

Living the Gospel



"We believe that every human being is unique and priceless. We hold that human life must be respected at every stage of its development from the first mysterious moment of conception to the declining days of advanced age."

– Archbishop Philip Francis Pocock,
A Declaration on Behalf of Life, March 19, 1976

Photo: Courtesy of the Archives of the
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto
Item No: PH14-10P

ShareLife Sunday Collection: March 21/22

Your gift brings hope to those served by 40
Catholic agencies in our community and beyond!
Please give at our parish or sharelife.org/donate

SL ShareLife
sharelife.org | [X](#) [f](#) [@](#)/ShareLifeCan

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 website: holy martyrs of japan.archtoronto.org

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, March 23, 7:00PM + Antonio Mirassol & Parents +Sergio Romero DeAlmeida Gomes +Milan Bobala +Patrick Connolly +Lourdes Cabigting *Special Intention in Thanksgiving

TUESDAY, March 24, 9:00AM +Manuel Da Silva +Jose Rodrigues

WEDNESDAY, March 25, 7:00PM +Marian Yanek +Graciete Domingues

THURSDAY, March 26, 9:00AM +Generosa Paulos +Vilma LaRoche

FRIDAY, March 27, 7:00PM +Lucia Balugas & Arminda Balugas +Nuno Azvedo

SATURDAY, March 28, 9:00AM *ProPopulo

SATURDAY, March 28, 5:00PM – Palm Sunday Vigil
*ProPopulo

SUNDAY, March 29, 8:00AM – Palm Sunday
*ProPopulo

SUNDAY, March 29, 10:00AM *ProPopulo

SUNDAY, March 29, 12:00PM *ProPopulo

SUNDAY, March 29, 2:00PM *ProPopulo
St. Philip of Jesus (Mission)

**NOTE MASS TIME CHANGE: Tuesday March 31 and Thursday April 2, Mass will be celebrated at 7:00pm instead of 9:00am*

REQUIEM MASS

The Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Friday March 27 at 11:00am at the Church**. Mass intentions can be booked at the parish office.

The Adoration Chapel will be closed on April 2, and 3, for the Triduum

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join us every Friday during the season of Lent, for the Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm following the 7:00pm Mass.

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE – 40 cans for 40 days

It is unacceptable that anyone lacks access to food in our times. A most basic human right in our society today. On our Lenten journey, let us all take action and heed the Lord's call to feed the hungry this Easter! Imagine if each family offered 40 items for 40 days for the duration of lent!! **Consider donating nonperishable food items this lent** or a monetary donation to our St Vincent de Paul Society who help those in need in our local community. A crate for your goods will be available in the foyer for your donations.

MARCH 28-29 HANDICRAFT HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS WILL BE SELLING UNIQUE HAND CARVED OLIVE WOOD RELIGIOUS ART PIECES MADE BY CHRISTIAN FAMILIES LIVING IN BETHLEHEM. AFTER THE SATURDAY 5:00PM MASS AND ALL SUNDAY MASSES.

REFLECTION

John 11:32–35

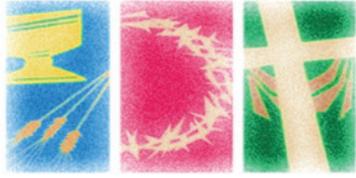
Jesus' humanity shines clearly in today's Gospel. In the face of Lazarus' death, Jesus is deeply moved by the grief around Him. The Gospel says He "became deeply distressed and troubled" and eventually "wept." The Greek word for "deeply distressed," *embrimaomai*, suggests a strong emotional disturbance, even indignation or anger. It could be translated as "He snorted in spirit," indicating an involuntary, visceral response from the depth of His soul. Some commentators suggest Jesus' anger wasn't directed at the people weeping but at the reality of death itself, caused by sin. As God, Jesus knew death was never part of the Father's original plan for humanity. From a divine perspective, He saw death as a consequence of sin. From this point of view, death provoked righteous indignation and deeply troubled His human heart.

As the passage continues, Jesus' humanity is powerfully portrayed in the shortest verse in the Bible: "And Jesus wept." Why did He weep? Saint Paul reminds us in Hebrews: "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin" ([Hebrews 4:15](#)). Jesus' tears show us that the Holy Trinity knows human pain firsthand. The Incarnate Son allowed Himself to experience sorrow, and the Father and the Holy Spirit shared in this sorrow through Him.

It's important to note that Jesus' sorrow was different from the weeping of Lazarus' sisters and the others present. Jesus' weeping uses the Greek word *edakrysen*, which means "to shed tears" or "weep silently." His tears were personal, controlled, intimate, heartfelt, and full of divine compassion. In contrast, the weeping of the others is described by the Greek word *klaió*, meaning loud wailing, a typical expression of communal and ritualistic mourning at the time. Jesus' grief was neither ritualistic nor excessive; it was intimate and heartfelt, born from personal sorrow and divine compassion.

We must never forget Jesus' deep compassion, empathy, and sorrow. His human heart feels the same emotions we do—He grieves when we grieve, shares in our pain, and is moved by the hold sin has on us. After feeling these emotions at Lazarus' death, Jesus stood outside the tomb and "cried out in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'" ([John 11:43](#)). We can imagine the passion behind His command. In our lives, when we are trapped in sin or burdened by human weakness, we must hear Jesus calling us to freedom with the same divine authority and human passion. Reflect today on Jesus' humanity and how He perfectly understands everything we experience. His deep empathy for our suffering and His joy when we rise with His grace show us how intimately He knows us. God became one of us in every way, sharing in our human condition—though without sin—so that we might share in His divinity. Ponder His humanity and let His closeness draw you to Him, giving you a share in His divine life. *My Catholic Life! 2026*

TRIDUUM



HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord's Supper

April 2, 2026, 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

April 3, 2026, 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

April 4, 2026, at 8:00pm (Livestream)

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

Blessing of Food – Saturday at 10:00am

EASTER SUNDAY

Resurrection of the Lord

April 5, 2026, 8:00am,

10:00am, (Livestream) & 12:00pm,

2:00pm (Migrant Worker Ministry-Spanish Mass)

EASTER MONDAY – April 6, 2026 - No Mass

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 12, 2026, at 3:30pm
(Livestream) Holy Hour Adoration and the Chaplet in
Song**

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 Wednesday April 1, to Friday April 3, in the foyer. Labels will be provided in the gathering space to put the names of your loved ones on your lilies.

CHURCH DECORATING FOR EASTER

Parishioners are welcome to help us decorate our church for our Easter Celebration on Friday April 3 (Good Friday) after the stations of the Cross. All are welcome.

HELP NOT HARM: TAKE ACTION TO SUPPORT BILL C-218 Visit HelpNotHarmCanada.ca to email your Member of Parliament and ask them to support Bill C-218 (The Right to Recover Act).

This bill would amend the Criminal Code to prevent Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) from being provided when mental illness is the sole underlying condition, which is scheduled to become legal in March 2027.

As Catholics and Canadians, we are called to offer care, hope, and protection to those who are suffering.

Please visit HelpNotHarmCanada.ca and ask your MP to support Bill C-218.



Today is ShareLife Sunday. Special collections will be taking place this weekend on March 22, 2026, marks 50 years since Archbishop Philip Pocock made a bold and compassionate decision that would shape our community for generations: the founding of ShareLife. Building on a legacy of charitable giving in the Archdiocese of Toronto that stretches back to 1927, Archbishop Pocock launched ShareLife in 1976—an appeal rooted in the belief that every life matters, at every stage.

Today, his vision lives on through more than 40 ShareLife-funded agencies providing unconditional care to people in need—regardless of religion, background, or circumstance and through people like you who make their work happen.

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.

2026 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY



Grades 6, 7 & 8 are invited to come to Edge, on Fridays at 7:00-8:30pm in the Parish Hall.
Next Edge Night: Date: March 27, 2026 – The Waters

LIFE TEEN

For youth in Grades 9-12 and will be held every other Friday from 7:00-9:00pm. In the Parish Hall. All are welcome! **Next LifeTeen Night: Date: April 3-Good Friday – Passion of Christ**

YOUNG ADULT GROUP AGES 18-39

Calling all young adults to join us every Sunday at 3:00 in the large meeting room. It is an opportunity to get together, grow in faith alongside like-minded people in a similar stage of life. We look forward to seeing you.

CENTURY 21
Heritage Group Ltd.
BROKERAGE

Cristina Silva Sales Representative
905-967-2946 www.CristinaSilva.ca

SKWARCHUK FUNERAL HOME
Family Owned & Operated
30 Simcoe Rd., Bradford 905-775-3335 800-209-4803
www.SkwarchukFuneralHome.com

L&C
LOMONTE & COLLINGS
INSURANCE SERVICES
AUTO • HOME
BUSINESS • FARM
126 Bridge St., Unit 9
905-775-5411

KAR-LOS BUILDING SUPPLIES
WE DELIVER!
WWW.KARLOS.CA

ONE STOP SHOPPING FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING NEEDS!
SELLING TO HOMEOWNERS AND CONTRACTORS ALIKE
MINI-BIN RENTALS 6yd-20yd
OPEN M-F 7-5, Sat 7-1, Sun closed
20400 Hwy 11, 1 km S. of Bradford (W. side)
905-775-4861

Bradford Greenhouses
GARDEN GALLERY
Barrie 705-725-9913 Bradford 905-775-2942

CENTURY 21
Heritage Group Ltd.
D 416.453.5299 homesbyluke.ca
Each office is independently owned and operated. * REALTOR Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract

LUKE MIERZEJEWSKI*

GRI Memorial Inc.
3695 Yonge St
705-985-7863 info@gri-pdm.com www.gri-pdm.com
Your Local Monument Supplier
Quality & Affordability

Holland River DENTAL
Portuguese & Spanish
New Patients & Emergencies
CDCP
(Canadian Dental Care Plan)
27 John St W
905-775-8958
HollandRiverDental.com

BRADFORD PARTY & EVENT RENTALS
"Everything You Need to Host the Perfect Event!"
647-689-6040
BradfordPartyRentals.com

JS
Jeanny Salmon
Counselling Services
289-383-4670

Hank's Cleaners
Since 1969
Drycleaning & Alterations done on premises
95 Holland St. W. 905-775-3561

Accounting & Tax Services
Accounting & Bookkeeping • Income Tax Returns
Personal • Business • Corporate
905-775-2668 64 Holland St E
ssaccounting.ca

Shopping Locally Saves Gas

THE PERFECT SPOT TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS!

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE PLEASE CALL 1-800-268-2637

Si2 INVESTIGATIONS INC
Mauro Di Giovanni
maurod@si2inv.com
www.Si2inv.com

ROSE REAL ESTATE TEAM
ROSE M. SORBERA | Sales Representative
647-881-9906 | closewithrose.ca@gmail.com

CLIENT. RESULTS. COMMUNITY FOCUSED.

RED APPLE REAL ESTATE INC., BROKERAGE

R.I.L MASONRY
New Build Additions
Repairs And More!
905-955-3464

Sabella RESTAURANT + BAR
Celebration of Life Baptism
Confirmation Events and Catering

23 Barrie St
905-551-8800

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
MIDAS OIL CHANGES STARTING AT \$49.99
905.775.3422
BRADFORD

Glendenning property maintenance
Troy Glendenning
905-251-6974
www.glendenning.ca
troy@glendenning.ca

PORTUGALIA BAKERY
Sweetheart Deli
189 Holland St E 905-778-0003

life narrative psychotherapy
647-248-1840
hello@lifenarrative.ca
www.lifenarrative.ca
@life.narrative
Life Narrative Psychotherapy

305 Barrie Street, Bradford
NOFRILLS

LAW OFFICE of DIANA S. RIFFERT
84 Barrie Street
905-775-5383

Signature Memorials Ltd.
Custom Monuments • Cleaning • Restoration
In Home Appointments Available
705-325-0847 800-833-1560

Marco Dias SALES REPRESENTATIVE
KELLERWILLIAMS
REFERRED URBAN REALTY, BROKERAGE
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Cell: 905.716.5026
Marco@TheDiasGroup.com

Bobala Lawn Care
• WEEKLY LAWN CARE
• SNOW REMOVAL
• COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL
• SPRING/FALL CLEANUPS

Desjardins Insurance
Debbie Moran Agent
100 Dissette St. 905 775 3584

905-775-5228
F.M. FERMIAL
Home of the Sod Squad
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

Leo & John's Car & Truck Sales
B.F. Goodrich • Uniroyal • Michelin
173 Holland St. W.
905-775-6162

289-763-3434
BobalaLawnCare.com

F.M.A.
F.M. ALMEIDA CONTRACTING LTD.
General Contractors
905-775-8161