

ALAN ROSSY—CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT’S REPORT
ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019.

Dear Parishioners of St. George,

I am pleased to report another successful year at St. George. I want to thank Very Reverend Dr. Joseph Purpura, Father Jean El-Murr and Father Justin Mitchell for their spiritual guidance, blessings and leadership to our Church and community over the last year. Their tireless work and compassion have been essential to our growth at St. George. I am grateful to our Parish Council Board Members for their service, dedication, and insight to St. George.

As we move St. George Church into the 21st Century administratively, our goals are to communicate better with our Parishioners and community, develop programs and events to facilitate the interest of our younger generation and to renovate and create a new Parish House that will better serve the needs of our Church.

In 2017, The Youth Mentoring Program was launched at St. George, under the guidance of Father Joseph and Father Justin. This program is fully sponsored by The Amal and Glen Chamandy Family Foundation and we thank them for this beautiful initiative. The purpose of the mentoring program is to address the unique needs of persons aged 16-30 years old as they transition into adulthood, to provide a formation of a mature spiritual life and to strengthen their Orthodox Christian identity as young men and women. This program continues to build momentum and assists many in our community.

Throughout the year, we have witnessed the many Organizations of St. George gather their fellow parishioners through events and fellowship.

Their Fundraising efforts contribute quite importantly to the operational expenses of the Church each year. We thank the organizations for their hard work and assistance in keeping our church sustainable.

Of note in 2018-2019 was the creation of the St. George Social Club, initiated by Nick Maliha. The goal is to connect parishioners of different ages with one another in a safe and supportive environment. This group meets the first Thursday of every month. They hosted their 1st Valentine’s dinner & dance in our Fellowship Hall which was a sold-out affair. Nick is also responsible for Arabic Fellowship Bible Study.

The 2 bread baking teams have been baking our church bread for almost a year. We thank Kh. Catherine Mitchell, Susan Auger, Alida Rossy, Carol Jazzar and many others for bringing back this tradition to St. George. The Antiochian Women hosted many beautiful successful events this past year including their Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale, and a Mid-Lenten Sunday lunch to name a few. This incredible group, under Linda Alexander, bring together many though excellent fellowship and hard work. Their support to our church is commendable and needed.

The Choir, under the Direction of Paul Jabara, has had an outstanding year. Their Christmas Concert was magical and a sold-out venue. Their Holy week participation was incredible this year. The voices of these men and women bring St. George a defining grace every Sunday during Liturgy. We are proud to have such a beautiful Choir.

Le Cercle is another tireless group under the direction of Hedy Ephtimios and Magda Naim. Hosting coffee hour every Sunday, the many luncheons and events they make happen brings life and warmth to our community. Sunday School, under the direction of Magda Naim, brings together our youth and educates them spiritually with a touch of fun. Our Community Care & Comfort team under the guidance of Carolyn Zigayer and Kim Awada assist the many needy of our church with food donations, visits and comfort.

The West Island Bible Study group with Coordinator Diane Nemer, host many sessions teaching spiritual fellowship. Teen SOYO had their "Day of Service" on April 12, 2019 and made lunch bags to distribute to the homeless in Downtown Montreal. Nadine Dababneh and her peers say that this was "a most rewarding experience as they touched many in need".

Much appreciation to our lead chanter Georges Fattouh and the Byzantine Choir members. We are grateful for having our very own Icon Studio which produces many beautiful religious works as directed by Diane Sarkis and Virginie Desjardins. Our Young Adults Ministry (YAM) under the guidance of Alex Habib, the Altar Boys for their service every Sunday, the Order of St. Ignatius with Michel Sarkis and Gaby Habash and our Liturgy Ushers with George Aboud and Peter Auger round up the organizations that come together and make our St. George such a special place to worship God and partake in fellowship.

The Raffle, held every October, was once again brilliantly lead by Mona Mégélas, along with Lori Massad, Nina Samaan. We thank her and her committee for their hard work. The Oyster Party, a perennial favourite in November, was again a sold-out affair. Jaimie Auger, Veronique Brox, Andrea Chamandy and the entire committee make it a fun and dynamic event. The wine, nuts and biscuit campaign offered before Christmas has been an annual fundraiser organized by Brian Chamandy-Cook and Brian Rossy. We thank you all for your dedication to your church.

The Legacy Fund, under the Chairmanship of Peter Auger, continues its fine purpose of addressing humanitarian, cultural, heritage and religious needs of the St. George community while enriching the legacy of St. George for future generations. We thank Peter and his Legacy Board for their support to the Parish Council Board and our parishioners. Peter served as Chairman & President of St. George from 2016-2018. We thank him for his continued support to the Church, his attendance at Parish Council Board meetings and ushering and welcoming our Parishioners on Sundays.

The Facilities, Maintenance & Security Committee, under the guidance of Gaby Habash, continues to maintain and respond to all needs of our facilities. I want to thank Gaby for his service and care to our buildings.

The Stewardship Committee has been working hard at collecting dues and allocating the right assessment to the Parishioners. Membership dues are vital to the operation of the church which has seen its expenses rise to over one million dollars for the first time in its history. We have set a target of \$1,000 per family per calendar year. Of course, we are mindful of those families who cannot afford this amount and ask of them to give to their Church as generously as they can. We have worked hard to create an online payment system on our new website (saintgeorgemontreal.org) to facilitate credit card payments. Our goal is that Parishioners give as generously as they can to sustain the Church and to assist in creating new programs and events to enhance the teaching of our Orthodox faith and pursue our fellowship. I thank Roy Azar and Father Joseph for their dedication to this important role for the financial health of St. George.

In closing, I thank Father Joseph, Father Jean and Father Justin, the Parish Council Board and its Officers Rick Ayoup (Treasurer), Bruna Salhany (Secretary), The Legacy and Trinity Funds, the Organizations Presidents, the Church office administration - Viviane Gédéon and Gaby Habash and all our Parishioners for their service to God and dedication to St. George Church. This is your Church, yours to keep strong and yours to ensure its growth and prosperity for many more generations to come in faith and love.

May God bless you, your families and our beloved St. George Church.



Alan Rossy

Parish Council Chairman & President