

Saint Edith Stein Roman Catholic Church

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Rev. Constantin Siarapis

Administrator



The Advent Wreath

During the Advent season families should spend time together preparing for the approaching celebration of the birth of Christ. An Advent wreath can be a great focal point for family prayers and holiday celebrations. A rose-colored candle is used to mark the Third Sunday of Advent as a time to rejoice over the closeness of Christmas and the coming of Christ.

Children love the beauty of the simple traditional ceremony. Lighting candles in an Advent Wreath is a simple way to start a tradition of family worship in the home. Those who participate will cherish the experience all their lives. Each day your family should gather around the Advent wreath, generally before the evening meal. The proper number of candles are then lit and a prayer is said.

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.

It's suggested that all envelope users write their full address CLEARLY on the last few envelopes for the year just so the records can be checked.

Luke 1

*My soul shall exult
in my God.*

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



From Anxiety to Joy

Today is Gaudete Sunday. The name comes from the Entrance Antiphon from today's liturgy. **Every mass has an Entrance Antiphon** (usually a phrase from scripture) **assigned to it, and it used to be a custom to assign a title to every Sunday mass.** The title was a Latin word taken from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon. **The first word today is rejoice - Gaudete!** The colour of vestments for today's liturgy is rose. The lighting of the rose candle in the Advent wreath adds to the ambience of this joyous day.

All the readings of this Sunday underscore the theme of joy. In the 1st reading from Isaiah, we read "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord". In the 2nd reading (1 Thes.5:16-24), Paul exhorts the Thessalonians to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances. Though we do not find explicit reference to joy in the gospel (Jn 1:6-8,19-28) **John the Baptist's plea to make straight the way of the Lord is an emphatic declaration that sin and joy won't go together** and therefore people should confess their sins and undergo conversion.

Do our rituals and symbols produce real joy in our life? Is it not true that they do not match our reality. **We profess that Christ comes to save us, but we don't really believe that we need to be saved.** Take the case of our anxieties. As theologian Paul Tillich says every human being labours under a triple anxiety: anxiety about one's own existence, about the meaning of life and about guilt. Tillich calls these *absolute anxieties* because they exist in the

heart of humanity.

It is a strange fact that we don't worry much about absolutes. At the same time we are worried about a lot of relative anxieties like pain. We don't want to think about death; but pain evokes general anxiety about death. Anxiety about the meaning of life exhibits itself in our frantic drive for identity, affirmation and relevance. Guilt anxiety is the basic realization that we can do evil but not *undo* it.

In this human condition, **Advent is an invitation to trace a passing pain, a nagging worry, an uneasy conscience back to the source in the absolute anxieties of death, meaning and guilt.** We might even discover that we do need to be saved. Not from anxiety, which is natural. But we need someone to transform death to resurrection, give meaning to our life, forgive our sins. Here comes the relevance of John the Baptist's proclamation.

Do I?

All of the people in today's readings — the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist — seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

A MAN NAMED JOHN..

There was a man named John, sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is it possible God could be calling your name to witness to the Light of Christ in our day?

If God is calling you contact:

**Fr. Matt McCarthy,
Vocation Director,**

**Archdiocese of Toronto
416-968-0997**

**Email: vocations@archtoronto.org
www.vocationstoronto.ca**