

We welcome you to

# Holy Martyrs of Japan Parish

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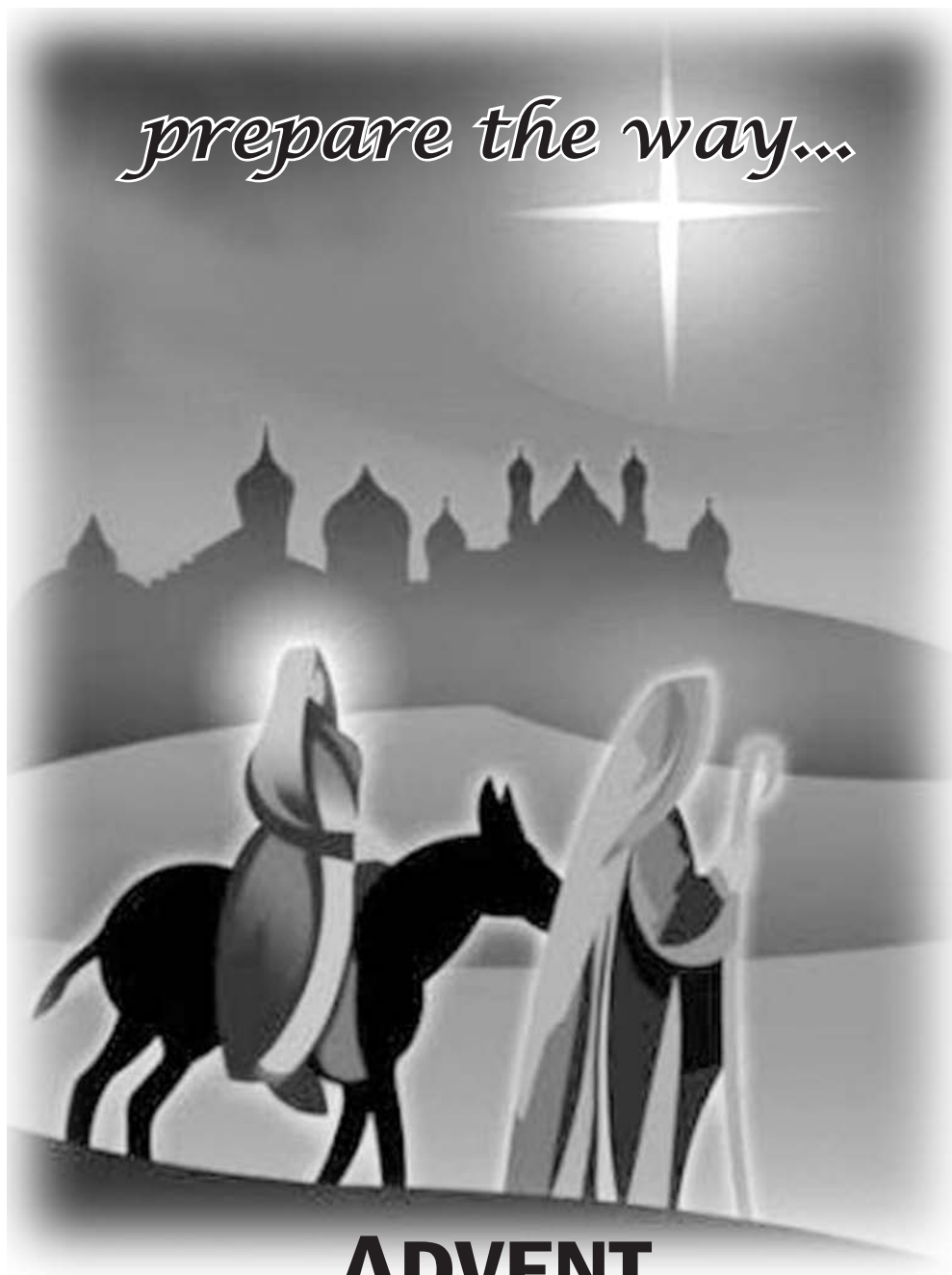
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Office Hours - Monday to Friday 9:30 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Pastor: Rev. John Pak [jpak@archtoronto.org](mailto:jpak@archtoronto.org)

Associate Pastor: Rev. Edwin Logrono [elogrono@archtoronto.org](mailto:elogrono@archtoronto.org)

Deacon: Dcn. David Langley



*prepare the way...*

## ADVENT

# WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

## MONDAY, December 23, 7:00pm

+Doris Mary Fernandes +Elizabeth Derol +Jan & Anna Ostafin +Angelo Nigro +Eduino Cabral & Fernando Paulino +Romanko Sakac +Manuel Rodrigues +All Souls in Purgatory\*Special Intention for May & Fenchak Families  
\*Special Intention for Fr. John Pak

## TUESDAY, December 24, 5:00pm, 7:00pm 12 Midnight

See Christmas Mass Schedule

## WEDNESDAY, December 25, 10:00am, 12 Noon

See Christmas Mass Schedule

## THURSDAY, December 26, 9:00am – No Mass

## FRIDAY, December 27, 7:00pm

+Joao Gomes Faria & Augusta Barros

## SATURDAY, December 28, 9:00am \*ProPopulo

## SATURDAY, December 28, 5:00pm

+Salvatore Cipponeri +Manuel da Silva +Margaret Connolly +Celeste & Manuel Laranjeiro +Augusta Barros & Joao Gomes Faria +Cidalia Rodrigues & Venancio Silva +Joao Balugas +Assunta & Mario Mazzotta +Maria & Pietro Angolella +Silvina Vieira + Gabriel Oliveira & Armando Paulos

## SUNDAY, December 29, 8:00am

\*Special Intention for Victor Santos Domingues

## SUNDAY, December 29, 10:00am

+Isabel Camacho & Manuel Feliciano Coelho

## SUNDAY, December 29, 12:00pm \*ProPopulo

## SUNDAY, December 29, 2:00pm

St. Philip of Jesus (Mission) \*ProPopulo



### FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR ADORATION

Holy hour will be on Friday January 3, 2025 at 7:30pm following the 7:00pm Mass

### MONTHLY REQUIEM MASS AT HOLY MARTYRS OF JAPAN

Requiem Mass will be held at the church on January 3, 2025, at 11:00am. Mass Intentions can be booked at the parish office

### 2025 OFFERTORY BOXES READY

2025 Offertory Boxes will be available for pick up in the foyer until December 22, 2024! After this date, offertory boxes can be picked up at the parish office. **If you do not find your box, please contact the parish office.**

### NOTE TO ALL USING OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:

We kindly ask that you please complete the full name and address on each envelope, to ensure proper allocation of funds for tax purposes. If you are new to our parish community, and would like to register with our parish, or would like to start using offering envelopes or wish to set up Pre-Authorized Giving, please contact the parish office at 905 775 2065. **We would kindly ask that parishioners not use old envelope numbers from previous years for your offering as old numbers may no longer be active.** If you have moved, please don't forget to notify the parish office so we can update our database. Thank you for your kindness, support, and generosity.

# REFLECTION

*“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” [Luke 1:42-43](#)*

Elizabeth expressed a beautiful humility in this statement. The Blessed Virgin Mary had just made a long journey to be with Elizabeth in her final months of pregnancy. As soon as our Blessed Mother greeted Elizabeth, Elizabeth's child, Saint John the Baptist, leaped for joy in her womb. Elizabeth acknowledges this and then humbly expresses the fact that she is exceptionally blessed to have Mary, the mother of her Lord, come to visit her.

There are many things worth pondering in this visitation of our Blessed Mother. But try to focus upon the humble wonder and awe expressed by Elizabeth. “And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” Elizabeth was clearly grateful for Mary's visit. But it appears that her reaction went even beyond gratitude. She was given the gift of wonder and awe. She clearly knew she was incredibly blessed by the fact that both the Mother of God and her Lord Himself were now in her presence in her home.

This gift of wonder and awe that Elizabeth experienced is one of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. It's a gift that enters a humble heart, enabling it to first see its unworthiness of a special grace given. But then this humble soul receives the special grace and responds with an overwhelming amazement. Thus, not only is gratitude present, but there is also this holy amazement that results in praise of God.

In our own lives, there are so many incredible graces we have received from God. But too often we fail to see them for what they are. We fail to see the incredible graces God has given us and, thus, fail to experience the amazement that should result from God's gifts.

As you look at your own life, what graces has God given to you? Do you see them? Are you grateful for them? And, if so, are you able to go even beyond gratitude so as to experience a holy wonder and awe of God's goodness and blessings in your life? Though it might be difficult to arrive at this level of amazement, it is a true gift that we must all strive to obtain and experience every day of our lives. Reflect, today, upon this holy gift of the Holy Spirit that Elizabeth experienced. Place yourself at the scene. Try to see the experience within her heart. Try to feel how she felt. Try to sense the praise that resulted. And try to open yourself more fully to receive this same gift of the Holy Spirit in your life. The Lord comes to you constantly by grace, especially every time you receive Him in Holy Communion. For that reason, we must all strive to live a holy wonder and awe every day of our lives.

*My Catholic Life 2024*

## Christmas Mass Schedule

**Christmas Eve – Tuesday December 24, 2024**

5:00pm English, 7:00pm-Spanish  
12:00 Midnight

**Christmas Day – Wednesday December 25, 2024**

10:00am (Livestream), 12 Noon

**Rosary will begin 45 minutes before Christmas Masses  
followed by singing of carols**

**Holy Family – Sunday December 29, 2024**

8:00am, 10:00am (Livestream), 12 Noon, 2:00pm

**Vigil-Mary Mother of God–**

**Tuesday December 31, 2024,**

5:00pm-Spanish, 7:00pm-English

**Mary Mother of God -Wednesday January 1, 2025**

10:00am (Livestream), 12 Noon

**Please note: There will be No Mass on Thursday December 26, 2024, and Thursday January 2 and the office will be closed on December 25, 26, 31, January 1, and 2, 2025.**

### 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 Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup> until Monday December 23<sup>rd</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.

### 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.

### FOOD BANK CHRISTMAS DRIVE

The plea to help our brothers and sisters in need of food is huge this year, and ever increasing! Please help in any way you can by donating non-perishable items to our Food Bank! Let us be the hands and feet of Christ in our community displaying acts of charity and love of neighbor, especially during this season of Advent. Help spread the message of Christ's HOPE this season! Please feel free to drop off your donations in the crate at the entrance of our church. Thank you for your generosity!

### 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."

### VOCATIONS

Is it possible God could be calling your name to witness the Light of Christ in our day? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, call Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416 968 0997 email: vocations@archtoronto.org

## SACRAMENTS

### FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION 2024-2025 REGISTRATION IS NOW CLOSED!!

Thank you to all who have registered to receive the Sacrament of First Communion and Confirmation scheduled for the spring of 2025. As of November 30, 2024, the registration process for the Sacraments is now closed and we are able to move into the next stages of the planning process based on our number of registrations. For all those who have not registered for the 2025 Sacramental season, we look forward to celebrating these Sacraments with you next year. Be sure to visit our website and Online bulletin for future communication regarding the registration process 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.

**Next Edge Night: January 10 – Winter Games**



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 Lifeteen Night is: January 17 – No Strings Attached**

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