



Canadian Martyrs
CATHOLIC CHURCH
A welcoming Oblate parish

WELCOME GUIDE

Mission Statement

Holy Canadian Martyrs Parish is a welcoming Christian community reaching out to all who seek God. We joyfully live, renew and share our Catholic faith through worship, prayer and service, especially to those in need, under the leadership of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and our laity.

Canadian Martyrs Church

100 Main Street

613-232-5347

office@canadianmartyrs.org

Office hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9am - 4pm

From our Pastor, Fr. Frank Kuczera, OMI

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Welcome to the Canadian Martyrs Parish Community, where faith is lived, hope is shared, and love is made visible. In our community, no one is a stranger. Bring your gifts, your hopes, your questions, and your burdens; our compassionate and merciful God receives them all as we journey together. Whether you are a long-time parishioner, a visitor, or someone seeking a spiritual home, community, and belonging, know you have a place here with us. May the Word strengthen you and the Eucharist sustain you. We are glad you are here.

A Look Inside

- The children add "percussion" for the closing hymn on Sundays
- Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sundays
- The children lead us in the Lord's Prayer on Sundays
- Pizza suppers once a month after Saturday Mass
- Coffee and cookies after Sunday Mass
- Little lending libraries
- Our 507 Sandwich Club makes sandwiches weekly for Centre 507
- Monthly Lunch and Learn sessions after Sunday Mass
- Food drives, Christmas shoeboxes, Development and Peace campaigns
- Youth group gatherings
- Mass on the Grass

LENDING LIBRARIES



The parish has two lending libraries in the church foyer: one outside the children's room and a small one at the Truth and Reconciliation table. Have a look and find something to read!

CENTRETOWN COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE



The parish collects non-perishable food items on an on-going basis for our local food bank, the Centretown Community Food Centre. The bins for donations are in the church foyer under the Truth and Reconciliation Table.

MILK BAGS



The parish collects the outer colourful milk bags which are then made into sleeping mats for people in disaster areas and the homeless. Please put your clean, dry and flattened milk bags into the baskets under the table as you enter the church from the breezeway.



Learn more



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[Canadian Martyrs Parish, Ottawa](https://www.facebook.com/CanadianMartyrsParishOttawa)



[canadianmartyrsottawa](https://www.instagram.com/canadianmartyrsottawa)

Weekend Masses

Saturday Mass 5:00pm

Sunday Mass 10:00am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 7:00pm

Wednesday - Friday 12:15pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Before Mass, Tuesday through Saturday,
or call the office

Pastoral Team

Pastor

Fr. Frank Kuczera, OMI

Administrative Assistant

Heather Duggan

Pastoral Associate

Sr. Matilda Owolagba

Director of Religious Education

Adele Casuga Lalonde

PARISH REGISTRATION: Registration cards are available at the back of the church on the Welcome Table or can be accessed at <http://canadianmartyrs.org/register/>.

DONATIONS: Forms are available on the Welcome Table in the church foyer if you wish to make donations through direct deposit. Please call the office if you would like a box of offering envelopes.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK: Please contact the office to inform us of shut-ins or people in hospital so that we can arrange to bring Holy Communion and administer the Sacrament of the Sick, if desired.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES: The minutes of Pastoral Council meetings and our Pastoral Plan 2025-2030 are on our website: www.canadianmartyrs.org

BAPTISMS

We would like to take the time to meet with you to discuss what the sacrament of baptism means to you, what it entails, and how we as a parish can help to support you as the primary catechists for your children as they grow through the years.

If you'd like more information about baptizing your child into the Catholic faith, please contact the parish office. A member of our parish team will reach out to you to schedule our first meeting.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Your child can be registered for First Communion or Confirmation preparation by contacting our Sacramental Prep Team at religioused@canadianmartyrs.org

RCIA

Are you, or someone you know, interested in becoming fully initiated into the Catholic Church? Our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process welcomes you to join us on a journey of faith and discovery as we explore the richness of the Catholic faith.

MARRIAGES

The Catholic Church sees marriage as a covenant between two people who give themselves to each other, mutually and definitively, in order to live a life of faithful and fruitful love.

Marriage preparation is required for any marriage in the Catholic Church. If you would like more information about celebrating your wedding at Canadian Martyrs Parish, and how to find a Marriage preparation course, please contact the parish office.

Canadian Martyrs Parish

Volunteer with us!

Canadian Martyrs is proud of its vibrant and active community, with many different committees and ministries. Volunteers come from many backgrounds, all ages, and interests. All we ask is that you have a positive attitude and a willingness to learn.

If you are interested in learning more, or would like to be connected with a particular group, you can reach out to the parish office:
office@canadianmartyrs.org

Celebrating our Faith

Lectors: Proclaim God's Word in the liturgy during the Masses in a reverential and meaningful manner.

Music: Provide music for the weekend Masses.

Prayer of the Faithful: Write the prayer intentions for weekend Masses.

Ministers of the Eucharist: Assist the pastor in the sharing of the Eucharist under both species during the celebration of the Masses.

Altar servers/Presider's assistants: Participate in the liturgy by assisting the celebrant. Children can be altar servers after they have received their first Communion.

Liturgical environment: Enhance liturgical celebrations through seasonally appropriate decorative additions to the liturgical space.

Greeters: Greet people as they arrive for the weekend Masses to extend a warm welcome.

Mass Coordinators: help set up for weekday and weekend Masses.



Learning about our Faith

Sacramental Preparation: Prepare children to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation.

Faith Formation Committee: Organize learning sessions of various types (workshops, speakers, and retreats) to allow parishioners to learn more about their faith.

RCIA: Help prepare catechumens to be received into the Church and/or receive the required sacraments during the Easter Vigil.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Provide a means for the children of the parish to participate in an interactive Liturgy of the Word at a language level appropriate for them.



Bringing our Faith into the World

Development and Peace Committee: Help organize and promote awareness of activities developed by Development and Peace-Caritas Canada.

Refugee Settlement Committee: Help provide the organization, coordination and follow-up necessary to welcome, introduce and help integrate newcomers to Ottawa.

Pastoral Care Team: Visit the sick and the housebound and bring them the Eucharist. Send parishioners seasonal, get well and sympathy cards.

Truth and Reconciliation Committee: help foster awareness, understanding, healing, and action in response to the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization, particularly as they relate to Indigenous peoples and the Church's role in the residential school system.

Being a Community of Faith

Hospitality: Help organize a variety of social events in the parish e.g. special receptions, pizza dinners, Sunday hospitality.

507 Sandwich Club: Meet weekly to make sandwiches for Centre 507

Youth Group: Help our young people deepen their relationship with Christ, build lasting friendships, and live out their faith in everyday life through prayer, learning, service, and fun.

Young Adult Group: faith, fellowship and fun for those 18-40.

Social Committee: Plan and promote events/activities for the parish community

Laudato Si' / Care for Creation Team: Promote good stewardship of all of Creation.



Stewards and Leaders

Pastoral Council: Advise and assist the pastor in developing and implementing a pastoral vision that reflects the Gospel, the needs of the community, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Finance Council: Advise and assist the pastor in areas concerning parish finances and facilities, including budgets, financial planning, and ongoing maintenance.

Liturgy Committee: Work closely with the pastor, music ministry, and other liturgical ministers to plan, prepare, and evaluate the celebration of Masses and other liturgical events throughout the year.

Communications Committee: Help produce communications to inform and unite the parish as a community, e.g., the Epistle newsletter, the parish website, articles in the local newspaper.

Synod Committee: Help foster a spirit of communion, participation, and mission within the Church, in response to the call of the Synod on Synodality.

Oblate Charism

The [Oblate charism](#) originates from a story; it is the story of a young man, Eugene de Mazenod. Throughout his life, he experienced in himself the merciful love of God, manifested in Jesus Christ, the Crucified Savior. We too, inspired by our Founder, recognize the power of CHRIST in us, and we want to EVANGELIZE, that is to say, to make Him known and to show by our lives the joy of the Good News.

From Eugene's meeting with Jesus on the cross, he felt moved by the deplorable situation of the CHURCH of his time, and called to rekindle the flame of faith that was dying in the hearts of so many of her children, especially the poor. Therefore, it is to the POOR above all that we take this message of liberating joy: to the most abandoned humans, those whose situation cries out for justice before God.

For that reason, we live in COMMUNITY, a human group where we strengthen each other in faith, in charity, enriching each other from our discovery of God and of Christ who lives and works in us and in the world.

We are MISSIONARIES. Once Pope Pius XI referred to us as "Specialists in the difficult missions of the Church". We want to dedicate our lives to all those who either do not know Jesus Christ or have forgotten Him in their lives, wherever they are in the world and therefore many Oblates serve in lands outside their own. In mission, we search for our way to holiness.

We are "OBLATES". That means, missionaries totally given, unconditionally and without return, to the God to whom we already belong and to the brothers and sisters to whom we are sent. CONSECRATED LIFE is the "frame" within which we live our oblation. Oblation means that radical dedication, without reservation, to the work of Christ, the fulfillment of His mission. Together in community we dedicate our lives to build up the family of God's children — and thus they help realize the prayer of Jesus: "That all may be one."

We are Missionary Oblates of MARY IMMACULATE. She is our Model, our Patroness and our Mother. In her we see Christ, we see God. In her "fiat", she shows us how to cooperate with the Will of God, and to live the death of Jesus, so that we share in His resurrection. We Oblates live our mission with her. As stated by Pope Leo XI, our mission as Oblates is to "bring to the womb of the Mother of Mercy those children whom Christ from the cross wanted to give her." That is why when Eugene contemplates Mary, he calls her "Mother of the Mission".

Who are the Canadian Martyrs?



In 1930, the eight Holy Canadian Martyrs were canonized, the same year our parish was established.

Saints Jean de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues, Gabriel Lalemant, Antoine Daniel, Charles Garnier, Noël Chabanel, René Goupil, and Jean de La Lande were eight Jesuit missionaries from France who were martyred in the mid-17th century while spreading Christianity among Indigenous peoples in what is now Canada and the northern United States.

They faced extreme hardships—disease, harsh conditions, and violent conflict during the Iroquois-Huron wars—and were ultimately martyred between 1642 and 1649. Canonized in 1930 by Pope Pius XI, they are honoured for their faith, courage, and dedication to their mission. Their feast day is celebrated on September 26th.

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