

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

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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.

To receive news, updates and church communications, e-mail your info to subscribe@holyfamilymontreal.com

February 2, 2020

Presentation of the Lord



The importance of our legacy

What legacy will you leave to your children, your friends, and the people around you?

I have a great example. My Grand-father Meunier didn't wait till the end of his life to share his legacy with his children. Each year, after they were of majority age, he gave each of them a tidy sum. In addition, after his passing, he left them his notarized spiritual will.

We were truly grateful since this spiritual testament was worth more than money. Each of his children were able to build their lives on solid rock and with solid values.

In their own way, Simeon and Anna were great prophets as were the others who had come before them. Today in 2020, who are our prophets? Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Simeon held the Child who would be our sacred history.

And what about us? Who presented us in the Temple? Spend some time and ask your parents who encouraged them to bring you to Church for your Baptism? This could lead to an interesting conversation.

Simeon and Anna enabled God to act through them. Believing in Christ means we allow Him to act in our lives and with Him, we enrich our own sacred history.

God has given us the gift of our lives. Just like Christ, we place our lives in God's hands. Jesus exemplified our great spiritual inheritance. While nothing will happen in the blink of an eye, our entourage, society, friends, and our parents can provide a wonderful example of what we can become.

In this Gospel passage, there is no mention of a ceremony or ritual. Instead we focus on two people, Simeon and Anna, whose words enlightened Mary and Joseph. Jesus' parents returned to their village. Our pathway with Christ will depend on our choices as disciples.

Father Yvon Cousineau, c.s.c.

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli

MASS INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2, 2020

Please pray for:

Lea Guilbeault & Ferruccio Berardo
Elvira Colombo
Angela Pittaro Pompura
Olga & Gregory Fedoryk
Mary Regina Peter
Mary Josephine
John Mykytiuk
Ann Daly

Requested by:

Family
Iorio-Pietracupa Family
Family
Family
Thiruchelvam Family
Douglas & Veronica
Family
Nancy & Johnny

Attention Photographers and Videographers! We are looking for photos and videos of the church, events, and the people of Holy Family. If you'd like to share yours, e-mail them to photos@HolyFamilyMontreal.com and we may have a chance to use them soon!

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Save the date to celebrate Father Baxter's 61st Anniversary of Ordination and 86th birthday on Sunday, June 7th, 2020. More information to follow.

Last Sunday's collection was \$1875. Thank you!



St. Agatha

Quick Facts

Feastday: February 5

Patron: of Sicily, bellfounders, breast cancer, against fire, Palermo, rape victims, and wet nurses

Birth: 231

Death: 251

St. Agatha, also known as Agatha of Sicily, is one of the most highly venerated virgin martyrs of the Catholic Church. It is believed that she was born around 231 in either Catania or Palermo, Sicily to a rich and noble family.

From her very early years, the notably beautiful Agatha dedicated her life to God. She became a consecrated virgin, a state in life where young women choose to remain celibate and give themselves wholly to Jesus and the Church in a life of prayer and service. That did not stop men from desiring her and making unwanted advances toward her.

However, one of the men who desired Agatha, whose name was Quintianus, because he was of a high diplomatic ranking, thought he could force her to turn away from her vow and force her to marry. His persistent proposals were consistently spurned by Agatha, so Quintianus, knowing she was a Christian during the persecution of Decius, had her arrested and brought before the judge. He was the Judge.

He expected her to give in to his demands when she was faced with torture and possible death, but she simply reaffirmed her belief in God by praying: "Jesus Christ, Lord of all, you see my heart, you know my desires. Possess all that I am. I am your sheep: make me worthy to overcome the devil." With tears falling from her eyes, she prayed for courage.

To force her to change her mind, Quintianus had her imprisoned - in a brothel. Agatha never lost her confidence in God, even though she suffered a month of assaults and efforts to get her to abandon her vow to God and go against her virtue. Quintianus heard of her calm strength and ordered that she be brought before him once again. During her interrogation, she told him that to be a servant of Jesus Christ was her true freedom.

Enraged, Quintianus sent her off to prison instead of back to the brothel -- a move intended to make her even more afraid, but it was probably a great relief to her.

Agatha continued to proclaim Jesus as her Savior, Lord, Life and Hope. Quintianus ordered her to be tortured. He then sent her back to prison with an order of no food or medical attention. But the Lord gave her all the care she needed. He was her Sacred Physician and protector. Agatha had a vision of the apostle, St. Peter, who comforted her and healed her wounds through his prayers.

After four days, Quintianus ignored the miraculous cure of her wounds. He had her stripped naked and rolled over naked over hot coals which were mixed with sharp shards. When she was returned to prison, Agatha prayed, "Lord, my Creator, you have ever protected me from the cradle; you have taken me from the love of the world and given me patience to suffer: receive now my soul."

Agatha is believed to have passed into Heaven around the year 251.