

Dear Friend of the Cathedral

This Sunday we celebrate Candlemas, a mid-winter turning point in the church's year. The Christmas season is complete and we soon begin the path towards Easter. Candles will be lit and blessed during the services at 9:00 and 10:30. If you have a special memorial candle, bring it with you to be blessed. Candles are symbols of Jesus, the light of the world, "a light to lighten the gentiles" as Simeon says in the Nunc Dimittis. The story of Anna and Simeon blessing Jesus during his presentation in the temple by Mary and Joseph will be read during the morning services. The story highlights the spiritual wisdom often shown by the old, as well as the trusting innocence of babies, and the pride displayed by loving parents. Vivian Lewin will be preaching at 8:00 am and 10:30am.



Snowdrops (*galanthus nivalis*) are known as Candlemas Bells because they often bloom early in the year, even before Candlemas, in parts of Britain. They are a sign of hope, of resurrection, of spring after a hard winter. February 2 is also groundhog day. If the weather is fine and the groundhog sees his shadow we will have 6 more weeks of winter. If the day is cloudy winter is virtually over. That superstition started in Europe with a badger or bear interrupting their hibernation on Candlemas day. It was brought across the Atlantic by German immigrants and the badger became a groundhog. The predictions do make more sense in Europe.

Only six more weeks of winter in Montreal sound to me like a blessing more than a curse!

There were lighted candles in the cathedral on Tuesday. Jan Jorgensen who organized the event writes "Last Tuesday evening we gathered at Christ Church Cathedral to remember the men who had been killed at Islamic Community Centre in Quebec City. We were blessed by our Muslim neighbours - food from the Indonesian community; prayer, song and meditation with Shaykh Hamdi Ben Aissa of the Sufi Community at Cafe Floraison; words from representatives of SSM/MAW; and the musical offerings of Shams Al Habib/ It was beautiful to worship God together as Muslims and Christians - to pray for the men -- and especially to offer the evening as a prayer for the healing of those who have suffered so great a trauma and loss."

You can see some pictures of the event and a video on the Cathedral's Facebook page.  
[www.facebook.com/ChristChurchMTL](http://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchMTL)

On the same page you can also read about this Saturday's Oasis concert, *À la croisée des souvenirs | A Crossroads of Reminiscence* presented by Trio ÉLAN; Frédéric-Alexandre Michaud, violon, Eliana Zimmerman, violoncelle and Ylan Chu, piano, playing pieces by Hatzis, Rachmanninov and Piazzola.

Do visit and like our Facebook page. There are lots of great photographs.

Here are some other dates for your calendar

1. Sunday at 12pm Gabrielle Boyd will lead a discussion about making your kitchen plastic-free. It sounds impossible, but Michael and Gabrielle have indeed succeeded.
2. Pain, Partage et Prière will meet in the Undercroft at 10:00 am.
3. Choral Evensong at 4 pm will have music by Dupré, Byrd, Morley, Naylor, and Palestrina.
4. La Cathédrale le soir presents a bi-lingual alternative communion service at 6 pm led by younger members of the congregation. Jean-Daniel is preaching.
5. Lunch n' Chat meets on Tuesday, February 5 at midday for potluck fellowship, in the Hollis lounge on the second floor of Cathedral Place, 1444 Union Ave, across from the entrance to the McGill metro.
6. February 10, after the 10:30 service Donald will guide an important discussion on the future of the LGBTQ+ ministry of the Cathedral.
7. Family and friends of Bob Gibson will be celebrating his life at a special Evensong on February 17 at 4:00 pm. Bob was a member of the choir for many years and sang many evensongs.
8. February 23 has been set aside as a cathedral Quiet Day at Rivercross near Cowansville, led by Benedictine monk Fr Paul Geraghty. Vivian asks people to reserve by February 15, letting her know if you need or can offer a drive. Speak to Vivian or contact her through [quiet.day.ccc@gmail.com](mailto:quiet.day.ccc@gmail.com)
9. The annual vestry meeting of Christ Church Cathedral will be opened on Sunday, February 24, 2019 after the dismissal of the 10:00 am service. A motion will immediately be put to the floor to reconvene the meeting to March 17, 2019.
10. March 2 Nuit blanche – a giant party across the city in which we have been participating since 2014. Lots of volunteers are needed to welcome visitors and make or hand out hot chocolate. Speak to Cassidy or Carlos. There will be displays of cathedral activities, so if you want to make a display or add something to an existing display please speak to Ann or Peggy. Display boards are available.
11. March 6 Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. If you would like to have a conversation about being baptized, confirmed, received into the Anglican Church or to renew your baptismal vows at the Easter Vigil please speak to or email Rev'd Amy Hamilton. We are hoping to offer a program of preparation during Lent for those interested
12. Please think about donating flowers one Sunday (no flowers during Lent) in memory of someone or in thanksgiving for a happy event. Cost \$60 - \$80, can be shared between two or more people. Please see the sign up sheet in the sacristy on Sunday or speak to Vera. In order to get the name into the bulletin you need to contact Vera or Elizabeth in the office, [administrator@montrealcathedral.com](mailto:administrator@montrealcathedral.com).

#### The Offering (A Song of Simeon)

Old Man, you've sown the years  
longing for the harvest, hoping  
for the green shoot to appear.  
Fragrant with perfection, He is here:  
wanting to be purified, waiting  
to be crucified.

And His mother, offering her Lamb,  
gives Him to your open arms  
so you can finally die in peace  
knowing that the Promised One is born.  
In gratitude you will whisper  
that her heart will break.

– Eve Forti

Happy Candlemas to you all  
Ann Elbourne  
February 1, 2019