

Advent 3



Waiting for the Christ Child

Dear Friend of the Cathedral

I hope you can spare time from your Christmas preparations to read our news from the Cathedral. First, two important notices:

Communications from Dean Bertrand

Jean Daniel

After many years leading our young adults and children ministry at the Cathedral, Jean Daniel has decided to refocus his energies on his academic work as well as the University chaplaincy, and so will be relinquishing his responsibilities at the Cathedral at the end of the year. There will be an opportunity to give thanks and celebrate all that Jean Daniel has done over the years after the 10:30 service on Sunday 3 January. If you would like to contribute to a farewell gift, please forward your contribution through one of the various means on our donation page, ensuring that you mark this specifically for Jean Daniel.



Zoom bombing on Sunday 6 December

Dear Friends, the Cathedral community was attacked for a third time by what is commonly called 'zoom bombers', a group of people who together gained access to our service and set out to disrupt it by shouting obscenities and threats of violence. This was frightening, upsetting, and left a number of us shocked and traumatised. Please know that if you would like to talk to one of the clergy about your experience and feelings, you are welcome to reach out via the parish office or directly with them by email. Situations like these remind us of the cost for faithful communities of living out the clear Gospel of the inclusive and unconditional love of God for all of God's creation, regardless of colour, gender, sexual orientation or any other ways in which people can be stereotyped and excluded. The Cathedral is reviewing its Zoom procedures again to ensure we can minimise the risk of this happening. Having a portal open to the world, like having a door wide open on St Catherine St, does however carry some risks which, as a Christian community, we feel we need to take in order to provide hospitality and access to those who, led by the Holy Spirit, would like to hear more about the love of God and the way Christ allows us to live life in its fullness. We pray for healing for those who have been hurt last Sunday, that they might find again the peace which passes all understanding. We also pray for the conversion of hearts of those who find pleasure in spreading hatred in desecrating the Holy Ground of others, that they too may find peace.



The zoom bombing came at the beginning of Deborah's sermon which must have been very upsetting for her, but she handled the interruption very calmly, asking us all to exit and then re-enter the zoom gathering. Deborah has just acquired a delightful – and huge – Bernese mountain puppy, which is keeping her awake at night. We're looking forward to meeting the dog eventually...

This Sunday, at 11:45 am, you are invited to participate in Amnesty International's annual **Write for Rights campaign**. Amnesty's mission is to support people around the world who have been unjustly jailed and tortured or who are afraid for their lives because of their courage in fighting injustice. There will be a bi-lingual workshop, presenting some specific people to whom you are invited to write letters, for example, Jan Silva of Colombia, who faces death threats and is afraid to leave her home, all because of her defense of the Amazon forest.



The **Social Service Society** reminds you that they are hoping to have a couple of hundred pairs of socks to give out at the January last Sunday in the month lunch. As it's difficult for some of us to bring socks to the Cathedral, Janet suggests making a donation to the Social Service Society so that they can purchase socks. Be sure to label your donation SOCKS.

For the December lunch, please take some time to write a few cheery notes or cards which can be handed out with the lunches on December 28th. You can mail a package of notes to the Cathedral office, CCC Social Service Society, 1444 Union Ave, Montreal, H3A 2B8 to be handled by David, or leave them at the cathedral with the vergers who will store them in the Sacristy.

Very important links and reservations

If you want to **attend a Christmas service in person** you must register by Dec 17 to get one of the 20 spots on offer. Any places still open after that date will be available to the general public. Email ann.elbourne@montrealcathedral.ca to get a link to the registration form.

December 16 6pm 'Blue Christmas' service (EN)
For those who find this time difficult

December 20 11:30am Christmas Carols
We invite you to gather on the Cathedral steps, masked and distanced, to sing some Christmas Carols together.

December 24 8pm Christmas Mass (FR)
10pm Midnight Mass (EN)

December 25 10:30 Christmas Eucharist (EN)

A wonderful **celebration of Catherine Riley's 100th birthday** is planned for December 23rd, 6 to 7pm on zoom, the day before her actual birthday. The Dean will be presiding. You are invited to contribute greetings or digital photos, sending your contribution to ann.elbourne@montrealcathedral.ca on or before Thursday, December 17 at 5 pm to give the organisers, Janet and Mark, time to put a programme together. To get the Zoom coordinates, you need to indicate your intention to be present by emailing Ann Elbourne at the address above by midnight Monday, December 21. Mark says "Please be prepared to raise a toast to our grand birthday lady at the end of the speeches and to sing her Happy Birthday." This really is an unique occasion for the Cathedral, where Catherine is always present every Sunday, so please do join us for this special party.



I've been told that some people have had difficulty finding the **Christmas catalogue** on our web site. Look under Latest News <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/category/latest-news/> where you will also find the Advent reflections written by several members of the community and Gabrielle's Christmas Cake recipe.

More lovely news to help us celebrate the joys of Christmas

To mark the festive season, Primate Linda Nicholls and the Anglican Church of Canada have organised a nationwide celebration of Christmas with a digital carol service that you are all invited to join. Uniting the choirs from 14 cathedrals around the country, follow the beautiful Christmas narrative told in word and song with fellow Anglicans from around the country. The service will be broadcast online next Friday, 18 December, at 8pm, and for details of how to access the service you can sign up for an email alert on this website: <https://www.anglican.ca/lessonsandcarols>. Our own Cathedral Choir will be performing a work by our own Director of Music, Jonathan White. The Cathedral Choir will also be organising an online watch party for those who would like to join together to share in this gift. Please contact Jonathan (director.music@montrealcathedral.ca) if you'd like more information about how to join.



Practical information from the office

1. The Synod and Cathedral Offices will be closed for the Christmas and New Year holidays from Thursday, December 24, 2020 to Friday, January 1, 2021 and will reopen on Monday, January 4, 2021.
2. In order for you to get a charity donation tax receipt for 2020, the bookkeeper has to receive the money before Dec 31.
3. Please note that the parish list is confidential. We don't publish people's addresses or emails in the letter or on the web, which is why you are asked to contact people organising something via my office email, and Elizabeth can not share addresses unless she gets permission from the intended recipient.
4. There will be a newsletter next week, and then a break of two weeks until January 8. For next week, I'd love to have photos of your decorations, or greetings you'd like to send our pastoral team. Photos should be JPEGs please.

A memory from 2005 – Some choir members singing carols in the snow on the steps of the Cathedral. It was snowing!



Ann Elbourne
with thanks to Elizabeth Shama and contributors
December 11, 2020.