

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 Parish subscription with Formed.org

Email: holymartyrs of japan@archtoronto.org website: holymartyrs of japan.archtoronto.org

Parish Office Hours—Monday to Friday—9:30am to 12:30pm and 1:00pm to 4:30pm

Pastor: Rev. John Pak jpak@archtoronto.org

Associate Pastor: Rev. Joseph Baal jbaal@archtoronto.org

Deacon: Deacon David Langley

Lay Pastoral Associate: Eduardo Meneses emeneses@archtoronto.org



*Father, You revealed Your Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star. Lead us to
Your Glory in Heaven by the Light of Faith.*

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, January 8, 7:00PM

+Cila Abreu +Gabriel Pinto +Joao Perna

TUESDAY, January 9, 9:00AM

+Manuel da Silva

WEDNESDAY, January 10, 7:00PM

+Joseph Mac Neil

THURSDAY, January 11, 9:00AM

+Stephen LaRoche

FRIDAY, January 12, 7:00PM

*ProPopulo

SATURDAY, January 13, 9:00AM

*ProPopulo

SATURDAY, January 13, 5:00PM

+Olga Taylor & Anna Moreland +Alan

Charlebois +Firmino Santos & All Deceased

Family Members +Manuel da Silva +Joao

Domingues Marcilino +Gabriel Pinto +Orson

Ombac +Celeste & Manuel Laranjeiro +Jose

Manuel Caldas Azevedo +Rosa Oliveira

SUNDAY, January 14, 8:00AM

+Maria Dolores Vigario

SUNDAY, January 14, 10:00AM

*ProPopulo

SUNDAY, January 14, 12:00PM

+Stanley Cemas & Matija Cadonic

SUNDAY, January 14, 4:30PM

El Sembrador

*ProPopulo

SUNDAY, January 14, 6:30PM

+Augusto Bertocci



FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR ADORATION

Will be held on the first Friday of every month, at 7:30pm following the 7:00pm Mass

INDEGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND-PROJECT APPROVALS

On December 12, 2023 the Archdiocese of Toronto announced the first phase of funding as part of our \$6 million commitment to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). Through the tremendous generosity of parishioners throughout the archdiocese, including our own parish, more than \$2.7million has been directed through the IRF to organizations and projects committed to promoting healing and reconciliation for communities and families.

Recipients include **Aboriginal Legal Services** located in Toronto, Ontario, that will receive \$538,000 to help fund their Indigenous family dispute resolution program called *Giiwedini Anang*.

Thank you for your continued prayers and ongoing support as we journey together on the path of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples of This Land. To learn more, visit

www.archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation

REFLECTION

“When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” [Matthew 2:1-2](#)

The Magi were most likely from Persia, modern-day Iran. They were men who regularly engaged in a study of the stars. They were not Jewish but were most likely aware of the popular belief of the Jewish people that a king would be born who would save them.

These Magi were called by God to encounter the Savior of the World. Interestingly, God used something very familiar to them as an instrument of their calling: the stars. It was among their belief that when someone of great importance was born, this birth was accompanied by a new star. So when they saw this new, bright and brilliant star, they were filled with curiosity and hope. One of the most significant aspects of this story is that they responded. God called them through the use of a star, and they chose to follow this sign, embarking on a long and arduous journey.

God often uses those things most familiar to us that are part of our daily life to send forth His calling. Recall, for example, that many of the Apostles were fishermen, and Jesus used their occupation to call them, making them “fishers of men.” He especially used the miraculous catch of fish to clearly indicate to them that they had a new calling. In our own lives, God is constantly calling us to seek Him out and worship Him. He will often use some of the most ordinary parts of our lives to send forth that calling. How is He calling you? In what way is He sending you a star to follow? Many times when God speaks, we ignore His voice. We must learn from these Magi and diligently respond when He calls. We must not hesitate and must seek to daily be attentive to the ways that God invites us to deeper trust, surrender and worship.

Reflect, today, upon God’s call in your life. Are you listening? Are you responding? Are you ready and willing to abandon all else in life so as to serve His holy will? Seek Him, wait on Him and respond. Doing so will be the best decision you ever make. Catholic News Agency2021

Lord, I love you and pray that I will be open to Your guiding hand in my life. May I always be attentive to the countless ways that You call me each and every day. And may I always respond to You with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in you.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Epiphany of the Lord | January 7, 2024

CELEBRATION OF INFANT JESUS

/ EL SANTO NINO – Sunday January 21, at 2:00pm

You are invited to bring your infant Jesus statue with your name on it and place it on the table near the Altar before the celebration of Mass. Father Joseph will call up all the children and bless them and the statues of the Infant Jesus. After Mass there will be a celebration of “Sinulog”, a traditional Filipino dance in honor of Infant Jesus in the parish Hall. All are welcome!

CALLING ALL MOMS

Holy Martyrs of Japan Parish has a **Catholic Mom’s Group** that meets once a month on Thursdays from 7:00pm-8:00pm in the Large Meeting room, to discuss the trials and tribulations of being a Catholic Mom. Motherhood is a vocation, a call from God. Whether you’re a mom to a newborn, or your children are in their teens, or even older-there is always a new triumph or challenge to face. Come visit our mother’s group and discover the joys of having good Catholic girlfriends. For More information contact: Kayleigh Garcia Meneses at:

catholicmomsgrouphmj@gmail.com

DATES: Thursday February 1, 2024
Thursday March 7, 2024
Thursday April 4, 2024
Thursday May 2, 2024
Thursday June 6, 2024

PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE MOST REV. FRANCIS LEO

Archbishop Francis Leo has released a Pastoral Letter to the Church of God in the Archdiocese of Toronto, entitled “*Seeking The Kingdom of God Above and Beyond All Other Things*”. This significant reflection from our spiritual shepherd is intended to offer a theological, spiritual, and pastoral meditation as we embark upon a New Year and our collective efforts to build and strengthen the Kingdom of God through our archdiocese. The pastoral letter can be accessed by visiting the archdiocesan website at: www.archtoronto.org.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Are available for pick up in the foyer of the Church once again. Pre- authorized Giving (PAG) is also an option. This allows you to give to your parish through scheduled monthly transfers from your bank account. *If you have picked up a new unassigned box, please contact the office immediately to assign the new number to your name.* Any question please contact the parish office or email: holymartysofjapan@archtoronto.org or call 905 775 2065 Thank you for your kindness, support and generosity!

“Christ looks for nothing else from you, in fact, except loving him with all your heart and carrying out his commands” – St John Chrysostom

UPCOMING EVENTS

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BREAKFAST SUNDAY

Sunday January 28, 2024,

More information to follow

HOLY MARTYRS OF JAPAN FEAST DAY

Saturday February 3, 2024

We invite our parish community to celebrate our 83rd Anniversary with us on Saturday February 3rd, 2024, after the 5:00pm Mass in the parish hall. All are welcome.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SHROVE TUESDAY

Tuesday February 13, 2024, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in the Parish Hall – *More Information to Follow*

SACRAMENTS

REGISTRATION FOR 2024 FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION IS NOW CLOSED!

Thank you to all who registered to receive the sacrament of First Communion and Confirmation scheduled for Spring of 2024. Registration is now closed, and we are now able to move forward with the next stage of our planning process; sacramental preparation, and the recruiting of the volunteers required to assist with the number of children registered. For all those who have not registered for the 2024 sacramental season, we look forward to celebrating these sacraments with you next year. Be sure to visit our website and online bulletin for future communications regarding sacramental registration for next year.

YOUTH MINISTRY



Edge is a fun, exciting and free Program that offers youth the

opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship with other youth and peer leaders. Grades 6, 7 & 8’s are invited to come to the EDGE, on Fridays 7:00-8:30pm in the Parish Hall. New Friends, Fun Games, Deepen your Faith. This semester we will be diving deeper into each fruit of the Holy Spirit. Each Edge Night will be themed with a different superhero as a fun way to demonstrate each fruit of the spirit.

Next Edge Night: January 12 – Captain America

LIFE TEEN

LIFE TEEN is an international Catholic ministry that serves the Church and leads all teens closer to Christ by providing resources that encourage vibrant Eucharistic celebrations and opportunities for teens to grow in their faith. Life Teen is for youth in Grades 9-12 and will be held on every other Friday from 7:00pm to 9:00pm are all welcome!

Next Life Teen Night: January 19 - Fanatic

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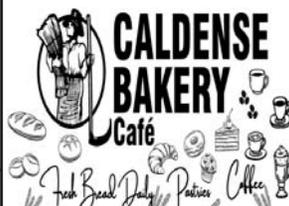


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