



Catholic  
Church  
of Montreal

## PRESS RELEASE

### Diocesan World Youth Day Details have been released

#### The April 13 event includes a 3 km procession

MONTREAL, APRIL 11, 2019 – An estimated 1,500 people – more than half of whom will be millennials or younger – are expected at the closing celebration of World Youth Day on April 13 at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral, organized by the Archdiocese of Montreal.

Last year, more than 1,700 participated in the various activities held over the seven-hour event; with 10,000 followers on social media.

The 34th celebration of World Youth Day in Montreal begins with a festival at noon, followed by a 3 km outdoor procession through downtown streets, capped by a celebration at the cathedral with Archbishop Christian Lépine. Some 300 young people are putting together this event along with more than 50 local groups. This year's theme is "Amen," which invites youth to face the challenges confronting them, especially when facing the fundamental choices that impact who they will be and what they will do in this world. Do not be afraid to say YES, to believe, to get involved: "*Saying “yes” to the Lord is daring to embrace life as it comes, with all its uncertainty, its lowness and, often, with all its contradictions and its trivialities.*" (Pope Francis, prayer vigil with youth at World Youth Day, Panama, 2019)

World Youth Day was launched by Pope John Paul II in 1985 – coinciding with the United Nations International Year of the Youth – as an initiative to focus the world's attention each year on youth and to help youth to focus on being a positive force in the world with the help of faith.

An international gathering is held every two to three years. The next will be in Lisbon, Portugal in 2022, about which Pope Francis recently said: "*I fervently hope that you young people will continue to carry the torch, not only cherishing the memory of the past, but also cherishing with courage in the present and hope for the future.*" "*As long as new generations rise up to respond to God: here I am; the world will have a future*", Pope Francis said to the general audience on Wednesday, January 30, 2019.

In the intervening years, local WYD events are held in dioceses throughout the world on Palm Sunday. The event is open to all youth and to people of all ages who want to support and encourage youth.

"The event is a great opportunity to connect with other youths who are not afraid to embrace life with faith, thinking about their faith, like Pope Francis said to them at WYD in Panama, and to make a difference in the world," says Youth Ministry director Isabel Correa.

## MONTREAL PROGRAM

12 p.m. – Youth Festival begins at Santa Cruz Mission, located at 60 Rachel Street West

3 p.m. – Procession from Santa Cruz Mission to St. Patrick's Basilica, located at 460 René-Lévesque Blvd West

4 p.m. – Commemoration of Jesus's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem, blessing of palms

4:30 p.m. – Palm-carrying procession from St. Patrick's Basilica to Mary Queen of the World Cathedral along René-Lévesque Boulevard

5 p.m. – Arrival at the cathedral for a two-hour celebration with Archbishop Lépine, including Palm Sunday Mass

For more details:

<http://bit.ly/wydmtl2019>

To view videos of past events:

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

JMJ-WYD Montréal 2018 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5V-4XJ4aPEg&t=18s>

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

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