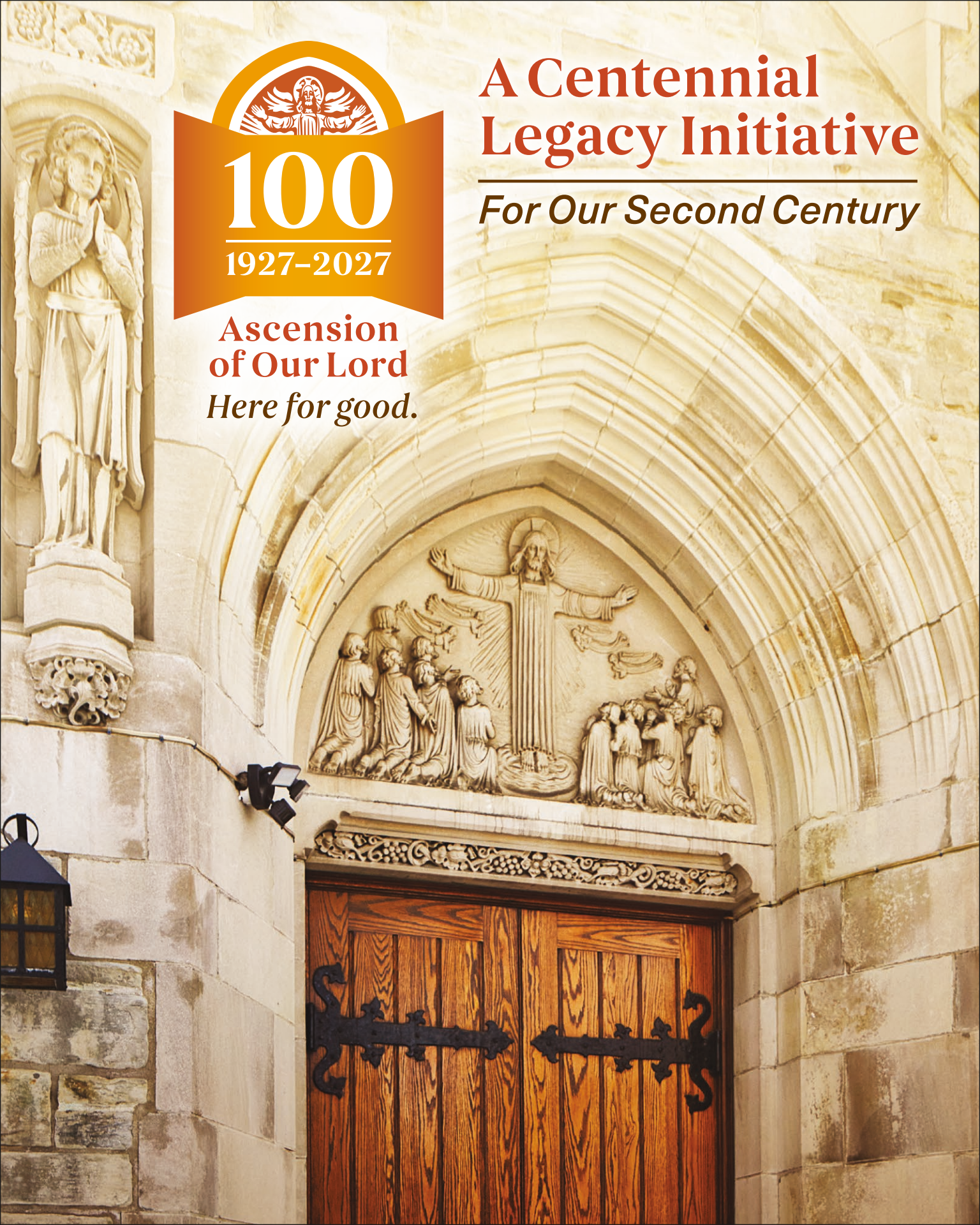


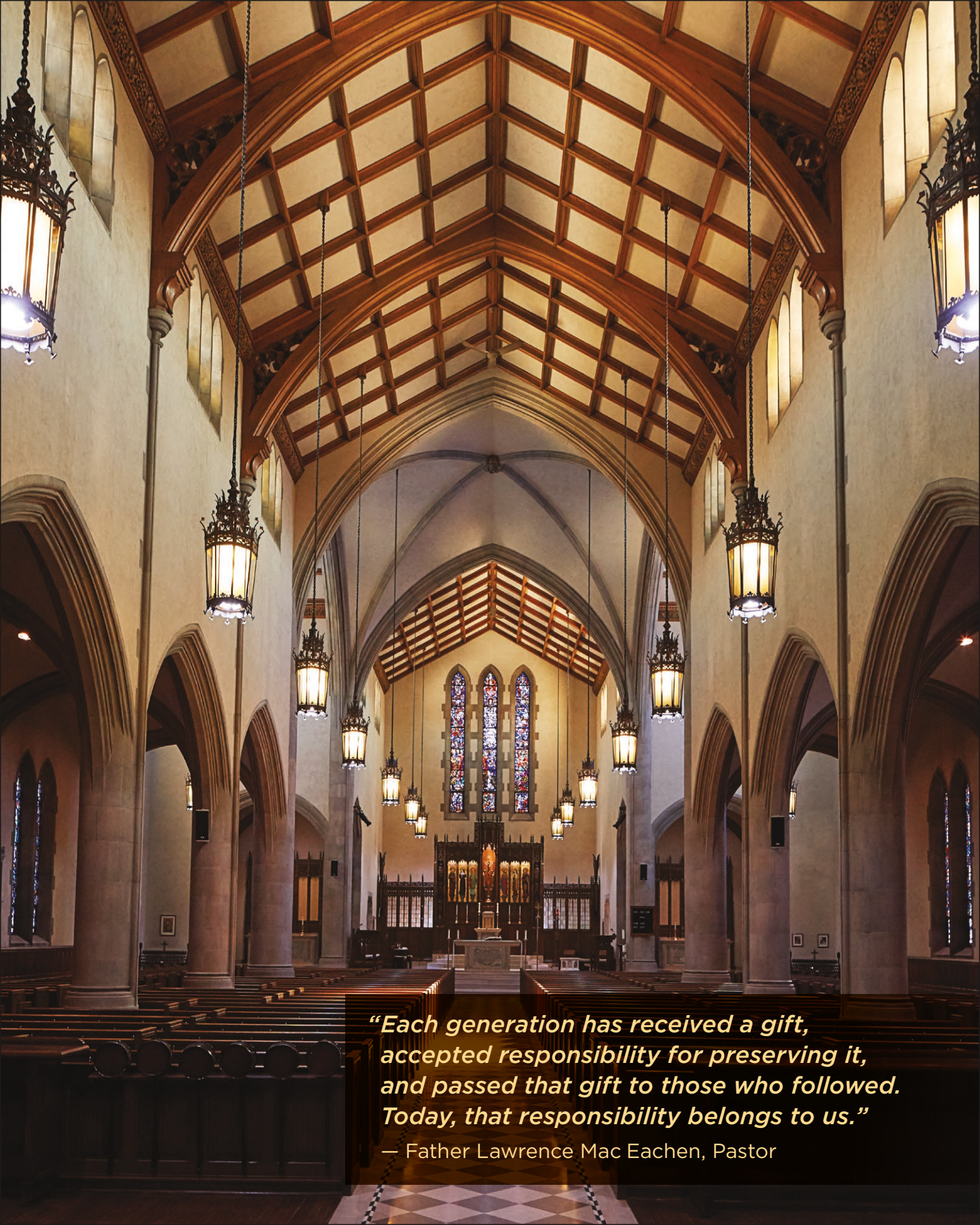


A Centennial Legacy Initiative

For Our Second Century

**Ascension
of Our Lord**
Here for good.





*"Each generation has received a gift,
accepted responsibility for preserving it,
and passed that gift to those who followed.
Today, that responsibility belongs to us."*

— Father Lawrence Mac Eachen, Pastor

Our Centennial Legacy Initiative

For one hundred years, generations of parishioners have built, sustained and strengthened the Ascension of Our Lord Parish through their faith, generosity and commitment to stewardship. As we begin our second century, we invite you to consider taking part in the next chapter of our shared story.

The *Centennial Legacy Initiative* seeks to strengthen three enduring dimensions of parish life: caring for our sacred home, sustaining the beauty of our music ministry, and strengthening our outreach as we live our faith in loving service to others.

LEGACY ENDOWMENTS



OUR SACRED HOME Page 3

Support the long-term stewardship of our church building and grounds through preventative maintenance, preservation of its architectural heritage, current and future restoration work, and renovation projects to ensure this treasured legacy is preserved for future generations.



MUSIC IN WORSHIP Page 5

Support the continued excellence of our music ministry, including our Casavant organ's maintenance, the Ascension Choir, McGill University's Schulich School of Music section lead singers and assistant organist, and special liturgical music.

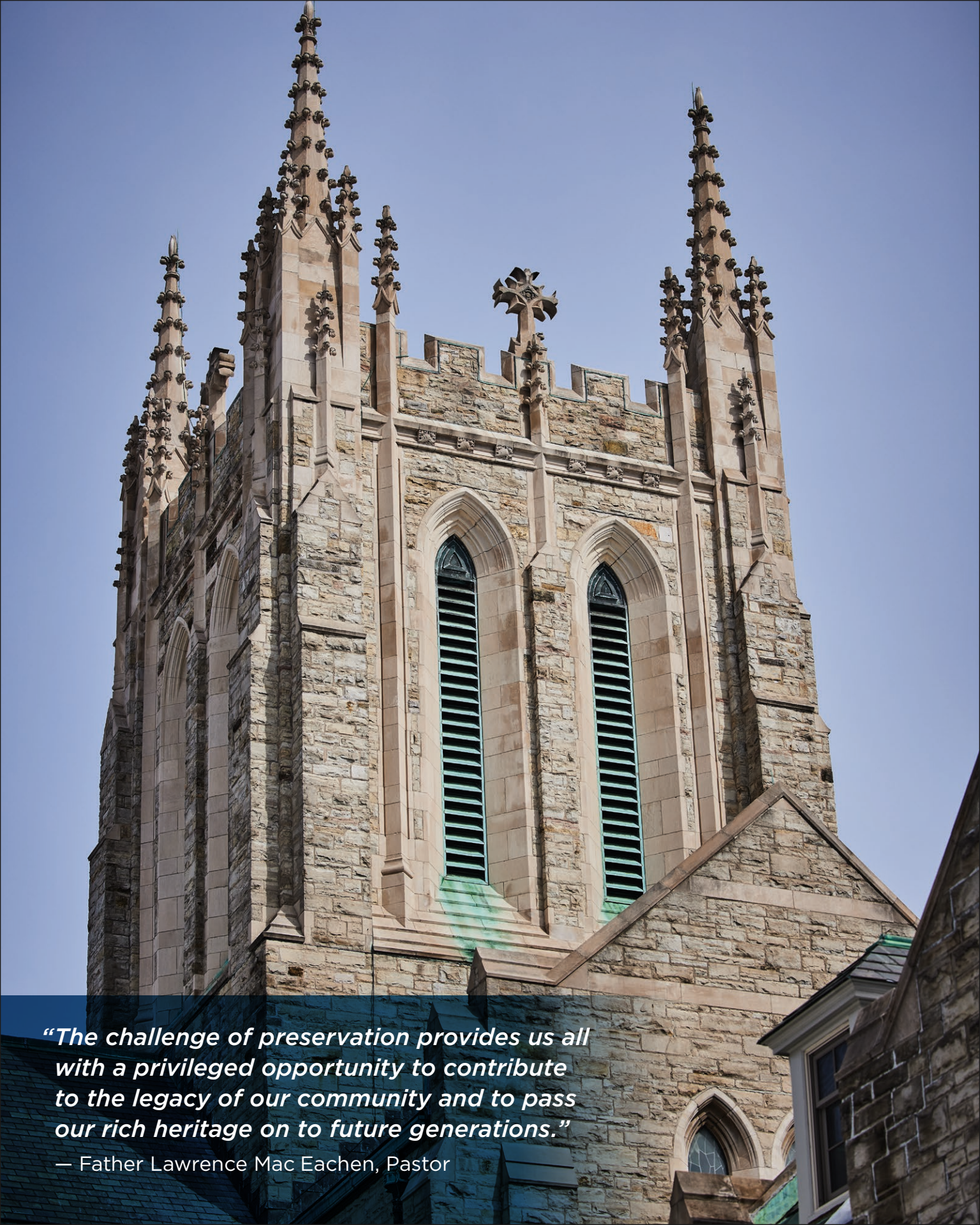


LIVING THE GOSPEL Page 7

Support our pastoral outreach, hospitality, community assistance, educational initiatives and emerging pastoral priorities.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING Page 9

Your gift will help preserve the qualities that have long made the Ascension a welcoming and faithful parish community. You may choose the form of giving that is most meaningful to you, including an immediate gift, a multi-year commitment, publicly traded securities, a planned gift, or a memorial gift.



“The challenge of preservation provides us all with a privileged opportunity to contribute to the legacy of our community and to pass our rich heritage on to future generations.”

— Father Lawrence Mac Eachen, Pastor



Goal
\$1,000,000



Our Sacred Home

Architectural Stewardship Endowment

Built through the vision and determination of a remarkable community, the Ascension's story began with a small group of Irish Catholics who believed that Westmount needed an English-speaking parish they could call home.

Blessed with faith and perseverance, they crossed the Atlantic to seek the Vatican's support. Permission was granted to establish the parish in 1926. Soon afterwards, land was secured, plans were prepared and, in October 1927, the cornerstone of the present church was laid.

Those who built our church believed that beauty is itself a form of ministry. Their craftsmanship continues to inspire all who enter. The soaring arches, warm wood, filtered light, and quiet dignity of the Ascension prepare us for prayer long before the opening hymn is sung, reminding us we have entered a place where generations have encountered God.

Only a few years ago, the Ascension faced one of the greatest challenges in its history. Major restoration work became unavoidable. The church tower required rehabilitation. The masonry and stained-glass windows needed repair, the pews required refurbishment, and the linoleum flooring had to be completely replaced.

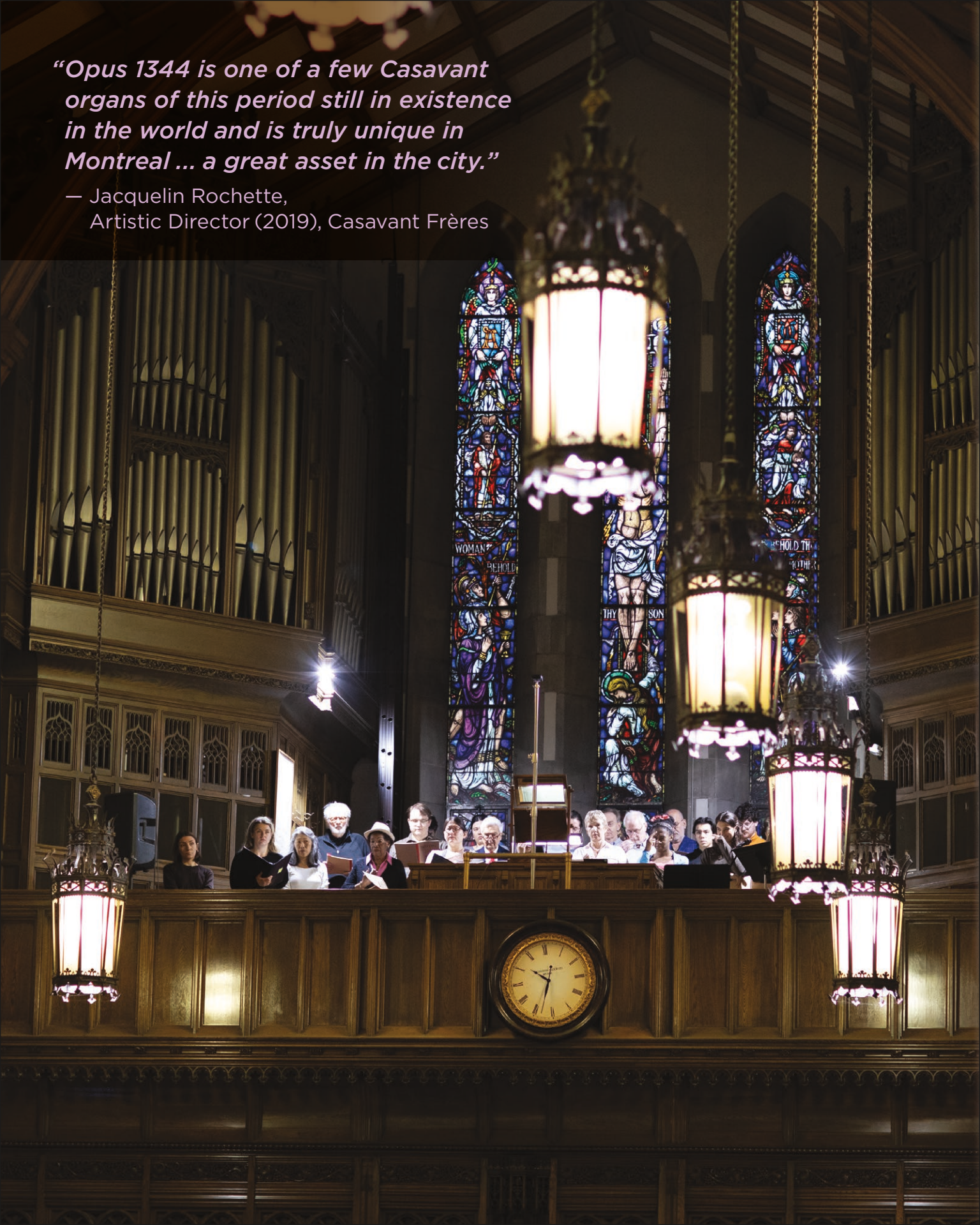
Our 2019 Capital Campaign inspired an extraordinary response from parishioners, former parishioners and friends, enabling us to not only meet but to exceed our fundraising goal and preserve this remarkable building for decades to come.

Yet stewardship does not end when restoration is completed. Our church requires ongoing care, from its slate roof and artisan-crafted masonry to its gracious entrance and distinctive stone walkways. One of the principal objectives of the *Centennial Legacy Initiative* is the creation of an **Architectural Stewardship Endowment** dedicated to responsible preservation, preventative care, and sound management.

Our hope is that any person entering the Ascension decades from now will experience the same sense of wonder that greets us today.

“Opus 1344 is one of a few Casavant organs of this period still in existence in the world and is truly unique in Montreal ... a great asset in the city.”

— Jacquelin Rochette,
Artistic Director (2019), Casavant Frères





Music

Goal
\$500,000



Music in Worship

Sacred Music Endowment

Every parish has a distinctive voice. At the Ascension, that voice has long been enriched by sacred music. This is not an embellishment to the liturgy, but an essential ministry.

Long after the final words of a homily have faded, a hymn often remains in our hearts. Music has a unique ability to lift prayer beyond words, unite a congregation in worship, and enrich every liturgy.

In 2019, as the Ascension launched its second major Capital Campaign, the church's superb 1929 Casavant Frères organ — one of the last instruments whose construction was personally supervised by the Casavant brothers themselves — required a complete restoration to preserve its magnificent voice and inspire future generations.

Financed by the Capital Campaign and a grant from the *Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec*, the organ was transported to the Casavant workshop in Saint-Hyacinthe for complete restoration. A new state-of-the-art console, blower, and bellows were installed, and every keyboard, stop, and foot pedal restored.

Today, our organ fills our church with music and anchors the Ascension Choir, creating a place of beauty, peace, and prayer for parishioners and visitors alike.

Our volunteer choir is strengthened by gifted voice students and an assistant organist from McGill University's Schulich School of Music. They bring exceptional talent while gaining valuable liturgical experience through a modest stipend. It is a partnership that benefits everyone.

To preserve this distinctive ministry, the *Centennial Legacy Initiative* proposes the creation of a **Sacred Music Endowment**. Its purpose is to ensure that future generations continue to experience worship enriched by outstanding sacred music, exceptional choral leadership, and our magnificent Casavant organ.

Our hope is that every person who enters the Ascension will continue to discover that music itself can become prayer.

“Ascension of Our Lord is a mirror that reflects who we are. It is a vibrant manifestation of our deepest identity. Thus, by joining hands and hearts together to infuse new vitality into our church, we will be breathing new life into our entire faith community.”

— Father Lawrence Mac Eachen, Pastor





Goal
\$500,000



Living the Gospel

Community Outreach Endowment

A parish is ultimately measured not by the beauty of its building, nor by the quality of its music, but by the generosity with which it lives the Gospel.

Thousands of people have crossed our threshold over the past century. Every generation has added its own chapter: pastors who have provided spiritual leadership, wardens who have safeguarded the parish's resources, musicians who have enriched the liturgy, volunteers who have quietly served wherever needed, and families who have made the Ascension part of their own story.

At the Ascension of Our Lord, faith is expressed every day in countless quiet ways: welcoming newcomers, visiting the sick, supporting those in need, teaching children, preparing liturgies, serving on parish committees, and strengthening friendships that sustain Christian community.

These acts rarely attract attention. Yet together they define the character of our parish. All this is made possible by the continued generosity of our congregation. Service, for all, and for always.

The **Community Outreach Endowment** proposed by the *Centennial Legacy Initiative* seeks to provide future parish leaders with resources that will allow them to respond compassionately to emerging pastoral and community needs. Just as previous generations responded generously to the needs of their own time, so too will future generations be equipped to continue that tradition.

Our mission extends beyond these walls. We gather to worship so that we may go forth to serve.

The greatest legacy we can leave is not simply a beautiful church. It is a parish community that continues to live the Gospel with conviction, compassion and joy.

“Countless individuals, inspired by their unwavering commitment to Christ, have played pivotal roles in the growth and development of our worshipping community. We celebrate the faithfulness of God’s people through the ages, and we ask for His continued favour and gracious provisions as we are sent forth as stewards filled with hope and holiness for generations to come.”

— Father Lawrence Mac Eachen, Pastor





Building Our Legacy Together

Every contribution to the *Centennial Legacy Initiative* is deeply appreciated.

Whether you choose to make an immediate gift or establish a legacy through a leadership commitment fulfilled over several years, your Centennial donation will serve to strengthen the Ascension's mission and secure its future for the next century.

DONOR CATEGORIES

Centennial Founders

\$100,000 and above

Leadership gifts that help establish one of the three permanent Legacy Endowments and inspire others to participate.

Legacy Builders

\$50,000 – \$99,999

Major commitments that significantly strengthen the long-term future of our parish.

Heritage Circle

\$25,000 – \$49,999

Important gifts that build the financial foundation of the *Centennial Legacy Initiative*.

Parish Partners

\$5,000 – \$24,999

Meaningful commitments that help ensure the continued vitality of the Ascension.

Ascension Friends

\$100 – \$4,999

Every gift, regardless of amount, contributes to preserving our parish for future generations.

Thank you for your Centennial support!



If the Ascension has enriched your life, strengthened your faith, celebrated your family's joys, or comforted you in times of sorrow, we invite you to help ensure that future generations experience those same blessings.

WAYS TO GIVE

- 1. Immediate gifts:** by cash, cheque, credit card, or electronic transfer.
- 2. Multi-year commitments:** donations made over 3, 4 or 5 years, or longer.
- 3. Transfer of publicly traded securities:** please consult your financial advisor regarding potential tax advantages.
- 4. Planned gifts:** through a will, life insurance or other estate planning arrangements.
- 5. Memorial or thanksgiving gifts:** honouring a loved one or marking a significant occasion.

Should you wish to arrange a confidential conversation before deciding on your gift, please contact:

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