

SPRING 2024

The Friend of Brother André

REASONS TO CELEBRATE!

Saint Joseph was chosen as Canada's patron saint and protector of its nascent Church 400 years ago. In the Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal Basilica, this four-century-old devotion is on display through its colourful contemporary stained glass. It stands as a connection between past and present, where Joseph's brilliant figure supports and lights the way for the people who gather at the Oratory to celebrate their faith.

This 4th centenary of the country's consecration to Saint Joseph will be highlighted from the start of the Novena on March 10 until October 19, the anniversary of the Oratory's foundation. Father Michael DeLaney, CSC, Rector of the Oratory, sent a major invitation throughout Canada's dioceses in hopes of making Saint Joseph's national sanctuary an essential destination for all 2024 travel plans.

THE BASILICA: 100 YEARS OF HISTORY!

There is another anniversary, which cannot pass unmarked: one hundred years ago, on August 31, 1924, during the 3rd centenary celebrations, the cornerstone of the future Basilica of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal was blessed. The solemn gesture marked the official launch of construction work on the sanctuary's highest church. It was a great and visionary architectural project; a monument to faith, a grand temple to Saint Joseph that the public wanted to build.

The Côte-des-Neiges pilgrimage site was starting a new era. Brother André's dream would take on new proportions. By definition, an oratory may be a small place of worship, but ours on Mount Royal would be colossal. Built over many decades, the Oratory's Basilica became a fixture of the Montréal skyline and of the constellation of the Canadian Church. From this beacon of Christian faith, the light of devotion to Saint Joseph would shine like never before.



**“Go to Saint Joseph
and pray, he will
never let you down.”**

Saint André Bessette, CSC

Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal – Photo: André Charron, CSC

From 1924 to 2024, how far we have come! One hundred years filled with projects, growth, recognition and development.

On this year of celebrations honouring Saint Joseph, the Oratory is preparing the inauguration of a new building and new facilities as part of its major development project. New and beautiful areas to better greet pilgrims of Saint Joseph and visitors from around the world. (Nathalie Dumas)

You're invited!



It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome 2024, a year set to be filled with celebrations. In 1624, 400 years ago, Canada was consecrated to Saint

Joseph and entrusted to his protection. We will be celebrating from March 10 to October 19, and we invite you to make pilgrimage to his national sanctuary, Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal.

Come with your family, your friends, your parish or religious community. A warm welcome awaits you. We hope this year will be a special time for the Church of Canada.

We firmly believe that this unique occasion deserves to be celebrated in an exceptional way, uniting our hearts and minds in an enriching and meaningful spiritual experience for all.

Brother André Bessette was the first to dream of this place, dedicated to Saint Joseph, tending to the sick and welcoming pilgrims.

He was convinced that anyone could leave with their burdens lifted, healed, at peace and hopeful. We believe that at the Oratory, the world's largest shrine dedicated to Saint Joseph, such graces are still offered.

"Go to Joseph!" Brother André used to say. And today we offer the same advice, as an invitation.

We rejoice at the thought of meeting you to celebrate together. May God's grace and peace be with you.

Michael M. DeLaney, CSC

Father Michael M. DeLaney, CSC
Rector

Dear friends and benefactors,

It is with deep humility that I take a step back to reflect on my first year as Director of the Associates of Brother André. Guided by Saint Brother André's inspiring vision, it is a responsibility to which I am fully dedicated.

I want to thank you all for the warm welcome this year. Your letters, and especially your moving testimonies are a source of light, inspiration and hope. They are more than just correspondence. They are living stories of your connection to Brother André's mission, of your experiences and of the transformative effects of your generosity.

They nourish our spirits and bolster our determination to welcome and provide services for anyone who needs them. Each note shared reflects your trust in Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal's mission and the positive impact that you see in our actions.

Beyond your financial donations, I hope you keep sharing your stories, testimonies and professions of gratitude. Each story is a gem whose light contributes to our shared commitment to others.

Each word of thanks strengthens our bond and reminds us that we're all an integral part of each other's lives. Your presence and generosity will continue to shine through to all.

Fondest gratitude and prayers,

Patrick Vézina, CSC

Father Patrick Vézina, CSC
Director, The Associates of Brother André

**Question, information request,
comment, change of address,**

We will be happy to talk to you!

Annual Campaign team

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[www.saint-joseph.org/
yoursupport](http://www.saint-joseph.org/yoursupport)

YOUR UNWAVERING GENEROSITY

Building the Saint Joseph's Oratory Basilica was the project of generations, which gathered thousands of donors from 1924 all the way up to today, because they believed in making their grand project a reality on Mount Royal's northern side.

This Basilica is your Basilica. It also belongs to all the people who spared some change, a few dollars or more, to cover the costs of a single stone in its granite walls, a single tile of its quartzite floor, a single pane of its stained glass, or a square foot of its copper roof. The generosity of so many people can be seen in each piece of the Basilica! It is built on the faith of so many! There's your own, and that of its first builder, Brother André, CSC, carved in gilded letters!

In the days of our very first chapel, a tiny oratory barely fifteen feet wide, Brother André looked upon the surrounding landscape and confided in his friend Azarias Claude: "It seems to me that this high up, we can almost reach the Heavens." Imagine what he might say, perched atop the Basilica lantern!



Through the ages, the Basilica of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal is home to great celebrations. – Photo: Michel Archambault

Our gratitude

Marking one hundred years of the Basilica's history is the perfect opportunity for an outpouring of recognition for the Oratory's many benefactors throughout the decades who have remained steadfast in their commitment to caring for this one-of-a-kind place.

The Basilica was built over the course of the 1920s and 1930s. It took yet another thirty years to finish the interior, adorning it with majestic works of art and a grand pipe organ. Our benefactors were there for us every step of the way, throughout every project!

A living, welcoming place

The preservation of a heritage site as large as the Basilica calls for regular interventions such as maintenance, renovation, adjustments and for constant vigilance. Accordingly, the Oratory's management and teams work constantly towards their goal of keeping the place alive and welcoming for all pilgrims and visitors looking for peace and enlightenment.

Your support is key. Whenever the time comes for subscription campaigns and special or regular fundraisers, you always say, "You can count on my donation!" You are people of your word. ***Thank you a hundred times over!***

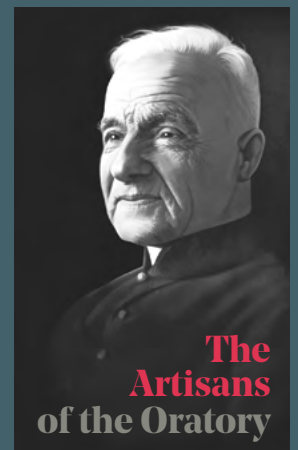
MONTHLY DONATIONS: AN ENLIGHTENED WAY OF GUARANTEEING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE ORATORY

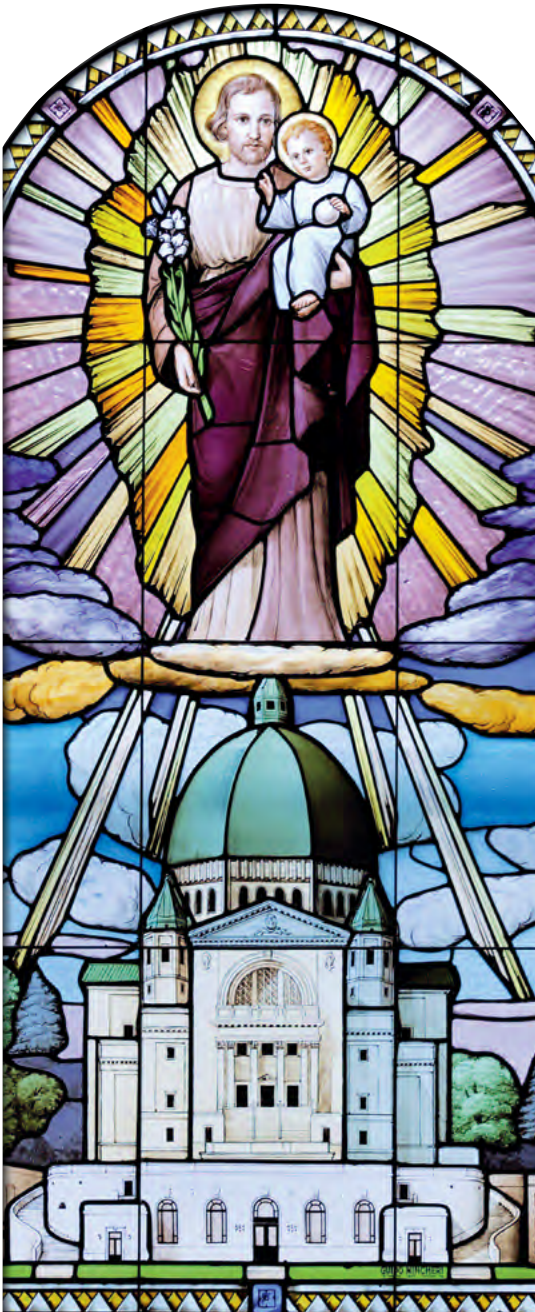
It is an ongoing commitment to caring for the soul of the Oratory, to supporting its initiatives, to keeping its services available and to making its projects a reality. Monthly donations keep you connected to the shrine's mission.

Your benevolence and the stability it provides helps Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal plan and follow through on its work with confidence. For every month, each contribution is its own cornerstone in the foundations of this house of faith, healing and hope for all.

Become an Artisan of the Oratory and join a tight-knit and committed community whose collective strength is a significant contributor to our mission.

www.saint-joseph.org/en/online-giving/





*Novena and Feast
of Saint Joseph*

March 10 to 19, 2024
at Saint Joseph's Oratory
of Mount Royal

JOSEPH, COMPANION OF OUR HISTORY

Preaching in English

12:15 p.m. – *Except on
Sundays, March 10 and 17
at 11:15 a.m.*

**Father Raymond
Lafontaine, EV**

**Father Tiburtius
Fernandez, SMA**

**Father Chukwuemeka
Anthony Atansi**

March 19 Solemn Masses

10 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
(in French, Basilica)

11:15 a.m.
(in English, Crypt Church)

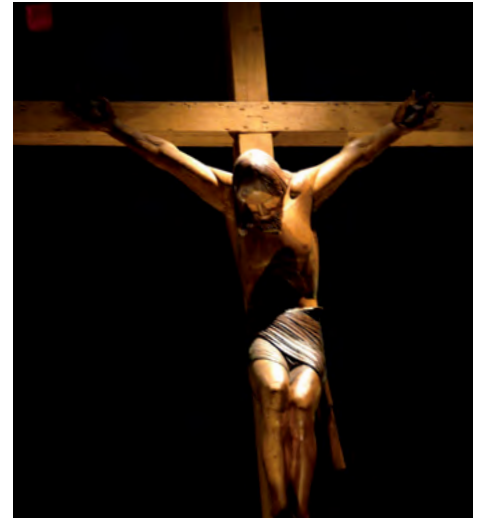


Photo: Nancy Lessard

Holy Week at the Oratory Schedule of celebrations

PALM SUNDAY, March 24

Regular Sunday Mass schedule
Blessing of palms at all masses

HOLY THURSDAY, March 28

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Crypt Church | 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.*
(Bilingual)

GOOD FRIDAY, March 29

Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

Basilica | 3 p.m.*
Crypt Church | 3 p.m. (English)

Way of the Cross

Crypt Church | 7:30 p.m. (Bilingual)

HOLY SATURDAY, March 30

Easter Vigil

Basilica | 7:30 p.m.*
Crypt Church | 7:30 p.m. (English)

EASTER SUNDAY, March 31

The Resurrection of the Lord

Basilica | 11:00 a.m.*, 12:30 p.m.,
4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
Crypt Church | 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,
11:15 a.m. (English),
3 p.m. (Spanish)

** With the participation of Les Petits Chanteurs
du Mont-Royal*

*All activities are conducted in French
except where noted.*

Commentated Way of the Cross (Bilingual)

Every Friday until March 22
Crypt Church | 3:15 p.m.

Organ concert with Maria Gajraj

Free admission – freewill offering
Big screen projection
Sunday March 24 | Basilica | 3:30 p.m.



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Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal is a
ministry of the Congregation of Holy Cross



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