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PARISH OFFICE
Office Entrance: 1125 Alexander Road
Pastor: Father Brian D. Boucher.
Email: FrBrian@annunciationparish.ca
Administrator: Mrs. Regina Farrell.
Email: info@annunciationparish.ca
Maintenance Manager: Mr. Jean Grignon
Music Director: Mr. Vladimir Popean
Sacristan: Mr. Emilio Fontanilla
Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00-12:00,
Wednesday and Thursday 9:00-16:00,
Friday 9:00-12:00

EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS
Saturday Vigil: 17:00
Sunday: 10:00
Monday: No Mass
Tuesday to Friday: 8:30

SACRAMENTS
BAPTISMS: It is necessary to arrange an appointment with Fr. Brian for preparation. Baptisms are scheduled on an individual basis.
RECONCILIATION: Saturday 16:15-16:45; Sunday 9:15-9:45, or anytime on request.
MARRIAGE: Contact the office before setting the wedding date. Marriage preparation course and meetings with Fr. Brian are required.
ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please contact Fr. Brian if you or a family member is ill at home or in the hospital. He will gladly visit.

WARDENS
Emidio De Carolis, David Flood,
Anthony Mancini, Mary Ohanessian,
Scot Diamond, Winston Redman

Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish
75 Roosevelt Avenue, Town of Mount Royal, Quebec
Phone: 514-738-1080 Fax: 514-738-1493
Website: www.annunciationparish.ca

Second Sunday of Lent

March 16, 2014

Spiritual Works of Mercy

The children in our *Fides Quaerens Intellectum* program are studying the virtue of Mercy this month. Mercy is at the heart and soul of the Lenten season. Jesus Christ, crucified, is the ultimate expression of God's mercy and the most fitting focus of our prayer and meditation during this holy season of Lent.

Of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, the Spiritual are less well known: Admonish the sinner; instruct the ignorant; counsel the doubtful; comfort the sorrowful; bear wrongs patiently; forgive all injuries; pray for the living and the dead. These works require considerable personal commitment. If you Google the "Spiritual Works of Mercy," you will find no end of people who can't wait to admonish sinners, instruct the ignorant and counsel the doubtful. But hold on! Remember the splinter in our neighbor's eye and the plank in our own. The catch is to perform these works with mercy and love.

It is truly merciful to reach out to the sinner, the ignorant and the doubtful, but to do so requires a certain spiritual discipline and maturity, something we can work on especially during Lent. In our culture, the very notion of sin is disputed but, as Christians, we have a responsibility to ourselves and our neighbors to acknowledge that sin very much exists. Identifying sin begins with our individual selves and our own sinfulness. When we acknowledge our own sins – those occasions when we put ourselves ahead of God or neighbor – we have taken the first step toward reconciliation and spiritual maturity. It is only after we have reconciled with God that we have the integrity to "admonish sinners." Likewise, we need to know our faith well – a lifelong exercise – so that we might instruct those who do not. And we need to cultivate a living relationship with Christ in order to confidently counsel those who doubt.

Unfortunately, our society is very *laissez-faire*, to say the least, and we are surrounded by all sorts of ignorance and depravity – where to begin? Having acknowledged our own sinfulness, and aware that all sin separates us from God and therefore hurts us, we reach out to the sinner, the ignorant and the doubtful with love and compassion, as a parent, brother or sister or a friend, precisely because they are unconscious of their need for admonition, instruction or counsel. We should not go hunting and pecking at every perceived infraction of the laws of God, but neither should we look the other way when presented with someone in need of His mercy. Sin and ignorance and doubt threaten our eternal life, and it is no kindness to leave someone there simply out of fear of embarrassment or hurt feelings.

As fellow sinners, we can empathize with those who have made bad choices, but as Christians, we can also offer them our experience of mercy and forgiveness through Christ and His Church. When we do, we can expect to comfort the sorrowful, bear wrongs with patience and forgive injury. It is not a painless process. We need only look to Jesus on the Cross to see the price of mercy. Nevertheless, with His grace, there is much that we can accomplish.

The last of the Spiritual Works of Mercy is to pray for the living and the dead, too often neglected. This is something we all can do, from little children to the most elderly. Let us practice the Spiritual Works of Mercy and help each other get to heaven!

Regina Farrell, Director of Religious Education

Prayers:

For the sick: Jean-Pierre Belair, Madeleine Coté, Madeline Cummings, Patricia Lemieux, Maria da Luz Madeira, Miguel Madeira, Lolita Matheson, Sammy Sinnett, Trudi Stanley, Jacques Viau, Ida Wichterle

For the recently baptized: Ethan Moro, son of David Moro and Jenny Pajel

For those who have died: Margaret Farrell

For vocations: The Lord called Abraham to be the progenitor of the mighty nation of God's people. This kind of spiritual parenthood is a fulfilling calling. Encourage those you know who have the gifts to be holy, healthy, celibate lovers of God's people. (Genesis 12:1-4)

Gospel Key Points: Every week, Father Brian prepares an outline highlighting the key points of the upcoming Sunday's Gospel. These are posted to our website by Wednesday morning. These brief notes are very helpful when preparing for Sunday Mass. <http://annunciationparish.ca/weekly-gospel-key-points/>

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Throughout the seasons of Lent and Easter, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed beginning one hour prior to both weekend Masses, concluding with Benediction 15 minutes before Mass.

Stations of the Cross: The traditional journey of the Stations of the Cross is a most appropriate exercise during the Lenten season. Please join us Friday mornings during Lent at 7:45AM for the Stations of the Cross, followed as usual by 8:30AM Mass.

Parish Lenten Penance and Reconciliation Service: Our Parish Lenten Penance and Reconciliation service will take place on Wednesday, March 26th at 7:00PM. Several priests will be available to hear confessions.

Lenten Calendars: Calendars for the Lenten season are available near the main entrance of the church for anyone interested. Post one on your fridge or bulletin board for a daily inspiration.

Thank you! A belated thank you to Mary and Monica Ohanessian for organizing and preparing for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Thanks also to the many folks who donated food for the supper and to all who brought non-perishable food for MultiCaf. As always, this annual event was most enjoyable not only for the delicious meal but for the warm community spirit.

A Few Words about Finances: Parish costs increase every year, just as those of our parishioners do. Recently, due to the cold winter, we saw an increase of over 25% in our heating bill, now nearly \$1900 per month! If you are able, please consider increasing your donations to help us meet these expenses.

Couples for Christ: Regional Youth Conference with guest speaker Bishop Thomas Dowd on Saturday, March 29 from 8:45AM-7:00PM at Loyola High School. This full-day event is open to all youth ages 13-21 years. Cost is \$30 which includes lunch and dinner. To register, contact the office at 514-747-4226.

Seven Deadly Sins/Seven Lively Virtues: Join Deacon Marco at St. Thomas à Becket Parish for Fr. Barron's DVD series. This Lent, begin the journey from sin to sanctity. Sin separates us from the love of God, but the cultivation of virtue can restore a right relationship with Him. Sit back and enjoy Fr. Barron as he shares God's unending Love for us and how passionately wants us to share our lives with Him. Wednesday, March 19th & 26th at 7:00PM.

Be Refreshed in Mind, Body and Spirit: Silent, directed weekend retreat at Abbey of the Cistercian Monks in Rougemont. Begins Friday evening, April 11th and ends Sunday afternoon. Registration before April 1st. Call 514-626-9462 or 514-633-9542 or visit www.montrealretreats.org.

Town Adult Centre: Excursion to Pointe-à-Callière Museum, featuring "The Beatles in Montreal." Tickets \$25.00, include museum and transportation. Bring your own lunch. Bus leaves Recreation Centre Thursday, March 20th at 10:30AM.

Mass Intentions

Sunday, March 16– Second Sunday of Lent

5:00PM	Pro Populo	Father Brian
10:00AM	George Hyde	Maria and John Valentini

Tuesday, March 18

8:30AM	Maria Amelia Alvarez-Santullano	Adolfo Perez de Leon
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Wednesday, March 19

10:00AM	Evelyn McMenamin	The Estate
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Thursday, March 20

8:30AM	Florence Evans	The Estate
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Friday, March 21

8:30AM	Coleman and McMenamin families	The Estate
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Sunday, March 23– Third Sunday of Lent

5:00PM	Pro Populo	Father Brian
10:00AM	Primitiva Fontanilla	Michael & Regina Farrell

Stewardship: Our collection last weekend was \$1405.00. Our second collection was \$495.00. Thank you for your offerings in support of our parish as a place of Christian worship, instruction and mission.

Donate through PayPal: We have recently established a PayPal account on our website which enables us to accept donations online by credit card. You do not have to sign up for PayPal to do so. Just click on the "Donate" button on the right sidebar at www.annunciationparish.ca.

Stewardship Reflection: "Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you." *Genesis 12:1* God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow Him, placing our complete trust in Him. Some of the old ways that we may have to struggle to leave behind might be materialism, selfishness and greed. Yet God promises to show us a new land, a better place than the rat race we often live in now.