

# Unfinished Business ...



At the outset, we may think the Beatitudes do not need any introduction since they are among the most beautiful and quoted passages of the Gospel. This is where it could get complicated if we can *recite* them but no longer *hear and follow* Christ's message. Instead, shouldn't we think of the Beatitudes as inspirational and challenging guides to a Christian life?

Jesus introduced the Beatitudes as he stood on the side of a mountain and preached to his followers. His words are considered a Charter of a Christian Life. Jesus then continued: *Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account...* The Beatitudes lead us to a new world, God's Kingdom. The first Beatitude is a call to conversion: *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.* The second deals with the present. We must integrate the Gospel message and use it to guide our journey. To be poor in spirit is to be humble and open to a world greater than our own, to be open to God who is close to us. Humility requires detachment, distancing ourselves from material possessions, and realizing that our attempts to attain happiness from worldly sources will be short-lived. If we are "poor in spirit", we welcome Jesus' teachings and aspire to a relationship with God and others that is based on love and confidence.

When we are "poor in spirit", our minds are open to other Beatitudes that remind us to be merciful and meek, to hunger for justice, to be pure of heart, and to be peacemakers. We acknowledge that we won't be able to achieve all these objectives in one lifetime. The Beatitudes remind us that we are "*beings in progress*", right up until we enter into full communion with God who is Love. With the time that we have left on earth, we work on our "*unfinished business*", according to the words of Father Benoît Lacroix in his most recent book (*Rumeurs à l'aube, Fides*) (free translation). The Beatitudes nourish our desire to become devoted sons and daughters, as we follow Christ, God's Beloved Son.

*Yves Guillemette, priest*

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli

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**MASS INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 29, 2017**

**Please pray for:**

Lea Guilbeault & Ferruccio Berardo  
Joe Santone  
Richard Webster  
Emilia Pittarelli Picciano  
Francka Kozina

**Requested by:**

Family  
Family  
Family  
Family  
Family

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**World Day Of The Sick - Day Of Prayer:** Join SASMAD/Pastoral Home Care Services on Saturday, February 11 at 9am for a morning of prayer, followed by midday mass presided by Archbishop Christian Lépine at Sanctuaire St. Jude (10120 d'Auteuil Ave., Montreal). Morning prayer will include the rosary and Sacrament of the Sick. Fellowship lunch to follow in the church hall (a light soup will be served). All are welcome! Contact Pastoral Home Care Coordinator Cathy Macaulay at 514-925-4354 or [cmacaulay@diocesemontreal.org](mailto:cmacaulay@diocesemontreal.org).

**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](http://www.sacredheart.qc.ca)

**Concert Series At St. Joseph's Oratory:** Enjoy "nouvellegénérations.orgue", a concert series dedicated to upcoming young composers, in collaboration with Montréal Nouvelle Musique. Concerts run Sundays at 3:30pm (3800 Queen Mary Rd., Montreal) until February 26. Projection on giant screen available. Free admission; contributions gratefully accepted. Visit [www.saint-joseph.org](http://www.saint-joseph.org) for full program details. Contact 514-733- 8211 or [info@osj.qc.ca](mailto:info@osj.qc.ca).

All married couples are invited to celebrate **World Marriage Day**, which honours married couples as heads of the family, the basic unit of society, and salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life. Join us on Saturday, February 11, 5pm for a mass presided by Archbishop Christian Lépine at Mary, Queen of the World Cathedral (1085 de la Cathédrale, Montreal). A reception at 7pm will follow and will be held at La Plaza (420 Sherbrooke West, Montreal). Enjoy a sit-down dinner with wine. Cost is \$150.00 per couple. For more information regarding the reception, please contact: Mary and Len at 514-809-7556 or Daisy and Tino at 514-327-9962 or [marriageencounter@hotmail.com](mailto:marriageencounter@hotmail.com).

**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](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 \$2295. Thank you!

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You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windscreen, it said 'Parking Fine.' So that was nice.