

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

Father John Baxter
Deacon Richard Brisebois
<http://holyfamilymontreal.com/>

Holy Family Board of Directors:

Frank Alfieri 514-602-5019
Henry Carpanzano 514-616-2410
Tom McCutcheon 514-331-8646
Silvana Perna 514-451-7056
Carmelina Tavone 514-697-0222

For those wishing to have a mass said for loved one or a friend, please see Sharon Murphy after mass.

The Childcare Centre will continue to be open with toys and playthings. However, parents will have to go down with their child or children, and care for them themselves. This playroom will be available for any parent whose child cannot sit through the liturgy.

January 5, 2020

Epiphany of the Lord (A)

Following the Star



When I was younger, the Feast of the Three Kings, which we now call Epiphany Sunday, always fascinated me. I asked a lot of questions. Who were these Magi? How many were there? Were they really kings? Were their names Balthazar, Melchior and Gaspard? Did they represent different races?

St. Matthew's Gospel tells us that the Magi came from east of the Jordan and were alerted to Christ's birth by the appearance of a star in the sky. These astrologers represented the world of the Gentiles who would welcome Jesus as Lord and be open to hearing the Good News of salvation. The travelers alerted King Herod to his existence: *Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage* (Mt 2:2).

It is not important to know whether this star followed a mysterious or unusual trajectory which was visible only to a select few. Instead this star was a sign that announced the coming of the Savior King, just as the angels informed the shepherds in Bethlehem that this Infant would lead them to salvation. The word, *Catholic*, from the Greek word *katholikos*, or *universal*, indicates that God's message was destined for *men and women of good will*.

In St. Matthew's Gospel we read of the visitors' conversation with King Herod and his powerful entourage. The travelers did not reveal Christ's birthplace in the grotto in Bethlehem and returned home by another route. Years later, the authorities refused to believe Christ's teachings and initiated confrontations that ultimately resulted in the crucifixion of Mary and Joseph's Son.

The Magi went to the manger in Bethlehem and presented symbolic gifts to the Infant. They knelt before the King of the universe and offered him the *gold* of their hearts. They proclaimed that he is God and Lord by bringing the *incense* of their prayers. They acclaimed the One who would rise from the dead with the *myrrh* of their fulfilled hopes.

Who are today's Magi? Will they again come from the East? What offerings will they bring? Our answer is they will bring the best of what they have: the goodness of their hearts, their deep spirituality and the joy that animates their lives.

Gilles Leblanc

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli

MASS INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 5, 2020

Please pray for:

Lea Guilbeault & Ferruccio Berardo
Elvira Colombo
Helen Tanyan
Maria & Antonietta Faraggi
Jacqueline (Scott) Piquette
Dorothy Feely Brisebois
Phillip Elliott

Requested by:

Family
Iorio-Pietracupa Family
Faraggi Family
Family
Denis & Heather
Denis & Heather
Susan

We are updating our e-mail distribution list. To receive news, updates and church communications, e-mail your info to subscribe@holymontreal.com and we will add you to the list.

Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem... Walk in the footsteps of Christ!

June 26 to July 8, 2020

Mission Jeunesse – YM, in collaboration with Spiritours, is organizing a pilgrimage to the Holy Land for young adults (18-35) accompanied by Archbishop Christian Lépine! You will never listen nor read the Word of God in the same way!

For more information, please attend the information session on January 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Archdiocese of Montreal, 2000 Sherbrooke St. W.

The Christmas Eve collection was \$2795.

The Christmas Day collection was \$1320.

Last Sunday's collection was \$2925. Thank you!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our long-treasured tradition is to wish each other the best for the coming year. We acknowledge that time can make or break us, and we will have happy and unhappy days. We have lots of reasons to say that times can be tough and uncertain, that our environment issues are serious, and that our societies struggle when dealing with whatever is new and different, that attention to others is diminishing, and that a relationship with God is not a major preoccupation for most of the world. This unfortunate list is long and always being updated.



This is why it is so important to offer our best wishes to others at the start of the New Year. We tell them that we love them and enjoy their company. These words reaffirm our connections with family members and our communities and sow hope and joy in our hearts. We also thank and pray to God, our hope for the future.

