



Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

A recent Gazette newspaper article stated that Café Olimpico will soon be opening in a former church on the corner of Bourassa and Ste Catherine – ie the Cathedral! I wrote a letter to the editor to say that our spire might be ailing but the cathedral itself and the community who worship there are very much alive. So far it hasn't been published. Café Olimpico is moving into the ground floor of the former parish house on Bourassa.

This Sunday we will be proving how alive we are with four services, a workshop featuring ancient texts from the Jewish Public library and a Christmas cake-making activity.

Sunday is being celebrated as Remembrance Sunday. The Grenadier Guards will join us for choral Mattins at 10:30 am. Bertrand is officiating and preaching and the service will include a solemn act of remembrance and end with a singing of O Canada. The cathedral is the regimental church of the Grenadier Guards. You can see their retired colours hanging from the ceiling of the baptistry. The Canadian Grenadier Guards, Canada's oldest militia unit, are a primary reserve infantry battalion. The Regiment has supplied reserve soldiers to assist in United Nations Forces in locations such as the former Yugoslavia, Cyprus, Egypt, Golan Heights, and presently in Afghanistan. In addition to this operational role, you may have seen them in Ottawa in the summer performing the "Changing of the Guard" ceremony on Parliament Hill.

Those of us who attend the Risen Leaves workshop presented by the Jewish Public Library at 1:00 pm in Fulford Hall on Sunday will be reminded of the Holocaust. Most of the books on display once belonged to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, so the workshop will finish with solemn prayers of remembrance led by Deborah Meister and librarian Eddi Paul.

As we think about war and peace we might like to pray part of the collect from the 9:00 am and 10:30 am services which is perfect for our troubled times.

*O God, look with compassion on the whole human family;
take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts;
break down the walls that separate us;
unite us in bonds of love;
and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish thy purposes on earth;
that, in thy good time, all nations and races may serve thee in harmony around thy heavenly throne.*

The 4:00 pm service this Sunday will be a requiem mass, with music by TL de Victoria and a commemoration of all souls. We will particularly remember our loved ones who are now in heaven.

Last Saturday saw a very different kind of event – Messy Cathedral. It seems to have been a lot of fun. Click on this link [#messycathedral](#) to see pictures and a description of the activities. I quote: "This may have been the first Messy Cathedral in Canada but it will not be the last!"

Not messy, but certainly very enjoyable Spes, Carlos, Erica and George are organizing an intercultural parish potluck lunch at 12:00 pm on Sunday November 17. Bring an ethnic dish for 4-8 people that is significant for you, together with a card explaining what it is, where it is from, and why it matters. If possible, please also send his information to carlmontr@yahoo.es and spesmanirakiza93@gmail.com.

Another fun event in the cathedral will be the Fair Trade Christmas Boutique, Saturday, November 23, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Dix Mille Villages, Pointe Claire, is bringing a selection of merchandise created by artisans around the world who have been paid a fair price for their products. You will find small and larger items such as Christmas decorations, scarves and toques, socks, cards, jewelry and much more, making for excellent – and ethical Christmas gifts! 15% of proceeds will be donated to charity (St. Michael's Mission serving the homeless in Montreal's urban core).

Three more dates to note

1. **English bible study group, Wednesday Nov 13, 7:30–9:00 pm**, at Ann's house. We will study the book of the prophet Micah.
2. **Cathedral Forum, November 19, 6:30pm**. The sounding board of the community. All congregation members are invited. One of the items on the agenda is a motion from ESJAG, presenting options for spending \$2100 from the outreach budget and asking Forum to agree on a recommendation.
3. **QueerSpace@CCC November 24, 12:15 pm** in the Undercroft. Join the LGBTQ+ community at the cathedral as they create a space together to pray, discuss Scripture, identity, orientation, and how these intersect together.

St Catherine and Union are gradually reopening – hurray! Next year we will be able to watch not only our spire being dismantled but also the tallest building in Montreal being constructed in nearby Phillip's Square. Oh dear – more cones!

Last Sunday you might have noticed what I think is a first - a mother-daughter team among the servers. Congratulations Stephanie and Ruby. It was lovely to see you both. George is always on the look out for new servers and will be happy to describe what's involved.

The main theme of this letter has been remembrance so I'm finishing with verses from a favourite poem, which you probably all encountered at school – Crossing the Bar by Alfred Lord Tennyson

*Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea.*

*Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;*

*For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.*

Ann Elbourne
November 8, 2019