was Mary's reaction to this experience? **"His mother kept all these things in her heart"** (2:51). In short, Mary is a mother who turned to prayer both at moments of great joy (Jesus' birth) and at moments of great anxiety (Jesus' absence). **The necessity for prayer throughout life is certainly one of the most important lessons that Mary, as Mother of God, teaches.**

Although Paul does not develop a rich Mariology, in today's second reading from Galatians (4:4-7) he does discuss the implications of Jesus being "born of a woman, born under the law"; "so that we might receive adoption as sons". **Jesus, the Son of God, being born of Mary allows all of us to be co-"heirs" to God's kingdom.** Paul teaches us that when we profess God as "Abba, Father!" we bear witness to our title as "sons" of the living God.

"Mother of God" is the oldest title the church gives to Mary. Sacred Tradition teaches us that like the ancient Israelites in the 1st reading from the Book of Numbers (6:22-27), we too experience a blessing and a grace bestowed upon us by the Lord. **We are in the privileged historical position of recognizing and celebrating the role that Mary, the Mother of God, has in bestowing God's grace and blessing upon us.**