

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

holymartyrs@rogers.com

www.holymartyrs.ca

Parish Office Hours—Monday through Friday—9:00am to 4:00pm

Pastor:

Rev. Father Boniface Perri

Associate Pastor:

Rev. Father Joseph Lam Tran

Deacon:

Rev. Mr. David Langley



PEACE ON EARTH

THE THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT**From the Desk of Father Boniface**

When I was young, I liked to receive gifts, it made me feel valued because someone was thinking of me and saying "you're very important and special to me". I still have some of my older gifts and when I see or use

them I think of those that gave them to me. As time went on I began to enjoy more and more giving gifts to others, so that in my own way I can express the same ideas to them. It is just as important if not more important to me now to express this to my loved ones. I hope some of you have the same experience.

Jesus at Christmas does the same, He gives us the gift of Himself. He came down from Heaven – a place of joy and peace, of charity, truth and love and He brings all these things to us. He can because He wanted us to have them for eternity, so much does He love us. Because we cannot reach eternity on our own, He planned to give us that as well. For dying on the Cross He opened for us the gates of Heaven so we could be with Him for ever.

Jesus today gives us the greatest gift of all, His very self and all the grace and joy and wonder that comes with Him, the Son of God. But what gift shall we give Him? Now, that may sound a little odd, but if we give gifts to those we love, to say I love you and don't take you for granted, then should not Christ also receive a gift from us. But what could Christ want or need? He created the universe, for He holds all of creation in the palm of His hand. But then I remembered, Christ can because He did want something. He wanted me! Rather, more precisely, He came for each one of us. What does He want? He wants us!

And so every Sunday when I come to Mass, where He is, I say I am yours, when I receive Communion that week, I become a living tabernacle carrying Jesus with me. While He is with me, I speak to Him in my prayers, nothing is too trivial for Him and He in my thoughts speaks to me, and gives me His grace to face whatever hardships may come to me: pain, loneliness for a loved one not here, and imperfections and I say to Jesus in my heart, "Lord give me the faith and courage in my actions and thoughts and words never to leave you; just like I know of your own accord you will not leave me". I know that gift giving can too easily become commercialized; about the gift itself and not about the other person. But I think, if we remember the deeper meaning behind it, gifts have a lot to tell us.

And so I hope that the gifts of the Christmas Season maybe yours, today and always.

Merry Christmas!

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Sunday Offering Envelopes are now available in the Parish Office. Please come to the office to pickup your box of envelopes.



If you are a new member, please come to the Office and fill out the new member form so that we may enter your particulars in our data base for income tax receipts.

Attention: Confirmation Facilitators

Please be advised that there will be a meeting with Fr. Boniface on Tuesday, January 11th at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Offertory Donation was \$6,554.72

Our Weekly Goal is \$6,000.00

Thank you for your generosity!

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**Christmas Eve – Friday, December 24th**

- ❖ 6:00pm
- ❖ 8:00pm
- ❖ 12:00 midnight

Christmas Day – Saturday, December 25th

- ❖ 10:00am
- ❖ 11:30am

(Please note that there will be no Saturday 5:00pm Mass)

Feast of the Holy Family - Sunday, December 26th

- ❖ 8:30am
- ❖ 10:00am
- ❖ 11:30am
- ❖ 6:30pm

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - Friday, December 31st

- ❖ 6:00pm

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – Saturday, January 1st, 2010

- ❖ 10:00am
- ❖ 11:30am

(Please note that there is no Saturday 5:00pm Mass. The Solemnity is a Holy Day of Obligation.)

Feast of the Epiphany – Sunday, January 2nd, 2011

- ❖ 8:30am
- ❖ 10:00am
- ❖ 11:30am
- ❖ 6:30pm

GARDEN of POINSETTIA

Christmas is a sacred time to the faithful and people often celebrate by assembling and decorating their churches. Parishioners are invited to bring a poinsettia (red or white only) to the church preferably on December 23rd or the weekend of December 19th. Labels will be supplied (in Church Lobby) for the name of your loved one so that they will be remembered in the prayers for the deceased and the Eucharistic Prayer at all Masses during the Christmas Season.

PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION

We will be celebrating the sacraments of reconciliation on Tuesday, December 21st at 7:00pm. Priests speaking Italian and Portuguese will be here. We invite everyone to prepare their hearts for the coming of Christ.

MASS

Our Intention for this Mass is for all our faithful departed. Mass will be on **Wednesday, December 22nd at 7:00pm**. All are welcome to come and pray for their loved ones.

A Christmas Quote

Celebrate the feast of Christmas every day, even every moment, in the interior temple of your spirit, remaining like a baby in the bosom of the heavenly Father, where you will be reborn each moment in the Divine Word, Jesus Christ.

St. Paul of the Cross

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

5:00pm Saturday, December 18th

+ Antonio Ferreira by Paulina Ferreira
 + Tony Toich by Family
 + Ciro Naso by Anna Naso & Family
 + Cotellessa Serafina by Maria & Nick Di Renzo
 + Giuseppe Marrelli by Wife & Family
 + Irene Moriarity by Florence Cronan
 + Anna Paola Gucciardo by Sorella Saracino & Family
 + Antonio Morales Castro by Wife & Family

Sunday, December 19th

8:30am + Manuel Dias by Wife & Family
 10:00am + John & Mary Stimes by Mary Kavchak & Family
 11:30am + Norberto & Jose Silva by Luis & Zelia Pontes
 6:30pm Pro Populo

7:00pm Monday, December 20th

+ Guiseppe Beninati by Wife Francesca
 + Jose Barroso by Children
 + Judite Costa & Manuel Pinto Silva by Son
 + Francisco Cunha, Otelinda & Bento Ferreira by Rosa Barroso & Family
 + All Souls by Maria Da Silva
 + Fernando Gomes by Wife & Children
 + Brian Collier by Parents & Family
 + Lurdes & Manuel Augusto Dinis by Dinis Family

8:00am Tuesday, December 21st

+ Arminda Dos Santos by Daughter & Family

7:00pm Wednesday, December 22nd

+ All Faithful Departed

8:00am Thursday, December 23rd

+ Special Intentions & All Souls by David & Rosa

CHRISTMAS EVE - Friday, December 24th

Masses at 6:00pm, 8:00pm and 12 Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY - Saturday, December 25

Masses at 10:00am and 11:30am

Sunday, December 26th

8:30am + Ignazio Polizzi by Wife
 10:00am + Joao Gomes Faria Jr. by Wife & Children
 11:30am + Gerard Eek by Vilma LaRoche & Family
 6:30pm Pro Populo

"May God Grant Them Eternal Peace"

Marriage Preparation Classes

Holy Martyrs of Japan is proud to present Marriage Preparation Classes on Friday, January 28th from 7:30pm to 9pm and on Saturday, January 29th from 10am to 4pm and on Friday, February 4th from 7:30pm to 9pm and on Saturday, February 5th from 10am to 4pm. Cost of this course is \$50.00 per couple, Lunch will be provided. If you are planning on getting married next year, you should be signing up for these very informative classes. Please call the Parish Office for registration 905-775-2065 or see Father after any Mass or drop by the Office for forms.

Thanks from the Kasjak Family

Thanks to your generosity Mishko was able to get his five weeks of intensive treatment. He returned a few weeks ago even though he was coming home for the weekends. He worked very hard and was able to learn new "tricks" like to take his summer shoes off, take his shirt off, improve his balance and he also learned how to stand for 20 seconds independently. His fine motor skills improved so he is playing with silly benz freely. Those "tricks" he learned are because of you!!!

THANK YOU very much and may God bless you and your family.

Merry Christmas! Kasjak Family

Sunday to Sunday

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOLY MARTYR'S PARISH

Sun Dec 19 - 12:30pm - RCIA
 Mon Dec 20 - 5:00pm - EDGE Christmas Social
 Mon Dec 20 - 7:30pm - RCIA
 Mon Dec 20 - 8:00pm - St. Vincent de Paul
 Tue Dec 21 - 7:00pm - Parish Advent Reconciliation
 Tue Dec 21 - 7:30pm - RCIA
 Wed Dec 22 - 4:00pm - Altar Servers Rehearsal for Midnight Mass
 Wed Dec 22 - 7:00pm - All Faithful Departed Mass
 Wed Dec 22 - 8:00pm - Al-Anon



December 19th - Christmas Social at Shoeless Joe's
 December 26th - NO LIFETEEN



December 20th - Christmas Social
 December 27th - NO EDGE

Holy Martyrs of Japan and the Social Committee

Are proud to present 1 hour of free skating on Saturday, January 8th from 10:00am to 11:00am at the Bob Fallis Arena. Free Hot Chocolate and Goodies for all that attend. So get your skates out and bring the kids for an enjoyable hour of fun, frivolity and fellowship.



PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Please be advised that the Parish Office will be closed on the following days: Friday, December 24, Monday, December 27th, Friday, December 31st, and on Monday, January 3rd.

From all the parish staff at Holy Martyrs, we wish you a wonderful Christmas and New Year and that the peace of Christ reign in your hearts. We hope to share this joy with you all year round.

Thanks from the CWL

We have many, many thanks to express on behalf of the members of the Catholic Women's League - Holy Martyrs of Japan Parish.

Firstly, we would like to say "Thank you" to all the people who made our Annual Christmas Bazaar a success, including those who donated items for the various tables as well as those who attended and purchased items.

Next, "Thanks" to the ladies who set up and decorated the hall on Friday, worked the Bazaar and those who cleaned up at the end. It takes a bit of an extra effort to pull the Bazaar together each year but we are left with a sense of fulfillment for a job well done - once again.

Finally, the CWL would like to thank all the people who purchased tickets for their annual Raffle which was held Nov 6 at the closing of their Christmas Bazaar, (and thank you to the members who sold the tickets and the raffle coordinators - Stefanie and Tina.)

Prize Winners were:

1st prize \$500.00 Cash - Doug Sedgewick
 2nd prize \$300.00 cash - Sonja Hammersley
 3rd Prize \$200.00 cash - Eva Schmich and
 4th Prize \$100.00 cash - Avia Eek

The proceeds from this Raffle enable the CWL to make donations to local charities.

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