

OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION PARISH MOUNT ROYAL, QUEBEC



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Sunday Mass:

Saturday (vigil) 5:00 pm
Sunday (BY EXCEPTION) 9:30 am

Weekday Mass:

Tuesday 8:30 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Thursday 8:30 am
Friday 4:00 pm

Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30-4:45 pm;
Sunday 9:30-9:45 am, or anytime on request.

BAPTISM

It is necessary to arrange an appointment with Fr. Robert for preparation. Baptisms are celebrated on the third Sunday of the month.

MARRIAGE

Please contact the parish before setting the wedding date.

VISITING THE SICK

Please contact Fr. Robert if you or a family member is homebound or in the hospital. He will gladly visit.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Father Robert Clark

Email: fr_robertclark@hotmail.com

Secretary: Mrs. Mary Ohanessian

Telephone: 514-738-1080

Email: info@annunciationparish.ca

Parish Catechetical Leader:

Mrs. Mary Ohanessian

Email: faithed@annunciationparish.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays: 9 am to 4 pm;
Fridays: 9 am to 12 pm.

Office Entrance: 1125 Alexander Road

Mailing Address: 75 Roosevelt Ave.,
Mont-Royal, QC H3R 2G9

Website: www.annunciationparish.ca

Music Director: Mr. Lavrenti Djintcharadze

Wardens:

2019: Anthony Mancini, Lori-Ann Zemanovich;

2020: Fiore Egiziano, John T. Sullivan;

2021: John Issa, Kurt Reckziegel.

It's the Third Sunday of Lent – halfway through. For many of us, it's hard to admit that this Lent is not all we had hoped for. On Ash Wednesday, we *intended* to make some changes in our lives. And yet halfway through Lent, we are disappointed in ourselves.

Today's gospel tells us of a landowner who planted a fig tree that did not produce fruit for three years. Giving up on it, he tells the gardener to cut it down. But the wise gardener knows that what the tree needs is cultivating and feeding. He suggests, "I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future."

Jesus "gets" us. He understands our hearts and he knows that our instinct is to give up on the tree that bears no fruit. To give up on our Lent halfway through. Today Jesus tell us not to give up hope that we can be better. He offers us his love, care and his help.

But how and where do we begin this journey again?

Lent is not about our own efforts to win God's approval or to earn a merit badge on our souls.

Today, instead of redoubling our own efforts and trying to "manage" Lent on our own, we ask God, "What is it you want to give me this Lent?" There are still three weeks left. If I want to move to a more adult, growing relationship with God, it could lead to a conversation, heart to heart, as I ask,

What is it you desire to free in my heart so I can love better?

How can I be more loving to my family?

Where can I be a peacemaker with my children instead of a scold?

How do you want to soften my heart from being harsh with others to being more loving – in the way you have loved me?

How can I be less judgmental and see others as you see them?

How has my drinking, spending or use of pornography affected my marriage and my children?

What would it cost me to slow down my life so I can listen to you more deeply?

The traditional foundations of Lent are prayer, fasting and charity. These are not ends in themselves, not items to be checked off on our To Do list. These are the doors that open a deeper place in our hearts, part of the sacred ground God shares with Moses in the first reading.

When I fast, it can focus my attention more clearly on Jesus and how he wants to heal my heart.

When I give from my heart this Lent, it makes me more aware of those who need my help.

When I pray, it gives me a space to discover God's heart's desire for me.

God has a very specific and active love for each one of us and has desires for each of us for changes in our lives that will lead to our best and happiest selves. By freeing our hearts and changing our sinful habits, we undertake what Pope Francis calls, "a journey of preparation" whose end is the priceless gift of God's mercy.

- Maureen McCann Waldron, Creighton University's Online Ministries

NEED TO JUMP START INTO LENT?: It's not too late to begin doing something a little extra for the Lord. Consider the following:



TAKE OUR LITTLE STATUE OF ST. JOSEPH HOME FOR ONE WEEK: A sign up sheet can be found at the main entrance of the church. Would you rather NOT be called up by Father Robert after Mass? This can be arranged by contacting the parish office.



Join us for the **WAY OF THE CROSS** at 3:30 pm on Fridays during Lent, before the 4 pm Mass. A sign-up sheet is available near the icon of Mary for Crucifix bearers and readers.



A FEW LENTEN BUCKETS ARE AVAILABLE: If you are fasting (ex. not eating sweets) or making some other sacrifice during Lent (ex. skipping your favorite television program), take a bucket from the communion rail or at the main doors of the church home with you this Lent (one bucket per household please). We invite you to put the money you save because of your sacrifice into the bucket.

Return your bucket to the parish office at Easter. In previous years, the money has gone to local families in need.



Try something new: Our **MEDITATION** group meets on Wednesdays during Lent at 7:30 pm, following the 7 pm Mass. This ancient form of prayer is practiced worldwide. Why not give it a try? Sessions last 30 to 40 minutes.

THE CRIMINAL TRIAL CONTINUES: This Monday, March 25th, sentencing of Father Brian Boucher begins. Please keep the victims and their families, all involved in the legal proceedings, our parish family, and Father Brian and his family in prayer.

MEETING WITH BISHOP: As mentioned last week, the bishop will be visiting with parishioners after he celebrates Mass with us on Sunday, beginning at around 10:45 am. This should give parents time to drop children off at home before the meeting begins. Coffee will be served at the main entrance of the church. Please note that on this occasion, Mass will begin at 9:30 am.



YOUR FUNDScrip ORDERS ARE IN! Please see Father Robert after Mass to collect your cards.



ADULT FAITH EDUCATION: We are reading *The Fourth Cup: Unveiling the Mystery of the Last Supper and the Cross* by Scott Hahn. Copies can be purchased at your favorite online bookstore. Next Thursday March 28th, we will be looking at chapters 3 and 4. Attendance at the previous session is NOT required. Can't make it to the sessions?



EMPITIES RETURN: We have already collected over \$80 by returning your empties! Please leave your rinsed empties with Wayne or near the 71 Roosevelt entrance.



Saturday March 23, 2019 – Third Sunday of Lent

5:00 pm Pro Populo

Sunday March 24, 2019 – Third Sunday of Lent

9:30 am Wardé El-Hage and the deceased members of the El-Hage family

Leila El-Hage Gharib

Tuesday March 26, 2019

8:30 am George Geertsen

the family

Wednesday March 27, 2019

7:00 pm Evelyn McMenamin

The Estate

Thursday March 28, 2019

8:30 am Mariam and Rophael Harb

Jeanette Harb

Friday March 29, 2019

4:00 pm Coleman and McMenamin families

The Estate

Saturday March 30, 2019 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

5:00 pm Pro Populo

Sunday March 31, 2019 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

10 am Georges Gharib

Leila El-Hage Gharib



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 donation of \$20. The amount is eligible for a tax receipt. Please contact the office to arrange a memorial for the Sanctuary Lamp. **This week**, the Sanctuary Lamp burns for a special intention.

Prayers:

For the sick: Rick Auclair, the Beauregard family, Jean-Pierre Belair, André and Marie Coupal, Marchita Obregon, Patricia Paul, Nevine, Jacques Viau, Judith and Marina Zogalis.

For vocations: *The Lord is kind and merciful*, and calls us to proclaim his name. Considering a call to the priesthood or consecrated life? (Psalm 103). If you feel that God is calling you to the priesthood, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Office at 514-903-6200 for information.

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesdays: 9 am to 4 pm.

Fridays: 9 am to 12 pm.

STEWARDSHIP: Our collection last week was for \$1,655. Thank you for your offerings in support of our parish as a place of Christian worship, instruction and mission.

“He said to the gardener, ‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.’” (Luke 13:7)

We can all be like the barren fig tree at times. Do you cling to what you have or do you generously share with others? How will you respond when God asks you what you have done with all the gifts He has given you? Remember, not only are we called to be generous, we are called to develop and nurture our gifts and return with increase.




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MARCH

PARISH PROJECT - LENTEN BUCKETS:

Collect the money you save from your sacrifices for the needy!

27 MEDITATION GROUP meets at 7:30 pm.

29 STATIONS OF THE CROSS, on Fridays during Lent at 3:30 pm before the 4 pm Mass.



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Holy Father's Prayer Intention for March

Recognition of the Right of Christian Communities
 That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN THE BULLETIN, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE. RECOMMEND US TO A LOCAL BUSINESS THAT YOU FREQUENT REGULARLY.

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