

A picture taken last Sunday, the Second Sunday in Advent: Two candles lit in the wreath, an empty stable waiting for Mary and Joseph. This Sunday, see if you can find the figures of Mary and Joseph on a windowsill in the North aisle, travelling to Bethlehem.



Dear Friend of the Cathedral

Just like Mary and Joseph, we too are travelling to Bethlehem to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

## Joy to the World!



### Carols, Cocoa and Chocolate

This Sunday, after the 10:30 service, we will **sing carols** in the forecourt, warming ourselves with cups of Fair Trade hot chocolate.



There will also be a **Fair Trade Boutique** selling chocolate bars and chocolate powder as well as Christmas ornaments. The company making Peace by Chocolate bars was founded by Tareq Hadhad who came to Canada from Lebanon, leaving his mother, father and siblings in Lebanon. His father had survived the bombing of his chocolate factory and the family had already made a harrowing escape from Syria. The family was eventually reunited five years ago after three difficult years as refugees. CBC made a documentary about their story. Copy and paste this link. <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thenextchapter/full-episode-dec-4-2021>



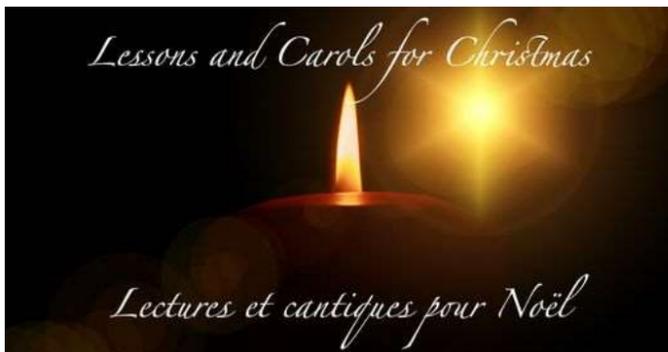
### Celtic Christmas

This Saturday at 4 pm, presented by the Patrick Wedd Choral Scholars with carols and instrumental music. Bring your friends. Vaccine certificates and masks mandatory.



### Christmas Carols by Candlelight

Sunday December 19, at 4 pm



### Christmas services

Christmas Eve, December 24

- 8pm Messe de Noël / Christmas Mass
- 10pm Chorale Christmas Mass / Messe de Noël

Christmas Day, December 25

- 10:30am Christmas Eucharist / Messe de Noël

First Sunday after Christmas, December 26

- 9:00am Messe / Eucharist
- 10:30am Eucharist / Messe

If you need comforting because Christmas is a difficult time for you, there is a special **Blue Christmas service on Wednesday, December 15 at 6pm.**



*You are encouraged to bring non-perishable food to be sent to Mile End Mission*

## Sharing Our Riches – how you can help

Jesus was born among the poor. Here in downtown Montreal, we are aware of many people in need so we are reaching out in several ways:

1. We will **collect food for Mile End Mission** at all our Christmas services. Non-perishable food can be placed in a box/basket near the main doors of the Cathedral. We will bring the food to the Mission after Christmas. They have said their strongest need is for canned protein (peanut butter, tuna, salmon, chicken, beans, lentils, Cheez Whiz....), but they could also use: soups or spaghetti sauce or stews, canned fruit or veg, powdered milk, Rice-a-roni or flavored noodles, McDonald's coupons (which let homeless people get a cup of coffee or a sandwich and a place to be in from the cold)
2. There will be a **last Sunday of the month lunch** on December 26. Janet King, President of the Social Service Society, writes "Christ Church Cathedral Social Service Society subsidizes the provision of the Last Sunday of the Month Lunch programme, paying expenses over and above the cost of the food for which Adrian is so good at soliciting \$400 donations. With this money, on December 5, about 90 people were fed a hot takeout meal. The team could not do this without the "free" use of the kitchen in Fulford Hall, and the food processor recently donated."
3. The Social Service Society also donates **\$4,500 worth of \$10 and \$25 Provigo gift coupons** to local church-based agencies who know the individuals or families that need extra help: Mile End Mission, L'Abri en Ville, Action Refugiés, St. Michael's Mission, the Montreal City Mission, Tyndale-St. Georges, and to Batshaw for the fosterchildren who age-out of the system at 18 to live on their own. **Anyone wishing to support this initiative can send money to the Cathedral, c/o the Social Service Society. Also, there will be little brown envelopes in the pews before Christmas: any identified gift of \$20 or more receives a tax receipt from the Society.** If anyone is interested in joining the Social Service Society - membership \$2 per year! - please contact Janet King or Vera Burt to find out where and how to help..
4. **Annual sock collection** for distribution at January lunch - new sport socks preferred. You can bring socks to be collected in the sacristy or donate money for bulk buying.
5. **Make a phone call** to one of the members of our congregation who don't have access to the internet and who are unable to join us in person. Consequently, they are unable to attend church services remotely. Contact Janet King for name(s) and phone number(s) if you would like to do this.



Dec 10 is Human Rights Day. Taddy Stringer urges Cathedral members to send a letter or email, or sign a petition, as part of Amnesty International's annual **Write for Rights** campaign. <https://act.writeathon.ca/events/write-on-your-own-4> Amnesty's web site says that "last year, supporters took 4,496,875 actions. Our letters changed lives."

## Outreach Donation – motion passed by Forum December 7

ESJAG's recommendation that \$5000 be sent to the Native Women's Shelter as a contribution to the costs of the Raphael André Warming Tent in Cabot Square was accepted by Forum and approved by Corporation. Part of the motion composed by Brenda Linn reads that the donation is "in token of our commitment to reconciliation, reparation, and respectful collaboration with the indigenous peoples on whose unceded land we live, work and worship."

The tent was erected last February as a memorial to an Innu man who froze to death, taking shelter in a portable toilet. It has been used by 45,000 people since then. Set to close December, the recent death of Elisapee Pootoogook on a construction site propelled a campaign to keep the tent open. An extension has been granted until March. The project is the brainchild of Nakuset, director of the Native Women's Shelter, which was incorporated in 1987 to provide shelter and support to Aboriginal, Inuit and Métis women and their children.



Indigenous women, many from the North, come to Montreal for jobs, education, or a better life. They often face discrimination, fall through the cracks and end up on the streets. Many are overwhelmed by life in the big city.

"The homeless Indigenous population of Montreal needs help, and human decency. Montreal needs help to be a more humane city. Montrealers can make it so. We can demand that no more unhoused Montrealers' lives are lost": Nakuset

## Please support the people of Kamloops in BC, our partner Diocese

There are communities who are having to ration food, and depend upon emergency airlifts for supplies. The impact is being felt very severely in indigenous communities. Your prayers are important. You can send financial support to the address found in this page of information <https://www.territoryofthepeople.ca/news/flood-disaster-response> or contribute through the PWRDF BC relief fund <https://pwrdf.org/pwrdf-accepting-donations-for-b-c/>



Photograph from St Paul's Cathedral, Kamloops, Facebook page

## Pledge Drive 2022 update

Treasurer Jane Aitkens reports that pledges for 2022 **as of December 9 now total \$97,350** compared with last year's commitments totaling \$114,333. Thank you to all who have replied - you are helping us plan responsibly for the year ahead! If you have not received the letter from the Stewardship Committee about renewing your commitment to the Cathedral's life and work (in financial and other ways), or if you have questions, please contact the office, [stewardship@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:stewardship@montrealcathedral.ca)

- ✓ Please note, the donation deadline for 2021 charity receipts is December 31, 2021.
- Also note the office will be closed from Dec 24, 12pm – January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Bible Study and Prayer

- Brown Bag Bible Study, December 13 at 12 noon will discuss Exodus 20:1-21, Matthew 22:34-40, Hebrews 10:1-18 & McLaren chapter 10 for those who have it
- Christian Meditation, Tuesday, December 14 at 6 pm
- Prière du soir avec discussion biblique informelle (en français), mardi, le 14 décembre, 19h
- Advent Study, led by Deacon Ben Crosby, last session, Wednesday, December 15, at 7 pm

## Dates to remember 2022!

1. The first Forum of 2022 will be on **Monday, January 17 at 7:30**. On the agenda are a presentation about the work of PWRDF and a discussion about rotating Forum meetings between various days of the week and holding them later, now that many people no longer work from home. There will also be a discussion about possibly alternating in person and zoom meetings.
2. The deadline for reports to the Annual General Vestry is February 4th. Ministry leaders will be receiving reminders by email from the office soon. There is a lot of work involved in organizing and getting the booklet to print; please respect the deadline.

## A notice from Corporation

Corporation is very sorry indeed to announce that Elizabeth Shama, our tireless administrator and bookkeeper will be leaving us at the end of the year to take a job in her beloved PEI. Elizabeth first came to us as our Bookkeeper in late November 2016 and by September the next year added the role of Cathedral Administrator. As both Administrator and Bookkeeper, there hasn't been a Cathedral corner which hasn't received Elizabeth's love and careful attention. She leaves us in better shape than when she arrived. Corporation now has the difficult task of finding her replacement; it will no doubt take time and we ask for your patience and help. Especially important will be your donations as we come to the end of the year; if they can be received by the Cathedral by the Christmas weekend, this would be most helpful.

Corporation will be making a gift to Elizabeth in thanksgiving for her ministry among us over the past 5 years; we invite you to contribute to her purse as well. Please speak to the Treasurer, Jane Aitkens, if you have any questions.

## Parking in the city

From December 3 until January 2 parking on the street is free downtown, evenings after 6pm and all day Saturday and Sunday. Good luck finding a space!

\* *Newsletter*

There will be a newsletter on Dec 17, then a break until January 14

Ann Elbourne,

with thanks to Janet King, Jane Aitkens, members of ESJAG and the ministry team as well as to the indispensable production team of Elizabeth Shama and Marie-Claire Fournier

A postscript for those of us who relish poems,

### *Advent Calendar*

by Rowan Williams,  
former Archbishop of Canterbury.

He will come like last leaf's fall.

One night when the November wind  
has flayed the trees to bone, and earth  
wakes choking on the mould,  
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.  
One morning when the shrinking earth  
opens on mist, to find itself  
arrested in the net  
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.  
One evening when the bursting red  
December sun draws up the sheet  
and penny-masks its eye to yield  
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,  
will come like crying in the night,  
like blood, like breaking,  
as the earth writhes to toss him free.  
He will come like child.