

We welcome you to

# Holy Martyrs of Japan Parish

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**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



## FROM THE DESK OF FATHER BONIFACE

## My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:



I don't know about you, but as I sit down to pen this small note it just seems that this past year and especially this Advent has been so busy, all good or important meetings, visits and, of course, sacraments, but still many of them. I think I now do things when I just have a moment, and I suspect that among you reading this note I can easily say that I am not alone. I know that there are many more who are busier than I.

For myself, I am thankful for my time at the Seminary instilling in me a discipline of regular daily prayer. It has helped just to provide a period of calm, no so much to relax, but to re-focus on the Lord. I think I now can appreciate more the scene in the Gospel of when the apostles were so busy with people that Jesus noticed that they did not have time even to eat, so He said, "come with Me to a deserted place" (Mk 6:31). People followed them to that deserted place and Jesus's heart went out to them and this begat the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. To follow after the Lord is always rewarded.

We all need time to be with the Lord. A time of quiet where we can realize that the greater good is just being with Him, letting Him love us and feeling His presence; to talk to Him. I use these moments as a "check-in-time" with Him. After the Breviary, the official praise and prayers that the Church's ministers offer Him, I bring Him the people I am most thinking of. My plans, my worries, and yes my schedule and say the prayer of Samuel, Lord I am here "speak and Your servant is listening." (Samuel 3:10). The ideas that come, that I know are His and not mine have brought not just clarity but order to the day and a peace because I know I am about doing His work.

I think we all need that; a little moment through the day to check-in with the Lord Jesus. But at times we need longer periods with the Lord too, and this Christmas season provides us a perfect opportunity. After all we all feel the Christmas Spirit at some point don't we? A greater sense of devotion, peace, joy, charity and fellowship? But are not these things the message of Christ? Isn't the presence of His spirit not Christ coming into our hearts saying "you are so busy with many things, come away with Me to a deserted place and rest awhile", to stand at the Manger at Church and just be with Him, or in front of your tree at home, the star or angel at it's height, reminding us of Christ's inbreaking in creation, or in the place at home where we pray is enough. He will be there, loving you, guiding you and talking to you, in thoughts and feelings or even through others. I think sometimes God asks us to pass along a thought or message to someone else and we may not at first realize this of the Lord. This is the greatest joy of Christmas, being in the presence of the Lord, personally and with our family and parish, for Jesus said "where two or more people are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst" (Mt. 18:20). I think this advent my faith has grown. Sometimes when I am busy, I think I can skip this prayer time or other; after all I am about the work of the Lord. Yet it's not about what I do for Jesus but what I do with Him and how He

loves me and He, I. If something has to happen I have to have faith but Jesus knows that and He will give me the time. And if it doesn't happen when or how I think it should, to have more faith, to know that's okay too.

So my dear friends I hope that in the midst of our busy lives, especially these Advent and Christmas seasons, that the peace and joy of that first Christmas at Bethlehem may be yours, and that we may all have that peace and joy in abundance.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!**

**AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!**

## ADVENT &amp; CHRISTMAS REMINDERS

Please note that Daily Mass on December 26, & 27, will be celebrated at 9:30am

***CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE*****Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

- ❖ 6:00pm Mass
- ❖ 8:00pm Mass
- ❖ 9:30pm Spanish Mass
- ❖ 12:00 midnight

**Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

- ❖ 10:00am
- ❖ 11:30am

**Boxing Day – Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

- ❖ 9:30am (Daily Mass)

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - December 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**

- ❖ **REGULAR MASS TIMES for Saturday and Sunday Solemnity of Mary Mother of God – Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

- ❖ 6:00pm (*Holy Day of Obligation*)

**Solemnity of Mary Mother of God – Thursday January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

- ❖ 10:00am
- ❖ 11:30am

(*Holy Day of Obligation*)

**Feast of the Epiphany – Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> 2015 Regular Sunday Mass Schedule****The Baptism of the Lord – Sunday, January 11, 2015 Regular Sunday Mass Schedule****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 22<sup>nd</sup> December 23<sup>rd</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 sheets provided to print the name of your loved one so we all may pray for them. These will be placed on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space.

## MASS INTENTIONS

5:00pm Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

+ Maria & Eugenio Arruda by Lucy, John & Lui  
 + Teresa Silva by Family  
 + Antonio & Michael Palermo by Concetta Palermo & Family  
 + Gambacorta Family by Ana & Dorato Gambacorta & Family  
 + Olimpia Sousa & Vitorino Nazario by Carolina Santana  
 + Antonio Alberto Rocha by Gabriel & Maria Pinto  
 + Ana de Jesus Campos & Amilcar Mendes by Manuel & Elizabeth Ferreira  
 + Julia Barroso by Silva Family

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

8:30am + Francisco & Jose Francisco Rodrigues by Ester & Catarina  
 10:00am + Maria Stimec by Mary Kavchak & Family  
 11:30am + Gerard Eek by Vilma LaRoche & Family  
 4:45pm Spanish Mass  
 6:30pm Pro Populo

7:00pm Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

+ Manuel Silva & Judite Costa by Son & Family  
 + All Souls by A Parishioner  
 + Nuno Azevedo by Wife & Children  
 + Grant Robinson by Wife & Children  
 + John & Fatima Faria by Fernanda Rodrigues & Family  
 + Fernando Gomes by Fernanda & Children  
 + Santo Mirabelli by Maria Mirabelli  
 + Filomena Troiano by Fred & Bernadette Pombiere

8:30am Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

\* Sp. Int. by David & Rosa Oliveira

7:00pm Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

No Mass Intentions

8:30am Thursday December 25<sup>th</sup>

No Mass Intentions

7:00pm Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

+ Joao Gomes Faria, Jr. by Augusto Barros

9:30am Saturday December 27<sup>th</sup>

+ All Souls by A Parishioner

5:00pm Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

+ Ignazio Polizzi by Wife  
 + Tony Toich & Matthew Zic by Mary Toich & Family  
 + Antonio Martins by Wife & Children  
 + Antonio Janeiro by Wife, Children & Grandchildren  
 + Nazilda Lima by Mother  
 + Antonio Janeiro by Eduarda Romeiro  
 + Andrew Zic by Vilma LaRoche & Family  
 + Laura Garcia by Maria & Walter Andrade

Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

8:30am Pro Populo  
 10:00am + Frantzem, Smith Families & Friends by Sandra  
 11:30am + Antonio Alberto Rocha by Lurdes Rocha & Family  
 4:45pm Spanish Mass  
 6:30pm \* Thanksgiving for graces received through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima by Eugenia Dinis  
 "May God Grant Them Eternal Peace"

From the angel Gabriel, Mary heard God's plan for her life and she said "Yes!"...and so the Saviour came into the world. Pray to know God's Will for your life so as to help bring Jesus to our world. If you think God is calling you to do this as a priest, religious or deacon, call Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto 416 968-0997 or e-mail [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org) [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)

## PARISH SKATING

Holy Martyrs of Japan and the Hospitality Committee are proud to present **1 hour of free skating on Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11:00am to 12:00noon at the New Leisure Centre, Blue Arena.**



Hot Chocolate and snacks will be available, so get your skates out and bring the kids for an enjoyable hour of fun, and fellowship.

## Marriage Preparation Course

Holy Martyrs of Japan is once again offering a Marriage Preparation Course covering two weekends. The course starts Friday, January 30, 2015 (7:30 – 9:00) and Saturday January 31, 2015 (10:00-4:00) and continues Friday, February 6, 2015 (7:30-9:00) and Saturday, February 7, 2015 (10:00-4:00). The registration fee is \$120 per couple (includes lunch both Saturdays) and is due at the time of registration. Please come to the Parish Office to register.

For more information please call 905 775-2065.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, WITH THE IDEAS OF OUR PARISH, ARE PLANNING TO BUILD A HOLY MARTYRS OF JAPAN CHRISTMAS THEMED FLOAT FOR NEXT YEARS SANTA CLAUS PARADE. ALL PARISHIONERS INTERESTED ARE INVITED TO THE PLANNING MEETING ON JANUARY 28, 2015 AT 7:30PM IN THE LARGE MEETING ROOM.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

*Sunday Offering Envelopes are available Parish Office. If you have any questions or need clarification, please call Delia at the Parish Office, 905 775-2065*



## Pre-Authorized Giving

If you are interested in Pre-Authorized Giving, please come to the Parish Office to sign up.

## LESSONS & CAROLS

The Mission parish of St. Thomas More, 381 Sherbourne Street, Toronto, invites you to join them for Lessons & Carols with Benediction on Tuesday, December 23, 2014 at 7:00pm. The choir is directed by Peter Mahon. Visit [www.thomasmorechurch.ca](http://www.thomasmorechurch.ca) for the music list.

## OFFICE CLOSURES

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DEC. 24, 25, 26, & 31, 2014, AND JAN. 1 & 2, 2015.



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