



# Mary and Gabriel

## Q&A on the New Statue Planned for St. Mary



### Answers to many questions about the statue.

Since St. Mary announced our plans to commission and install a statue depicting the Annunciation by our main entrance we have received a number of excellent questions concerning the project. In this latest update on our progress, we would like to answer several of these inquiries.



### Why do this now?

As already mentioned, the Annunciation statue is not a new idea as it was part of the original plan when the church was designed and built two decades ago. While some donations were made towards the statue at that time, the funds raised were not sufficient to commission a statue. Further donations in the decades since, including a large gift Fr. Ron left us in his estate, meant that we now had well over half of the funding needed for the project. In addition, the retirement of our construction debt and the conclusion of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* capital campaign allowed us the opportunity to solicit gifts for the balance needed. Fr. Jerry and Den. Howard conferred with the Finance Council over several meetings in late spring and it was agreed that the time was finally right to resume work on this project once again.

### Why does St. Mary want a statue?



A statue of Mary and Gabriel had been planned for the plaza by the main entrance when our church was designed and dedicated in 2002. Fr. Ron Lewinski understood that a great and beautiful church needs to display great and beautiful art. He knew that art had the power to move our hearts, minds and souls. Thus, St. Mary of the Annunciation displays numerous pieces of fine art from our Italian hand-carved wood statues (Madonna and Child pictured above) to our African tapestries to

our tabernacle from Madrid (pictured below) that express our faith and inspire us to live that faith more completely.



### What is the total cost of the statue project?

While we are still obtaining bids for key parts of the project, our best estimate at the present time is that the total cost will be approximately \$270,000. We began the project with more than \$150,000 previously donated for the statue. An additional \$75,000 has been given since fundraising was launched a few months ago. Thus, we estimate that we need to raise another \$45,000 or so.

### Are parish savings being used for the statue project?

We are not using parish savings for the statue. The project is being completely funded by donations made specifically for this purpose. Money is not being taken away from other parish initiatives or ministries, or out of other parish funds. In a parish of our size and resources, we are blessed to be able to pursue immediate needs while also working for the long-term enhancement of our faith community.

# ANNUNCIATION STATUE UPDATE



## To be created by sculptor Timothy Schmalz

### How were this sculptor and statue chosen?



Four sculptors who work in bronze were identified and contacted. One of these artists was Timothy Schmalz, a world-class sculptor with well-known works in the Vatican and around the globe. Tim had been at the top of Fr. Ron's shortlist of candidates when some early project work was done back in 2013-14.

After several weeks of discussions, three of the sculptors submitted design

proposals. The bids were all close in price, with Tim Schmalz's falling in the middle. The team working on the project unanimously felt that Tim's concept was the best by far. His vision of the Annunciation opened new insights and perspectives on this salvation event and on Mary's experience. Moreover, his personal faith and understanding of religious subjects clearly showed through his work. Dcn. Howard met with Tim in his studio outside Toronto to discuss Tim's and St. Mary's respective ideas for the statue and subsequently Tim made some refinements. With the support of the Finance Council, a contract was signed in mid-summer.

### What is the current status and what comes next?

Tim Schmalz has completed the clay model and the foundry is now making a mold from that model for the casting of the bronze. In the meantime, St. Mary is finalizing the design of the plaza area where the statue will be situated, along with lining up a company to perform the physical installation of the statue on its base. We expect construction work in the plaza to begin in early May, weather permitting. We do not have a timeline yet for the actual



delivery of the statue, but we anticipate that it will be in late summer or early fall. Once completed, St. Mary will celebrate a blessing and dedication of the statue with a Mass followed by a reception in the narthex. We will keep everyone updated as these activities unfold.

We hope that you will find the Annunciation statue a source of beauty and inspiration. We are gratified by the generosity of those who have contributed to this project with gifts ranging from \$20 into the thousands. We thank you for your support. All gifts, large or small, are most welcome as we continue working to reach our fundraising goal. Donations may be made via cash or check, or online via GiveCentral.



Please visit our parish website or Facebook page for a video of Tim Schmalz working on the clay model as he explains his artistic and spiritual vision for his creation. It will provide you with new insights on his work. In a nutshell, Tim aims to capture Mary's initial fear and astonishment over first encountering a supernatural being – it's not every day that one meets an angel! – and then pondering the bewildering invitation to be the mother of the Savior even though she is an unmarried virgin. These are the very human emotions that makes Mary's "yes" utterly amazing, so deep is her trust in God. May we too live trusting "For nothing is impossible for God."



You can also check out Tim's website to see other examples of his awesome work such as his famous *Homeless Jesus* and *Angels Unawares* sculptures.

[www.sculpturebytps.com](http://www.sculpturebytps.com)