



# ANGLICAN MONTREAL



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## LIZ FALCO

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## TIM SMART

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## ANNIE ITTOSHAT

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# Action Réfugiés responds to refugee influx in several ways, including prayer

## 'What better image of a church alive?'

HARVEY SHEPHERD

As an anticipated influx of refugees from Syria to Montreal began in mid-December, the executive director of a refugee support organization requested prayers from its Anglican and other church well-partners for the new arrivals.

In a message December 12, still in Advent, Paul Clarke, executive director of Action Réfugiés Montréal said that 13 refugees were arriving at the airport in Dorval that night. "It is a time of great joy for us in this Advent season of waiting. What better symbol could there be, of people who have lived as refugees for a few years, sending paperwork through a mission of the church to a government bureaucracy.... waiting patiently for interviews... waiting impatiently for a flight... to then suddenly be told 'You are welcome. Please come quickly to a people anxious to meet you and support you.'"

Other planeloads of Syrian refugees sponsored through various agencies arrived in Dorval December 23 and 28 and January 1 – about 300 refugees in a planeload, between two and 17 of them sponsored through Action Réfugiés Montréal. Many of the other refugees are coming with help of Montreal churches, mosques and ethnic organizations corresponding to the affiliation of the refugees, but there are no such restrictions for those helped by Action Réfugiés Montréal.

In his message to churches, Mr. Clarke said, "It has been a time of great stress in our operations as we talk incessantly on the phone to people wanting to volunteer, wanting to sponsor loved ones, media wanting information, existing sponsors hoping for news of arrivals (and dealing with) last-minute glitches like residency permits expiring (and with) emails coming at all hours. "We have been very blessed by financial support from all kinds of new friends, but since September I have felt even more the sense of Jesus' call in our ministry. I have prayed more fervently about Action Réfugiés in the last three months than ever before.

"We feel very supported by our church partners. Please include the... dozens (if not over 100)

who will be arriving in the next few weeks in your prayers, public and private.

"What better image of a church alive, relevant, real and loving than the welcoming of strangers to our city?"

In a conversation in January, Mr. Clarke said the refugees arriving to date had generally come with family reunification sponsorship guaranteed by the Anglican Diocese of Montreal, on behalf of Action Réfugiés Montréal under an umbrella agreement between the diocese and the federal and provincial governments. In fact, the refugees are usually supported by their Montreal families if necessary and the actual cost to the diocese is negligible.

There were usually 15-20 households a year of various origins helped up to 2013 and there were 67 in 2014 and 70 last year; the 2016 figure is expected to reach 100. Refugees from Syria began in 2011 and now account for about half the total. Action Réfugiés Montréal has a waiting list of about 300 families seeking sponsors.

In recent months Action Réfugiés Montréal has also been receiving more and more inquiries from groups, including parishes and mosques interested in sponsoring refugees. Among such responses, St. Peter's Church in the Town of Mount Royal is planning a refugee sponsorship jointly with nearby Mount Royal United Church.

While Action Réfugiés has been providing information and advice to many groups, it also wants to avoid duplicating the sponsorship activities of other groups.

Action Réfugiés also wants to avoid having its sponsorship activities overshadow its other activities, including its "detention program," in which a staff person and student interns visit people, some of them families with children and unaccompanied minors, who have managed to enter Canada and are seeking refugee status but are being detained at the Immigration Holding Centre in Laval.

In another program, about 10 refugee women are "twinned" with Montreal volunteers for friendship and mutual learning.

With the increased demand for its services and some successful fundraising, Action Réfugiés has increased its staff to five full-time or four-days-a-week staff from three in the last year and a half.



A simple and quiet prayer service with Taizé chants for refugees took place at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Mark in Dorval December 1.

(Photo: Trevor Smith)

## New downtown 'plant' invites 'evangelical, sacramental, charismatic and more'

### Alpha course over the summer, full launch in September

HARVEY SHEPHERD

While a team prepares a British-inspired church "plant" for "friends from all parts of the church – evangelical, sacramental, charismatic and more –" in the St. James the Apostle Church building in downtown Montreal, parishioners of the previous St. James the Apostle may have been pondering alternative places to worship.

A last service Sunday morning, January 3, in the series of more than 150 years of regular worship at St. James the Apostle was led by the Rev. Graham Singh, the newly appointed incumbent of the new church "plant" inspired by the Alpha program of video courses developed in Holy Trinity Brompton, in a district of London, where he trained.

He was joined by the recently ordained Rev. Deacon Amy Hamilton who had been on the staff of the

previous parish. Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson was in the congregation.

Then parishioners were invited to participate in Sunday morning visits to other downtown churches, culminating in a final Sunday service January 31 and an Ash Wednesday service February 10. The idea is that the visits will help the parishioners in their search for a new parish, unless they decide to continue at the new "plant."

According to the new website of the plant, it will have a pre-launch, where all are welcome, on Easter Sunday, March 27.

Then an Alpha course – a 10 week course including a meal, short talk and time for questions will begin Sunday, April 3. It will run in both English and French.

"From there, we will... head into a summer of getting to know each other. Then by September we'll be fully launched on Sundays, ringing the ancient bells along rue Sainte-Catherine and praying for God's continued blessing and guidance, on all we do in His name!"

Executive Archdeacon Bill Gray said the existing parish corporation will continue to exist with new officers, initially appointed by the diocese. Initially the plant will be classed as a mission parish with an incumbent, until it becomes self-sustaining.

### Synod to be June 18

This year's Diocesan Synod will be Saturday, June 18 in Fulford Hall, behind Christ Church Cathedral. The theme will be based on the findings of the federal government's Truth and Reconciliation Commission on the legacy of residential schools. Executive Archdeacon Bill Gray said the change – actually a return to an earlier practice – is intended partly to reduce crowding of fall church agendas.





# Bishop's Message



As I write, the stream of refugees, mainly from Syria, continues to flow into our country and into any country that will make room for them. These desperate people have had to leave behind their homes and all that is familiar. Many of them have feared for their lives and have gone through terrible dangers and suffering in their journey to safety and peace. Once here, some find that the welcome of Canada is marred by racism, suspicion, and xenophobia – as if there aren't already enough barriers with language, climate, finding suitable jobs and settling into a new country and its culture!

Some of my own ancestors were refugees to Canada. The Immigration Act (1976) refers to a refugee as one who "by reason of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion" is outside his own country and cannot, or fears to, return there.

The Diocese of Montreal's very modest early years took a turn as United Empire Loyalists came north in droves. The Scottish Clearances in the 18th and 19th Centuries, the Irish Famine refugees in the 1840s, Ukrainian and Polish refugees, African Americans escaping slavery before 1860, Jewish refugees in the 1840s and the 1930s-40s, Mennonites and Doukhobors from Russia, Hungarian refugees in 1957, Vietnamese, Cambodians, Laotians and Ugandan Asians in the 1970s, Lebanese, Somali, Czech, Iraqi, Sri Lankans, Pakistani, Bosnians, East Indians, Central Americans, Chileans, Africans... the list goes on! (Action Réfugiés has an interactive map which shows recent refugee migrations around the world. [www.therefugeeproject.org/#/2012](http://www.therefugeeproject.org/#/2012))

People from almost all of these groups can be found in our communities and in our parishes. Our country has indeed been a sanctuary for the oppressed and the enslaved. Sometimes we, as a country or as communities, have risen to great compassionate heights... and sometimes we have turned away and failed miserably.

Are we economic migrants into the Kingdom and values of God? Are we people who have adopted the culture and values of Christ? Are we busy earning credits to exchange for admission to Heaven? Or have we allowed ourselves to be welcomed and fed and healed and transformed by the grace and mercy of God? Perhaps, in a way, we are all refugees from some place that is not good for us, and God in Christ has reached out and welcomed us into his home.

We are grateful to have not only been welcomed into God's Kingdom as refugees; we have been adopted as sons and daughters! Let us each take on the family values of our loving Father; let us give sacrificially as Jesus taught; let us feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the prisoner, let us feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the prisoner, love our neighbour as ourselves... These are our adoptive family's values.

As we reflect on our personal and community values in the light of God's values, we have the approaching season of Lent to help us. It is a good time to focus on nurturing our own lives as disciples and followers of Jesus. Ash Wednesday comes early this year, on February 10th. Page 284 in the Book of Alternative Services has a helpful litany that will guide our penitential self-examination and reflections on our motives for how we live our lives, how we view others, and how we participate in our church communities. We can also think about our own circuitous journey as refugees to God's Kingdom during the 40 days of Lent and celebrate Easter with all those who have found their peace and home in Christ.

Every blessing,

+ Mary

## The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer – Canada A Prayer from the Diocesan Representatives



Jesus, having been a refugee fleeing Herod's persecution, you know the distress of living in a foreign land. We beseech you to be with all exiled people, especially those seeking asylum here in Canada. We pray that the plight of the Syrians, who are in the spotlight and on their way here, will lift up the cause of all refugees around the world and bring them more prosperous opportunities and better living conditions. We pray that all recent arrivals find the peace and shelter they seek and, in time, are renewed in body and spirit to start over in this country.

Gracious God, be with all those who are working to better conditions for refugees on their journey from daily life in the camps through government processing to resettlement. We pray that you will support the members of your Church who are committed to sponsoring refugees, or who are discerning to do so. Help us to be generous in this life-changing adventure, not only with our wealth, but with our time, understanding, hospitality and compassion.

We give thanks dear Lord for the success stories and for those who have brought so much to expand the fabric of our society. Keep us ever mindful of the potential beneath the hurt that persecution and deprivation bring. This we ask in your precious name, Lord. Amen.

**For more information on AFP-C, contact  
Valerie Bennett and Stacey Neale  
at [valstacey@bell.net](mailto:valstacey@bell.net)**



This crèche was set up at Christ Church Cathedral near the high altar. The tent was made by parishioner Vivian Lewin. The Cathedral website explained that the Cathedral is proud to support Action Réfugiés Montréal, and is actively preparing to sponsor a refugee family in Montreal. This crèche is an outward symbol of this commitment. The crèche figures were made in the early 1940s by mothers and children whose fathers were leaving to fight in the Second World War. Among other churches planning to welcome a refugee family is St. Peter's TMR, in a joint effort with Mount Royal United Church.



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## Visite de l'Évêque à Sorel



Le 10 décembre le rev Yves Samson (à droite) et Denis Gévrý ont introduit Mme l'Évêque Mary Irwin-Gibson aux membres du Groupe d'entraide Sorel-Tracy et aux usagers du Café Christ Church.

## Liz Falco new executive director at Tyndale St-Georges

A woman described as having a rare combination of educational and business perspectives in her 25-year career as well as being an enthusiastic volunteer at the Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre is the new executive director of the centre.

Elizabeth Falco succeeds Jennifer de Combe, who recently accepted a post with the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Announcing the appointment of Ms. Falco, Ron O'Connell, chair of the board, of Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre, said she has a unique set of skills, including a passion for fostering human potential through education; a rare combination of educational and business perspectives, experiences and training; and an abiding sensitivity to the needs and interests of all concerned.

Recently an independent consultant supporting public, private and non-profit organizations, she has



held a variety of posts, from teacher to head of school in a full range of K-12 settings. She is bilingual and holds a Master's degree in Education (Columbia) and a Master's degree in Business Administration (Western).

He said she has been an enthusiastic volunteer in the Tyndale St-Georges after-school program for the past five years and has a deep affection and respect for the Centre, its staff and participants. She looks forward to working with the entire community to realize the Centre's vision of empowering the residents of Little Burgundy toward self-reliance, mutual aid and fulfillment.

"We are delighted that Ms. Falco will be our new Executive Director. With her collaborative qualities and breadth and depth of skills and experience, we are well-positioned to build on our successes and enter the next chapter of our 88-year history."

# Letters to the editor

## St. James parishioner defends stewardship by parish

As of December 31, 2015 St. James the Apostle ceased to be the traditional place of worship that it had been for over 150 years. As detailed in articles in the December and January issues of *Anglican Montreal*, it has become a "Church Plant" inspired by Holy Trinity Brompton and Alpha.

At the November, 2015 meeting of Diocesan Council the Bishop discussed this venture further with those present. Council was informed that St James the Apostle church would have no money (ready cash on hand) by the end of 2015. Senior members of the clergy are reputed to have asked: "What kind of congregation would have such an expensive music program while not being able to fix their leaking roof?"

As a member of the congregation for over 40 years, I feel compelled to answer that rhetorical question because it implies, or I certainly infer, that we had not been good stewards.

We were fully aware that we were running out of money. In April with the full knowledge of the then Bishop of the diocese, our land, consisting of the garden and church hall, was put on the market. Our financial advisor told us that with a 5-6-million-dollar sale the supplemental revenue from the interest would allow us to continue for several decades.

This new income from the sale (the capital of course belongs to the diocese, but we would have been able to use the interest) would have also allowed for inflation and allow the congregation to absorb a one-million-dollar estimate in deferred maintenance costs including the repairs needed to be done on the roof of the church. So yes, we would have been able to repair our leaking roof which we only became aware of



Honor Barrett, right, remade a set of altar vestments with the collaboration of embroiderer Susi Ribeiro. They were blessed on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the parish in 2014.

(Photo: Michel Gagnon)

sometime during the summer. We would also have been able to recoup seventy per cent of the cost of repairs through the Quebec Religious Heritage Fund.

I was not involved in any of the negotiations and from the monthly update meetings to keep the congregation informed, apart from a mention that there were interested parties, nothing much seemed to be going on during the summer.

However, indeed a lot had been going on.

In September the diocese quietly took the land off the market before

informing our incumbent and Chair of the finance committee.

There had been two bidders; both had made offers, one of \$5 million plus an additional agreement to replace our boiler system. One offer was in writing, with the other on its way. I have more than one reliable source.

I hardly think these our actions were those of bad stewards.

HONOR BARRETT  
St. James the Apostle  
101-250 Kensington Avenue  
Westmount

## It's good to do good but the Gospel is much more

I am feeling despondent about the Church.

The Church fails so much to proclaim the depths of the Good News as it is seen in Jesus the Christ.

Yes, it practices a concerned, involved, doing-good. This is good in its place. It is disheartening because the Gospel is so much much more. It

reaches so much deeper into the human soul, personality, with Good News.

Sincerely,

JOHN SERJEANSTON  
Cowansville

*The Rev John Serjeanston is a retired priest of the Diocese of Montreal.*

# News in brief

## Rhonda Waters heads for Ottawa

On the staff of Christ Church Cathedral as an assistant curate and then associate priest since her ordination as a deacon in 2011, the Rev. Rhonda Waters is heading for Ottawa at the end of February. Her husband, Thomas Cormie, a lawyer, has accepted a job there with the federal justice department.

Rhonda has been appointed interim priest-in-charge at St. Matthew's Church in the Glebe



district of Ottawa, to begin March 13.

She is also stepping down as chaplain of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College.

## Judy Pearce's funeral in Dorval

Judy Pearce, wife of the Rev. Canon Bryan Pearce and mother of Michael, died in Hudson on January 4. The funeral was January 16 at St. Andrew's and St. Mark's Church, Dorval.

## Marcelle Dionne was mother of the Rev. Michelle Eason

Marcelle Dionne, mother of the Rev. Michelle Eason, died on Monday January 4. Her funeral was at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Woodstock, Ont., on January 8.

## St. Paul's Lachine is actively for sale

The Diocese of Montreal is actively seeking a buyer for St. Paul's Church in Lachine, where the parish of that name closed in 2012 but a ministry to Inuit was launched last year.

The present spacious and architecturally dramatic church was built in 1963-64, replacing one that had burned down some years earlier. The Rev. Barry Clarke was rector of the church for 11 years before serving as bishop of Montreal before the present bishop, the Right Rev. Mary Irwin-Gibson.

The church and its large hall are suited to large gatherings and the annual synod of the Diocese of Montreal took place there in October.

The ministry to Inuit that the Rev. Annie Ittoshat has led at St. Paul's since last year is moving to the Church of St. Andrew and St. Mark in Dorval, where Executive Archdeacon said the congregation has been "incredibly hospitable and welcoming."

The Inuit ministry, however, remains a separate ministry, supported by the diocese.



The Rev. Annie Ittoshat preaches in St. Paul's Church at last year's diocesan synod.

(Photo: Harvey Shepherd)





## Port chaplains hope to go digital

A NAMMA photo at the Mariners House in the Port of Montreal shows, from left, Christian Reformed Chaplains Michelle dePooter and David Rozeboom, Mariners' House General Manager Carolyn Osborne, staff or volunteers Mei Mendoza, Claude Ouellet, Cindy Fairhurs and Yuri Petrov and Roman Catholic Chaplain the Rev. Andrew Thuraisingham.

### Venerable mission association wants to move with the times

Though most rarely think about them, seafarers are responsible for transporting 90 per cent of all the goods we consume in our daily lives, says the executive director of a marine ministry association looking for a digital ministry staff person based in Montreal.

They are often away from families for six to nine months, working long hard days for modest salaries. Without the assistance of ecumenical seafarers ministries providing transportation, Internet and a warm welcome in many ports around the world – including one here in Montreal (where an Anglican chaplain was based until fairly recently) – these seafarers wouldn't have a real chance

to go ashore or connect with their families back home, says Jason Zuidema of the North American Maritime Ministry Association.

He says all seafarers' centres belong to worldwide networks. Those in North America belong to his association: a Christian, ecumenical association founded in 1932. Like many other ministry associations, it wants to harness the power of the Internet for the good of ministry.

Supported by The Mission to Seafarers, NAMMA's MARE project seeks to develop and test the new ways to support the welfare of seafarers on the world's oceans using digital methods.

"The project is looking for a dynamic individual who resonates with our values, has experience in social media, and can communicate

well in English and at least one other language of a country from which seafarers originate (preference for languages of South-East Asia like Tagalog or Mandarin Chinese, but Hindi, Spanish, Russian or others all considered)."

The North American Maritime Ministry Association hopes to enhance the ability of traditional shore-based seafarers' welfare agencies to connect with seafarers' using innovative digital tools. Supported by the Mission to Seafarers, the North American association's MARE project seeks to develop and test the best new ways to support the welfare of the 1.5 million seafarers on the world's oceans.

The MARE project (pronounced Mar-Ay; Latin for the "Sea") is funded with strategic support from the Mission to Seafarers, a leading international Christian seafarers' welfare charity.

The North American association is a broad association of Christian ministries founded in 1932 that provides encouragement, advocacy,

and professional development to its members. It wants the new project to equip maritime ministries to use the Internet as a primary opportunity to broaden their service of seafarers.

Dr. Zuidema, executive director of the association and MARE project leader, expects the project to serve three purposes:

- To provide a tool that will help seafarers make connect with shore-based seafarers' welfare personnel.
- To produce and distribute social media on seafarers' welfare that can be shared by local maritime ministries.
- To produce high-quality Internet-based professional development tools for those involved in maritime ministry.

Dr. Zuidema explained: "Like many other traditional social service ministries, our members have had great success using bricks-and-mortar centers or when they visit in person on board. But it is not always clear how to serve those who live more and more online and don't seem to need our personal services.

"Can maritime ministries still be useful even if they can't meet seafarers in a center or face-to-face on a ship visit? NAMMA's MARE project should help develop new digital tools so that all ministries can continue to be effective."

Based in London, England, the Mission to Seafarers works in over 200 ports worldwide, many also members of the NAMMA network in North America. Commenting on the importance of developing digital tools for maritime ministry

The Rev. Andrew Wright, Secretary General, said, "We are delighted to partner with NAMMA in this exciting project. Technology has changed the way seafarers interact with their loved ones and we have made much progress in adapting to ensure our support remains relevant and effective to their needs. We hope that the MARE project will inspire all maritime ministries to try new methods of service delivery that will enhance seafarers' wellbeing."

For more information, visit [www.namma.org](http://www.namma.org).

#### Job Offer (abridged)

### Digital Maritime Ministry Associate for NAMMA's MARE Project

**About the Project:** The MARE Project is an exciting new initiative of the North American Maritime Ministry Association (NAMMA), funded with strategic support from the Mission to Seafarers. NAMMA is a Christian association that provides fellowship, encouragement, advocacy, education, and professional development for those in maritime ministry. NAMMA is a registered nonprofit association ([namma.org](http://namma.org)). MARE's key concern is to equip maritime ministries to use the Internet as a primary *opportunity* to serve seafarers rather than a fundamental *threat* that weakens relationships and ministry.

**Job Description:** Implement ministry program of the MARE project under direction of NAMMA Executive Director.

**Compensation:** competitive, relevant to experience (one-year contract, paid monthly)

**Schedule:** full-time (40-hrs), but willingness to experiment work flexible hours that best correspond to seafarers' availability to communicate is an asset. Principal office will be in the Montreal Seafarers' Centre (Old Port, Montreal), but other work possible from home office.

**Location:** Montreal.

To apply for this position, please send to Dr. Jason Zuidema, Executive Director, NAMMA ([executivedirector@namma.org](mailto:executivedirector@namma.org))

- a brief cover letter
- a copy of your C.V. (resumé) with relevant work experience
- two or three references
- (if possible) samples of media created or edited (video, audio, graphic, or other)

## St. Paul's Greenfield Park host to seniors



St. Paul's Church Greenfield Park was host of the South Shore Seniors' Christmas Dinner December 12. Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson and her husband Mark Gibson attended.



# Christmas and Epiphany around the parishes

Children, candles and stardust



“We are all made of stardust.” That was the message for youngsters in the Love in Motion program at an Epiphany service at the Church of St. Cuthbert, St. Hilda and St. Luke in the Rosemont district of Montreal. “We are all special,” says the Rev. Roslyn Macgregor. “I asked everyone to raise their hands if they were special – and almost everyone put their hands up. A few suddenly realized, Oops, I’m special, too! and raised their hands. We’re all following the Star – in search of Jesus.”



Accueil chaleureuse lors de la visite de l'évêque à la paroisse La Nativité, Montréal-Nord, le 6 décembre.



Liturgical dance was part of a Crossroads Youth Christmas service December 20.



On January 2nd, the Parish of Vaudreuil put on a Community Christmas Dinner. Hosted at St. James' Church Hall, the annual Christmas Dinner invited those known to be on their own and in need of companionship and friendship, particularly over the Christmas and Epiphany season. Four top-notch chefs volunteered to prepare the main course and Christmas puddings and a host of volunteers from St Mary's and St James helped issue invitations, chauffeur guests, acted as hosts and hostesses, provided entertainment, and served. With Frank Royle and Don Maguire at the helm, the Hall was in fine festive form and the evening alive with conversation, music, singing and a delicious meal.



St. George's Ste. Anne de Bellevue had a star-studded cast for its pageant.



At the Mile End Mission on Christmas Eve, children gathered around the altar to assist. “We ended dancing to *Go Tell It on the Mountain* and then in a conga line, reports the Rev. Roslyn Macgregor, former direction of the mission, who presided.



## Notable

### Oasis Musicale Concert Series

February – 4:30 p.m.

#### Christ Church Cathedral

Saturday, February 6

#### A Celebration of Russian Music

Marie Haines, piano

Alexander Scriabin (1872-1915):  
Etude No. 1 in F-sharp major, Op. 8,  
Etude No. 2 in F-sharp minor,  
Op. 8

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893):  
Dumka, Op. 59

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953):  
Pieces from Romeo and Juliet,  
Op. 75

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1843):  
Etude-Tableau, Op. 33, No. 4 in  
D minor

Dmitry Kabalevsky (1904-1987):  
Sonata No. 3 in F major, Op. 46

Saturday, February 13

#### Love Notes

Katherine Dennis, violin

Kyle P Walker, piano

Brahms: Violin Sonata No. 1 in G  
major, Op. 78

Beethoven Sonata No. 5 in F major  
for Piano and Violin, Op. 24

Saturday, February 20

#### The Universal Language

Luke Welch, piano

D. Scarlatti: Sonatas (selections)

Oskar Morawetz: Scherzo

Ravel: Sonatine

Chopin: Mazurkas Op. 24; Ballade  
No. 4, Op. 52

Saturday, February 27

#### Messiaen by Candlelight

Emily D'Angelo, mezzo-soprano

Rashaan Allwood, organ and piano

L'Ascension, II. Alleluia sereins  
d'une âme qui désire le ciel; , III.

Transports de joie d'une âme  
devant la gloire du Christ qui est

la sienne

Poèmes pour Mi (Livres 1 & 2)

Petites Esquisses d'Oiseaux (I – III)

# Montreal Lay Readers benefit from generous support by Bishop Mary and Dean Paul

Following months of planning for the annual Study Day on November 21, the Lay Readers received a last minute message that the speaker for the day was unable to attend due to a serious injury. Two days before the event Bishop Mary and Dean Paul Kennington rose to the challenge to lead the Lay Readers in a very special program, "Living Into God's Life: Personal Prayer and Community Worship". Several lay readers remarked that it was their best study day ever!

Sixty Lay Readers from every corner of the diocese enjoyed the hospitality of the Church of St. John the Baptist in Pointe Claire and its incumbent, our new pastor of Lay Readers, Lorne Eason. Chef Regina Meisner and her team prepared a sumptuous lunch, and refreshments throughout the day. The tone of the day was joyful as colleagues gathered around tables to learn and to share learning. Several lay readers from La Nativite joined us and felt very included by our bilingual president, Glen Marcotte, our bilingual bishop and dean, and our many French speaking members.

Bishop Mary opened the day, and to everyone's delight, had brought her guitar. Paramount in the day was beautiful worship and song. Dean Paul spoke about liturgy and mission. The members were challenged to find examples of liturgy in the Bible, and to discover what the liturgical pieces are doing. Dean Paul spoke about "building up the church. We worship because God asks us to do it. Liturgy helps us to express our joy. Our actions, with others, are important." We explored ways to reach out to new believers, and those who are



The dean, the bishop and lay reader Susan Winn.

(Photo: Michel Gagnon)

thirsting for an authentic encounter with God.

The Study Day was followed by an annual Commissioning Service when licenses are presented to new and ongoing lay readers. Our Emeritus Lay Readers were celebrated for

their long and faithful service, and were given new lifetime licenses signed by our new bishop and our

new pastor of Lay Readers. Other photos of the day's proceedings are on the website: [www.org](http://www.org).

## Notable

### LENT AND EASTER

#### All Saints Deux Montagnes

48-18th Ave.

#### SHROVE TUESDAY

#### PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 5:30 p.m.  
in All Saints Hall

#### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Feb 10, 7 p.m.

#### HOLY COMMUNION

Thursdays Feb 25 and March 31,  
10:30 a.m.

Résidence Les Cascades  
21 8e Avenue

#### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 4, 7 p.m.  
Église St-Agapit, 1002 Chemin Oka

#### MAUNDY THURSDAY

#### SUPPER AND SERVICE

Thursday, March 24, 6 p.m.

#### GOOD FRIDAY

#### WALK OF WITNESS

Friday, March 25, 2:30 p.m.  
(Contact the church for details)

#### EASTER MORNING

#### CELEBRATION SERVICE

Sunday, March 27, 11 a.m.

Information 450-473-9541 or  
[info@allsaintsdeuxmontagnes.ca](mailto:info@allsaintsdeuxmontagnes.ca)  
or [www.allsaintsdeuxmontagnes.ca](http://www.allsaintsdeuxmontagnes.ca)

## Notable

### TWO MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY YOUTH GROUP

#### All Saints Deux Montagnes 48-18th Ave.

Fridays 7:30-9:30 p.m. This group meets at the church except on the third Friday of the month, which is SPAM (Sports night At Mountainview High School). For all high-school aged teens.

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or [www.allsaintsdeuxmontagnes.ca](http://www.allsaintsdeuxmontagnes.ca)



# Lenten meditations

Ash Wednesday,  
February 10 John 1:1-18

**Georgiana Stewart,  
Master of Divinity Student**

A popular song a couple of decades back (Joan Osborne's "One of us") asked, "What if God was one of us? Just a slob like one of us? Just a

stranger on the bus trying to make his way home?"

Maybe it's shocking to think of God as a slob, but what makes Christianity unique is the Incarnation – that God actually became flesh and lived among us in the human being Jesus Christ. There are plenty

of belief systems that keep the Divine at a distance, whether as super-powerful Olympians or unattainable enlightenment.

Christianity, however, brings us face to face with God, over and over again. And we don't always like it. Whether in the stranger on the bus

These Lenten meditations, by students at Trinity College in Toronto, are from the **Niagara Anglican**, newspaper of the Diocese of Niagara, which has shared them with other diocesan newspapers.

or in the Word full of grace and truth, looking at God is uncomfortable, and so is becoming a child of God. Lent is a great opportunity to heed the Gospel's call to face God and be reborn – if we can allow God's light to shine into the darkness of our lives.

Thursday, February 11  
John 1:19-51  
**Adam Brown,  
Master of Divinity Student**

"Among you stands one whom you do not know," says John to those questioning him; "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness," he says just before.

Time and again we encounter phrases such as these where we are turned to face the unknown. It is this wilderness that the voice cries into, and out from.

As a child growing up in rural Canada, "the wilderness" meant something unique to me; it was a land filled with risk, a land which went on without end, but it was also a land filled with undiscovered life.

Now that I have moved to Toronto, I have discovered this is the same, and yet different; everywhere I look there is still life, with all of its joy and pain. Hidden away in plain sight on College Street sits a small statue of a beggar, frequently tripped over and often overlooked. This beggar made it onto social media recently, and in all the flurry of conversation, nobody seemed to realize it was simply Jesus.

Friday, February 12 – John 2:1-11  
**Matt Koovisk,  
Master of Theology Student**

If you look hard enough, you'll see throughout John's Gospel that there are clues (John calls them "signs") that point us to the times where there is the "thin space" between heaven and earth. This is "the first of such signs." (John 2:11, ESV)

For the disciples, this is the time when they come to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Think back for a second – do you remember the first time you believed in Jesus Christ as the Son of God? What did that look like? What were the surrounding events that were taking place? What was the "sign" that showed you that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

Saturday, February 13  
John 2:12-25

**Matthew Bowman, Student  
Co-Head, Faculty of Divinity**

In today's reading Jesus cleans house and cleanses the temple: abruptly tossing sheep and cattle out of their pens, and telling the moneychangers to hit the road. He commands the shopkeepers to return the temple to a state of purity, and to cease defiling the sanctity of its walls.

Through Lenten discipline and meditation, we are invited to clean our own houses, to clean out all of the dross and clutter and to place special focus on our relationship with God.

During the Passover Jesus refused to reveal Himself to those who observed His miraculous signs, because He needed no one to testify about His mission since He already knew the innermost thoughts of their hearts.

From this, we can gather that our Lenten "house cleaning" doesn't happen to impress God or to somehow earn greater love, but solely for our own nourishment – allowing us to create enough detachment from the tedium of everyday life that we can truly rejoice in His glorious resurrection on Easter Day.

For the complete set visit [niagaraanglican.ca/newspaper](http://niagaraanglican.ca/newspaper)



**CELEBRATE  
Black History  
Mass**

**St. CHL - Sunday, February 21**

6341, de Lorimier (bw Bellechasse & Beaubien)

## Christmas Paws&Pray



Sixty-five people, 40 dogs and three rabbits gathered at Christ Church Beaurepaire in Beaconsfield on Sunday, Dec. 20, for a Special Paws&Pray Christmas service. Holy Eucharist was offered to the parishioners and blessings were dispensed to the pets by the Ven. Michael Johnson. The Paws&Pray worship service is offered in collaboration with the Companion Animal Adoption Centers of Quebec, a non-profit organization dedicated to animal welfare.



**CELEBRATING  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

ALL AGED ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

**DATE:** SUNDAY FEB 21, 2016  
**TIME:** 12:00 - POT LUCK LUNCH  
13:00 - ACTIVITIES  
**COST:** FREE WILL DONATION

FOR INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER  
PLEASE CALL 514-484-3102

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE SOUL FOOD, SONG, DANCE AND A BOOK READING/SIGNING BY BONNIE FARMER AUTHOR OF OSCAR LIVES NEXT DOOR.

TRINITY MEMORIAL CHURCH - FAMILY LIFE PROJECT  
5220 SHERBROOKE W. 514-484-3102  
[www.trinitymemorialchurch.org](http://www.trinitymemorialchurch.org) [trinityflp@gmail.com](mailto:trinityflp@gmail.com)

**CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY  
ÉGLISE DE L'ÉPIPHANIE**

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner  
Dîner de crêpes de mardi gras**

**Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> ~ mardi 9 fevrier  
6pm**

Free will offering to support PWRDF

514-769-5373  
epiphany.verdun@gmail.com 4322 Wellington St.,  
www.epiphanyverdun.com Verdun, QC  
www.facebook.com/EpiphanyVerdun H4G 1W4

**PARISH OF VERDUN-VILLE EMARD  
PAROISSE DE VERDUN-VILLE ÉMARD**

**Roast Pork Dinner  
Dîner de rôti de porc**

**Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> ~ samedi 20 fevrier  
6pm**

Tickets – billets \$12<sup>00</sup>  
514-363-0825

514-769-5373  
epiphany.verdun@gmail.com 4322 Wellington St.,  
www.epiphanyverdun.com Verdun, QC  
www.facebook.com/EpiphanyVerdun H4G 1W4





Volunteers and the buildings, especially Memorial Hall, of St. Philip's Church in Montreal West once more played a central part in the annual Door-to-Door Food Drive of the Notre Dame de Grâce Food Depot December 5. Volunteers served on pickup, co-ordination, sorting teams, packing and in other ways.

## Around the parishes



### Confirmation in Chomedey



Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson presided at a confirmation at St. Simon and St. Bartholomew Church in Chomedey Laval on Sunday January 10. Left to right are Gloria Augustus, who was Bishop's Chaplain, Anthony Benko Kirby, the bishop, Alexandra Elizabeth Kirby, the Rev. Canon Yves-Eugène Joseph.

### Tim Smart fêted on 25 years in Sutton

On December 6, about 70 people gathered at Grace Church, Sutton, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the induction of the Rev. Tim Smart that had taken place on December 6, 1990.

The congregation of Grace Church was joined by members of Calvary United Church and of the Parish of Brome, as well as a few others, for the Sunday Eucharist Service, near the end of which, Rev. Tim was presented with a celebratory liturgical stole, woven especially for the occasion by Doreen Page.

(She is also shown in the photo. Ms. Page, a lay reader at Grace Church, also wove stoles presented to Bishops James Almasi of the Diocese of Masasi in Tanzania and Barbara Andrews of the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior (of British Columbia) at last fall's Montreal Diocesan Synod.)

Afterwards, in the parish hall, everyone enjoyed a delicious pot luck dinner. Before the dessert was served, several parishioners took the opportunity to relate a story, an anecdote, a thank you to Tim for his loving and faithful ministry. A flowering plant was presented to Tim's wife Ruth and Tim received the gift of a "purse" that had been donated by many individuals. Following the dessert course, there were lots of photo opportunities and time for visiting. It was a joyous occasion.

