

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

January 1, 2005



World Day of Prayer for Peace

Happy New Year!

A PARENT'S BLESSING

Father in Heaven, I (we) thank You for the life You have given me (us) and my (our) children! I (we) praise You for the strength and vitality, for the joy of giving and receiving love and the delight in life's simple pleasures. I (we) praise You for the guidance and light of your Holy Word given to us each Sunday and everyday. Thank You for the grace to seek and give forgiveness, for comfort in sorrow, and the courage to do what is right – even when it was most difficult – and for inspiring the caring gesture, the lending hand, the comforting word, the patient and enduring heart. Thank You for your divine peace upon us even in the midst of doubt, confusion, and the evil and violence in the world.

On this the first day of the **New Year**, I (we) entrust to You all these that I (we) love and that You have given into my (our) care: (Here name each person by name.) We know that You alone have the power over life and death, and that You allow all things that happen for your good and kind purposes – You want the best for us now, and in eternity. We place all our trust in You, today and all year, through **Jesus**, your **Beloved Son** and our **Lord and Savior**. Fill us all with your **Holy Spirit**; that we may abide in your love and do all things in such a way as to please You for the good of our neighbor and the spreading of the Holy Gospel to every person on Earth! We ask your blessing upon us now and always, in **Jesus' Name! Amen!** (Now give one another a sign/kiss of peace.)

Christmas Flower Offerings

Thank you to all who covered the cost of our beautiful Christmas plants! Dear Lord grant Your abundant blessing on all those on whose behalf these offerings were made:

Karl-Heinz Wawak, Magdalena Barroso, Dusan Medvescek, Louis A. Pereira, Mrs. Soan Tobin Harkin, Stella and Stanley Szuszkowski, Alfonso Mio, Steve and Anna Roth, Douglas Floreani, Anthony and Grozdana Listes, Agnes Hallinan, Giovanni Ambrosio, Agnes O'Donnell, Anne Marie Watkinson.



YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST UPDATE

N.B. Please stayed tuned for information regarding the continuation of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction after the Friday 8:30 a.m. Mass for the New Year.

ATTENTION FAITH FIRST FAMILIES

The Mass books will **be available again** for sign-in January 1-2, 2005.

RCIA

Those people who plan on attending the upcoming RCIA should contact Fr. Tom Dowd to fill in the required candidate application form: 626-4111

THANK YOU FROM BECKET PANTRY

A big thank-you to everyone who brought in food and delivered Christmas baskets to families for the Becket pantry. Your help and support is greatly appreciated.

PARISH WEB SITE NEWS

Come visit our revised and updated web site: www.stthomasabecket.org
We have added many new features such as the master schedule so you can check availability for meetings and activities. Get to know the parish staff; check availability of the big hall for your parties or receptions; look up faith first or RCIA for sacramental preparation information...

CELEBRATE WITH US MONDAY NIGHTS!!

All activities start at 7:30 p.m.

Mass: January 10 & 24 (no Vespers in January)

Please note the following schedule **starting February 2005:**

Masses on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month

Vespers on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month

USERS OF 2004 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Please pick up your 2005 boxes.

They are arranged alphabetically by FAMILY NAME

BEGINNING TO USE CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES IN 2005?

Get a blank envelope box from the shelf by the wall at the back of the Church. Fill in the yellow info card and drop with envelope in the basket, or bring to the office

The parish office is closed Mon. January 3, then open again on Jan. 4.

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

JANUARY 9-14, 2005

Come join us for a "FREE" Rich Man, Poor Man Lunch, followed by a presentation on Vocations. **Sunday, Jan 9, 2005, 12:30 –2:30 p.m.** in the hall. Join the Vocation Awareness Network in the celebration of National Vocation Awareness Week and choose to make a difference with your life.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Classes will resume on **January 16, 2005**. See you there!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>Helping Others</u>
December 12, 2004	\$ 4950.00	\$2527.00

WARDEN'S BY ELECTION

We thank Gary Gomes for all his work and dedication during his past term and welcome and thank Phil Weller for accepting a term as warden.

FITNESS RESOLUTION FOR THE NEW YEAR?



Aerobics classes will be starting up again in the hall **January 14, 2005**. Join us Friday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 for a workout full of fun and camaraderie! Only \$3.00 per class – pay as you go. **Welcome all.**

OUR PARISH BULLETIN ADS

The renewal of the advertisements in the bulletin of our parish will be made very soon. If you have already renewed your space, thank you! To reserve a space, please leave your name at the parish office, so that the representative of the Parish Bulletin, Mr. Jacques Latreille, can contact you. Many thanks to our advertisers and welcome to the new ones!

HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN

THE C.C.C.M. ANNUAL RETREAT

Will be held on January 21, 22, 23 2005. You are warmly invited to attend and participate. Theme: “He is the Lord of Grace and Good Humour” Villa St. Martin 9451 Gouin. To reserve: Hal Horwood 450-621-6775.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Scripture says about married couples, “the two shall live as one.” These days, how often do you find yourselves living as two? Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend and learn how to focus on one another again. Making a weekend will help you put a little Christmas in your marriage every day. Sign up now! **Upcoming date: March 18, 19, 20, 2005.** For more info call: Angela and Amadeo (514) 321-5249, Mary and Len (450) 622-1070

SO REAL? SO NECESSARY?

Relax after Christmas on an **Armchair Retreat, Feb. 4th to 6th**, an intimate and tailor made weekend of discussion, meditation, scriptural talks, Eucharist, and if needed, reconciliation. Individual cozy rooms with a view, and all meals. Only 3 vacancies left. Cost: \$95.00. Led by Margaret Million and Fr. Mike Shaw at Ermitage Retreat Center, Pfds. Info: 626-1154 or 696-6451. **Next Dates:** Apr. 8/10, June 10/12.



NATIVITY SCENES AT THE ORATORY

A precious collection of 280 nativity scenes, from 108 different countries, will be exhibited until February 14, 2005, every day from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. including Christmas and New Year’s Day.

NOTRE-DAME-DE-BON-SECOURS CHAPEL

A bilingual Celebration of the Feast of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys **Wednesday, January 12, 2005 at 12 noon** Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel 400 Saint Paul Street East Old Montreal (Champ-de Mars Metro) All are Welcome!

NEW YEAR’S EVE PEACE AND JUSTICE CELEBRATION

St. Monica’s Faith and Justice Committee is hosting a Peace and Justice Mass Friday December 31st at 8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join in this celebration. Reception to follow. 6504 Terrebonne Ave. N.D.G.