

We welcome you to

# Holy Martyrs of Japan Parish

P.O. Box 1180, 167 Essa Street, Bradford, Ont. L3Z 2B6

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holymartyrs@rogers.com

www.holymartyrs.ca

**Pastor:** Rev. Father Boniface Perri

**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Father Allyn Rose

**Priest Celebrant Spanish Mass:** Rev. Father Juan Triviño

**Deacons:** Rev. Mr. David Langley, Rev. Mr. Pedro Guevara-Mann



**Merry Christmas**

## IN FRONT OF THE MANGER



I am writing this note as I am looking at the nativity scene in the rectory. I wonder what the people there were thinking; the wise men who saw His star and had the idea form in their mind. This boy will change everything. It will be a new world now. What faith, they needed to trust that idea, to leave their homes and put their lives on hold to go and worship the world's Saviour the King of kings.

I wonder about the shepherds, were they still shocked from seeing the vision of angels announcing the birth of the long expected Messiah. Did they wonder why it was shared with the then, the lowliest members of their society. What could this herald, they wondered, a king who cares for us? I think about Mary and Joseph. They knew who this child was. On the one hand Jesus needed Joseph to protect Him and he reached out his hand to Mary his mother, while with the other hand He held all of creation in existence. Most of all I wonder about Jesus and how much love He had for us to enter His own creation, and be one of us. How he could freely give up His glory in heaven to be born in such a lowly estate, so He could be accessible to all. The rich wise kings, the poor and lowly shepherds.

I think that all the wonder that the people around Jesus experienced produced stillness and quiet. "Silent night, Holy night, all is calm, all is bright". They were there in silence, but more so in love, they left their world, their lives behind and just let Jesus love them and they loved Him back. This produced peace, for this is why we were created, to be with the Lord. God so loved the idea of us that He made us real, at our heart there is a uniqueness never to be replicated and when you love Him you love Jesus in a way only you can in the uniqueness and we make His love more manifest in the world. When we can do this we fulfill our deepest desire, our reason for being, and we are at peace. That peace produces in us joy. "It is good for us to be here" says St. Peter at the transfiguration when he sees Jesus in all His divinity (Lk 9:33) and it produces a closeness that nothing else can replicate because it is founded on divine love. You know for all the wealth given Jesus, no evidence exists he had a privileged life. I think the fathers of church were right, that Mary gave away the treasures she received to the poor, like those shepherds, because in their closeness they were truly a family in Christ and they needed the help more than Mary and Joseph. Peace, joy and good will is felt so much this season for Christ is really here close to us, visiting us right now.

To leave our world or put our life on hold to travel to Him, may at first seem daunting and scary, will He be there in that church waiting for me? Perhaps we feel it is too much of a burden to make a journey, but this is the promise of Christmas 'I'm really here says Jesus' "come to me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28). Trust in the Lord and He will not disappoint you. And the hope that I have is that we can take these feelings of peace, joy and goodwill and hold on to them tight, keep them all year round. For this Christmas spirit can change the world for the better.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL

### THANK YOU

The Social Action Committee would like to thank all who came to the Advent Family Fun Night. Thank you for your generosity. We will be able to help many families.

## GARDEN of POINSETTIA

Christmas is a sacred time for the faithful and people often celebrate by assembling and decorating their churches. Parishioners are invited to **bring a poinsettia (red only) to the church preferably on December 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**. Labels will be supplied (at back of church) for the name of your loved one, so that they will be remembered in the Eucharistic Prayer at all Masses during the Christmas Season. There will also be a sheet for the names of those we are remembering so we may all pray for them.



## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

### Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ 9:30pm Daily Mass
- ❖ 5:30pm Christmas Pageant
- ❖ 6:00pm Mass
- ❖ 8:00pm Mass
- ❖ 9:30pm Spanish Mass
- ❖ 12:00 midnight

### Christmas Day – Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ 10:00am
- ❖ 11:30am

### Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ 9:30am (Daily Mass)

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - December 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> REGULAR SUNDAY MASS TIMES: Sat. 5pm Sunday, 8:30am, 10:00am, 11:30am, 6:30pm**  
**Solemnity of Mary Mother of God – Holy Day of Obligation**

### Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

- ❖ 6:00pm

**Solemnity of Mary Mother of God – Holy Day of Obligation**

### Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

- ❖ 10:00am
- ❖ 11:30am
- ❖ 1:00-2:00pm HOLY HOUR

### Feast of the Epiphany – January 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016

**Regular Sunday Mass Schedule**

### The Baptism of the Lord – January 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Regular Sunday Mass Schedule**

**Baptism celebrated at the 11:30am Mass**

## Christmas Pageant

Due to lack of interest the Christmas Pageant has been cancelled.

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Holy Martyrs of Japan is offering a marriage preparation course over two weekends, January 22/23 and January 29/30, 2016. The cost is \$120 per couple and covers lunch both Saturdays. Please come to the Parish Office to register.

## THE MOMS GROUP @ HMI

All moms welcome on the first Saturday of the month from 10am-12pm in the small meeting room for some social time with coffee/tea, a book study (Imitating Mary by Marge Fenelon) and a decade of the Rosary. Search us on Facebook or contact [jennreitzel@gmail.com](mailto:jennreitzel@gmail.com) for more events and info. On Jan. 2 we will read chapter 6: The Committed Mother – Imitating Mary's Courage.

## MASS INTENTIONS

**5:00pm Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

- + **Giuseppe & Francesca Beninati** by Family
- + **Antonio Janeiro** by Wife & Children
- + **Augusto Balugas** by Carlos & Idalina Correia
- + **Maria & Eugenio Arruda** by Lucy, John & Lui
- + **Benedito Gomes Da Silva & Albina Vieira Barbosa** by Jose da Silva & Family
- + **Teresa Silva** by Family
- + **Antonio Martins** by Wife & Children
- + **Miguel Gomes** by Mom, Dad & Danny

**Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

- 8:30am** + **Maria Miranda & Ceu Cavaco** by George & Grace Gomes
- 10:00am** + **Tony & Adele Caruso** by Belanger & Caruso Families
- 11:30am** + **Gerard Eek** by Vilma LaRoche & Family
- 4:45pm** Spanish Mass
- 6:30pm** + **Edward Langley** by Vilma LaRoche & Family

**7:00pm Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

- + **Joao Aleixo Domingues** by Angelino & Lurdes Marques
- + **Gioachino Cristina & Pietro Asaro** by Family
- + **Michael Chandanpal Singh** by Ainsley & Iris Alvis & Family
- + **Jose & Rosa Barroso** by Children
- + **All Souls Friends & Family** by Milan Bobala & Family
- + **Rocco & Maria De Bartolo** by Children & their Families
- + **Gaetano Costanza** by Anthony & Dora
- + **Michele Riccuito** by Wife & Family

**8:30am Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- + **Ignazio Polizzi** by Wife

**7:00pm Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- + **All Faithful Departed** by Parish

**8:30am Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**No Mass Intentions**

**7:00pm Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**No Mass Intentions**

**9:30am Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

- \* **Sp. Int Blessed Mother** by Maria da Silva

**5:00pm Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

- + **Tony Toich & Matthew Zic** by Mary & Family
- + **Maria Kostov** by McEvenue Family
- + **Michael & Antonio Palermo** by Concetta Palermo
- + **Serafino & Antonia Gambacorta** by Anna & Dorato Gambacorta
- + **Santo Mirabelli & Angelina Hamilton** by Maria Mirabelli & Family
- + **Domenic Ferragina** by David & Rosa Oliveira
- + **Samuel Conceicao** by Rosa Afonso & Family
- + **Adolfo Domingues** by Maria & Gabriel Pinto
- + **Manuel Nuno Rodrigues** by Franca & Joe Pacheco

**Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**

- 8:30am** + **Manuel Dias** by Wife & Children
- 10:00am** + **Margaret Langley** by Rev. David Langley
- 11:30am** Pro Populo
- 4:45pm** Spanish Mass
- 6:30pm** \* **Sp. Int.** by Christianne & Norm Fex

**"May God Grant Them Eternal Peace"**

Are you called to follow in the footsteps of Mary as a priest or religious to carry the Good News of God's great Love? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto  
416 968-0997 email: [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org)  
[www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)

## PARISH CALENDAR

- Dec. 20 – Poinsettias In
- Dec. 22 – Adoration
- Dec. 24 – Mass Times: 6pm, 8pm, 9:30pm (Spanish) 12:00 midnight
- Dec. 25 – Mass Times: 10am & 11:30am
- Dec. 27 – **Daily Mass at 9:30am**
- Dec. 28 – Adoration
- Dec. 31 – Mass 6pm
- Jan. 1 – Mass Times – 10am & 11:30am - Holy Hour 1pm-2pm
- Jan. 4 – CWL General Meeting
- Jan. 5 – Adoration
- Jan. 7 – Confirmation Session 11



All Lifeteen events start following the 6:30pm Sunday Youth Mass	All EDGE events start at 7:00 to 8:30pm on Monday evening in the Parish Hall.
Dec. 20 – Christmas Social	Dec. 21 – Christmas Movie Night
Dec. 27 – Merry Christmas	Dec. 28 – Merry Christmas
Jan. 3 – Happy New Year	Jan. 4 – Happy New Year

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

*The envelopes for 2016 are now available in the Parish Office. If you have not already picked up your envelopes, of you need assistance, please come to the office. If you would like to sign up for pre-authorized giving, please call Delia at the Parish Office - 905 775-2065.*



## Marriage Sunday 2016

In 2016, the Archdiocese of Toronto will celebrate Marriage Sunday at our parish on the weekend of February 6/7. Cardinal Collins has also announced a special archdiocesan-wide gathering to honour married couples that will take place on Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 4:30pm at St. Andrew Kim Parish in North York. His Eminence extends an invitation to all married couples, in particular those who will celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary anytime throughout 2016 to join him for Mass and a reception to honour their fidelity and faithfulness. Worldwide Marriage Encounter, a local lay movement, is helping to co-ordinate the gathering. Loved ones and family members of those honored are most welcome to attend. To ensure special reserved seating for honored couples, please call the Parish Office.

## OFFICE CLOSURES

The Parish office will be closed on the following days during Christmas:

- Thursday, December 24, 2015
- Friday, December 25, 2015
- Monday, December 28, 2015 (**Daily Mass at 9:30am**)
- Thursday, December 31, 2015
- Friday, January 1, 2016



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