

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 19, 2020

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

## The Lamb of God



From the beginning of his Gospel, St. John endeavors to make us understand who Jesus is and what his mission entails. He comments that people are often at odds with God, the Source of life. Each of us has experienced a rupture in our relationship with God. While God is love, truth, compassion and communion, too often we are egotistical, unfaithful, hard of heart, and divided among ourselves. We may think of sin as acts such as lying, stealing, or assaulting. Yet, sin is primarily a state: an estrangement from God or, as St. Augustine has said, whatever keeps us distant from God. The acts we call sins are simply the symptoms and result of this fundamental divide.

**A paradox**

How can God save us from this divide and restore communion with Him? St. John tells us it will not require a super being or a terrifying force. On the contrary, God will accomplish this through the weakness and innocence of a man, Jesus, who was abandoned and condemned to death.

**A powerful image**

How can we explain this paradox between power and weakness? Referring to the experiences of the Jewish people, St. John recalls the rite of the paschal lamb that took place during the time when the Jews were leaving Egypt (Ex 12:1-28). This rite consisted of sacrificing a small lamb, then collecting the blood and using it to paint the doorposts and lintel of their homes. During the night an Angel of Death passed over and struck down the firstborn of the Egyptians. The Angel spared the houses whose doors were marked with blood. Thus, by the blood of an innocent lamb, the Jews were saved from death.

St. John applied this image to Christ. From the first chapter, St. John the Baptist revealed Jesus' mystery and mission by these words: *Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world* (Jn 1:29). During his passion, Jesus shed his blood on the day and at the hour when the paschal lamb was sacrificed in the temple of Jerusalem (Jn 19:14). On the cross, Jesus' bones were not broken, as specified by the ritual concerning the paschal lamb (Jn 19:36).

**Broken body, Risen body**

In Christian churches, after the recitation of the Our Father, the priest or deacon proceeds to break the bread for the communion of the faithful. This gesture is accompanied by a litany of invocations to the Lamb of God. This litany reminds us of both the power and the weakness of Christ, who died and rose again.

*Father Georges Madore*

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 19, 2020

### Please pray for:

Lea Guilbeault & Ferruccio Berardo  
Margaret Million  
John Fitz  
Dante Starnino  
Anna Azzuolo

### Requested by:

Family  
Fr Mike Shaw  
Family  
Family  
Family

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

Please note that you can pick up your tax receipts for Caritas and Holy Family and your collection envelopes at the back of the Church.

### **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.

Last Sunday's collection was \$730. Thank you!

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What do sprinters eat before a race? Nothing, they fast!

Why couldn't the bicycle stand up by itself? It was two tired!

Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field!

## St. Francis de Sales

### Quick Facts

Feastday: January 24

Patron: of Catholic writers, the Catholic press, the deaf, journalists, adult education

Birth: August 21, 1567

Death: December 28, 1622

Beatified: January 8, 1661 by Pope Alexander VII

Canonized: April 19, 1665 by Pope Alexander VII

St. Francis de Sales was born to a noble family at Chateau de Sales in the Kingdom of Savoy near Geneva, Switzerland on August 21, 1567. He was a Bishop and Doctor of the Church.

Francis was both intelligent and gentle. From a very early age, he desired to serve God. He knew for years he had a vocation to the priesthood but kept it from his family. His father wanted him to enter a career in law and politics.

In 1580, Francis attended the University of Paris, and at 24-years-old, he received his doctorate in law at the University of Padua.

All the time, he never lost his passion for God. He studied theology and practiced mental prayers but kept quiet about his devotion. To please his father, he also studied fencing and riding.

God made his will clear to Francis one day while he was riding. Francis fell from his horse three times that day. Every time he fell, the sword came out of the scabbard, and every time it came out, the sword and scabbard came to rest on the ground in the shape of the Christian cross.

After much discussion and disagreement from his father, Francis was ordained to the priesthood and elected provost of the Diocese of Geneva, in 1593, by the Bishop of Geneva.

During the time of the Protestant reformation, Francis lived close to Calvinist territory. He decided he should lead an expedition to bring the 60,000 Calvinists back to the Catholic Church. For three years, he trudged through the countryside, had doors slammed in his face and rocks thrown at him. In the bitter winters, his feet froze so badly they bled as he tramped through the snow.

Francis' unusual patience kept him working. No one would listen to him, no one would even open their door. So, Francis found a way to get under the door. He wrote out little pamphlets to explain true Catholic doctrine and slipped them under the doors. This is one of the first records we have of religious tracts being used to communicate the true Catholic faith to people who had fallen away from the Church.

The parents wouldn't come to him, so Francis went to the children. When the parents saw how kind he was as he played with the children, they began to talk to him.

By the time Francis returned home, it is believed he brought 40,000 people to the Catholic Church.