

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, March 11, 7:00PM**

+Margaret Connolly +Joseph Mendrek +Augusta Barros & Joao Gomes Faria +Wladyslawa Balon

**TUESDAY, March 12, 9:00AM**

+Antonio & Luiza Nazario

**WEDNESDAY, March 13, 7:00pm**

+Alan Charlebois

**THURSDAY, March 14, 9:00AM**

+Joseph Balon

**FRIDAY, March 15, 7:00PM**

+Helen Pak

**SATURDAY, March 16, 9:00AM**

\*ProPopulo

**SATURDAY, March 16, 5:00PM**

+Salvatore Vena & Vincenzo De Girolamo

+Manuel Nuno Rodrigues & Maria Faria

+Arlindo Araujo +Manuel da Silva +Antonio

Santana & Maria Sousa +Vitorino Nazario &

Olimpia Sousa +Don Harrison & Mary Carter

+Leotina Bras & Jose Bras +Joe Lancha & Joao

Ferreira \*Special Intention for John Pellegrini &

Rossana Pellegrini \* Special Intention for Leo & Cece Alfonso

**SUNDAY, March 17, 8:00AM**

+Lilian Marques & All Souls in Purgatory

**SUNDAY, March 17, 10:00AM**

+Alfredo Palmerio

**SUNDAY, March 17, 12:00PM**

\*ProPopulo

**SUNDAY, March 17, 4:30PM**

El Sembrador\*ProPopulo

**SUNDAY, March 17, 6:30PM**

+Andrea Caietta

**PLEASE NOTE: THE MASS ON TUESDAY**

**MARCH 26, 2024, WILL BE AT 7:00PM**

**INSTEAD OF 9:00AM. THERE WILL BE**

**NO MASS ON MONDAY APRIL 1, 2024.**

**THE ADORATION CHAPEL WILL BE CLOSED ON**

**MARCH 28, 29, 30 FOR THE TRIDUUM.**



## FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR ADORATION

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

## MONTHLY REQUIEM MASS AT HOLY MARTYRS OF JAPAN – April 5, 2024, at 11:00am

Mass will be held at the church. Mass Intentions can be booked at the parish office.

**2023 TAX RECEIPTS** should be received within the third week of March. With our most sincere thanks for your continued support and generosity especially during these difficult economic times.

# REFLECTION

*Jesus said to Nicodemus: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” [John 3:14–15](#)*

The line quoted above concludes a dialogue that Jesus had with Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin. This is the first of three times Nicodemus is mentioned in the Gospel of John. The second time he appears is when he reminds the other members of the Sanhedrin that a man must be first heard before he is condemned. The third time was when Jesus was killed and Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes to prepare Jesus’ body for burial. Jesus was not accepted by most of the Pharisees and within the Sanhedrin. For that reason, Nicodemus was taking a risk by going to him at night to talk. But Jesus clearly senses faith in the heart of Nicodemus, which is why when Nicodemus asks Jesus about His teaching, Jesus answers him. Unlike the other Pharisees, Nicodemus was not trying to trap our Lord; he sincerely wanted to understand.

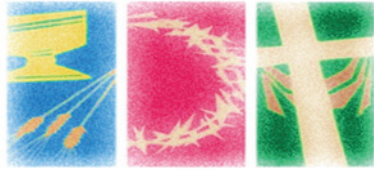
At the beginning of this dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus, Nicodemus professes the beginning of faith in Jesus when he says, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him” ([John 3:2](#)).

Interestingly, Jesus then speaks to Nicodemus in figures of speech, saying that one can only enter the Kingdom of God when they are “born from above” and “born from water and the Spirit.” Nicodemus tries to understand but fails. Jesus then gently rebukes him by saying, “You are the teacher of Israel and you do not understand this?” ([John 3:10](#)). Jesus then goes on to speak further in symbolic language and figures of speech, concluding with the beginning of today’s Gospel quoted above when He speaks in a veiled way about His coming crucifixion.

One thing that is important to understand from this dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus is that Jesus’ language is veiled in symbolic language because, even though Nicodemus was on the right path, he was not yet ready for the full revelation of the Gospel. He could not yet fully comprehend all that our Lord came to reveal. Thus, Jesus spoke in veiled language and invited Nicodemus to keep seeking its hidden meaning.

In our own lives, we can come to God and want Him to speak clearly and definitively to us, revealing His perfect will for our lives. But often He doesn’t. Why? Because God knows we are not yet ready for the full truth. When He speaks to us and when we gain insight in one way or another, this is good and reveals we are on the right path. But the Gospel, in its fullness, is so radical and so demanding that most people are not yet ready for the full truth. Therefore, in His compassion, God gives us only what we can handle at the moment. But this humble truth should encourage us, as it did Nicodemus, to not give up and to continue opening ourselves to the fullness of the Word of God. *Catholic News Agency2021*

## TRIDUUM



### HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord's Supper

March 28, 2024, at 7:00pm (Livestream)

*Followed by Adoration from 8:00pm until 12:00 Midnight in the Parish Hall*

### GOOD FRIDAY

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

March 29, 2024, at 12:00pm and 3:00pm (Livestream)

Day of Fasting and Abstinence

Divine Mercy Chaplet after 3:00pm Service

7:00pm Solemn Stations of the Cross

### HOLY SATURDAY

Easter Vigil – Resurrection of the Lord

March 30, 2024, at 8:00pm (Livestream)

Reception after Vigil Mass

*(No 9:00am and 5:00pm Mass and No Confessions)*

Blessing of Food – Saturday at 10:00am

### EASTER SUNDAY

Resurrection of the Lord

March 31, 2024, 8:00am (Portuguese Mass),

10:00am, (Livestream) & 12:00pm, 4:30pm (Migrant Worker Ministry-Spanish Mass) No 6:30pm Mass.

Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00pm

### DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

We invite our entire community to pray the Divine Mercy Starting on Good Friday after the 3:00pm service and continues every day for 9 days at 3:00pm concluding on Divine Mercy Sunday. Please note: The church is closed on

Easter Monday, pray the Novena at home this day.

**Divine Mercy Sunday – April 7, 2024, at 3:00pm (Livestream) Adoration and the Chaplet in Song**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Fridays during Lent at 7:30pm (after the 7:00pm Mass). Let us prepare for the Triduum.** On Good Friday the stations will be at 7:00pm.

### GARDEN OF LILIES

Parishioners are welcome to bring a lily plant in honor of the faithful departed to be placed in our Garden of Lilies that will adorn our altar for Easter. Plants can be dropped off starting Monday March 25, to Wednesday March 27, 2024, in the foyer. Labels will be provided in the gathering space to put the names of your loved ones on your lilies.

### ST. JOSEPH FEAST DAY – MARCH 19, 2024

Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice but in self-gift. In him, we never see frustration but only trust. His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust. Our world today needs fathers.

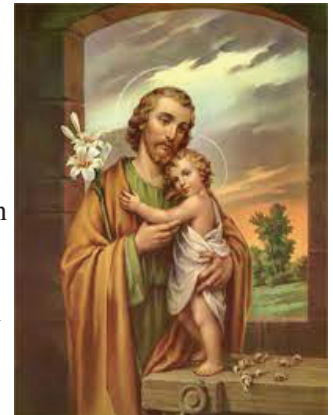
It has no use for tyrants who would domineer others as a means of compensating for their own needs.

It rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction. Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is the fruit of mature sacrifice. The priesthood and consecrated life likewise require his kind of maturity.

Whatever our vocation, whether to marriage, celibacy or virginity, our gift of self will not come to fulfillment if it stops at sacrifice; were that the case, instead of becoming a sign of the beauty and joy of love, the gift of self would risk being an expression of unhappiness, sadness and frustration. — Pope Francis, *With a Father's Heart*

**Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,**

Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.



## ShareLife

### SHARELIFE SUNDAY March 17, 2024

Today as we contemplate God's boundless generosity, may we, too, be moved by this same spirit of generosity. May this inspire all of us to be kind, compassionate, and move us to share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in need. Please give using a ShareLife envelope or through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate). Envelopes are available in the foyer.

## YOUTH MINISTRY



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.

**Next Edge Night: March 22 – The Internal Component**

**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. All are welcome. **LifeTeen Night: March 15 – March Break – No Class**



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