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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: [holy martyrs of japan@archtoronto.org](mailto:holy martyrs of japan@archtoronto.org) website: [holy martyrs of japan.archtoronto.org](http://holy martyrs of japan.archtoronto.org)

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

**MONDAY, March 31, 7:00PM** +All Souls in Purgatory  
+Keith William Falloona +Anabela Ditta

**TUESDAY, April 1, 9:00AM** +Manuel Da Silva +Joao & Maria Oliveira

**WEDNESDAY, April 2, 7:00PM** +Maria Dolores Vigario +Joseph & Wladyslwa Balon

**THURSDAY, April 3, 9:00AM** +Samantha Diogo +Manuel & Glorinda Da Silva

**FRIDAY, April 4, 7:00PM** +Romanko Sakac  
\*Special Intention for Tymothy Tuyen Tran

**SATURDAY, April 5, 9:00AM- First Saturday**  
+All Souls in Purgatory

**SATURDAY, April 5, 5:00PM** +Isabel Camacho & Manuel Feliciano Coelho +Maria & Eugenio Arruda +Antonio Santana & Maria Sousa +Vitorino Nazario & Olimpia Sousa +Isaura Lorengo +Jose Manuel Caldas Azevedo +Joao Balugas +Antonio Albert Rocha +Stan Kaczorowski & Paulina Aremchuk +Julia & Roman Adamczyk +Parania & Stanley Kaczorowski +Luisa & Garcia Miguelo +Celeste & Manuel Laranjeiro +Antonio Soares & Virginia Correia +Maria Ferreira & Joao Ferreira

**SUNDAY, April 6, 8:00PM** +Francisco Janeiro

+Guillermo Perez

**SUNDAY, April 6, 10:00AM** \*ProPopulo

**SUNDAY, April 6, 12:00pm** +Malina & Jan Woznica

+Mary Day

**SUNDAY, April 6, 2:00pm**\*ProPopulo

**St. Philip of Jesus (Mission)**



### FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR ADORATION

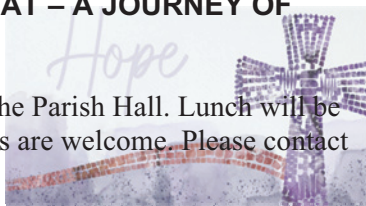
Holy hour will be on April 4, 2025, at 6:00pm to 7:00pm followed by Mass at 7:00pm and Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm during Lent.

### NOTE: CHANGE TO REQUIEM MASS SCHEDULE

Starting the month of April, the Requiem Mass will be celebrated on the **LAST FRIDAY** of the Month, **APRIL 25, at 11:00am**. Mass Intentions can be booked at the parish office.

### PARISH LENTEN RETREAT – A JOURNEY OF HOPE - APRIL 12, 2025, FROM 9:00AM – 3:00PM

With Fr. Charles Nahm - In the Parish Hall. Lunch will be provided; voluntary donations are welcome. Please contact the parish office to register



### CAMP OZANAM AND MARYGROVE

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society is accepting registrations for this year's children's overnight summer camps. First come first serve basis!! Camp Ozanam for boys ages 7-12 and Marygrove Camp for girls ages 5-13. The camps are subsidized (no fees) for children who otherwise would not have the opportunity to participate in a camp adventure, because their families are experiencing financial or domestic hardships. If interested, contact the parish office at 905 775 2065.

## REFLECTION

*Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them Jesus addressed this parable. [Luke 15:1-3](#)*

Sometimes it's hard to admit that we are sinners. Of course we know in our minds that we are. But our pride can easily lead us to justify our sin, downplay it and conclude that we are not that bad after all. If you find yourself thinking this way, be careful. Doing so will make you like the Pharisees and scribes in the passage above. Clearly, they did not see themselves as sinners, which is why they condemned Jesus for welcoming sinners and eating with them.

The passage above comes from the beginning of Chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel and serves as an introduction to three subsequent parables. First, our Lord tells the Parable of the Lost Sheep, then the Parable of the Lost Coin, and then the Parable found in the rest of today's Gospel passage, the Parable of the Lost Son. In the first parable, the shepherd who finds his lost sheep rejoices. In the second parable, the woman who finds her lost coin rejoices. And in the parable we read today, the father who finds his lost son rejoices and throws a party to celebrate.

Return, again, to the passage above that introduces these three parables: "Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus." Once they drew near, Jesus spoke to them about the joy of finding that which was lost. Perhaps as Jesus initially spoke about the finding of the lost sheep and lost coin, this would have resonated with these tax collectors and sinners to a certain degree. But then our Lord tells them the long and detailed story about this boy who disrespects his father, takes his inheritance, squanders it on illicit living, and ends up with nothing. The story expresses the confusion of this boy, his desperation, his guilt and his shame. We learn of his interior thinking, reasoning, fears and anxiety.

As you ponder this parable, try to understand the effect that it would have had upon the tax collectors and sinners who all drew near to our Lord. They were spiritually hungry, just as the prodigal son was. They had a past full of regret, just as this boy. They were unsatisfied in life and were looking for a way out, just as this son of the loving father was. For these reasons, those tax collectors and sinners who drew near Jesus would have been mesmerized by all that Jesus taught them and filled with hope that they, too, could share in the joy that was so generously bestowed upon this wayward son. Reflect, today, upon the touching image of these tax collectors and sinners drawing near to Jesus. Though they may have had a certain fear and caution, they would have also had hope. Try to understand what they must have thought and felt as they heard this story of the father's abundant mercy. Think about how they would have related as they discovered that there was hope for them, too. Envision yourself as one of those sinners who drew near to our Lord, and you will be the cause of joy in the Heart of the Father in Heaven. *My Catholic Life! 2025*



God's love for us is unfathomable! We do not have the ability or capacity to experience His immense, perfect and divine LOVE for us all at once as it would overwhelm our spirit in such a profound way. So overwhelming, that He is only able to show it to us and we are only able to receive it in small increments! The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent is a time to reflect on God's love, mercy, and grace, and the possibility of restoration. It's also known as Laetare Sunday, Mothering Sunday, Refreshment Sunday, and Rose Sunday. The Church reminds us once again that God loves us so deeply that He hopes we will follow the true light of His beloved Son. Let us thank the Lord for His kindness and pray that He will continue to enhance our spiritual eyesight, so that we can see more clearly our iniquities of bias and judgmental attitudes and the value of others as our brothers and sisters so as to transform ourselves and walk with others towards eternal life.

### JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE – Journey Onward *Spes Non Confudit – Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the year 2025 – From Pope Francis*

6. The Holy Year of 2025 is itself in continuity with preceding celebrations of grace. In the last Ordinary Jubilee, we crossed the threshold of two millennia from the birth of Jesus Christ. Then, on 13 March 2015, I proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee for the sake of making known and encouraging an encounter with the “merciful face of God”, [3] the core message of the Gospel for every man and woman of every time and place. Now the time has come for a new Jubilee, when once more the Holy Door will be flung open to invite everyone to an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ. **The Holy Year will also guide our steps towards yet another fundamental celebration for all Christians: 2033 will mark the two thousandth anniversary of the redemption won by the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus.** We are about to make a pilgrimage marked by great events, in which the grace of God precedes and accompanies his people as they press forward firm in faith, active in charity and steadfast in hope (cf. *1 Thess 1:3*). – *SPES NON CONFUNDIT BULL OF INDICTION OF THE ORDINARY JUBILEE OF THE YEAR 2025 Pope Francis Copyright © Dicastero per la Comunicazione - Libreria Editrice Vaticana*

*“Every action of our daily life should be influenced by gentleness, temperance, humility and purity.”*  
– St Francis de Sales

## ShareLife

### March 30, 2025 – This Weekend is ShareLife Sunday

ShareLife Sunday marks the first collection for our parish's annual campaign. But ShareLife is more than a parish collection. It is how we as Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto, bring the hands of Christ to those in need. From children to seniors and everyone in between, more than 40 ShareLife agencies are there each step of the way.

As a family of faith, we lift each other up from our lowest moments, Nick's life had an easy start – he came from a good home where he was raised with a strong work ethic, and he welcomed a son. But living with a mental illness, he struggled more than some. Deep inside, he felt like something was missing, and he devastatingly fell into addiction. With your helping hand, he rose up through the DARE program at Good Shepherd.

Thanks to your support, he is no longer just surviving-he is thriving, with a heart full of hope and a future filled with promise. Please help us reach our Parish Goal! Please continue to give using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate).

### HANDICRAFT HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS

On the weekend of April 12-13 we will welcome our special guest Paul from Sebastien Cardinal's team representing "Handicraft Holy Land Christians", who after all the masses will briefly address the issues and concerns regarding the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

Christians in the Holy Land graciously ask your support through conscience prayers and will have many unique hand carved olive wood religious art pieces made by these families in Bethlehem available for purchase after every mass. Proceeds of the sales generate much needed employment for our Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem. May God Bless you for your generosity, for you help and for your prayers."

Cash, debit, credit cards and cheque will be accepted.

You can visit and support us at [www.HolylandChristians.ca](http://www.HolylandChristians.ca)

## YOUTH MINISTRY



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: April 4 – Receipts**

## 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 are all welcome!  
**Next Lifeteen Night is: April 11 – Cross My Heart**

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