



Catholic  
Church  
of Montreal

# Responsible Pastoral Ministry Pilot Parishes

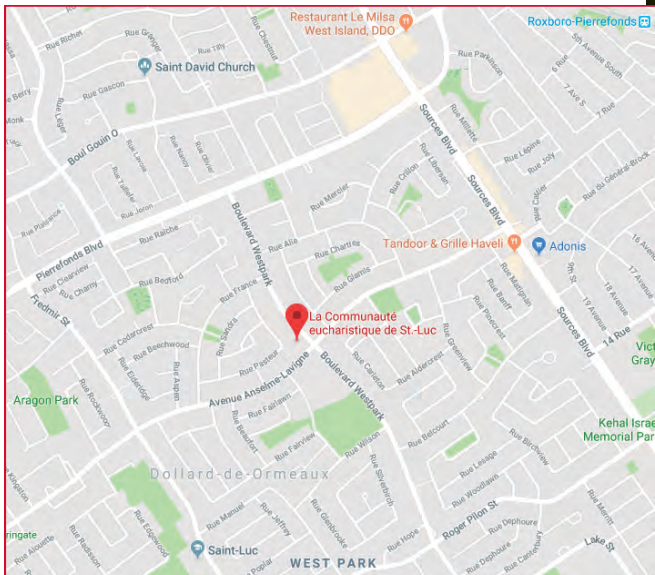
## Saint Luke

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## Some interesting numbers

Parishioners: 19 000 people

Employees: 17 employees, including the priests

Volunteers: about 200

Children enrolled in catechetical formation: about 300



### Steps taken

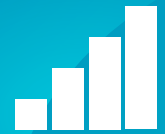
*Getting familiar - getting prepared – getting going*

- Information/awareness sessions were organized in November and December of 2016 with all of the pastoral and administrative personnel of the parish, and open to all parishioners interested in learning more about the diocesan Responsible Pastoral Ministry policy.
- The pastor entrusted the task of implementing the policy to Mme. Ghislaine Crête, who generously agreed to do so voluntarily.
- Given the multiplicity and diversity of positions in the parish, only those positions deemed high risk were chosen for this initial implementation of the screening process.
- Working sessions involving the pastor and the parish and diocesan coordinators for Responsible Pastoral Ministry took place to evaluate the risk level associated with each position based on the position descriptions that were prepared in advance by the parish coordinator.



### Challenges that were faced

- There was a certain reluctance on the part of some of those who have volunteered at the parish for many years regarding police background checks in a church setting where, on principle, mutual trust should be the norm.
- A misperception of the police service was sometimes the reason that people born in other countries refused to go through with a police background check.
- Implementing Responsible Pastoral Ministry takes time and effort, and the parish coordinator is doing her best to move the process forward.



### Achievements

- Position descriptions were drawn up for all positions that were targeted in this first phase of implementation.
- The 52 people who occupy positions which have been deemed high risk were asked to fill out identification forms and police background checks, as well as to subscribe to the code of ethics and behaviour put forward in the diocesan policy.
- 46 people who occupy high risk positions went through police background checks.