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PARISH OFFICE

Office Entrance: 1125 Alexander Road
Pastor: Father Robert Clark
Email: fr_robertclark@hotmail.com
Administrator: Mrs. Regina Farrell.
Email: info@annunciationparish.ca
Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Mary Sinnett
Choir Director: Ms. Sandra D'Angelo
Maintenance Manager: Mr. Jean Grignon
Sacristan: Mr. Emilio Fontanilla
Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00-12:00, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00-16:00, Friday 9:00-12:00

EUCCHARISTIC 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. Robert 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. Robert are required.
ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please contact Fr. Robert if you or a family member is ill at home or in the hospital. He will gladly visit.

WARDENS

Emidio De Carolis, Scot Diamond, David Flood, Anthony Mancini, Winston Redman, John Sullivan.

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

Third Sunday of Lent

8 March 2015

Almsgiving: A Double-Sided Coin

The third of our Lenten disciplines is almsgiving. Most of us are generous; we readily contribute to many causes and volunteer for different organizations. Jesus, however, is asking for more; He is asking that we give not only from our plenty but also of ourselves. His remarks with regards the widow's offering confirm this:

[Jesus] looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on." (Luke 21: 1-4)

If we look honestly at our almsgiving, most of us would probably agree that we rarely give out of our poverty. True almsgiving involves sacrifice, and sacrifice takes us out of our comfort zone. What is asked of us seems unreasonable. God does not want us to go without. He does, however, call us to go with less, so that He may fill our needs. This demands that we trust in God's providential care.

This call to dependency, to neediness, is countercultural. God calls us to go against societal norms and to admit our poverty: "For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise (Psalm 51: 16-17). Sacrifice requires humility.

The enemy of true sacrifice is pride. Pride prevents us from moving out of self towards God. The whole point of giving is to empty ourselves so that we may receive grace upon grace from our Risen Lord. It is in our need that God comes to us.

True almsgiving is not that difficult an undertaking. One family I met would go out once a month for a meal together. During Lent, they skipped the meal and donated the money they would have spent to a local food bank. The time they would have spent at the restaurant was put to use at a parish event. These little sacrifices create compassionate hearts and strengthen the bonds within our families, parishes and larger communities.

Our Lady of the Annunciation is a perfect model of giving and receiving. Mary gave all she had to God. Paradoxically, her poverty of spirit – her self-emptying - allowed her to be generous beyond measure and thus provide God with the space to fulfill His desire for her and for mankind. And she received Him fully, in the flesh!

May our Lenten sacrifices make room for Jesus. May they challenge us to love more deeply, uniting ourselves with Christ Crucified, so as to rise with Him in glory this Easter.

Mary Sinnett
Assistant to the DRE

PRAYERS:

For the sick: Jean-Pierre Belair, Madeleine Coté, André and Marie Coupal, Patricia Lemieux, Estella Lim, Maria da Luz Madeira, Carmel MacDonald, Miguel Madeira, Lolita Matheson, Gaston Schwarz, Sammy Sinnett, Trudi Stanley, Father Joseph P. Sullivan, His Eminence Jean-Claude Cardinal Turcotte, Jacques Viau.

For vocations: Do we demand signs or do we hear the Lord speaking to our heart? (1 Corinthians 1:22-25)

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK: This week's second collection is for Development and Peace.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: The Stations of the Cross is a devotion following the events leading to Jesus' crucifixion. Prayers accompanying it allow time to reflect on the mystery of His Death. During Lent, you are invited to join us on Fridays at 8:00 am for the Stations of the Cross, followed as usual by Mass at 8:30.

PARISH LENTEN PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION SERVICE: Our Parish Lenten Penance and Reconciliation service will take place on Wednesday, March 18th at 7:15PM. Several priests will be available to hear confessions.

GOD'S COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS PEOPLE: Father Robert is leading a study and discussion group, looking at the meaning of Covenant and how it pertains to our relationship with God. The next meeting will take place in the boardroom on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome; it is not necessary to have attended previously.

PARISH MOVIE NIGHT: We will be presenting the movie, "*The Scarlet and the Black*," starring Gregory Peck and Christopher Plummer on Friday, March 13th at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall – please use 71 Roosevelt entrance. This exciting and inspiring movie tells the story of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty, a real life Irish-born Catholic priest who saved thousands of Jews and escaped Allied POWs in Nazi-occupied Rome. Please join us for an entertaining evening, complete with popcorn and snacks. Admission is free.

MARRIAGE JUBILEE: *Tables for Two* is a night to rekindle, enliven, and celebrate each other! We invite married couples celebrating multiples of 5-year anniversaries for a candlelit, intimate and reflective evening of good food and wine. If you were married in a year ending in 5 or 0, please save the date, Saturday, June 6th, beginning with Mass at 5:00 pm. Cost to be determined. To reserve your place, please use the sign-up sheet in the main entrance of the church. For more information, please contact the Parish Office.

ST. JOSEPH'S ORATORY: NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH: All are welcome from Tuesday, March 10 to Tuesday, March 17. Bilingual Masses will be held at 7:30 pm on March 10, 12 and 17. English Masses will be held on March 15 at 11:15 am. Our theme schedule is as follows: March 10- Faith; March 11- Holiness; March 12- Thankfulness; March 13- Care for others; March 14-Life; March 15-Fidelity; March 16-Honesty; March 17-Truth. Contact the office at 514-733-8211.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY TO EASTER HAS BEGUN! Why not plan to include the diocesan-wide Lenten Mission about The Catholic Faith and You! led by Bishop Thomas Dowd? It takes place March 17, 18, 19 at Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish (11775 Filion, H4J 1T4). All evenings begin at 7 p.m. Come for one, two or, better yet, all three evenings and bring a friend. For more info: Corey Jolly 514-931-7311 ext.251 or cjolly@diocesemontreal.org.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 7 – Third Sunday of Lent

5:00PM Victoria Shams Bernadette Shams

Sunday, March 8 – Third Sunday of Lent

10:00AM Pro Populo Father Robert

Tuesday, March 10

8:30AM Margaret Farrell Michael and Regina Farrell

Wednesday, March 11

8:30AM The recovery of Estella Lim The Sinnett Family

Thursday, March 12

8:30AM Coleman & McMenamin Families The Estate

Friday, March 13

8:30AM Florence Evans The Estate

Saturday, March 14 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

5:00PM Patricia Rochon Teresa Rochon & Family

Sunday, March 15 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

10:00AM Pro Populo Father Robert

STEWARDSHIP: Our collection last weekend was \$1522.00. Thank you for your offerings in support of our parish as a place of Christian worship, instruction and mission.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION: "*You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything...*" – *Exodus 20:4* How many "gods" do you put before God? "Idols" do not always take the shape of physical things, things we can touch and feel. Those are easy to recognize. Many times they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot - pride, power, ego, comfort or health.

SANCTUARY LAMP:



The sanctuary lamp signals the Presence of the Lord Jesus in the Tabernacle and burns for seven days. We invite you to have the sanctuary lamp memorialized in the name of a sick person, a deceased loved one, or a special intention, for a weekly donation of \$20.00. Please call the office to arrange a memorial for the sanctuary lamp.

This week the Sanctuary Lamp burns for the recovery of Father Brian Martin, requested by Patricia Paul.