



# The Feast of Christmas...

In today's politically correct world, we don't want to upset anyone's feelings. When we meet unbelievers, lukewarm believers, or even steadfast believers, we may feel reticent and won't automatically wish people a Merry Christmas – so we mumble *Happy Holidays*, *Season's Greetings*, or words to that effect. I find that unfortunate because if we do not acknowledge whom we are celebrating, it reminds me of an empty box, a container without contents. What is left to celebrate: the winter solstice and increasing minutes of daylight? What about

*enlightenment* that is more than just *light*?

The feast of Christmas commemorates the birth of a Child. Jesus was the poorest of the poor, a Child whose mother gave birth in a manger built for animals and whom the shepherds discovered in the night. We know what this Child's destiny would be.

The feast of Christmas changed history. This Child brought peace, joy, and hope. Through Christ's birth we discover God's philanthropy: His incredible and merciful love for women and men of all races, all human situations, of the past, present, and future. Christ, our universal brother, brings love to the entire world.

Just as Christ reveals God's humanity, He reveals also the divine dimension of our lives. We are much more valuable than we believe or what society judges us to be. Our lives are not restricted by temptations of power, vanity, money, or consumption. We are also beings of hope, enlightenment, gratitude and joy. We are God's daughters and sons. There is so much violence and exploitation in our societies, so many lies and so much abuse, that it is wonderful to encounter a Child who reveals to us the luminous side of our existence.

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas!

*André Beauchamp*

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli

# Merry Christmas !

***Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord (Lk 2: 10-11)***

We hear this proclamation throughout the Christmas season.

Not only is the Infant Jesus among us but we also have been given new life. Through Christ, everything is new and we can be born again.

Christ came so that our broken dreams could be revisited and fulfilled even greater than our expectations.

Christ came for those of us who mourn to comfort and reassure us that better days are ahead.

Christ came for those of us who struggle every day to encourage us to remain steadfast.

Christ came for those of us who may wonder why we are successful when others are not, and to remind us that our good deeds are never in vain.

Christ came for those of us who fear the future and reassures us of his constant presence.

Christ came for those who have lost faith in his guidance and reminds us that He has never hesitated to believe in us.

Christ's birth confirms that Christmas festivities are not about buying and receiving presents but a celebration of his Presence.



Christ is born for all of us who walk in darkness that our paths will always be guided by his star.

Christ is born and says to each of us: "I am always with you."

I wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas, guided by the light of our Emmanuel.



**HOLY FAMILY PARISH**  
7355 Lajeunesse Street, Montreal, QC H2R 2H6  
Tel: 514-272-1056/Fax: 514-272-2959  
Father John Baxter

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 25, 2016**

**Please pray for:**

Lea Guilbeault & Ferruccio Berardo  
Elvira Pietrantonio

Lucille Picotte  
Carmela Galardo  
Thelma McDonald  
Pasqualina Ciarillo  
Giuseppe Miglialo  
Helen Uzenko  
Gilles Bergeron  
Doris –George Guay  
Irene & John Romanow  
Nicola Petti  
Evangelina Luis

**Requested by:**

Family  
Pietrantonio / Picotte Family & Nieces  
Marcella, Tania, & Olivia  
Raymond Picotte  
Family  
Léo-Paul & Mary Leclerc  
Family  
Wife  
Her Daughter  
Family  
Family  
Gerald Romanow & Family  
Donovan Family  
Luis Family

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**New Year's Mass Schedule:**

New Year's Eve: NO MASS

Sunday Mass: Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 am

**Family Development and Education Montreal** will offer a course for parents with children ages newborn to three years old and for couples planning to become parents. The course was developed by professionals at the International Federation for Family Development, which uses the Harvard Case Study Method to explore issues facing couples and their families. Topics include: Character Building, Individualized Attention, Love and Discipline, Marriage Bond, Siblings, The Role of Play. The course schedule is one Friday evening a month from 7:30pm-9:30pm in 2017: January 13, February 17, March 17, April 7, May 5, June 2 held at McGill University, Macdonald Engineering Building, Room 267 (817 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal). Cost is \$150 per couple. Register online at First Steps: <https://fde-mtl.ca/en/> by January 10, 2017. For more info contact [english@fde-mtl.ca](mailto:english@fde-mtl.ca).

**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](mailto:jpiazza@live.ca)

If you wish to add your email address to Holy Family's address list, please send it to [jpiazza@live.ca](mailto: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 \$1395. Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks for the electric guitar you gave me for Christmas," little Chris Cody said to his uncle the first time he saw him after the holidays. "It's the best present I ever got."

"That's great," said his uncle. "Do you know how to play it?"

"Oh no, I don't play it," the little fellow said. "My mom gives me a dollar a day not to play it during the day and my dad gives me five dollars a week not to play it at night!"

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS!

