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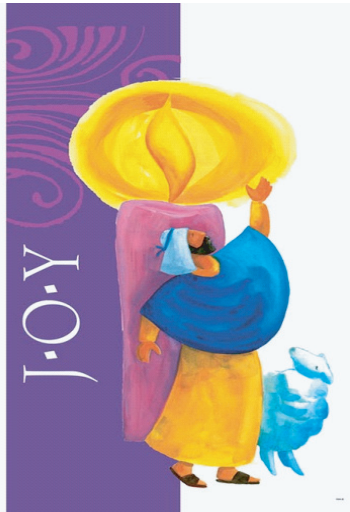
Holy Martyrs of Japan Parish

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 18, 7:00PM

+Manuel Nuno Rodrigues +Matthew Talarico +Maria de Jesus Carreiro + Lucy Dantas +Orlando Soares +Joao Veloso +Virgilio Pinho +Rita Viaes & Francelino Viaes +Antonio Gallo

TUESDAY, December 19, 9:00AM

+Michael & Gabriela Mongillo

WEDNESDAY, December 20, 7:00PM

+Augusto Bertocchi

THURSDAY, December 21, 9:00AM

+Nathan Moniz

FRIDAY, December 22, 7:00PM

+Eduino Cabral & Fernando Paulino

SATURDAY, December 23, 9:00AM

*ProPopulo

SATURDAY, December 23, 5:00PM

+Duncan Drummond +Manuel da Silva +Arlindo Araujo +Pedro Viana +Eduardo & Irma Lancha +Joe Lancha & Joao Ferreira +Antonio Bettencourt +John Faria & Fatima Faria *Special Intentions for All May & Fenchak Family Members *Special Intentions for Julia & Virgilio Grego* Special Intention for Domingues Family

SUNDAY, December 24, 8:00AM, 10:00AM, 12NOON

4th Sunday of Advent - See Christmas Mass Schedule

*ProPopulo

SUNDAY, December 24, 4:30PM Spanish, 6:30PM,

12 MIDNIGHT Christmas Eve – See Christmas Mass Schedule *ProPopulo



FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR ADORATION

Will be held on January 5, 2024, at 7:30pm
following the 7:00pm Mass

MONTHLY REQUIEM MASS AT HOLY MARTYRS OF JAPAN CHURCH – Friday January 5, 2024,

Please join us in a Mass celebration at Holy Martyrs of Japan for the faithful departed, the first Friday of every month at 11:00am. Mass Intentions can be booked through the parish office.

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! Thank you for your generosity!

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offertory boxes can be picked up anytime after December 15, at the parish office. Pre- authorized Giving (PAG) is also an option. Please contact the parish office or email:

holy martyrs of japan@archtoronto.org.

REFLECTION

“I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘make straight the way of the Lord,’” as Isaiah the prophet said.” [John 1:23](#)

In the passage above, Saint John the Baptist quotes [Isaiah 40:3](#): “A voice proclaims: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!” This was a prophecy of Isaiah who was speaking about the return of the Jewish exiles from Babylon back to Jerusalem. Normally, people would travel along the well-watered routes from Mesopotamia to Israel. Those routes were safer than the desert and provided the necessary food and water for the journey. But Isaiah prophesied that the Jewish exiles would travel the shortest route—straight across the desert—and that God would provide for their needs during that journey. Such a journey required much trust in the providence of God.

John the Baptist, in quoting Isaiah, applies this prophecy to himself. He was called to cry out in the desert and point people directly to the Messiah. It was in the desert that they would discover their Savior.

First of all, John cries out in the “desert.” His message is for those who experience dryness, destitution, need and loss in life due to sin. His message of repentance is first for those who are without the spiritual nourishment God wants to bestow upon them through grace. The message of John is pointed to those who humbly see the difficult situation they are facing in life and acknowledge their need for the Living Water of the Savior of the World.

Second, this new “straight” way implies that many are not walking the direct path to Christ. Instead, they are taking unnecessary detours in life. John’s message is one that calls everyone to the straight and direct way of repenting of their sins so that they can come to faith in Christ Jesus.

Third, walking through the desert to find Christ requires trust in God’s providence. It takes courage to make such a journey. Trust in the ongoing providence of God, Who promises to meet all of our needs, is key. One would not walk straight through the desert if they did not trust their guide.

Advent is a time to reexamine the road you are on. Are you trying to find your own way to happiness? Are you trusting in your own abilities, your own intelligence and your own plan for the future? If so, then listen to the “voice of one crying out in the wilderness.” Listen to Saint John speak to you, calling you to the simplicity of the desert, to a greater detachment from all things, to an abandonment of all that is not of God, and to a more willing trust in the providence of God to lead you.

Reflect, today, upon this calling from the desert and listen to the message God is speaking to you, personally. Abandon all worldly concerns, repent of sin, trust in Him and go out to meet Him so that you can more quickly and more easily come to a deeper faith in our Lord during this Advent season. Catholic News Agency2021

Christmas Mass Schedule

4th 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 25th, 26th 2023, and Monday January 1st, and Tuesday January 2nd, 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 13th until Friday December 15th 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.

“Beauty is the interior adornment which is renewed day by day as the power and the strength of Christ grows within the soul.”

– St. Bernard

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: January 19

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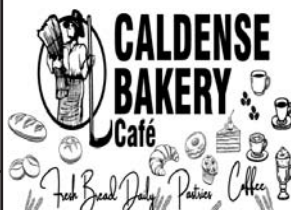


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