

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

March 15, 2020

3rd Sunday in Lent (A)

At Jacob's Well



Jesus was thirsty. As part of her daily routine, the Samaritan woman went to the well since she also was thirsty and had to bring water to her home. We review the obvious facts of this encounter. Jesus was a Jewish man and she, a Samaritan woman. They belonged to different cultures that did not have cordial relations. Even their conversation would be breaking cultural barriers.

They met by chance at Jacob's Well and we are told the brief encounter was respectful. Their conversation included both an acknowledgement of the other's culture and life details. This meeting took place on an ordinary day. Jesus needed to rest and the Samaritan woman needed water. This Gospel passage reminds us that the Good News can influence our lives even in the most mundane circumstances.

These unexpected moments can make people realize their connection to God and that they are encouraged to believe that their own existence has meaning. Jesus' words open pathways to the future, to salvation, wherever we happen to be at a particular moment, and in whatever situation.

The Samaritan woman is called to be a disciple. Jesus' mission is to make disciples of all of us. This passage exemplifies God's desire to encounter people *in spirit and in truth*. Christ's mission focuses on relationships that open us to others and to our own transformation, to take us beyond a narrow worldview to one that is open and where we are encouraged to take risks. Like true disciples, we strive courageously to face whatever situations may arise.

A true witness is one who overcomes barriers and takes time to establish new relationships with others. As disciples, we will progress from lacking knowledge of another person to a reciprocal understanding. In this passage, Jesus, who was just passing through, introduced new insight into the Samaritan woman's life.

We also acknowledge the importance of this new disciple's mission. The Samaritan woman did not leave her home to preach in foreign lands; her witnessing took place within her own community, among the people of her village.

Gilles Leblanc

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli

MASS INTENTIONS FOR MARCH 15, 2020

Please pray for:

Lea Guilbeault & Ferruccio Berardo
Luigi Sabino
Jim Ardron
Margaret Ann Burns
Robert Burns
Yolanda Mattioli
Phyllis Feigel-Scott
Brendan Campbell

Requested by:

Family
Tony Maera & Family
Terrie, Marie-Josée, Alrica
Pat & Family
Pat & Family
Dolores & Family
Ray & Sharon
Richard & Brenda Brisebois

Community Announcements

Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis – March 2020: Catholics in China: We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

20/20 Draw and St. Patrick’s celebration: TODAY! Come and join us for some Irish coffee and participate this important fundraiser for our Parish.

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!

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 \$1430. Thank you!

Why can’t you borrow money from a leprechaun?
Because they are always a little short!



St. Patrick

Feastday: March 17
Patron: of Ireland
Birth: 387
Death: 461

St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in Roman Britain and when he was fourteen or so, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At the time, Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans but Patrick turned to God and wrote his memoir, The Confession. In The Confession, he wrote:

"The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was rosed, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain."

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain and was reunited with his family.

"I saw a man coming, as it were from Ireland. His name was Victoricus, and he carried many letters, and he gave me one of them. I read the heading: 'The Voice of the Irish.' As I began the letter, I imagined in that moment that I heard the voice of those very people who were near the wood of Foclut, which is beside the western sea-and they cried out, as with one voice: 'We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us.'"

The vision prompted his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, whom he had studied under for years, and was later ordained a bishop and sent to take the Gospel to Ireland.

Patrick arrived in Slane, Ireland on March 25, 433. There are several legends about what happened next, with the most prominent claiming he met the chieftan of one of the druid tribes, who tried to kill him. After an intervention from God, Patrick was able to convert the chieftain and preach the Gospel throughout Ireland. There, he converted many people -eventually thousands - and he began building churches across the country.

He often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick's message.

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461.

He died at Saul, where he had built the first Irish church. He is believed to be buried in Down Cathedral, Downpatrick. His grave was marked in 1990 with a granite stone.