

Welcome: Guests, Visitors and New Members

On Holy Communion at The Sign: We welcome everyone joining us in worship today. One of those sad results of the schisms among Christians is that we can offer Holy Communion only to Orthodox Christians. We believe that the Eucharist is a final sign of union among Christians (and not a way that such unity might be achieved). We are glad that you attended, and invite you to partake of the antidoron (the blessed bread) offered at the conclusion of the Liturgy.

Coffee Hour: Parishioners & Visitors are welcome & encouraged to enjoy wholesome fellowship in our Church Hall every Sunday following the Divine Liturgy. A great way to meet new friends and speak with Fr. Paul. If you would like to offer the Coffee Hour, Sign-up list is by the kitchen.

Please call **Mathieu Dufour** for any further information at 514-812-3486

Household Volunteers: Please consider volunteering to clean the premises. There are 3 areas to choose from. Chapel-Altar, Stairwells- Bathrooms and downstairs Hall. Contact person is **Shaden Alrabadi** 514-712-2850

Donations: Should be made through **2024 envelopes** available, at the door, baskets pass during Liturgy, or by **PayPal** on the website

<https://signorthodoxchurch.ca>

or

E-Transfer to

Recipient: Sign of the Theotokos

E-mail: signchurchtreasurer@gmail.com

(no password needed)

Mail your cheques to:

**The Sign of the Theotokos Orthodox Church
4829 rue Resther, Montreal, QC H2J 2V6**

Make The Sign one of the beneficiaries in your Last Will and Testament soon!

PLEASE FILL-IN, and place in collection basket, if you would like to:

___ have your name/address/phone added/corrected on our mailing list

___ have the pastor call or visit the person named below

___ volunteer your time to help our parish fulfill its mission

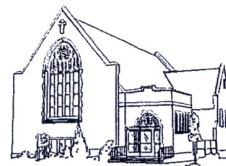
Name _____ Phone (____) _____ - _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Email Address _____

Comments/Requests:



The Sign of the Theotokos Orthodox Church

750 St Joseph East in Montréal, QC

Mailing Address: 4829 rue Resther, Montréal H2J 2V6

*The Sign is a parish in the Archdiocese of Canada of the
Orthodox Church in America (OCA).*

We welcome people of all backgrounds, faiths and languages.

The Most Blessed Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada

The Most Reverend Irénée

Archbishop of Ottawa and the Archdiocese of Canada

The Very Reverend Archpriest Paul Kara

Pastor of the Sign of the Theotokos Orthodox Church

No. 2143 "The Lord Himself will give you a sign..."

December 22, 2024

26th Sunday after Pentecost (14th of Luke)

Sunday before the Nativity

Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Tone 1

Troparion

(Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:
"Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Thy Kingdom!//
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

Tone 2

Troparion

(Holy Fathers)

Great are the accomplishments of faith,
for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters
of rest;
and the Prophet Daniel appeared
a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.***
So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Tone 4

Troparion

(Forefeast)

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all!
Adorn thyself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in
the cave!
Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit;
if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam.//
Christ is born to raise up again what fell in former times, His image.

Tone 1 Kontakion (Holy Fathers)

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha!
The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb.
The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him, //
and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Tone 3 Kontakion (Forefathers)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave
to give birth to the Eternal Word.
Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!
Glorify with the angels and the shepherds ***
the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Forefathers)

Reader: v: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever! *(Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3)*
Reader: v. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us! *(v. 4)*

Epistle

(328) Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 (Sunday Before)

Brethren, by faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

**The Sign of the Theotokos
Orthodox Church**

**Annual Stewardship Pledge
for the year
2025 AD**



"He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury; and he saw a poor widow put in two copper coins. And he said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all the living that she had." —Luke 21:1-4

Your financial support of The Sign for the next year is needed so that we may continue to fulfill, and expand, our mission.

Our multicultural community derives most its budget from parishioners who pledge their financial support and use the weekly envelopes provided.

(Your pledge covers only the routine, ongoing, expenses of our annual budget.)

Please prayerfully consider the amount of financial support you can offer, being as generous as you can be.

Indicate the amount of your pledge on the Attached form, and return the form in person or by mail no later than December 31, 2024

Pledge Form

For the year 2025, I pledge the following amount in support of The Sign:

- \$40 weekly (\$2,080 per year) \$35 weekly (\$1,850 per year)
 \$25 weekly (\$1,300 per year) \$20 weekly (\$1,040 per year)
 \$10 weekly (\$520 per year)
 Other: \$ _____ weekly (\$ _____ per year)

- I am a member of the 'The Sign' Parish and intend to attend and vote at the Annual Meeting
 I am an Orthodox Christian and would like to become a member of the 'The Sign' Parish
 I am not an Orthodox Christian, or belong to another Orthodox parish

Surname:
Baptismal Name:
Title: Telephone:
Email:
Address:
Apt. No.:
City:
Prov./State:
Postal Code:

Your Pledge pays for these routine expenses:

Archdiocese of Canada dues, Benevolent Fund, Candles, Charcoal, Incense, Coffee hour supplies, Church telephone, Choir supplies, Cleaning supplies, Cleaning of vestments, Printing, Electricity for the Church, Flowers, Heating, Insurance, Office supplies, Rector's salary, Sunday School supplies, and sundry others . . .

The Sign of the Theotokos Orthodox Church

750 Boulevard St-Joseph est.
(MÉTRO: Laurier – use the St. Joseph exit)
MAILING ADDRESS:
4829 rue Resther, Montréal, QC H2J 2V6 Canada
Fr. Paul Cell: 514.912.5926 Church: 514.934.0539
Email: info@signorthodoxchurch.ca
<https://signorthodoxchurch.ca/contact-us/>

Copies to be filled-in can be found at the candle desk

Message from Archpriest Paul Kara

“For there is born for you this day

In the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord”

(Luke 2:10-11)

The Nativity of our Lord Services



Tuesday, December 24, 2024 at 6:30 pm:

The Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord (Great Compline & Matins)

Followed by Christmas Carols, blessing of Christmas sweets and Potluck

Wednesday, December 25, 2024 at 10:00 am:

The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Wishing you all a joyful Feast of our Lord's Nativity,

With love in Christ,

Fr. Paul Kara

Lecture de l'épître du saint apôtre Paul aux Hébreux (Généalogie) (Hb XI,9-10,17-23,32-40)

Frères, c'est par la foi qu'Abraham vint s'établir dans la terre promise comme dans une terre étrangère, habitant sous des tentes, ainsi qu'Isaac et Jacob, les cohéritiers de la même promesse. Car il attendait la cité qui a de solides fondements, celle dont Dieu est l'architecte et le constructeur.

C'est par la foi qu'Abraham offrit Isaac, lorsqu'il fut mis à l'épreuve, et qu'il offrit son fils unique, lui qui avait reçu les promesses, et à qui il avait été dit : « En Isaac sera nommée pour toi une postérité. » Il pensait que Dieu est puissant, même pour ressusciter les morts ; aussi le recouvra-t-il par une sorte de résurrection. C'est par la foi qu'Isaac bénit Jacob et Ésaü, en vue des choses à venir. C'est par la foi que Jacob, mourant, bénit chacun des fils de Joseph, et qu'il adora, appuyé sur l'extrémité de son bâton. C'est par la foi que Joseph, mourant, fit mention de la sortie des fils d'Israël, et qu'il donna des ordres au sujet de ses os. C'est par la foi que Moïse, à sa naissance, fut caché pendant trois mois par ses parents, parce qu'ils virent que l'enfant était beau, et qu'ils ne craignirent pas l'ordre du roi. Et que dirai-je encore ? Car le temps me manquerait pour parler de Gédéon, de Barak, de Samson, de Jephthé, de David, de Samuel, et des prophètes, qui, par la foi, vainquirent des royaumes, exercèrent la justice, obtinrent des promesses, fermèrent la gueule des lions, éteignirent la puissance du feu, échappèrent au tranchant de l'épée, guérèrent de leurs maladies, furent vaillants à la guerre, mirent en fuite des armées étrangères. Certains ressuscitèrent pour des femmes leur enfant mort ; d'autres furent livrés aux tourments, et n'acceptèrent point de délivrance, afin d'obtenir une meilleure résurrection ; d'autres subirent les moqueries et le fouet, les chaînes et la prison ; ils furent lapidés, sciés, torturés, ils moururent tués par l'épée, ils allèrent çà et là vêtus de peaux de brebis et de peaux de chèvres, dénués de tout, persécutés, maltraités, eux dont le monde n'était pas digne, errants dans les déserts et les montagnes, dans les cavernes et les antres de la terre. Tous ceux-là, à la foi desquels il a été rendu témoignage, n'ont pas obtenu ce qui leur était promis, Dieu ayant en vue quelque chose de meilleur pour nous, afin qu'ils ne parviennent pas sans nous à la perfection.

Reader: In Tone 4: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: v: We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us.

(Ps. 43:1a)

Reader: v: For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us. *(Ps. 43:8)*

Gospel

(1) Matthew 1:1-25 (Sunday Before)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and

Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Lecture de l'Évangile selon Saint Matthieu (Généalogie) (Mt I,1-25)

Généalogie de Jésus Christ, fils de David, fils d'Abraham. Abraham engendra Isaac ; Isaac engendra Jacob ; Jacob engendra Juda et ses frères ; Juda engendra de Thamar Pharès et Zara ; Pharès engendra Esrom ; Esrom engendra Aram ; Aram engendra Aminadab ; Aminadab engendra Naasson ; Naasson engendra Salmon ; Salmon engendra Boaz de Rahab ; Boaz engendra Obed de Ruth ; Obed engendra Isaï ; Isaï engendra David. Le roi David engendra Salomon de la femme d'Urie ; Salomon engendra Roboam ; Roboam engendra Abia ; Abia engendra Asa ; Asa engendra Josaphat ; Josaphat engendra Joram ; Joram engendra Ozias ; Ozias engendra Joatham ; Joatham engendra Achaz ; Achaz engendra Ézéchiás ; Ézéchiás engendra Manassé ; Manassé engendra Amon ; Amon engendra Josias ; Josias engendra Jéchonias et ses frères, au temps de la déportation à Babylone. Après la déportation à Babylone, Jéchonias engendra Salathiel ; Salathiel engendra Zorobabel ; Zorobabel engendra Abiud ; Abiud engendra Éliakim ; Éliakim engendra Azor ; Azor engendra Sadok ; Sadok engendra Achim ; Achim engendra Éliud ; Éliud engendra Éléazar ; Éléazar engendra Matthan ; Matthan engendra Jacob ; Jacob engendra Joseph, l'époux de Marie, de laquelle est né Jésus, qui est appelé Christ. Il y a donc en tout quatorze générations depuis Abraham jusqu'à David, quatorze générations depuis David jusqu'à la déportation à Babylone, et quatorze générations depuis la déportation à Babylone jusqu'au Christ. Voici de quelle manière arriva la naissance de Jésus Christ. Marie, sa mère, ayant été fiancée à Joseph, se trouva enceinte, par la vertu du Saint Esprit, avant qu'ils eussent habité ensemble. Joseph, son époux, qui était un homme de bien et qui ne voulait pas la diffamer, se proposa de rompre secrètement avec elle. Comme il y pensait, voici, un ange du Seigneur lui apparut en songe, et dit : Joseph, fils de David, ne crains pas de prendre avec toi Marie, ta femme, car l'enfant qu'elle a conçu vient du Saint Esprit ; elle enfantera un fils, et tu lui donneras le nom de Jésus ; c'est lui qui sauvera son peuple de ses péchés. Tout cela arriva afin que s'accomplît ce que le Seigneur avait annoncé par le prophète : Voici, la vierge sera enceinte, elle enfantera un fils, et on lui donnera le nom d'Emmanuel, ce qui signifie Dieu avec nous. Joseph s'étant réveillé fit ce que l'ange du Seigneur lui avait ordonné, et il prit sa femme avec lui. Mais il ne la connut point jusqu'à ce qu'elle eût enfanté un fils, auquel il donna le nom de Jésus.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The members of this parish who pledged for the year of 2024 will receive in the coming days a reminder email from the Secretary of Finance, Paul Pasarivakis, for the amount they have pledged Year to Date , in order to have the opportunity to fulfill their commitment by the end of the year 2024.

Thank you,
Paul Pasarivakis
Finance Secretary

The **Nomination committee** appointed by Fr. Paul for the upcoming 2024 General Meeting and Parish Council formations/elections:

Haroula Kariotakis
Peter Koutlis
Georgia Roussos



Church Etiquette: Standing in Church

It is the custom of Orthodox Christians to stand throughout the services of the Church. This is because the traditional posture for prayer and worship in the Orthodox Church is standing. In some "Orthodox countries" there are usually no pews in the churches. Benches and chairs are along the walls for the elderly and those who need to sit for personal reasons. If you need to sit during the Divine Liturgy, remember to stand at these times: when the Liturgy begins and the priest gives the blessing; during the Little and Great Entrances; when the priest is censing the icons and the faithful; during the Gospel reading; at the Anaphora; for Holy Communion; and at the final Blessing.



Upcoming Parish Services/December Events:

All weekend services of Vespers and Liturgy remain on the same schedules

Tues: Dec 24 Vigil the Nativity 6:30pm & Pot Luck & Xmas Carols
Wed: Dec 25 Divine Liturgy 10am Christmas Day (*St Basil Liturgy*)

Home Ministry: Invite Fr. Paul to visit & bless your home by calling his cell phone (514-912-5926) to book an appointment with him. Likewise for visiting hospitalized parishioners or for pastoral counselling.

Confession: Saturdays and Sundays by appointment. Contact Fr. Paul via call/text at 514-912-5926 or by email at paulwkara@gmail.com