

OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION PARISH

75 YEARS OF FAITH & COMMUNITY

1945-2020



75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

- January 1st: The Solemnity of Mary Mass at 10AM
- February 9th: International Potluck following 10AM Mass. Celebrating Diversity and Community
- March 25th: 1. Feast of The Annunciation Mass at 8:30 AM
2. Sacred Concert: 6pm Annunciation Parish Benefit concert performed by "What A Choir!" directed by Manuel Blais.
- April 4th: Pew Party: Parishioners and families gather to clean and polish the Church pews. Music and Pizza for all! 9AM to 5PM
- April 19th: Annunciation 75th Anniversary Mass 10AM Archbishop Lépine presiding.
 Annunciation 75th Anniversary reception (Parish Hall following Mass)
- May (TBA): 75th Anniversary Annunciation commemorative Tree planting
- June 21st: Children & Youth Rally/ Father's Day Celebration BBQ (following 10AM Mass)
- October 24th: Oktoberfest ! Community supper (Parish Hall following 5pm Mass)
- December 13th: Christmas Concert 6pm Annunciation Parish Benefit concert performed by "What A Choir!" directed by Manuel Blais.

Christmas Eve 1943, a Mission was established in the Town of Mount Royal by Archbishop Charbonneau and its first Mass was held in the basement of St. Joseph's School until Fr. Harold J. Doran became Priest-in-charge and the small Mission then moved its Masses, as of January, 1944, in the rented Old Mount Royal Town Hall. On Friday April 20, 1945 Archbishop Charbonneau signed a proclamation elevating the Mission to a Parish. And so, under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Annunciation of Our Lady Parish was erected. The Parish then purchased the old Town Hall and its land and eventually built in its place the marvelous Church that now stands there today as a beacon of Faith and Community for the last 65 years. In 1947, in the midst of turbulent post war times, when Archbishop Charbonneau visited the make-shift Town Hall Parish he blessed it saying: "In times of hatred and violence, it is consoling to attend a **spectacle of Love, good fellowship and mutual confidence** such as this beautiful ceremony in the good parish of the Annunciation today".

In August of 1952 the sod was turned for the monumental task of building the stone structure, by 1953 Church services moved from the old Town Hall to the basement of the Church and by October 18th, 1953, the entire community came out to celebrate the blessing of the cornerstone of the finished Church. That Christmas Eve, the first Midnight Mass was celebrated in the Church proper. The next day the first wedding was written into the records. The ceremony united Rosemary Ann MacNeil and Armando Balotta. Fifty four children of the parish received their First Communion the Sunday that his Eminence Cardinal Leger visited the new Church. It was filled to capacity for the singing of a Pontifical High Mass by His Eminence and, thus, May 1st, 1954 was the official opening of the Church. What was first a Mission in the Town Hall in 1945 to support and congregate 180 English Speaking Catholic families was now a full Parish welcoming a congregation that had grown to over 550 families. The first phase in the life of the young parish had ended. It's founding pastor, Father Doran, returned to St. Patrick's in 1955 and Father Moyle succeeded him as pastor and remained with the Parish until its 25th Anniversary in 1970. By the 70's the Parish had Fr. Peter Timmins as Pastor, in the 80's Fr. Barry Egan-Jones and by 1995 Fr. Lawrence MacEachan was appointed Pastor and remained through the Parish's 50th Anniversary when Annunciation Parish received a Dedication by Cardinal J.C. Turcotte. Father MacEachan led the Parish for a decade through a flourishing time of Faith and Love supporting an Annunciation congregation which was, by then, over a 1000 families strong.

Annunciation Parish hasn't always lived times without darkness as was the period brought upon the congregation by the tenure of the Parish's succeeding pastor (from 2006 to 2014) who, today, is incarcerated for his crimes. The pain he caused to individual victims and to the congregation struck a seemingly unrelenting wound in the heart of the Parish challenging the tenacity of the congregation's Sanctuary of Faith. But no blemish or wound could dissipate the steadfast resilience of abiding Love, which ultimately, prevailed. Temperance, Devotion and Grace came to give Hope and guidance to the wounded flock as a new Shepherd, Father Robert Clark, came in Love and brought healing, comfort and renewed joy in Faith.

Annunciation Parish Today and Tomorrow:

Father Robert heralds in an propitious moment in history as the Parish now prepares to celebrate its 75th Anniversary calling the Annunciation congregation to commemorate all the Parish's historical legacy, gratitude for its current strength in its Love and Good Works as well as its Hope for the years to come.

75 years of Faith and Community has made Annunciation Parish home to thousands of marriages, Baptisms and First Communions and a sanctuary to boundless reconciliation, consolation, prayer and Blessings. Today, Annunciation Parish supports its congregants and community not only through the celebrations of the Church's Sacraments but through its commitment to its missions in the community: bringing holiday cheer to the elderly in nursing homes, gathering food for the indigent, supporting disadvantaged young mothers, helping underprivileged families enjoy summer camps, providing Christmas baskets for needy families, welcoming the Arts through a varied array of concerts, supporting the community by welcoming them to share in the usage of the Church's Parish Hall all the while continuing to support the varied charitable causes of the Montreal Diocese and the Holy See.

Annunciation Parish's history and legacy, its life today and its Hope for tomorrow remain unwaveringly founded and upheld in Love, Faith and Community. 2020 promises to be an auspicious year filled with celebrations, concerts and commemorations honoring the Parish's 75th Anniversary welcoming all its parishioners and all the Mount-Royal community.

So it is with open and grateful hearts the **Annunciation Parish's 75TH Anniversary Committee** welcomes all to celebrate and commemorate this beloved pillar of our TMR community and join with us to honor and congratulate Annunciation Parish, a beacon of History, Heritage and Hope.

ANNUNCIATION PARISH and OUR MISSION TERRITORY

Father Robert always ends each Mass with a Blessing telling us to **"Go and Glorify the Lord by your lives"**. As of January 1st, when you exit the Church, you'll cross under a banner saying "You are now entering Mission Territory" to remind us that we not only congregate as parishioners to worship God and pray together but that, as we leave, we carry our apostolic mission with us outside the Church and in our daily lives. Annunciation Parish has a series of Outreach Missions it ministers to in the form of donations to various needy causes and we want to encourage continuous and expansive contributions of ministry in our lives outside the Parish. Please join our newly formed **OUTREACH MISSIONS COMMITTEE** and come explore how you can be a missionary in your life and support the missions of our Parish.

Please contact Father Robert and Mary at info@annunciationparish.ca



"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10

"My Command to you is to Love one another."

John 15:17

Monstra Te Esse Matrem (Show thyself a Mother)

Carved on the stone over the threshold of the Church, under the patronage of our Blessed Holy Mother, Our Lady of The Annunciation, we give Glory to God and pray:



Monstra te esse matrem Show thyself a Mother,
sumat per te preces, may the Word divine
qui pro nobis natus, born for us thine Infant
tulit esse tuus. hear our prayers through thine.

Amen

Annunciation 75th Anniversary Committee:

**Barbara Asselin,
Pam Chiricosta,
Fr. Robert Clark,
Kathy Elie,
Caroline Emblem,
Mr.&Mrs. Ianuziolo
John Issa,
Giovanna Martinez,
Mary Ohanessian,
Kurt Reckziegel,
Sandra & Liliana
Rota,
Virginia St-Cyr,
Antoinette & Farid
Tannous,
Jocelyne Thompson,
Nicole Tinmouth,
Nadine Yared
Khairy,
Karolina Weclas,
Lori-Ann
Zemanovich**

Sub-Committees Support Members:

**Josefina Balacruz
Linda Marrone
Milda Ruffo**

WANT TO LEND A HAND ?

Contact our Committee Chairmen:

**John Issa
john@digitaldomain.ca**

**Lori-Ann
Zemanovich
[loriannzemanovich@
hotmail.com](mailto:loriannzemanovich@hotmail.com)**

We need you!



**WE NEED YOUR VOICES ,
TO GROW OUR CHOIR !
YOUR SOUL IS SONG,
COME AND SING IT !
EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

To try out, please contact :
Lavrenti Djintcharadze at
lux-christi@hotmail.com
And Josephine Balcruz at
jbalcruz@gmail.com



75th ANNIVERSARY FUND DONATIONS

**2020's Jan 1st Initial Offering
and the Collection from our
Anniversary Mass April 19th,
2020 will be designated toward
all the 75th Anniversary
Celebrations, Commemorations
and new Ministry initiatives
(Outreach Ministry, Hospitality
Ministry, Children & Youth
Ministry)**

**We therefore hope you will
attend all the events and
support all the Parish's causes
with your continued and
renewed generosity.**

ANNUNCIATION PARISH OF TOMORROW STARTS TODAY



**WELCOME
COMMITTEE**

Starting in 2020, Annunciation Parish will have a new permanent committee consisting of youths and adult parishioners who will greet our parishioners and visitors, hand out bulletins and information, act as ushers at various events and generally keep a hospitable vigil over our congregation.

Please contact Karolina Weclas to sign your name to the roster of volunteers and have the opportunity to occasionally be called upon to be the welcoming smiles of our Parish. Please email : karolinaweclas@gmail.com

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

Our Children and our Youth are our Parish's greatest Blessing and we want to support and foster their own unique ways of celebrating and practicing their Faith. Pillars of our Parish such as our PCL Mary, our catechists Andrea N., Linda M., Marco O., and John I., and our mentor super Moms Karolina W. and Nadine Y. are always organizing, supporting and encouraging our children and youth and they need the congregation's help making their children and youth orientated initiatives possible. Please keep an eye out for our mailing, bulletins and website information.



ANNUNCIATION PATRON DEDICATION WALL HONORARIUM & MEMORIAM

This coming year Annunciation Parish will be erecting a dedication wall to honor past and present patronage of the Church. Annunciation Parish has been blessed over the years with significant bequests, donations and dedications. To permanently memorialize their contributions, the Patron wall will feature their names engraved on brass plaques. Next to their honored legacy, another half of the wall unit will be reserved for the Patronage of today offering an opportunity for the Patrons and Stewards of our Church today to make a one-time contribution that will be commemorated in thanks with a brass plaque engraved with the dedication of their choice.

Legacy of yesterday recognized, having an opportunity to contribute patronage today, Annunciation Parish can honor its history, recognize today's generosity and sustain tomorrow's service to parishioners for years to come.

Honor Wall Donation Campaign will debut in 2020. Please keep an eye out for our mailing, bulletins and website information.