

We welcome you to

Holy Martyrs of Japan Parish

P.O. Box 1180, 167 Essa Street, Bradford, Ont. L3Z 2B6

Telephone 905-775-2065 Fax 905-775-9241 Parish subscription with Formed.org

Email: holymartyrs of japan@archtoronto.org website: holymartyrs of japan.archtoronto.org

Parish Office Hours—Monday to Friday—9:30am to 12:30pm and 1:00pm to 4:30pm

Pastor: Rev. John Pak jpak@archtoronto.org

Associate Pastor: Rev. Joseph Baal jbaal@archtoronto.org

Deacon: Deacon David Langley



*Oh Come
Let us Adore Him*

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, December 26, 9:00AM

+ Joao Gomes & Augusta Barros +Salvatore Cipponeri
+Manuel Da Silva

TUESDAY, December 27, 9:00AM

+Silvina Viera

WEDNESDAY, December 28, 7:00PM

+Margaret Connolly

THURSDAY, December 29, 9:00AM

+Victor Santos Domingues

FRIDAY, December 30, 7:00PM

+Manuel & Maria Conceicao Moniz

SATURDAY, December 31, 9:00AM-No Mass

SATURDAY, December 31, 5:00 & 7:00PM

+ProPopulo

SUNDAY, January 1, 2023, 8:00AM-No Mass

SUNDAY, January 1, 2023, 10:00AM

+ProPopulo

SUNDAY, January 1, 2023, 12:00PM

+ProPopulo

SUNDAY, January 1, 2023, 6:30PM-No Mass

Merry Christmas

- We have returned to 100% Capacity
- Masks are voluntary but *highly recommended*
- No registration required to attend Mass

MONTHLY REQUIEM MASS AT HOLY MARTYRS OF JAPAN CEMETERY - January 6, 2023

Please join us in a Mass celebration at Holy Martyrs of Japan Cemetery for the faithful departed, the first Friday of every month at 11:00am weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, the Mass will be held at the Church. Mass intentions can be booked through the parish office.

Offering Envelopes



2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offertory boxes can also be picked up anytime after December 18, at the parish office. Please call. Pre-authorized Giving (PAG) is also an option. This allows you to give to your parish through scheduled monthly transfers from your bank account. Please contact the parish office at 905 775 2065 or email: holymartysofjapan@archtoronto.org.

Christ in the manger, Your humble coming as man fills us with hope that our lives matter, that God is truly with us, and that we are never alone, even in death. You shared our human nature in every way but sin, and so give us hope that we will one day share life in heaven with You.

REFLECTION

Christmas is the night the future began. It is the night that humanity was gifted the most precious of gifts... God became man. He came in the flesh in order to die. God came so close to us that we killed Him. God became man, paradoxically, so that He could cease to be God and taste death. Without this sacrifice, we would be unable to interpret nature, suffering, love, death, or war.

We did nothing to merit such a generous, self-emptying God. There is nothing here but grace. At Christmas, then, we commemorate not our search for God but God's search for us. His searching and finding were His first mission. It is our duty to respond to this mission. God's search for us does not cease as December rolls over into January. Christ's voice never quiets and His steps never pause. Every day of every year He is walking at our side, waiting for our response: "Yes" or "No." And with that "Yes" or "No," our eternity hangs in the balance. Christmas is the day of days for this reason—it is easy to believe in God today. Christmas makes it simple to say "Yes" to God's plan for our lives. Yet that baby, like all babies, grows up. And as He grows, He will become more demanding and more specific in His expectations of us. And our responses to Him will become nuanced and more complex. He will be a bit harder to love and much more challenging to serve. Christ will not judge us from a crib at the end of time. When His eyes sparkle like diamonds and His voice crashes like thunder at the Last Judgment, He will be the towering Christ. So while we fall in love with the Babe in the manger, we must mature with Him as the years pass.

There's a thousand ways to begin a story: "So, there I was"; "In a land far, far away"; "Once upon a time." The Christian story starts, "This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about..." This wondrous beginning leads to a tragic middle and a rousing end. It is the story of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. He is born of Mary but is, more deeply, from the Father. The Christ Child is the wordless Word who begins His daring mission in all humility. He beckons us closer to the crib for a moment, but many stay at His side their entire lives. We stay because we have real questions that demand real answers that can be found nowhere else except in the Church. While all other stories fade, the Christ story becomes more and more true as we mature. This story alone gives meaning to death, purpose to suffering, cause for joy, and consolation to the broken. This story alone rises above any one culture, city, language, or nation. Its plot is everyone's drama, its heartbreak everyone's sorrow, and its victory everyone's prize. This is the story of Jesus Christ, and this story begins today. Catholic News Agency 2021



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Day – Sunday December 25, 2022
(No 8:00am Mass or 6:30pm Mass)
10:00am, 12:00 Noon

Holy Family - Friday December 30, 2022, at 7:00pm

Saturday December 31, 2022-Vigil-Mary Mother of God
(No 9:00am Mass, Confessions from 3:30-4:30pm Only)
5:00pm Livestream, 7:00pm (Refreshments after Mass)

The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
Sunday January 1, 2023
(No 8:00am Mass or 6:30pm Mass)
10:00am, 12:00 Noon

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

All Sundays, Christmas Day (The Nativity of the Lord) and New Year's Day (Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God) are days of Holy Obligation for Catholics in Canada

Please note that the office will be closed on Monday December 26, Tuesday December 27, 2022, and Monday January 2, 2023. Mass will be at 9:00am.

CHRISTMAS TAKEDOWN

Volunteers needed to help take down the Christmas decorations that adorned our altar this year. If you are free on January 14, 2023, after the 9:00am Mass, we would love your help! All are welcome.

INTRODUCING A NEW MINISTRY "AMONG FRIENDS"

"Among Friends" is a group of friends supporting positive changes to the wellbeing of widows (of all ages) through social interaction and activities once a month. The first meeting will be Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 2:00pm at the Church. We will meet for coffee and fellowship to share our stories and plan future activities and outings. Perhaps coffee chats, lunches etc. Your suggestions for activities are always welcome. If interested, please contact Cecilia Podger at 416 710 3155 or email:

ceciliapodger@yahoo.ca



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Will be held on January 6th, 2023, at 7:30pm following the 7:00pm Mass

SACRAMENTS

REGISTRATION FOR 2023 FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION IS OPEN!

First Communion Deadline for Registration:
January 31, 2023

Confirmation Deadline for Registration:
December 31, 2022


Please submit your registrations before the deadline this will ensure your child is signed up for preparation classes.


Registration forms are available online or can be picked up in person after Mass in the foyer. Forms can be accessed from our website: holymartyrssofjapan.archtoronto.org by going to "Sacraments", choose First Communion or Confirmation and complete the registration form. PLEASE BE SURE TO ATTACH YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM CERTIFICATE ALONG WITH THE COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM FOR FIRST COMMUNION OR CONFIRMATION.

Registration forms and a copy of your child's baptismal certificate can be submitted in person to the parish office or by email at: sacraments.hmoj@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION PREPARATION. Anyone interested, please contact the parish office.

YOUTH MINISTRY

 **EDGE**® Come to the EDGE! Grades 6, 7 & 8 *Fridays * 7:00-8:30pm in the Parish Hall. New Friends, Fun Games, Deepen your Faith
January 13 – United Front

 **LIFE TEEN** LIFE TEEN is for youth in Grades 9-12 and will be held on every other Friday from 7:00pm to 9:00pm are all welcome! No registration required. The next Life night is
December 30 - No Lifeteen
January 20 – Seeing the Way

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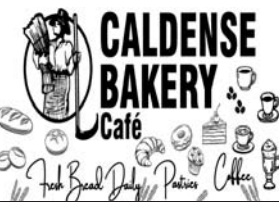
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