

We welcome you to

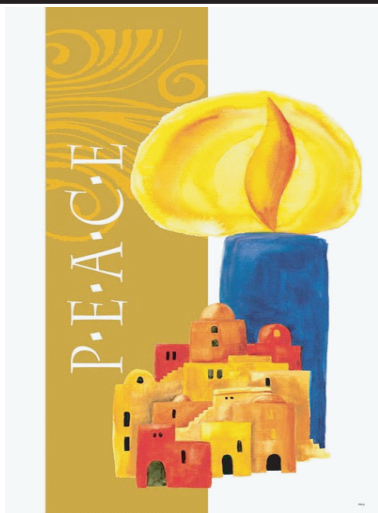
# Holy Martyrs of Japan Parish

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: holymartyrssofjapan@archtoronto.org website: holymartyrssofjapan.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  
**Lay Pastoral Associate:** Eduardo Meneses emeneses@archtoronto.org



## St. Paul Miki and Companions—Pray for Us!

### SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm  
8:00 am (Mass in Portuguese the second Sunday of the month.)  
10:00 am, 12:00 pm  
4:30 pm (Spanish Mass for Migrant Workers)  
6:30 pm

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 7:00pm  
Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays 9:00am

### CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 8:00am to 8:30am and 3:30pm to 4:30pm  
or by appointment.

### BAPTISMS

Please contact Father John at jpak@archtoronto.org

### MARRIAGE

Please contact Father John at jpak@archtoronto.org

### HOLY COMMUNION for SHUT-INS and SICK

If you know of anyone who is sick and would like to have communion brought to them or would like the Sacrament of the Sick, or simply would like to be included in the Prayers of the Faithful, contact us.

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Holy Trinity High School—905-775-4841  
St. Marie of the Incarnation—905-775-3492  
St. Teresa of Calcutta—905-778-8653  
St. Charles—905-775-6762  
St. Jean de Brebeuf—905-775-8460  
St. Angela Merici—289-231-2085

### OFFICE STAFF

**Office Manager:**  
Delia McEvenue  
**Office Assistant:**  
Anna Maria Mongillo  
**Custodian/Maintenance:**  
Anthony Venroy

### MINISTERS

**Youth Minister:**  
Ray Reitzel email: reitzel@hotmail.com  
**Ministry to Migrant Workers:**  
Nancy Mora

### PARISH MINISTRIES and SOCIETIES

Alpha  
Among Friends (Ministry for grieving women)  
Catholic Moms Group  
Catholic Moms and Tots  
CWL (Catholic Women's League)  
Consolation and Hope  
EDGE Youth Ministry  
El Sembrador - Ministry to Migrant Workers  
Knights of Columbus  
LifeTeen Youth Ministry  
Liturgical Ministers  
Nossa Senhora De Fatima  
RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)  
Rosary Apostolate  
Sacramental Preparation & Catechesis  
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
Santissima Divinidade  
Young Adult Ministry (YAM)

### NEW PARISHIONERS: WELCOME!

We are delighted to have you join our parish family; we invite you to register by completing the form in the parish foyer or at the parish office. Offering envelopes available by request.

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

### MONDAY, December 11, 7:00PM

+Ismael Garzon +Marian Yanek +Caterina Nguyen Thi Ghien & Guise Bui Huy Nhan +Feliciano Da Silva & Joaquim Afonso +Guy Leger +Maria Anjos & Angelino Domingues +Liliane Ventura Marques

### TUESDAY, December 12, 9:00AM

\*Special Intentions of the McEvenue Family

### WEDNESDAY, December 13, 7:00PM

+Vita & Stephanie Nalli

### THURSDAY, December 14, 9:00AM

+All Deceased Borges & Da Silva Family Members

### FRIDAY, December 15, 7:00PM

+Salvatore Vena

### SATURDAY, December 16, 9:00AM

\*ProPopulo

### SATURDAY, December 16, 5:00PM

+Anna Chafe +Vitorino Nazario & Olimpia Sousa +All Deceased Members of the Pinho Family +Carlo & Maria Medeiros +Jose Rodrigues +Benedito Da Silva & Albina Barbosa +Jose Miranda & Manuel Pereira +Pedro Viana +Idalina Moniz & Manuel Vieira +Stefania Hong +Jose Guadalupe Jimenez & Jefery Castro Jimenez

### SUNDAY, December 17, 8:00AM,

\*ProPopulo

### SUNDAY, December 17, 10:00AM,

+Abilio Soares & Antonio Simoes

### SUNDAY, December 17, 12:00PM,

+Manuel da Silva

### SUNDAY, December 17, 4:30PM

**El Sembrador**

+Alma Angel Hurtado & Leo Alejandro Sandoval

### SUNDAY, December 17, 6:30PM – No Mass

### FOOD BANK CHRISTMAS DRIVE

During this season of Advent, let us prepare our hearts in the anticipation of His coming by being the hands and feet of Christ alive in our community displaying acts of charity and love of neighbour. Help spread the message of Christ's HOPE this season by donating non-perishable items to our Food Bank! Please feel free to drop off your donations in the crate at the entrance of our church. Thank you for your generosity!

### ARCHBISHOP PARISH VISIT - DECEMBER 17 2023

His Grace, Archbishop Francis Leo, will visit our parish on December 17, 2023, to celebrate the 12 noon Mass. The Mass will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person. **PLEASE NOTE: The 6:30pm Mass on December 17 will be cancelled.**

### 2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offertory boxes can be picked up anytime after December 17, at the parish office.

## REFLECTION

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* [Mark 1:1-3](#)

These, the opening lines from the Gospel of Saint Mark, present us with Saint John the Baptist. John was the one that Isaiah prophesied would come before the Messiah. John was given the responsibility and privilege of being the one who would be the most immediate preparer for the Savior of the World.

Perhaps if most people were given the task of instructing John on how best to prepare the way for the Lord, they would tell him he must go to the leaders of the people, the civil authorities, the influential and those of status in society to win them over first. Many would conclude that the Messiah needed to have the full support of the leaders at that time. But that's obviously not what John did.

John the Baptist, at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was driven not into the homes of the most prestigious and wealthy, not into the halls of the civil governors, and not into the synagogues or Temple. Instead, John was driven into the desert. And in the desert, that dry and deserted place, he drew many people to himself and to his message of repentance.

God continues to call many today to follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist. Though John was a real person sent on a real mission at one particular moment in time, the mission he fulfilled is one that still needs fulfilling in various ways today. The "way of the Lord" still needs to be prepared. The Lord still desires to come to many, and He needs prophets to prepare the way for His continual coming by grace. Are you one of those people?

Truth be told, every one of us, rich or poor, learned or unlearned, young or old, etc., is called by God to prepare the way for His coming by grace every day. We are called to prepare the way by calling others to sincere repentance and conversion of life. This is done by the witness of our actions, by our words and by numerous other ways that God calls. How is God calling you to do His work? He is certainly calling you. You simply need to be open to that calling and generously respond.

Reflect, today, upon that "desert" to which you have been called, so as to prepare yourself and others for the coming of Christ. That desert is any place where there is need and every place where our Lord is not. It might be your family, work environment, community, among friends, or any place that lacks the superabundance of God's grace. Seek to enter those deserts and to be open to be a channel of our Lord's grace to those in need. Catholic News Agency2021

**A Heart enamoured of God is unconquerable, since God is its Strength – St Catherine of Genoa**

**We are looking for help with Christmas decorating on December 16 at 9:30am after Mass. All are welcome!**

## Christmas Mass Schedule

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Sunday December 24, 2023

8:00am, 10:00am (Livestream), 12:00 Noon

Christmas Eve - Sunday December 24, 2023

4:30pm Spanish, 6:30pm, 12:00 Midnight

Christmas Day – Monday December 25, 2023

10:00am (Livestream), 12:00 Noon

Holy Family – Sunday December 31, 2023,

8:00am, 10:00am (Livestream), 12:00 Noon

Vigil-Mary Mother of God -Sunday December 31, 2023

4:30pm Spanish, 6:30pm

The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Monday January 1, 2024

10:00am (Livestream), 12:00 Noon

**Please note: There will be No Mass on Tuesday December 26, 2023, and Tuesday January 2, 2024, and the office will be closed on Monday December 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> 2023, and Monday January 1<sup>st</sup>, and Tuesday January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.**

### HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

All Sunday, 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.

### POINSETTIA MEMORIAL GARDEN

We invite all parishioners to bring a poinsettia in memory of their loved ones to be placed in our poinsettia memorial garden for the altar. **Poinsettias are asked to be dropped off starting on Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup> until Friday December 15<sup>th</sup> in the Narthex of the Church.** Labels will be available to you to write the name(s) of your loved ones. Please affix the label to your poinsettia. They will later be placed at the altar for our Christmas celebration.

### ARCHDIOCESAN CONSULTATION UNDERWAY

**Your assistance is requested!** Our Archbishop, the Most Rev. Francis Leo, is inviting Catholics throughout the archdiocese to share their key priorities to help inform and guide an updated Pastoral Plan. To participate in the consultation, visit: [www.archtoronto.org/consultation](http://www.archtoronto.org/consultation) to complete a brief survey by **December 15 2023**, where you can offer your insights, ideas and discernment.

### CHRISTMAS NOVENA – 9 DAY NIGHT MASS

*A Filipino and Spanish Christmas Tradition:*

*Simbang Gabi /Misa de Aguinaldo*

This custom began as a way of accompanying Mary symbolically in prayer through the nine months of her pregnancy in anticipation of the coming of Our Lord. We invite all the faithful to celebrate this “Promise of Salvation” to attend this nine-day English Novena Mass starting on December 15 at the 7:00pm Mass, through to December 23 in our Parish. Experience the Joy with a peaceful spirit as we await the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. All are welcome! *“Advent is the anticipation of the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ the Light that will lead us out of darkness.”*

### SACRAMENTS

#### REGISTRATION FOR 2024 FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION IS NOW CLOSED!

Thank you to all who registered to receive the sacrament of First Communion and Confirmation scheduled for Spring of 2024. Registration is now closed, and we are now able to move forward with the next stage of our planning process; sacramental preparation, and the recruiting of the volunteers required to assist with the number of children registered.

For all those who have not registered for the 2024 sacramental season, we look forward to celebrating these sacraments with you next year. Be sure to visit our website and online bulletin for future communications regarding sacramental registration for next year.

### YOUTH MINISTRY



Edge is a fun, exciting and free Program that offers youth the opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship with other youth and peer leaders. Grades 6, 7 & 8's are invited to come to the EDGE, on Fridays 7:00-8:30pm in the Parish Hall. New Friends, Fun Games, Deepen your Faith. This semester we will be diving deeper into each fruit of the Holy Spirit. Each Edge Night will be themed with a different superhero as a fun way to demonstrate each fruit of the spirit.

**Next Edge Night: December 22 – Christmas Social**

### LIFE TEEN

LIFE TEEN is an international Catholic ministry that serves the Church and leads all teens closer to Christ by providing resources that encourage vibrant Eucharistic celebrations and opportunities for teens to grow in their faith. 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!

**Next Life Teen Night: December 15 -Christmas Party**

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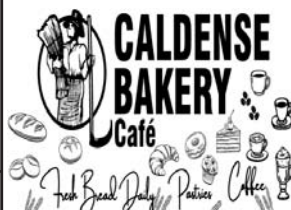


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