

Joseph the Dreamer

Prior to Christ's birth, St. Matthew's Gospel tells us that Joseph had a dream in which an Angel of the Lord appeared to him and told him to take Mary as his wife, instead of secretly repudiating her. Joseph accepted the Angel's advice and took Mary into his home.

Joseph is often portrayed as *pensive* in the icons and frescoes of Nativity scenes by the artists of the Byzantine Orthodox School. One of these artists is Nicolai Greschny who lived during the misfortunes of the Bolshevik revolution and the Second World War and ended up in France in the Albi region. There he continued his profession and decorated the walls of several small churches in Aveyron with frescoes. This technique involves skill and timing and requires painting very quickly on a wall coated with fresh mortar (*fresco* in Italian). Each of the churches he decorated with a Nativity scene has a particular characteristic. Joseph is placed at the side and pensively contemplates the scene.



Artists who create Byzantine religious images follow very strict canonical rules with specific didactic and theological guidelines. There is a long tradition involved.

During the first centuries, information from the Scriptures provided archetypal figures which artists used to create consistent images. They became the prototypes that guided the production of future canonical icons and frescoes.

It became a common practice, in both icons and frescos, that Nativity scenes portrayed Joseph off to the side and looking pensive.

This portrayal does not suggest Joseph's lack of interest. Several frescoes add interesting details such as a pensive Joseph watching over a boiling pot while Mary sleeps with her child. St. Matthew's Gospel testifies that Joseph took great care of Mary and Jesus. Warned in another dream by an Angel of the Lord, he quickly organized the flight with Mary and the Infant Jesus to safety in Egypt.

In frescoes and icons, the figure of Joseph is defined. He is an archetype: a dreamer par excellence. Joseph, like many of us, was deeply involved in God's great mystery.

Jacques Houle, c.s.v.

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli

MASS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 22, 2019

Please pray for:

Lea Guilbeault & Ferruccio Berardo
Manuel Ferreira
Milan Pompura
Dora & Dominic Gualtieri
Antoinette Moscato
Christina & Joe Radino

Requested by:

Family
Maria Ferreira
Family
Lucy
Family
Lucy

Holiday Mass Schedule:

In addition to regular Sunday mass on December 22nd and 29th, here is the schedule:

Christmas Eve mass is at 8:30 PM

Christmas Day is at 10:30 AM

New Year's Eve is at 8:30 PM

New Year's Day: There is no mass

We are updating our e-mail distribution list. To receive news, updates and church communications, e-mail your info to subscribe@holymontreal.com and we will add you to the list.

Université de Montréal seminar on Health and Spirituality: Spirituality often appears on the radar screen of health care workers. How does one define the relationship between health, illness, healing and spiritual dimension of a person? What does research have to say about this topic and how does one integrate spirituality in health care? The seminar will examine several views on spirituality: medical, theological, anthropological, and ethical. Mondays from 9-12 from January 6th to the April 27th, 2020 at the Marguerite-d'Youville Pavillon, room 4030. For more information, contact 514-343-7506 or fabienne.lescot@umontreal.ca

Last Sunday's collection was \$2605. Thank you!

*For unto us a child is born, Christ Jesus, the Lord.
Merry **Christmas!** May beautiful moments and happy
memories surround you with joy this **Christmas**. Wishing you
the gift of **faith**, the blessing of hope and the peace of His love
at **Christmas** and always.*

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



12-19-1997

I'M SORRY GUY, I KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT A
GOOD HEALTH PLAN AND YOU GIVE OUT FREE
GIFTS AND ALL, BUT JESUS REALLY DOES
HAVE A MUCH BETTER PLAN

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

7355 Lajeunesse Street, Montreal, QC H2R 2H6

Tel: 514-272-1056/Fax: 514-272-2959

Father John Baxter

Deacon Richard Brisebois

<http://holyfamilymontreal.com/>

Holy Family Board of Directors:

Frank Alfieri 514-602-5019

Henry Carpanzano 514-616-2410

Tom McCutcheon 514-331-8646

Silvana Perna 514-451-7056

Carmelina Tavone 514-697-0222

For those wishing to have a mass said for loved one or a friend, please see Sharon Murphy after mass.

The Childcare Centre will continue to be open with toys and playthings. However, parents will have to go down with their child or children, and care for them themselves. This playroom will be available for any parent whose child cannot sit through the liturgy.