

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



PEACE ON EARTH

MARY, MOTHER of GOD

Mary's divine motherhood broadens the Christmas spotlight. Mary has an important role to play in the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. She consents to God's invitation conveyed by the angel ^(Luke 1:26-38). Elizabeth proclaims: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the *fruit of your womb*. And how does this happen to me, that *the mother of my Lord* should come to me?" ^(Luke 1:42-43). Mary's role as mother of God places her in a unique position in God's redemptive plan.

Without naming Mary, Paul asserts that "God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law" ^(Galatians 4:4). Paul's further statement that "God sent the spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out 'Abba, Father!'" helps us realize that Mary is mother to all the brothers and sisters of Jesus.

Some theologians also insist that Mary's motherhood of Jesus is an important element in God's creative plan. God's "first" thought in creating was Jesus. Jesus, the incarnate Word, is the one who could give God perfect love and worship on behalf of all creation. As Jesus was "first" in God's mind, Mary was "second" insofar as she was chosen from all eternity to be His mother.

Our Lady, close to her Son, fulfils her mission as Mother of all by interceding continually for them. The Church gives Mary the titles of *Advocate, Help, Perpetual Succour and Mediatrix*. ^(Second Vatican Council, op cit 62) and with motherly love she takes upon herself the task of obtaining both ordinary and extraordinary graces for us and increasing our union with Christ. What is more, *given that Mary must, in all justice, be considered as the way by which we are led to Christ, the person who encounters Mary cannot but equally encounter Christ* ^(Paul VI, Encyclical, Mense maio, 29 April 1965)

Filial devotion to Mary is thus an integral part of the Christian vocation. We are always ready to run instinctively to her who *consoles us in our distress, enlivens our faith, strengthens our hope, gets rid of our fears and invigorates our timidity*. ^(St. Bernard, Homily on the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 7)

On this solemnity of Our Lady we begin the New Year. Truly there could not be a better start to the year, and of all the days of our life, than being very close to Mary. With the confidence of children we go to her, so that she may help us to live in holiness everyday of the year.

So let us offer Mary the beautiful prayer, known as the Memorare that St. Bernard wrote to her.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Our Offering donations for the Christmas Season will be posted in the Bulletin at a later date.
Thank you for your generosity.



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

Jan 1st - Happy New Year
Jan 8th - TBA



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

Jan 2nd - No Edge
Jan 9th - TBA

HOLY HOUR

This Friday being the first Friday of the Month, there will be an hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacraments followed by Benediction. Please come and spend an hour in prayer with Christ

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.

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.

Holy Martyrs of Japan and the Social Committee

Are proud to present 1 hour of free skating on Saturday, January 14th from 11:00am to 12noon at the Community Centre 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. Please note different location for this year's event.

OUR FAMILY of SAINTS

Mary, Mother of God – Jan 1st
St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen – Jan 2nd
Blessed Andre Bessette – Jan 6th
St. Raymond of Penafort – Jan 7th
The Epiphany of the Lord – Jan 8th

Pray for us!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

| | |
|--|--|
| Saturday, December 31st | |
| SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD | |
| 5:00pm | |
| Sunday, January 1 st | |
| SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD | |
| 8:30am | |
| 10:00am | |
| 11:30am | |
| 5:00pm | Spanish Mass |
| No 6:30 Mass today | |
| 9:30am Monday, January 2 nd | |
| + Jose Romeiro by Emidio Romeiro & Family | |
| + Maria de Encarnacao by Emidio Romeiro & Family | |
| + Giovanni Vittiglio by Guy & Anna Costanza | |
| + Emilia Santos by Daughters & Families | |
| + John Ferreira by Bernardette Ferreira | |
| + Salvatore Severino by Maria Severino & Family | |
| + Dominico Tran by Tran Family | |
| + Veronica Ziemba by Edward & Lillian | |
| 8:00am Tuesday, January 3 rd | |
| + All Souls by Claudina Crisostomo | |
| 7:00pm Wednesday, January 4 th | |
| + Aurora Santos by Isabel & Julia Grego | |
| 8:00am Thursday, January 5 th | |
| + All Souls | |
| 7:00pm Friday, January 6 th | |
| + Latisa Araujo & Adelia Cavalhero by Family | |
| 9:30am Saturday, January 7 th | |
| + All Souls | |
| 5:00pm Saturday, January 7 th | |
| + Paul Taucar by Sornilic Family | |
| + St. Clair McEvenue by Family | |
| + Giuseppe Beninati by Wife Francesca | |
| + Francisco Rodrigues by Wife Ester | |
| + Teresa Silva by Idalina & Carlos Correia | |
| * Special Intentions by Maria Sousa | |
| * Special Intentions by Pat & Bill Jardine | |
| * In Thanksgiving by a Parishioner | |
| Sunday, January 8 th | |
| 8:30am | + Dennis, Fatima, Maria & Bill Rannelli by Joe Faria & Family |
| 10:00am | + Antonio & Cecilia Fernandes by Jose Fernandes |
| 11:30am | + Antonio Francisco, Maria Da Gloria & Maria De Jesus by Dias Family |
| 6:30pm | Pro Populo |
| "May God Grant Them Eternal Peace" | |



IMPORTANT NOTICES

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

Monday, January 2nd

Happy New Year from the Parish Office Staff!

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Are now in the Parish Office.

If you have not picked up your box of envelopes, please come to the Parish Office during office hours (9:00am to 4:00pm) for pick up.



Sunday to Sunday.....

UPCOMING EVENTS at HOLY MARTYR'S PARISH

Mon Jan 2nd – Parish Office Closed

Mon Jan 2nd – 7:30pm – CWL Executive Meeting

Mon Jan 2nd – 8:00pm – St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

Thur Jan 5th – 7:30pm – St. Vincent de Paul Officers Meeting

Fri Jan 6th – 7:00pm – Holy Hour

CELEBRATIONS for the MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2011

Congratulations to the following couples who were married at Holy Martyrs Parish.

Jose Jesus Domingos & Rebecca Hayward

Paul Domingues & Maribel Casqueira

Paul Walton & Meaghann Foy

Roberto Reda & Rebecca Williams

And we welcome into our parish those who have been Baptized.

Abigail Rose Fiorina Simone

Aidan Anthony Ferreira

Alessio Casasanta Kazemi-Arbat

Alexander Youhan Orah

Alexandra Carol Jessie Wry

Alexis Faith Da Silva

Amanda Andrea Zapata

Arianna Gabrielle Fabiano

Aris John Farrugia

Ashlyn Hope McKee

Ava Pierina Albanese

Avianna Cristina Sergio

Ayden Hideo Minakata

Brayden Thomas Daley

Brent Joseph Douglas Daley

Brooke Maria Purcell

Caitlyn Marie Gillard

Caleb Dane Moser

Christopher Alexander Galloro

Christopher Americo Gatta

Colby Charles Lieto

Easton Michael Michaud

Francisco Michael Gibson

Jack Nobili

Jayden Evan Frederick

Kai Aleksander Papillon

Karys Elizabeth Dysart

Kayla Melody Gottfried

Keara Faith Flores-Noble

Khloe Domingues Rowland

Leigh Autumn Hartfield

Levi James Ernest Youngman

Liam Harvey Parr

Luke Owen Van Bakel

Maiya Marie Pacheco

Marcelo Russell

Natalie Joanna Claire Costanza

Olivia Catherine White

Paul Jo Francis Poot

Rayden Acosta Nicolas

Riley Emma La Posta

Sadie Frances Kneeshaw

Selena Ava Ledo

Sofia Vittoria Patricelli

Stephanie Isabel Hammersley

Tatum Ally MacDonald

Taylor Ashley Castronaro

Thien Hieu Tran

Tye William Geertsema

William Faraz Robert Khan

Xavier Jose Calisto

And for those who have passed away.

Antonietta Baccilieri

Audrey Wychopen

Assunta Gucciardi

Caterina Puma

Chaira Ferragine

Frank Julius Jancso

John Pfeiffer

Maria Dos Santos Marques

Maria Jose Calquinhass

Mary Burns

Paula Tabone

Tony Peter Mertens

Zelia Lourdes Glynwilliams

Please keep these faithful in your prayers.

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