

People on a pilgrimage...



As the saying goes, *the first step is always the hardest*. Once we take that step, we are on our way and off on an adventure. From that point on, we are also on a pilgrimage. As my mother would say, the difficult part is over. I always remember that I had to overcome my fear of diving into our lake. When I actually did it, I was really pleased with my accomplishment. I never regretted having the courage to make that first dive.

As we leave on an adventure and explore the unknown, we are modern-day pilgrims. The Magi, pilgrims from the East, were guided by a star as they searched for the newborn King. They were fueled by hope and inexpressible courage during this undertaking. Their final destination certainly amazed them beyond any expectations. At the end of their journey, they found an Infant, not just any infant, but God who had come to meet us in the person of the Christ Child.

We remember that the pagan Magi were the first to recognize that the Child they found in Bethlehem was God's messenger. St. Matthew the Evangelist wrote that God had sent his Son to save the people on earth. Everyone, Jews and Pagans, believers and unbelievers, and all of us here assembled, are invited to recognize the Messiah, and continue on our pilgrimage.

It is interesting to note that the pagan Magi experienced this incredible event while those acquainted with the Scriptures in Jerusalem missed this fact entirely. Their focus was not on hope for the future. Even King Herod, anxious to maintain his powerful hold over the country, remained in his palace, consumed by worry, as were many inhabitants of Jerusalem. Their lack of initiative did not acknowledge God's great adventure with humanity.

Just like the Magi, we should not be surprised that we are forced to make detours throughout our lives and travel on numerous and unexpected roads before we reach our destinations. This is life. A detour is sometimes a grace that enables us to perceive new and promising horizons.

After reading this text, and if you consider yourself a true pilgrim, take the opportunity to witness to others that you are part of this spiritual community. You will see that you are not alone in this great adventure of our Christian life. The feast of the Epiphany, celebrated today, will be our public demonstration of our love for God.

Yvon Cousineau, c.s.c.

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli

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MASS INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 8, 2017

Please pray for:

Lea Guilbeault & Ferruccio Berardo
Carmela Galardo
Leclerc-Simonson Families
Joe Santone
Pasqualina Ciarlillo
Anne Williams
Giovanna & Giuseppe Lombardi

Requested by:

Family
Family
Léo-Paul & Mary Leclerc
Family
Family
Susan & Family
Family

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

An annual ecumenical celebration traditionally held from January 18 to 25. By coming together during this week, we join with the people around the world to pray for Christian unity – in worship, reflection, study, and fellowship. This year, we rejoice in the opportunity to pray with the Christians of Germany. They have chosen as their theme “Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us,” inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:14-20. They invite Christians around the world to celebrate God’s reconciling grace, call us to recognize the pain of the deep divisions which afflict the Church, and urge us to become ambassadors of Christ’s message of reconciliation. Join us on Saturday, January 21, 2pm at St. John’s Lutheran Church (3594 Jeanne Mance St., Montreal). Contact the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism at 514-937-9176 or info@oikoumene.ca. Visit www.weekofprayer.ca

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

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.

The Christmas Day Collection was \$3325.

The New Year’s Day Collection was \$2592. Thank you!

A man, his wife and his mother-in-law went on vacation to the Holy Land. While they were there, the mother-in-law passed away.

The undertaker told them, ‘You can have her shipped home for £5,000, or you can bury her here in the Holy Land for £150.’

The man thought about it and told him he would just have her shipped home.

The undertaker asked, ‘Why would you spend £5,000 to ship your mother-in-law home, when it would be wonderful to have her buried here and spend only £150?’

The man replied, ‘a man died here 2,000 years ago, was buried here, and three days later he rose from the dead. I just can’t take that chance!’

