



**Fourth
Sunday
of Advent**

**December 24,
2017**



**The Holy
Family of
Jesus Mary
and Joseph**

**December 31,
2017**

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: DEC. 23 TO JAN. 7

(L) indicates a living intention

Saturday	Dec. 23	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
4:30 pm	Mark Julius Coelho		Pat & Donny
Sunday	Dec. 24		
9:00	Our Parishioners		
11:00 am	Maria Rosario Soler & Maria Aurora		The Robertson family
Sunday	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	
4:00 pm	The Albanese Family		
4:00 pm (Hall)	Kathleen & John Ray		The ray Sisters
6:00 pm	Crissanato, Gary & Nenita Buan		Rita Buan
8:00 pm	Terry Hayes		Claire & family
10:00 pm	Sean Richardson		The Richardson family
Monday	Dec. 25	Christmas Day	
10:00 am	Our Parishioners		
Tuesday	Dec. 26	St. Stephen, First Martyr	
8:30 am	Gerry Poisson		Mary & Guy Taillon
Wednesday	Dec. 27		
8:30 am	Jean Mack		Yucca & Len Bocarro
Thursday	Dec. 28	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	
8:30 am	Nina Kojoian		Christine & Pierre Charron
Friday	Dec. 29	St. Thomas à Becket, Bishop and Martyr	
8:30 am	Nina Kojoian		Yucca & Len Bocarro
Saturday	Dec. 30	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	
4:30 pm	Doreen Peacock		Kathleen & Tom Rush
Sunday	Dec. 31		
9:00 am	Our Parishioners		
11:00 am	Maria Luisa Veldt		The Robertsons
Sunday	Dec. 31	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God	
4:30 pm	Deceased Canadian Veterans		Anna Donald
Monday	Jan. 1		
10:00 am	Our Parishioners		
Tuesday	Jan. 2		
8:30 am	Fernand Froment		Estate
Wednesday	Jan. 3		
8:30 am	Mark Seguin		Bruno & Margaret Seguin
Thursday	Jan. 4		
8:30 am	Stuart Chapman		Bruno & Margaret Seguin
Friday	Jan. 5		
8:30 am	Mary Kercher		Bruno & Margaret Seguin
Saturday	Jan. 6	The Epiphany of the Lord	
4:30 pm	Christopher Sebastian		The Koikaran family
Sunday	Jan. 7		
9:00 am	Our Parishioners		
11:00 am	Robert Borges		Ron & Joy Pinto



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The clergy, pastoral team and wardens of St. Thomas à Becket Parish join in wishing you every blessing this Christmas—in your homes, families, schools and places of work—and throughout 2018.

Father Peter Sabbath, Pastor

Father Tijo George, Associate

Elena Castiglione, Elsa Rivera, Heidi Thibodeau, Anna Donald,

Norman Cousineau, Peter Cook, Robert Demers, Siro Di Marco,

Gerry Richardson

~ Christmas at Becket ~

Sun.	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve - Sunday December 24 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm, & 10:00 pm	
Mon.	Dec. 25	Christmas Morning Mass	10:00 am
Fri.	Dec. 29	Feast of St. Thomas à Becket	8:30 am

New Years is on Monday this year, which means that Sunday, December 31 is the Feast of the Holy Family, and the Sunday Mass obligation remains. Masses will be at 9:00 & 11:00 as usual.

Sun.	Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Holy Hour of Prayer for God's Peace in the World	3:15 pm
Sun.	Dec. 31	Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God	4:30 pm
Mon.	Jan. 1	Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God	10:00 am
Sat.	Jan. 6	Epiphany of the Lord	4:30 pm
Sun.	Jan. 7	Epiphany of the Lord	9 & 11 am
Mon.	Jan. 8	Baptism of the Lord	8:30 am

SANCTUARY LAMP (Week)

December 24: Maria Nef, requested by Anna Donald

December 31: Jackie Scimone, requested by Marie Meier

January 7: Maurice Guenette, requested by Marie Meier

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY: December 29 On this feast, as at the crib,

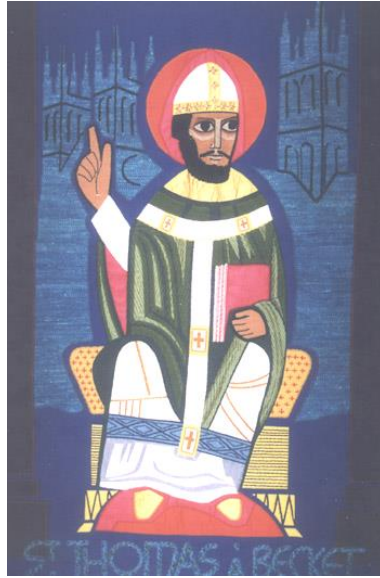


in a glance of faith we embrace together the divine Child and the persons beside him: his most holy Mother and Joseph. What light shines from this Christmas 'group icon'! A light of mercy and salvation for the whole world, a light of truth for every person, for the human family and for individual families.... To contemplate the Holy Family enables us to appreciate the gift of family intimacy in a special way, and spurs us to offer human warmth and solidarity in those unfortunately numerous situations which, for various reasons, lack peace, harmony, in a word, lack

'family'. The message that comes from the Holy Family is first of all a message of faith: the family of Nazareth is a home which truly centres on God. For Mary and Joseph, this choice of faith becomes concrete in their service to the Son of God entrusted to their care, but it is also expressed in their mutual love, rich in spiritual tenderness and fidelity. With their life, they teach that marriage is a covenant between man and woman, a covenant that involves reciprocal fidelity and rests upon their common trust in God—such a noble, profound and definitive covenant, as to constitute for believers the sacrament of love of Christ and of the Church. The spouses' fidelity stands like a solid rock on which the children's trust rests. When parents and children together breathe this atmosphere of faith they have a ready energy that enables them to face even difficult trials, as the Holy Family's experience shows."

~ Pope St. John Paul II

ST. THOMAS BECKET (Feast Day - December 29) was born in London,



England, circa 1118, and was the Archbishop of Canterbury from 1162 until his murder in 1170 by King Henry II's knights. Educated in Paris, Becket later became the clerk of Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury, who sent him to Bologna and Auxerre to study canon law and ordained him as a deacon.

Around this time, Henry II became King of England and, upon the advice of Archbishop Theobald, made Becket his chancellor. Thomas and the King became great friends due to their mutual interests and love of luxury. Thomas even took up arms with King Henry when the monarch went to battle in Toulouse, and is said to have served well as a warrior.

When Archbishop Theobald died in 1161, King Henry did all in his power to see that Thomas took over his archdiocese. Thomas

was not happy about the idea but, urged on by Cardinal Henry of Pisa, was ordained a priest on a Saturday, June 2, 1162, and was consecrated as Bishop the next day.

After attaining the See of Canterbury, something changed in Becket. He gave up his former life of indulgence and focused on penance and prayer. His friendship with King Henry, however, became strained after he resisted various plans that Henry wanted to institute which would give the Crown power over the Church. Becket resisted to the point that King Henry threatened him with imprisonment or death. Becket exiled himself for a few years in a French Cistercian abbey. While there, he excommunicated the Bishops of London and Salisbury for siding with the King.

An uneasy peace was worked out between Becket and Henry, so Becket returned to Canterbury. But he refused to lift the censures against the Bishops who stood with the King against the Church. Believing that as long as Thomas lived, he would never have a tranquil kingdom, the King is said to have cried, "Who will rid me of this meddling priest?" Four knights, who overheard the conversation, took King Henry seriously and set out to grant the King's wishes. It was in the late afternoon of December 29, 1170, when the four knights entered Canterbury Cathedral and murdered Becket during evening vespers.

The murder outraged all of Europe, and pilgrimages to the site began almost immediately, with miracles following in abundance. Pope Alexander III held the king personally responsible for the murder. Becket was canonized in 1173. King Henry repented and made public penance at the tomb, allowing himself to be scourged there. Canterbury became the third greatest site of pilgrimage in all of Europe. Becket's relics are said to have been destroyed in 1538 during the Protestant rebellions foreshadowed by King Henry's attitudes, but some believe that a skeleton found in the crypt there in 1888 belongs to the martyr.

St. Thomas is one of the patrons of priests and of course, patron of our parish. He is symbolized in art with an axe or sword over or in his head, or with a wounded head, and is usually depicted at the time of his martyrdom.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Offerings amounts for December 17, 24, 31 and January 7 will be published in the bulletin of January 14, 2018.