

The 26 Martyrs Saints of Japan

Futamatagawa Catholic Church

The Faith Life of the Catholics

Handbook

【 For the sake of all the faithful】

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Preface :

This booklet is a simple explanation of the faith life of Catholic with reference to the sacraments in accordance with the booklet titled “ WELCOME TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH “ published by the Tokyo Province of the Catholic Church of Japan.

In addition to the above mentioned booklet, the Futamatagawa Church community life including general affairs, the faithful activities, and so on, are simply explained.

If you have any question with this booklet, it is highly appreciated to come into contact with the Parish Council members.

I. Outline of the Futamatagawa Catholic Church

* Establishment :

The first church was established on March 1, 1965 at the present site and the present church was rebuilt at the same site on February 7, 1995.

* Patron Saint : The 26 Martyrs Saints of Japn

* Parish : Currently the parish covers mainly Asahi ward, Seya ward, Hodogaya ward and Izumi ward of Yokohama city.

* Numbers of the Parishioners : 2,200 as of January, 2011

* Incumbent Parish Priest : Rev. Peter J.Y. Lee

1973 Born in the city of Seoul , the Republic of Korea

2000 Ordination to priesthood

2004 Dispatched to Japan

2012 Present post

II. The Church Community Organization

Under the direction of the parish priest, the Church Community is operated by the Parish Council in order to deepen friendship among the faithful and promote the faithful's sacrificial service for the Church Community.

1. The Parish Council

In close contact with the parish priest, this council has a duty and an authority to operate harmoniously the whole of the Church Community. The Parish Council is composed of the parish priest, a chairman, two vice chairmen and representatives of two departments, five committees and four from the faithful associations.

The Council holds a monthly meeting on the first Sunday of the month.

In addition, the executive board, being composed of the parish priest, the chairman, two of the vice chairman and a representative of the finance committee, holds a monthly meeting in advance of the Parish Council's monthly meeting.

An updated chart of the Church Organization is displayed on the wall of the church entrance. On this chart, names of the Parish Council members and the other groups are listed.

III. Church Affairs and Activities

1. The Mass

1) Time table of the Mass

Schedule of Masses are subject to change. Any change is announced in advance and notice is posted on the weekly information sheet or the bulletin board of the lobby.

2) The Interfamily Mass is held once a month.

3) The Children's Mass is also held once a month.

2. Participation in the church activities

This church always welcomes the interfamily members' participation in any group of the Church Community Organization shown on the above-mentioned chart.

3. Main Annual Church Events

In addition to the Catholic liturgical calendar, the following annual events are included in the church calendar.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Events</u>
January	Blessing of Coming-of-Age Day
February	Assembly of all the faithful of this church
May	Barbecue Party
August	Summer Evening Party
September	Celebration of Respect-for-the Aged Day
October	Charity Bazaar
November	The Mass for the children aged seven, five and three. This is so-called the shichi-go-san festival.

4. Church Offerings and Donation

1) Monthly Donation

This donation is variously called, 'Dues of the Faithful', 'Church Offering', or 'Monthly Offering'. Parishioners offer this donation to their local church each month. Regarding the amount that each should offer, the Church suggests a figure of between one and three percent of personal income. This donation is used to maintain the church building and facilities, to fund parish activities and to support the priest.

2) During Mass

Churches all over the world collect offerings during Mass. They are used not only for the local church but also for church activities elsewhere in Japan and overseas.

① Usual Offering

② Special Offering

On the special day listed up in the church calendar, this offering is collected.

③ Specific Offering

For example, in order to help the specific area's recovery from an earthquake damage and its victims, the Caritas Japan will appeal a specific offering to the local churches.

The offering of ② and ③ should be put into the donation box located behind the seats in the church.

3) Personal contribution for specific rites

This church suggests the following personal contribution to the Church..

① Wedding : A marriage of both Catholics	100,000 yen
A marriage of Catholic with non- Catholic	150,000 yen
② Funeral : A rite with vigil	150,000 yen
A rite without vigil	100,000 yen

The above mentioned amount of money is just a standard figure of our church. Therefore, you can consult with the parish priest depending on your financial situation.

IV. Daily Life of Faith

1. Reference of the Sacraments

For Japanese and others who have permanent or semi-permanent residence, the usual thing is to attend Sunday Mass in the church they belong to, that is, the church where they are registered. If needed, people who wish to attend Mass in their native language are free to go to another church. If you are having your children baptized or confirmed, or you are going to be married, then you must select one church as your parish church and receive the sacraments there. The local priest will tell you the times and places where Mass is offered in various languages.

1) Baptism of Children

When you have a child to be baptized, the first thing to do is to consult with the priest of the church you belong to. At the church you will receive a baptismal application form. Please take one and fill in the necessary information. The priest will tell you the Pre-Baptismal Seminar and a date of the Baptism which should be strictly followed by the parents

You should be careful also to remember the church that your child was baptized in. A baptismal certificate is needed for confirmation and marriage. If you apply to the church where your child was baptized, the pastor will issue the certificate.

2) Christian Education of Children

① Because we live in a society where the culture is non-Christian, in order for our children to grow up as Catholics it is important that parents be able to live their faith with joy and be part of the community at their local church. They must participate in the Mass and bring their children to Sunday school. This and praying as a family are basic ways in which to build a Christian atmosphere for our children and educate them in the faith.

② Family Prayer

Praying together as a family is very important. Please teach your children to pray before going to bed and before meals. Remember that Jesus is always at our side.

③ Sunday School

When your children reach school age you bring them to the Sunday School at your parish church. When they enter junior high school, their time will be taken up with school tasks and club activities. Attendance at church will become difficult. Talk the problem over with your children. Help them to deepen their faith and discover the joy of being part of the church community. For example, they can enjoy their time at summer camp, excursion, Christmas party and so on.

3) The Eucharist (Holy Communion)

① Reception of First Communion

Children should receive the Eucharist at an age when they can understand sufficiently the meaning of the sacrament, usually after the age of seven, or when they begin to attend elementary school.

② Preparation for First Communion

We must prepare our children for First Communion by having them attend Sunday school and by making use of all the times and places where the faith can be handed on to them according to their ability to understand. Here also parents should consult with their pastor.

③ Before Receiving Communion

A suitable preparation is needed before receiving the Eucharist. One way is to join in the prayer of contrition at the beginning of Mass and have our lighter sins forgiven.

4) Confirmation

① Age for Confirmation

In Japan, confirmation is not conferred at the time of infant baptism. In our church, children are confirmed at an age above 12. Please consult your priest if you or your children are not confirmed.

② Pre-Confirmation Seminar

We prepare for confirmation by attending talks and learning more about our faith. Please consult with your priest about your situation. If you intend to be baptized at an age above 20, you are confirmed at the same time.

- ③ In Japan, this sacrament is normally conferred by the bishop.
Please consult with your priest about the confirmation schedule.

5) Marriage

Marriage is a contract entered into freely between a man and a woman . It is an unbreakable bond founded in love and a solemn covenant sealed by God. Marriage, therefore, is a sacred and has its unique mission to fulfill in society, since it is in the context of married life that children are born and raised. Through the marriage ceremony the bride and groom express their commitment in the presence of God and the Christian community to bind themselves to one another, and they pray that God will bless their union.

① Consult with your priest

As a rule, Catholics have their wedding at the church to which they belong. The first thing to do is to consult with the pastor. Even if you intend to have the ceremony at a different church, please tell your own priest first. After that you can go ahead and fix the time and place. In case you are not attached to one special church, please talk it over with the parish priest at your local church.

② Required Application Forms

When applying to get married you must follow the priest's instructions, fill in an application form and present it to him. You will need other papers also, for example, a Baptismal Certificate issued as a pre-marriage document. If you are a foreign national, you may need what is called a "Certificate Requisite for Marriage," which is required for civil marriage. These certificates are issued by the various foreign embassies in Japan.

③ Pre-Marital Seminar

Before the church can take responsibility for your marriage, naturally the priest must be sure that you are not married already. Also, to make sure that your married life will be richer and fuller, he will arrange a course of talk to prepare you for the ceremony. The content, schedule and language of the talks differs from church to church, so please consult with the priest about this.

④ The Importance of Dialogue

Engaged couples need to talk over with each other their views on marriage and religious faith. In cases where one partner is not baptized, it is important that the non-baptized person has a good understanding of what the Christian faith means. In the case of international marriage, mutual respect for one another's culture, customs, life style and family bearing is very important.

⑤ Second Marriages

When it is a second marriage for either partner, please explain this to the priest, and he will tell you what documents the church requires.

⑥ International Marriage

In case of marriage between two foreign nationals, or between a Japanese and a foreign national, civil law requires certain documents and formalities. Please consult with the priest.

6) The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Catholics should receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year. This sacrament may be received at any church. Many parishes including the Futamatagawa Church have a communal preparation for the sacrament during Mass in Lent and Advent, with an opportunity also for individual confession. If you wish to receive the sacrament in your own language, ask the parish priest.

7) The Sacrament of the Sick (Anointing of the Sick)

When you are hospitalized due to illness or accident, or when you have grown weak from old age, the priest anoints you with the Oil of the Sick by your request.

8) Baptism in Danger of Death

Adults in danger of death should be baptized provided they have some knowledge of the basic truths of the Christian faith, have expressed in one way or another their desire to be baptized, and have also indicated their commitment to observe the precepts of Christ. If time allows, a priest may be called, but anyone can administer the sacrament by pouring water on the person's forehead and saying the words, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Later you can report the person's name, place of baptism, and other details to your priest. Infants in danger of death should be baptized immediately.

9) Funerals

① Preparation of Death

When a Catholic is in danger of death due to illness or accident, you should call your priest or a priest in the nearest church and ask him to administer the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, the Sacrament of the Sick. The priest will be glad to give you whatever advice you need.

② Ministry to the Deceased

When someone dies, you should contact the person's priest and

ask him what to do. If the person dies at home, you will need a death certificate, so you must call a doctor or telephone 119. Be careful not to transport the body to the church or any other place until the death certificate has arrived. In the meantime, when the priest and you have decided the time of the Funeral Mass for the deceased, the church office will inform all of the faithful of Futamatagawa Church of this Mass. They will attend the Mass to pray for the deceased.

③ Japanese Customs

In Japan, the usual custom is to have a wake (vigil) on the day before the Funeral Mass. After the Mass, the body is taken away to be cremated. A few days later, the ashes are laid to rest in the cemetery, or the churchyard. The western form of interment is very rare.

④ Repatriating the Body of the Deceased

If, however, instead of cremation, you wish to have of the deceased returned to its home country, do not hesitate to tell your pastor. In this case, the dead person's family, relatives and close friends should talk it over and then consult the parish priest. You will have to contact your embassy also and find out what formalities are required. Please remember that transporting the deceased to another country is very expensive.

⑤ Burial

Since 2011, the Futamatagawa Church has a new churchyard in Yokohama city, the site of which is located near Kamiooka Station of the Keikyuu Line. If you wish to use the churchyard, please contact the Parish Council.

2. Parish Registration

The Church Register :

The church register is an official parish book to fill in the name of the faithful baptized at the church as well as other individual information. The church guarantees that the contents of the church register will be kept secret. The individual information of the faithful moved in the church also is registered on the official book.

- 1) Registering information about any change of the family's situation and address.

When you will have the following changes, please inform your priest or the church office of the change as soon as possible.

① Moving-in

When you have moved into Futamatagawa Church, please contact the priest with a Parish Transfer Certificate given by your parish church.

② Changes of address, telephone number, name and so on in this parish.

When you have the above mentioned change, you must immediately contact your priest and the church office.

③ Marriage

By your marriage, you have any change of address, name and so on, please contact the priest and the church office

④ Decease

After the late faithful's funeral, please contact the church office to carry out the following procedure.

⑤ Moving-out

When you are about to move to another church, please contact your priest. He will give you a Parish Transfer Certificate so that you can be registered at your new church. If you are going oversea, you may need baptismal and other certificates. Ask your priest and he will be glad to issue them.

- 2) Directory of the faithful

Along with the official Church Register, our church keeps a less formal Directory of names, phone numbers and addresses. While care is taken with this Directory as well, those who for reason of privacy do not want information about themselves written into the Directory should inform your priest or the Parish Council.

V. Activities of the Futamatagawa Church

1. Department

1) Liturgical Relations Department

① Liturgy Committee

The first function of this committee is to prepare Sunday Mass. The second function is to coordinate altar servers, group to hand Eucharist, readers of the Bible, choir, organist, offerings during Mass and so on.

② Group to hand Eucharist (Holy Communion)

The members of this group who have been appointed by the Bishop are assistants to the priest for handing Eucharist to the faithful in the Mass.

In addition, this group takes charge to hand Eucharist to the sick and the aged faithful at their homes as assistant to the priest.

③ Choir

The choir takes charge to sing in chorus in Sunday Mass, other special Masses like Christmas, Easter, funeral and so on. This group always welcomes any new comers.

④ Service group in charge of Marriage and Funeral

This group is to offer hearty services to the attendant in the church in accordance with the liturgical procedure.

2) Education of Faith Group

① Sunday School

Please refer to page 9 item IV. 2) ③ Sunday School.

② Catechism Courses

Elementary Course: This course is for people who intend to study the Christianity in the Catholic Church and to be baptized.

Faithful Course: This course is for the faithful who intends to furthermore study the catechism and the Bible.

In this connection, if you wish to get more information, please contact your priest or the church office.

2. Committee

1) Finance Committee

In order to have our church's smooth activities, this committee performs the following duties.

- ① To plan and control the church's annual budget for the church building and facilities maintenance, for the church offerings, for the church's activities and so on.
- ② To record the church's accounting and to make the balance sheet.

2) Public Relation Committee

This committee takes charges to support the gospel mission and to enhance communication in the church community as follows.

- ① To publish the monthly church booklet "26 saints" and the irregular booklet "Yo no Hikari" (The light of the world).
- ② To make and maintain the church's Home Page.
- ③ To take photos of the church's events.
- ④ To up-date the church bulletin board

3) Welfare Committee

This committee takes charges to carry out promotion of welfare activities in the church, to exchange welfare information with the outside parties and to collect donation for charity.

4) Church Facilities Committee

This committee takes charges to maintain the church building, facilities and furniture, to carry out a general cleaning of the church, to practice evacuation, to update the stockpile for disasters, to build a Christmas stable and so on.

5) Churchyard Committee

This committee takes charges to carry out operation of the Churchyard which was built by the 4 churches (Isogo, Kounan, Hodogaya and Futamatagawa) as a joint facility, in accordance with the joint churchyard management agreement.

On the location of the churchyard, please refer to page 10 item 9) ⑤.

3. Faithful's Associations

1) Paul Association (Senior)

- Monthly meeting on the first Friday after Mass
- Entrance requirement: The aged faithful around 80 years old
- Activities: Lunch and free talking each other with the pastor

2) Joseph Association (Men)

- Bimonthly (odd month) meeting on the second Sunday after Mass.
- Entrance requirement: Adult men regardless of the faithful or not.
- Activities: The one night stay pilgrimage once a year, special support to the church's events and coffee sales service to gain scholarship for the schoolboys and girls in Sri Lanka.

3) Mary Association (Ladies)

- Monthly committee and an annual general meeting on February.
- Entrance requirement: The faithful of ladies regardless of marital status.
- Activities: Excursion to promote members' friendship and special collaboration with the church's events including the following groups
 - ① Supporting group for Bolivia
 - ② Anna Society
 - ③ The worldwide prayer day (March) group

4) Youth Association

- Monthly meeting on the fourth Sunday after Mass
- Entrance requirement: Single youth over 18 years old
- Activities: Assistant service to the church's summer camp, the spring training camp and to join Youth Society of the Yokohama Diocese.

4. Other Groups

1) Group by District

The Group by District consists of 14 districts where our church's faithful are living. Each group has a coordinator appointed by the priest and several assistants nominated by the coordinator. This system is to maintain a good communication among the faithful living in the same district in order to help the aged or the sick living alone as soon as possible and to give them the Eucharist and the church's latest information. The Parish Council holds an annual meeting of the Group by District inviting all of the coordinators and the assistants at the church.

2) Group preparing the church's parties

At the request of the Parish Council, this group prepares party for any kind of the events of the church with hearty care to the guest.

3) Store

The store is located at the entrance of our church and deals in books including the Bible and many kind of religious goods. The store is open every Sunday morning after Mass.

4) Library

The library is located at the second floor lobby and its bookshelf contains book, DVD, CD and videotape. You can borrow these things registering your name and other required items in the format.

5) Japanese Class "Hiroba"

Japanese Hiroba means a sort of plaza in town. In other words, at Hiroba you can learn Japanese together with international – minded Japanese teachers and it is free of charge. Hiroba consists of multiclassses depending on student's Japanese level. If you intend to learn Japanese, contact the priest or the Parish Council.

VI. Church's Facilities

The faithful belonging to the Futamatagawa Church can use the church's facilities under the control of the Parish Council.

1. Facilities

1) Meeting Room

The following meeting rooms are available with reservation in advance at the church office.

- ① Meeting rooms on the second floor :
No. 1~No.4 rooms with furniture of 4 desks and 12 chairs
- ② A Tatami room on the second floor
- ③ Mother and child room on the first floor : After the Sunday Mass, it is available for meeting.

2. Equipment

1) Copy Machine

In the second floor lobby, a copy machine is equipped available for your use with charge of ¥10 per each copy in case of private use.

2) Telephone and Telefax

They are equipped in the church office. If you need any more information in detail, please contact the church office.

3. Parking Lot

The parking lot located in front of the Church is available just for the reserved faithful on Sunday. However, on the other day it can be used by the faithful freely.

4. Notices

1) Wastes Disposal

In Yokohama city, the disposal of wastes such as garbage, trash, refuse, etc. out of the community like the church is legally charged. Therefore, it is highly appreciated that you will bring back your own wastes to your home.

VII. Church Office

1. Church Office

- 1) When you wish to consult with the priest about anything, please phone to the priest directly or contact the church office.

The priest and the church office Tel : 045-391-6296
Fax : 045-391-6294

The priest's mail address : shisai@futamatagawa-cc.com

2) The church office's working hour

The working hour is subject to change for a while. If you have anything necessary to contact the church office, please phone to the office before your visit.

The office is closed on the national holidays.