

January 12, 2020

Baptism of the Lord (A)



TIMELINE

Christ's Baptism by St. John brings an end to the Christmas liturgical season. We have gone from one celebration to another as the mystery of the Incarnation of God's Son is made known. Christ came into our world as a source of never-ending joy (*Christmas*); his presence was re-vealed to the nations (*Epiphany*) and finally he was acclaimed God's Servant through whom humanity would be saved (*Baptism of the Lord*).

We begin with a reflection on Jesus' Baptism and our own. It is necessary to remember that the Baptism offered by St. John was part of a process of conversion that would welcome the Messiah. We read in the Gospel that St. John was somewhat reserved when Christ appeared on the banks of the Jordan River and asked to be baptized. This request was important because Jesus wanted to reveal his solidarity with the men and women to whom he would proclaim the Good News of Salvation. Jesus asked John to proceed with his Baptism.

Once this happened, God confirmed Christ's identity: He is his Beloved Son, the human Face of God who is Love. Through Christ, God is revealed to people through his gentleness, goodness and mercy. He is the Servant as described by the prophet Isaiah. This Servant does not raise his voice nor break the bruised reed. The Servant will free people from prisons (often of their own making) and enable them to love, as expressed through their relationship with God and others.

We may think of our own Baptism in relation to Christ's death and resurrection. Our Baptism provides us with the opportunity to immerse ourselves in communion with God as people who live in faith and solidarity with Christ, the Father's Beloved Son. We ask Christ to be part of our lives and free us from the evil that imprisons us. Christ leads us closer to God.

Yves Guillemette, priest

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli

MASS INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 12, 2020

Please pray for:

Lea Guilbeault & Ferruccio Berardo
Anna Azzuolo
Angelina and Antonio Guerra
Giovanni Mancini
Michelina, Nicolina, Antonio Martino
Luke Cassels
Giuseppe Porato

Requested by:

Family
Family
Angela & Claudia
Angela & Claudia
Angela & Claudia
Angela & Claudia
Family

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

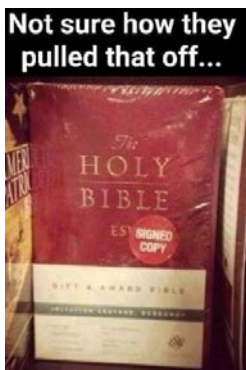
Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem... Walk in the footsteps of Christ!

June 26 to July 8, 2020

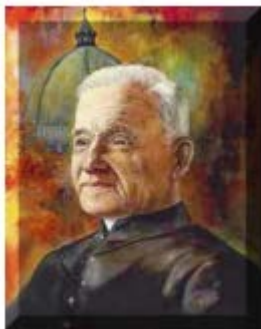
Mission Jeunesse – YM, in collaboration with Spiritours, is organizing a pilgrimage to the Holy Land for young adults (18-35) accompanied by Archbishop Christian Lépine! You will never listen nor read the Word of God in the same way!
For more information, please attend the information session on January 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Archdiocese of Montreal, 2000 Sherbrooke St. W.

The New Year's Eve collection was \$1160.

Last Sunday's collection was \$1605. Thank you!



THE MIRACLE WORKER OF MOUNT ROYAL



After he had worked for many years at Collège Notre Dame, Brother André spent the next 25 years in his small office where he greeted visitors. With patience and attention, he listened to those who were ill, those in need, and the poor who sought his help. He often said: "It's amazing that people always ask me for cures, but rarely for humility and the spirit of faith...Do you have faith? Do you believe that our God can do something for you? Go to confession and communion and then come back to see me."

When we visit St. Joseph's Oratory on Mount Royal, we see hundreds of crutches, canes, body braces, and votive offerings left by those who were cured through Brother André's intercession. Personally, I believe the most beautiful miracles are those where people begin their lives again with a fresh outburst of hope, an interior healing or a conversion. We will never be able to count these interior miracles. St. Joseph acted through the humble porter of Mount Royal.

Who would have believed that a poor, sickly, semi-literate orphan would be the one to establish the greatest sanctuary dedicated to St. Joseph in the entire world? Nothing could have foretold that Brother André would become the most beloved Quebec religious figure of his era. It was his great faith in St. Joseph that gave him the gift of healing which he used for thousands of cures. The most beautiful of all his miracles is the sanctuary that is anchored in the rock of Mount Royal. Somewhat like the blood that flows in our veins, thousands of pilgrims circulate in the numerous corridors of this sacred place. But what is the secret of "the Miracle Worker of Mount Royal"? We remember that Jesus applied mud to the eyes of the blind man. Brother André often said: Rub yourself with St. Joseph's oil, wear his medal and pray to him. He constantly repeated these words to those who were ill: It's not the oil that is important, it's the faith that you have in God. However, it is necessary that you express your faith by a gesture. Each time that someone was cured or comforted, Brother André would credit St. Joseph. In fact, he presented himself as a messenger for the sick and suffering and would intercede with St. Joseph whom he venerated since his childhood. St. Brother André pray for us.

~ Y. Cousineau, c.s.c. Translated by H. Borrelli
St. André Bessette's feast day is Tuesday, January 7.

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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.