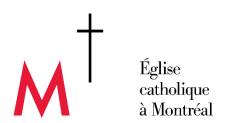
INVITATION



The Catholic Church of Montreal releases details of the 33rd celebration of World Youth Day on March 24 under the theme:

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God." (Lk 1: 30)

Montreal, March 19, 2018 – The Archbishop of the Catholic Church of Montreal, Most Reverend Christian Lépine, invites all young people to join him in celebrating the vitality of youth and to proclaim the joy of their faith in Jesus Christ under the banner of the annual Diocesan celebration of World Youth Day, March 24. This is a genuinely unique opportunity for young people to share and demonstrate the joy of walking in the footsteps of Christ.

Last year's celebration attracted over 300 volunteers, more than 1,700 participants, and in excess of 10,000 followers on social media. "Many of the young people who take part are seeking to explore the different elements of their faith," underlines Isabel Correa, Director of Mission Jeunesse Youth Ministry, organizers of the event. "The event serves as a wonderful opportunity to connect with other youth who are also reflecting on their faith, while looking to make a difference in the world."

In recent reference to the 2019 International World Youth Day to be held in Panama, Pope Francis delivered a clear and impassioned message: "I fervently hope that you young people will continue to press forward, not only cherishing the memory of the past, but also with courage in the present and hope for the future."

A Host of Inspiring Events Planned for Montreal

Some 300 young people have worked diligently to make this year's World Youth Day truly inspirational.

12 PM – Youth Festival at Santa Cruz Mission (60 Rachel Street West, Metro Mont-Royal)

Teens (13-17) and young adults (18-35) will be encouraged to actively participate in the Youth Festival by choosing an aspect of the Holy Father's message or this year's WYD theme that inspired them and to present it to others in a creative and artistic way.

3 PM - Mini-Pilgrimage through the streets of downtown Montreal

A time to bear witness to the love of Christ, the pilgrimage through the streets of Montreal will commemorate the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem. We are Christ's disciples committed to transforming today's world, and we will wend our way through the streets as an expression of our hope and faith in Jesus Christ.

- 3 PM Departure from Santa Cruz Mission to Saint Patrick's Basilica
- 4 PM Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem at St. Patrick's Basilica

Blessing of the Palms

4:30 PM — Departure from Saint Patrick's Basilica to Mary Queen of the World Cathedral

5 PM Arrival at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral (1085 de la Cathédrale Street, Montréal, Québec H3B 2V3

A meditative moment in commemoration of the Passion of Christ. In a spirit of calm and solemnity, we will relive the painful memory of the Lord's final hours, while celebrating His precious love for us, His Resurrection, and our own salvation.

The Archdiocese of Montreal is delighted to invite young people and people of all ages to join in this joyful celebration of youth and faith... an event not to be missed this coming March 24 under the umbrella of World Youth Day.

For more details:

http://bit.ly/wydmtl2018

To view videos of past events:

JMJ-WYD Montréal 2017 https://youtu.be/Pcvy8KNYD6U

JMJ Diocésaine / Diocesan WYD (Montréal 2016) https://youtu.be/EF6SmTpunsE

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For more information or an interview, please contact:

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