OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION PARISH MOUNT ROYAL, QUEBEC



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Sunday Mass: Saturday (vigil) Sunday

5:00 pm 10:00 am

Weekday Mass: Tuesday to Friday

8:30 am

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

BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated on the third Sunday of the month at 12 pm. It is necessary to arrange an appointment with Fr. Robert for preparation.

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: Mary Ohanessian

Telephone: 514-738-1080 **Email**: info@annunciationparish.ca

Parish Catechetical Leader: Mary Ohanessian Email: faithed@annunciationparish.ca

Office Hours: Please see inside for details

Office Entrance: 1125 Alexander Road

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

Website: www.annunciationparish.ca

Music Director: Lavrenti Djintcharadze

Wardens:

2019: Anthony Mancini, Lori-Ann Zemanovich; 2020: Fiore Egiziano, John T. Sullivan; 2021: John Issa, Kurt Reckziegel.

DECEMBER 29 2019 JANUARY 5 2020

We do not worship a god who is far away, unapproachable, too busy to notice us, or a god who abandons us to our own devices. Christmas speaks of a totally different story. Christmas is all about God's loving desire to be with us personally, to accompany us on our journey, and to continually invite us into his wonderful life.

Today we realize and acknowledge the magnificent miracle of God actually becoming one of us. Our faith professed each Sunday and Holy Days during the year tells us that God becomes human for us. Why? So that God can share everything with us and to be present to each of us as we are.

On this Christmas Eve, we celebrate God's creativity in journeying to be with us so intimately as one like us in all things. The first reading from the Second Book of Samuel has David reflecting on his situation and its relationship with God's role towards his chosen ones: the People of God.

David remarks, "Here I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent." He acknowledges that disparity and wants to remedy it somehow. However, God has quite different plans and seems not to be bothered by the differences David worries over.

God speaks a message to the prophet Nathan for him to deliver to David. "I have been with you wherever you went. . . Your house shall endure forever." God does not seem to be "slumming" by dwelling in a tent with his beloved people, but desires to *be present* through David, his family and his house. God's commitment is to be faithfully present to the Israelites and to all people beginning with David's line.

When God "pitches his tent" among us through the Incarnation and the birth of Jesus that same desire on God's part is manifested in spades. Now Jesus, the Son of God, the incarnation of God, the very presence of God is made known not in an ark but *personally* in the humanness of Jesus.

Lord, on this Christmas Eve we come to you as your people longing to grow in faithfully responding to you in the Person of Jesus the Christ born for us in Bethlehem. As we come to know Brother Jesus ever more deeply, help us to develop each day an awareness of who he is for and with us. We are indeed marvelously blessed by God's presence in Jesus; be with us as we continue to discover the marvels of that presence and to offer it to all we meet.

Tom Shanahan, SJ.

The liturgical season can be a roller coaster ride. We ended the liturgical year by celebrating Christ the King and then entered Advent, preparing for the birth of a newborn infant, our king and savior. The Church devotes an entire octave to celebrate this historic birth. And now the roller coaster ride levels off a bit as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Our readings exhibit a tenderness that we sometimes forget is present in Scripture.

The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!

How do we receive blessings from the Lord? Do we bless each other with the same tenderness God shows us? God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

How do we receive God in our hearts? Do we receive each other with the same tenderness?

And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God.

How do we respond to God's love and blessing? Do we respond to each other with the same tenderness?

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Mother of God, we are reminded of God's tenderness. The earthly parental love of God contrasts with the lofty image of Christ the King. Both images are important and invite both reflection in our hearts and praise for our God. Yet, the emphasis on parental tenderness in today's readings raises an important challenge. Just as God shows tenderness to us, we must show tenderness to one another.

After over a month of over-eating, family visits and shopping in crowded stores, we may have tired of the roller coaster ride known as the "holiday season." Our nerves may be frayed, and we may feel on edge. And the same may be true of our loved ones and the stranger in our midst. So, the importance to treat all with loving tenderness is even greater.

Fr. John Shea, SJ

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2019

MARY MOTHER OF GOD,

December 31, 5 pm. January 1, 10 am. **NO MASS** January 2 and 3.

OFFICE SCHEDULE

The office will be closed from Monday December 23 to Monday January 6 inclusive.

THANK YOU!

To everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary last weekend!

2020 CALENDARS ARE FINALLY IN!

Please take one on your way out - one per family please! You are invited to the <u>LIVE YOUR STRENGTHS</u> Introductory Workshop – Saturday, January 18^{th,} 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Live Your Strengths is a program to help you discover who you truly are, what talents God has given you and what He is calling you to do. In the program, you take what you learn about yourself and others to become happier, more fulfilled, more engaged in your family, parish or organization - and with a deeper sense of your value and contribution.

You will:

- Identify what makes you so incredibly unique
- Become more aware of and value the talents of others
- Apply what you've learned in real-world situations
- Explore how God places within each of us a calling

Live Your Strengths is a five-session program taken in two parts:

(1) Introductory 3 hr. Session (CliftonStrengths online assessment and personalized workbook included) - \$44 + tax. (2) Four (optional) 90-minute facilitated small-group sessions (maximum 10 participants) (scheduled once/week for four weeks) where you delve deeper into putting your God-given talents into action! - \$99 + tax.

More than 200 people from over 20 parishes (including the Diocese) have already attended the introductory session with many of them choosing to continue into the small group workshops. Register at: www.emergentstrengths.com/annunciation2020





The Sanctuary Lamp signals the Presence of the Lord Jesus in the Tabernacle and burns for seven days. 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 lamp burns for Robert and Carol Clark.

Prayers:

For the sick: Rick

Auclair, the Beauregard family, Jean-Pierre Belair, Mike Callard, André and Marie Coupal, Chuck Lawton, Nona Moussa, Marchita Obregon, Patricia Paul, Winston Redman, Hilda Rejwan, Nevine, Jacques Viau, Marina Zogalis.

For vocations: The

priests, brothers, and sisters of the new century are in the care of your family today. Tend to them well: encourage their gifts; pray for their happy response to God's call. (Ephesians 1:3-6; 15-18) 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

Tuesday, 9 am to 4 pm Friday, 9 am to 12 pm. Please see facing page for the Christmas schedule.

STEWARDSHIP:

"Wives, be subordinate to vour husbands...Husbands, love your wives...Children, obey your parents in everything...Fathers, do not provoke your children..." (Colossians 3:18-21) Pope Francis said that families, through their life of prayer and love, become "schools of true human growth." Being credible witnesses of Christian love, especially that of family members, exerts the most positive influence on our children. We are all children of God, let us pray and love each other as God, Our Father, does for us.

