

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

Rev. Fr. Arthur Sequeira, S.A.C.: Chaplain to Southlake Regional Health Centre





From the Desk of Fr. Boniface

Well in truth this is not really from my desk, it's from my chair in my room.

It's a quiet sunny Sunday afternoon and I am looking out of my window, I look at the trees so still and the rows and rows of houses, and I think how ordinary life was in Bethlehem at 0 AD. How they were involved in their concerns of their own lives, and the affairs of the day. Were some ready for the coming of the Messiah. I suppose it's just like today, and the feast of Christmas, some are ready, some are not. I sit here for awhile in the stillness of the afternoon and I think about the faith. How I have just celebrated Mass, just expressed my belief in God that Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary and how I held Him in my hands, Him the Christ. The same Christ who came to Bethlehem 2011 years ago. The same Christ who taught, who cured, who redeemed me on the cross. I held Him, raised Him up and said to everyone at Mass, "*Behold the Lamb of God*". I was for that one moment His herald and then with most at Mass I received Him in Communion and now that Christ rests in my heart and at the same time waits for me to see Him again on the Tabernacle just a few steps from me. I do this every day, how ordinary and yet how so very extraordinary, how awesome if you think about it.

Today, we may at some point find ourselves doing all our time honoured and loved Christmas traditions, the meal with family, giving gifts in remembrance of the Wise Men giving gifts to Christ, singing carols and looking at Nativity scenes. All so ordinary and yet just under these nice ordinary acts lies a truly ongoing phenomenon. We remember that at 0 AD, Jesus, He through whom the Father created all things, God Himself, gave up the glory of Heaven for a while, and literally took on flesh, miraculously in the womb of a virgin. Became a man and people stopped what they were doing. Shepherds from the nearby hills came, kings and their entourage came and worshipped Him and for them everything changes. They just couldn't go back to their ordinary lives. They were forever changed. Forever they would be with the Christ, in their hearts, in their worship, in their morality and action. For them there was a new ordinary, like our faith, extraordinary ordinariness.

As I sit here just a few days before Christmas, I think yes this is the real meaning of Christmas.

On behalf of myself, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Arthur, Rev. David and all of us here at Holy Martyrs, have a very Merry and a very blessed Christmas.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Our Offering donation for December 25th
will be announced in a later bulletin.

Our Weekly goal is \$6,000.00



All Lifeteen events start
following the 6:30pm Sunday
Youth Mass



All EDGE events start at 7:00pm
to 8:30pm on Monday evenings
in the Parish Hall

Dec 25th – Merry Christmas
Jan 1st – Happy New Year

Dec 26th – Happy Boxing Day
Jan 2nd – No Edge

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2011

Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24th

- ❖ 6:00pm (10am Choir Members)
- ❖ 8:00pm (Youth Choir Members)
- ❖ 12:00 midnight (11:30am Choir Members)

Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25th

- ❖ 8:30am
- ❖ 10:00am
- ❖ 11:30am

(Please note that there will be no 6:30pm Mass)

Feast of the Holy Family - Friday, December 30th

- ❖ 7:00pm

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

- ❖ 5:00pm

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God – Sunday, January 1st, 2012

- ❖ 8:30am
- ❖ 10:00am
- ❖ 11:30am
- ❖ 5:00pm Spanish Mass

(Please note that there is no 6:30pm Mass.)

The Solemnity is a Holy Day of Obligation.)

Feast of the Epiphany – Sunday, January 8th 2012

Returning to normal Mass schedule

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Starting on Saturday, December 24th and from now on the **Saturday morning Masses will be at 9:30am** as well as Masses during the Civic Holidays.

OUR FAMILY of SAINTS

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 – Dec 25th

St. Stephen – Dec 26th

St. John – Dec 27th

The Holy Innocents (Martyrs) – Dec 28th

St. Thomas Becker – Dec 29th

The Holy Family – Dec 30th

St. Sylvester I – Dec 31st

Pray for us!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Saturday, December 24th – CHRISTMAS VIGIL	
6:00pm Mass	
8:00pm Mass	
12:00 Midnight Mass	
Sunday, December 25th – CHRISTMAS DAY	
8:30am	
10:00am	
11:30am	
No 6:30pm Mass today	
9:30am Monday, December 26th	
+ Gerald Eek by Vilma LaRoche & Family	
+ Ignazio Polizzi by Wife	
+ Gerald Eek by Mae Eek & Family	
+ Joao Gomes Faria Jr. by Grace Faria	
+ Fernando Gomes by Wife & Children	
+ Antonio Mirassol by Wife & Children	
+ Joseph Wismayer by Mother & Family	
+ Chiara Ferragine by Richard Hoffman	
8:00am Tuesday, December 27th	
* Special Intentions by Vilma LaRoche	
7:00pm Wednesday, December 28th	
+ MariaVictoria Miranda by Daughter & Family	
8:00am Thursday, December 29th	
* Special Intentions for Victor Dos Santos Domingues by Celso & Maria Domingues	
7:00pm Friday, December 30th	
+ Assunta Gucciardi by Jack & Clara Gucciardi	
9:30am Saturday, December 31st	
* Special Intentions by McEvenue Family	
Saturday, December 31st	
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	
5:00pm	
Sunday, January 1st	
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	
8:30am	
10:00am	
11:30am	
5:00pm Spanish Mass	
No 6:30 Mass today	
“May God Grant Them Eternal Peace”	



IMPORTANT NOTICES

The PARISH OFFICE WILL ALSO BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

Monday, December 26th
 Tuesday, December 27th
 Monday, January 2nd

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from the Parish Office Staff!

PILGRIMAGE to the HOLY LAND

There are still some seats available for the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land leaving on February 28th and returning on March 8th – 10 days at a cost of \$1,999.00.

Please call Stan at International Heritage Tours at 1-877-999-8868 or 905-886-0232 ext 339 or email stan@ihtours.com for more information and to book your stay for this very exciting tour with Father Boniface and Rev. David.



Sunday to Sunday.....

UPCOMING EVENTS at HOLY MARTYR'S PARISH

Mon Dec 26th – Parish Office Closed
 Tue Dec 27th – Parish Office Closed
 Fri Dec 30th – 7:00pm – Holy Family – Mass
 Sat Dec 31st – 5:00pm – Mother of God – Mass
 Mon Jan 2nd – Parish Office Closed
 Mon Jan 2nd – 7:30pm – CWL Executive Meeting
 Mon Jan 2nd – 8:00pm – St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

OFFERING ENVELOPES

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THIS IS THE LAST WEEK FOR OFFERING ENVELOPES IN THE CHURCH LOBBY.

The envelopes will be moved to the Parish office after next week. Please pick up your envelopes now from the lobby, otherwise you will have to come to the Parish Office during office hours (9am to 4pm) for pick up.



NEW BEGINNINGS: For those who have lost a loved one through Death, Separation or Divorce.

Come join us for an informative evening with Stephanie Ozorio. Her presentation will be “Building confidence – Life after Loss”. The presentation will take place Tuesday, January 3rd from 8:00pm-9:30pm at St. Bonaventure’s Church Hall, 1300 Leslie Street, Toronto, (on the west side of Leslie, south of Lawrence). No registration required. Enquiries: Deacon James at 416-921-1163 ext 2227 or email at jshaughn@cfstoronto.com.

MESSAGE from the KNIGHT of COLUMBUS

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus, we would like to thank the following people for allowing us to place “*Keep Christ in Christmas*” signs on their highly visible locations. We appreciate your support and would like to thank you for allowing us to place our signs on your properties.

THE LANGFORD FAMILY, LANGFORD GRAIN INC., THE ROBINSON and ARRIGO FAMILIES, MIDAS SHOPS, JOE’S MARKET, THE TOWN of BRADFORD and CANADIAN TIRE.

Merry Christmas to all and have a Blessed New Year!

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus, “*Keep Christ in Christmas*” Committee.

Marriage Preparation Classes

Holy Martyrs of Japan is proud to present Marriage Preparation Classes to be held on Friday, January 27th from 7:30pm to 9:00pm and on Saturday, January 28th from 10am to 4:pm and on Friday, February 3rd from 7:30pm to 9pm and on Saturday, February 4th from 10am to 4:pm.

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 as soon as possible.

Please call the Parish Office for registration. 905-775-2065.

MASSES

Please note new schedule of upcoming Masses

- **There will be a weekday Mass on Saturday, December 24th & Saturday, December 31st at 9:30am.**
- **On Monday, December 26th there will be a Mass at 9:30am for St. Stephen.**

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