

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

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



## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

**MONDAY, December 25, 10:00AM, 12NOON**

*See Christmas Mass Schedule*

\*ProPopulo

**TUESDAY, December 26, 9:00AM – NO MASS**

**WEDNESDAY, December 27, 7:00PM**

+Romanko Sakac

**THURSDAY, December 28, 9:00AM**

+Salvatore Cipponeri

**FRIDAY, December 29, 7:00PM**

\*Special Intention for Victor Santos Domingues

**SATURDAY, December 30, 9:00AM**

\*ProPopulo

**SATURDAY, December 30, 5:00PM**

+Manuel da Silva +Margaret Connolly +Silvina

Vieira +Pedro Viana +Maria de Jesus Carreiro

+Augusta Barros & Joao Gomes Faria +Maria

Dolores Vigario +Jemma Polito & Antonio Turco

**SUNDAY, December 31, 8:00AM, 10:00AM, 12:00PM**

*See Christmas Mass Schedule*

\*ProPopulo

**SUNDAY, December 31, 4:30PM Spanish,**

**6:30PM**

*See Christmas Mass Schedule*

\*ProPopulo

**Please see Christmas Mass Schedule for Days and Times**

*Merry Christmas*

**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**

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!

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offertory boxes can be picked up at the parish office. 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 or email: [holymartysofjapan@archtoronto.org](mailto:holymartysofjapan@archtoronto.org).

## REFLECTION

[Luke 1:26–28](#)

This humble servant of God, a young girl, was visited by the archangel Gabriel and greeted with the salutation, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” Try to imagine her experience. She was humble beyond comprehension, filled with every heavenly virtue, loved God with all her heart and suddenly came face-to-face with this glorious and most magnificent archangel. And this heavenly visitor showered the deepest of praises upon this lowly servant of the Lord. At first, in her humility, Mary simply pondered this greeting. She pondered it in her heart through prayer and faith. Then the archangel spoke further: “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Though Mary inquired further about how this could be, she quickly gave her consent: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” And it was these words of this young woman that continuously echoed in her heart throughout her life.

Mother Mary was great for many reasons. She was the Immaculate Conception—the one singularly conceived without sin in the womb of her own mother. She was the one chosen by the Father to bring forth the Savior of the World as her only begotten Son. But her greatness is especially found in her ongoing submission to the will of God. “May it be done to me according to your word.” This is what she said over and over throughout her life. This is her perfect “fiat” to her God. All she knew was surrender and submission to all that God asked of her. And it is this, more than anything else, that made her the worthy Mother of God. We must all strive to be inspired by this holy woman. We must all ponder her deep humility and her willing acceptance of God’s will in her life. And we must all strive to imitate her fiat and her perfect virtue.

Imitation of our Blessed Mother is accomplished by first coming to know her, understand her and love who she is. Gazing upon her interior beauty and holiness presents us with the vision of the perfection to which we are all called. As we prayerfully gaze upon her heart and come to understand her virtues more clearly, we will be inspired to open our own hearts so as to imitate her by the grace of God. This prayerful exercise is one of the best and quickest ways to obtain the heights of holiness to which God has called us.

Reflect, today, upon this holy daughter of the Most High. She is one whom we can come to know through prayer and through God’s inspiration. Ponder her prayerfully. Be open to her inspiration. And allow the Holy Spirit to also overshadow you so that you will more closely be able to imitate her in her holy virtues. Catholic News Agency2021



## 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.

### CALLING ALL MOMS

Holy Martyrs of Japan Parish has a **Catholic Mom's Group** that meets once a month on Thursdays from 7:00pm-8:00pm in the Large Meeting room, to discuss the trials and tribulations of being a Catholic Mom. Motherhood is a vocation, a call from God. Whether you're a mom to a newborn, or your children are in their teens, or even older-there is always a new triumph or challenge to face. Come visit our mother's group and discover the joys of having good Catholic girlfriends. For More information contact: Kayleigh Garcia Meneses at: [catholicmomsgrouphmj@gmail.com](mailto:catholicmomsgrouphmj@gmail.com)

**DATES:** Thursday January 4, 2024  
Thursday February 1, 2024  
Thursday March 7, 2024  
Thursday April 4, 2024  
Thursday May 2, 2024  
Thursday June 6, 2024



### FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR ADORATION

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

## 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: January 12 – Captain America**

## 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 - Fanatic**

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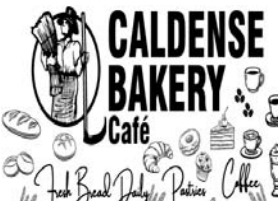
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