



## **The Christian Commemoration of the *Shoah* Saint Monica's Church, Montreal, April 15, 2018**

The Christian Jewish Dialogue of Montreal will hold its 39th annual Christian Commemoration of the *Shoah* on Sunday, April 15, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. in St. Monica's Church.

This event will gather Jews and Christians on Holocaust Remembrance Day – known as *Yom Hashoah* in Hebrew – to commemorate the approximately six million Jews and one million others who died in the Holocaust during World War II.

The commemoration will be celebrated as an integral part of the regular Sunday Eucharist and will include music and prayers, testimony from Holocaust survivor Georgette Brinberg, and a candle lighting ceremony led by Fr. Lloyd Baugh and Rabbi Sherril Gilbert, assisted by Cantor Heather Batchelor, Deacon Richard Haber and Saint Monica's choir, directed by Mark Boyer. A representative group of young people and children of St. Monica's will also participate in the commemoration.

Light kosher refreshments will be served following the service.

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The Christian Jewish Dialogue of Montreal (CJDM) is a monthly gathering of clergy and lay leaders dedicated to strengthening relations between Christians and Jews in Montreal. The CJDM was established in 1971 by a group of Christians and Jews who saw a need for dialogue between their communities.

The group organized its first Christian commemoration of the Shoah in 1980 with a goal to build bridges between Jews and Christians and to foster a deeper understanding of the Holocaust among Montreal's Christian communities.

Since 1980, the Christian Jewish Dialogue of Montreal has made a commitment to invite a different Christian church each year to engage with members of Montreal's Jewish communities in a shared act of remembrance on the Sunday closest to *Yom Hashoah* – Day of the *Shoah* -- known in English as Holocaust Remembrance Day.

*Shoah* means "devastating storm" in Hebrew, the word Jews use to describe the Holocaust. On December 15, 1999, the National Assembly of Quebec passed a law instituting "Holocaust-Yom Hashoah Day" in Quebec, to be observed each year according to the Jewish lunar calendar.

In the past 38 years, participants in the Christian Commemoration of the *Shoah* have included numerous French and English-speaking churches in the Greater Montreal area.

