



You can't judge a book by its cover

From the banks of the River Jordan, close to Jericho, St. John the Baptist sent an urgent message to the Judeans: *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near* (Mt 3:2). Today the calls for conversion are everywhere and the most urgent concern climate change. We must become green advocates. Let's reflect on our habits since using blue bins will not automatically make us ecologists. We have to think beyond using recycle bins to throw away the plastic packaging for the California strawberries that we enjoyed for dessert. While it's a start, we have to think globally and purchase locally if we want to contribute consciously to protecting the environment. It would have been better if we'd waited for the month of June to purchase Québec strawberries that were transported by local merchants who didn't contribute unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions.

Let's return to St. John the Baptist. He lived in the desert in Judea, preached repentance and openness to God's presence. Not only did he wear rustic clothes like the prophets and eat a similar, simple diet, his preaching was uncompromising. He walked the talk. St. John challenged the Pharisees and Sadducees to repent and embrace God's kingdom. It was not sufficient for the Pharisees *to display* their spiritual perfection or for the Sadducees *to boast* of priestly and political power. They were called to conversion.

By vigorously calling on these groups to repent, St. John the Baptist obliged them to examine the coherence between their religious practices and their idea of and relationship with God: *Bear fruit worthy of repentance*. St. John the Baptist wore clothing made of camel hair and displayed an eloquent spirit of humility: *I baptize you with water for repentance, but One who is more powerful than I, is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals*.

During this time of Advent, St. John the Baptist's words resonate. Let us see how we react. Does our attachment to Christ bring coherence and unity to our existence? Is there a direct connection between the faith we proclaim and our charity? Is one a reflection of the other? We all need to *repent* in order for Christ to reign in our hearts.

Yves Guillemette, priest

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli

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MASS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 4, 2016

Please pray for:

Lea Guilbeault & Ferruccio Berardo
Carmela Galardo
Jackie Bourque
Herbert Somogyi
Desiderio Faraggi
For the Leclerc-Robillard Families
Dominic Gualtieri
Cristina Radino
Margaret Ann Murphy
Yvette Poirier
Margaret Walsh
Guerino & Santina Sadori
James McDonnell

Requested by:

Family
Family
Fr. Mike Shaw
Fr. Mike Shaw
Faraggi Family
Léo-Paul & Mary Leclerc
Lucy
Lucy
Pat & Family
Pat & Family
Friends of Holy Family
Family
Clair & Tom

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Bake Sale TODAY!

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve: Saturday, December 24th at 8:00 pm
Christmas Day: Sunday, December 25th at 10:30 am
New Year's Eve: NO MASS
Sunday Mass: Sunday, January 1st at 10:30 am

Please visit our new and improved web site at: <http://www.holyfamilyparishmtl.com>

Feel free to provide your comments / suggestions / or add to Joe Piazza at jpiazza@live.ca
If you wish to add you email address to Holy Family's address list, please send it to jpiazza@live.ca

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

Last Sunday's collection was \$2146. Thank you!

A woman brought a very limp parrot into a veterinary hospital. As she lay her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the Vet shook his head sadly and said, "I'm so sorry, Polly has passed away."

The distressed owner wailed, "Are you sure? I mean, you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet rolled his eyes, shrugged, turned and left the room returning a few moments later with beautiful black Labrador. As the bird's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the dead parrot from top to bottom. He then looked at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head.

The vet led the dog out but returned a few moments later with a cat. The cat jumped up and also sniffed delicately at the ex-bird.

The cat sat back, shook its head, meowed and ran out of the room. The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry; but like I said, your parrot is most definitely, 100% certifiably ...dead."

He then turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill which he handed to the woman. The parrot's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "\$150!" she cried. "\$150 just to tell me my bird is dead?!"

The vet shrugged. "If you'd taken my word for it, the bill would only have been \$20, but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan, what did you expect?"



Second Sunday of Advent