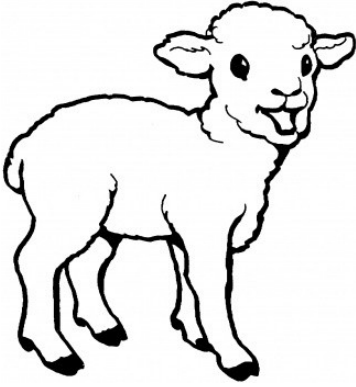


Lamb of God?



When St. John baptized Jesus, he understood that Christ was not just another faithful follower. He bestowed on him a strange and surprising title: *Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world* (Jn 1:29). This phrase is familiar to us since we repeat it during the Gloria of the Mass and again just before we receive communion. The Latin chant of *Agnus Dei* is one of the most beautiful in our repertoire.

But how did we come to bestow the title of a lamb on God's messenger? Why not a lion, an eagle or a tiger? These are strong and noble animals. In comparison a lamb is fragile, fearful, often humble, gregarious, apparently not very intelligent, and from my childhood memories, also delicious.

To understand the title of *Lamb of God*, we must understand the traditions of the Israeli people. From the beginning, the Jews were shepherds with small flocks of goats and sheep. The lamb was the basis of their economy. It gave them milk, clothes (wool) and food. Its meat was excellent. A lamb is a gentle animal, without any malice. It was an animal that was offered to God in sacrificial rituals, an innocent victim that brought purification. Also in the Jewish culture, the lamb had an extraordinary and mystical significance as God's servant. While we may think of God from perspectives of prestige and strength, this is incorrect. God is Love. Our God is kind, approachable, and merciful. God's servant, Jesus, gave up his life like a lamb.

When we refer to Christ as the *Lamb of God*, (Haitians say: *Mouton, Bon Dieu*), it raises a question that remains to be resolved. With all our shortcomings and downfalls, why does God still love us?

André Beauchamp

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli

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

MASS INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 15, 2017

Please pray for:

Lea Guilbeault & Ferruccio Berardo
Lucia Mignacco
Antoniette Stabile & Umberto Santullo
Anton Babnik

Requested by:

Family
Family
Family
Kozina Family

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sacred Heart's Blue & White Gala – The Sacred Heart School of Montreal is pleased to invite you to its winter fundraising Gala on February 3, 2017 at the historic Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Emceed by Maya Johnson, CTV News Quebec City Bureau Chief, enjoy a gourmet dinner and dancing in the famed Oval Room. Cocktails with musicians start at 6pm followed by a live auction and great raffle prizes are available all night. Proceeds benefit The Sacred Heart School of Montreal's new auditorium. Tickets are limited and are going fast! More information at: 514-937-2845 or online at www.sacredheart.qc.ca

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.

Last Sunday's Collection was \$1990. Thank you!

CHRISTIAN ONE LINERS (thank you Deacon Richard Brisebois!)

Don't let your worries get the best of you; Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Some people are kind, polite, and thoughtful
Until you try to sit in their pews.

People are funny; they want the Front of the bus,
Middle of the road,
And back of the church.