

HOLY FAMILY PARISH
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Father John Baxter
Deacon Richard Brisebois
<http://www.holyfamilyparishmtl.com>

MASS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 17, 2017

Please Pray for:

Lea Guilbeault & Ferruccio Berardo
Serge Dugas
Josefa Fitz
Pasquale Morabito
Edna Williams Murphy
Joan Pinto
Ernie Cassidy
Liliane Hutchingame
Livia Polo Sala

Requested by:

Family
Friends of Holy Family
Family
Teresa Morabito
Mike Shaw
Mike Shaw
Mike Shaw
Family
Family

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take note of this year's Christmas and New Year's Masses:

Christmas Eve: Sunday December 24th at 9:30 PM
Christmas Day: Monday December 25th at 10.30 AM
New Year's Eve: Sunday December 31st at 8:00 PM
New Year's Day: No mass

Holy Family donated half the proceeds from the Bake Sale to two very important causes:

\$500 to Aider tout le monde, a local charity assisting the homeless and \$500 to CSDD Quebec, a charity focussed on improving the living conditions and social life in African communities. Thank you for your generosity!

Aider tout le monde, a charitable organization which feeds homeless men and women every Sunday. Donations of **NEW** underwear and socks for men and women as well as gently used jackets, tuques and gloves will be appreciated.

Greeters needed: We are looking for either FOUR individuals or TWO couples to be greeters. Responsibilities include greeting the parishioners as they come in, distributing the bulletins and collecting and bringing the collection up to the altar. Frequency would be about once a month or less. Please see Gerry Romanow after mass or call him at 514-729-1985.

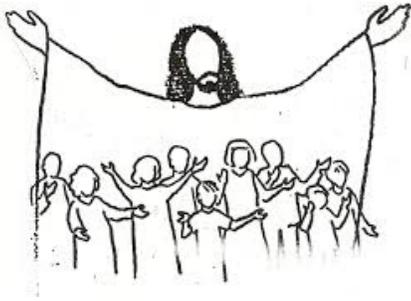
Don't forget to visit our Parish website at <http://www.holyfamilyparishmtl.com>. You can find Sunday's Liturgy PowerPoint slides and the bulletin. Thank you to all those involved in keeping the website up to date!

- Office Hours: Tuesdays 10 am to 4 pm (Please call before coming)
- If you wish to add your 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 \$3326. Thank you!



Joy...



I will greatly rejoice in the Lord... proclaims the Prophet Isaiah. Mary sings: *My soul shall exult in my God.* St. Paul invites the members of the community in Thessalonica to: *rejoice always* and to keep this as their most natural mind-set.

But are we always joyful, as St. Paul suggested? It doesn't seem so. In addition it could be interpreted as *my* immense naivety when I to dare to speak of joy and call others to joy, as if believers were people who moved forward with their eyes closed.

But isn't joy a feeling diffused with happiness which, at certain moments, illuminates our lives and fills our hearts? Is it not something that enables us to cast a serene and peaceful glance on people who surround us? We easily connect with Pope Francis' joy which he demonstrates so readily with his welcoming smile.

In the midst of our celebrations, the Lord shares so much with us. Today, God is telling us that a believer's focus, without ignoring the worries of the world, is to recognize God's joy. This passage refers to the arrival of the Child Jesus in the lives of the Jews of Palestine some 2000 years ago, and to his cousin, John, who baptized on the banks of the Jordan River.

Questions about his mission were directed to John the Baptist from all quarters: *Who are you, if you are not the Messiah, or the reincarnation of Elijah, or of Moses? Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?*

You could also ask me the same questions. Who am *I* to speak to *you* of joy when insecurity insidiously infects our planet and impoverishment of the most vulnerable increases on a daily basis?

In another era, St. John the Baptist responded: *Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal...*

*Among you stands one...*the response that I will make is the same: I confirm my faith in the living Christ; I reaffirm his presence and mercy; I share the hope that lives in me and enables me to believe that our world can't be compared to a locomotive restricted to riding on two rails. Since the first Christmas, an immense hope became available to be shared with our world.

Following the example set by Isaiah, Mary and Paul, it's our turn to be witnesses of this contagious joy.

Father Jacques Houle, c.s.v.
Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli