

# Baptism of the Lord

## January 9, 2005

*The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.*



### **“LORD, MAKE US NEW!”**

Today at his **Baptism, the Lord** – who is also the **Bridegroom** – claims his Bride, the Church, and washes her sins away in **Jordan's waters**. This is a royal wedding between God and humanity, and the Magi hasten with their **Epiphany** gifts: gold for the great king, frankincense for the high priest, and myrrh for his burial. Jesus celebrates this wedding of God with his people at Cana by changing the water into an overabundance of fine wine. **Jesus has come to reveal the Father's love and mercy**. Heaven is now wedded to earth for all eternity, and this wedding feast is the origin of all our Christian vocations and ministry. **Jesus is the pattern of love we are called to be**.

*“O Holy Spirit, lead us into the deep joy of the wedding feast in the Father's love for all humanity. Make us all one in Jesus! Amen!”*

### What do we do with the Gift of the Magi?

The word on the slip of paper you received (If you missed it get one from the basket at the Manger until February 2<sup>nd</sup>.) is a *spiritual gift*. You may already have it and the Lord wants you to use it more or else the Lord now wants to give it to you. Open your heart to the Lord: ask Him to give you this gift and help you use it, and guide you by the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Find out more about this gift and begin using it. ***Enjoy!!!***

### **ENJOY A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS SEASON!**

In generations past, families kept their **Christmas Crèche** until **Candlemas**, February 2nd, Feast of the **Presentation of the Lord** in the Temple. On this day we surround the **Crèche** with candles and flowers and a family prayer (Jan. 30<sup>TH</sup> bulletin). The 40 day interval represents our own time of **waiting**, like **Simeon** and **Anna**, for the Lord to come and definitively dispel the darkness oppressing our world, our hearts and humanity; by the **radiant splendour** of his **glory** – **He, Jesus, Son of God and Light of the Nations!**

### **GROUPS AND MINISTRIES 2004 REPORT TO DIOCESE**

At the beginning of each calendar year, the Archdiocese requires every pastor to submit a “Pastoral Situation Report” for the parish. In order to help your priests fulfill this requirement, would Becket Parish leaders of groups and ministries please provide a brief report showing the name and kind of group or ministry, the # of leaders, # of other members = total members – as at year's end – and please email or phone in by January 24<sup>th</sup>? You may add any details and progress you wish to bring to our attention. This is an exercise in coresponsibility. Thank you very much. Fr. Gilles

### **ATTENTION FAITH FIRST FAMILIES**

We will be hosting a Parent gathering at 7:30pm on Wednesday, January 12, 2005 in the church. Attendance is required by at least one parent.

## IN OUR PARISH

### **BECKET NEEDS A DRE – QUALIFIED & INTERESTED?**

The Parish Director of Religious Education for Children coordinates the calendar and activities of some 635 children participating in the excellent Faith First program at home with their parents. Working with our priests as a member of the Parish Pastoral Team, the DRE administers registration and the database of children and families in Faith First, and animates the occasional parents' and children's gatherings and celebrations. The DRE has a pastoral heart to receive and listen to parents and care for children, at times one to one, and handles public relations through letters to parents, the bulletin, parents' meetings, the Faith First phone line and email. The DRE collaborates with other parish DREs in the West Island and attends continuing education meetings at the Archdiocese. The diocese requires a minimum of academic education and some formation in theology. The work is done at the parish office, in the church and hall, and from home. For a more detailed job description, salary, working hours and conditions, please contact our current DRE at 620-4057. Apply to the St. Thomas à Becket Parish DRE Search Committee ASAP. The new DRE will want to observe the activity and work from February until she/he begins in May.

### **WELCOME TO OUR NEW CWL MEMBERS!**

Are you a "stay at home" mom? Or perhaps you are widowed or retired, and you find you're somewhat disconnected from the wide world around you? Get connected now! Join our Catholic Women's League Becket Council and have a hand in shaping our future!

As a member of our Becket Council, you will be a member of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. We are affiliated with the United Nations women's networks that have a strong influence around the world and are a force for good especially in support of helpless poor women. We are also represented at the metropolitan, provincial, and national levels and have a strong sense of being part of something really big!

Have a good time getting to know other women and doing things together! This is membership time in the CWL, and we'll be glad to have you as a new member. Take a moment and fill in the coupon below and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to the CWL c/o the Parish. We will get back to you. You really matter to us. Come discover new friends!

### **ALREADY A CWL MEMBER?**

Paid membership cards may be picked up in CWL folder in Narthex. Any CWL member who has not yet paid is asked to put their cheque in the collection basket in an envelope marked CWL or call Elinor Gallagher at 620-0951 a.s.a.p. Thank you.

*St. Thomas à Becket Parish CWL Membership Drive – 2005*

**Yes, I would like information on the CWL – Catholic Women's League – and belonging to the network of women's organizations.**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_ **FAX** \_\_\_\_\_

## 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:**

Rosa and Domenico Pandolfo, Merlo & Cameron families, Ellis Charasidis, Wilson & Lee Loy families, Eddie Mallette, André Laurin, Al Mack, Sybil Low & Milton Low Sr. Terry Tobin, Frank Follett, Margaret Follett, Adrienne Simard Emile Taillon, sons & daughters.



### **CELEBRATE WITH US MONDAY EVENINGS 7:30 P. M.**

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

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

**Vespers** on the *1<sup>st</sup>* and *3<sup>rd</sup>* Mondays of every month (*corrected*)

**Masses** on the *2<sup>nd</sup>* and *4<sup>th</sup>* Mondays of every month (*corrected*)

<b>THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS</b>		
	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
<b>December 19, 2004</b>	<b>\$ 6 783.00</b>	<b>\$ 2950.00</b>
<b>Christmas 2004</b>	<b>\$22 307.00</b>	<b>(included below)</b>
<b>December 26, 2004</b>	<b>\$ 4 558.00</b>	<b>\$ 2672.00</b>
<b>January 1, 2005</b>	<b>\$ 4 050.00</b>	-----
<b>January 2, 2005</b>	<b>\$ 4 360.00</b>	-----

### **~ SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND FOR ASIA ~**

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is organizing a special collection to assist regions affected by the tsunami in Southeast Asia. We will have this special collection **next weekend January 15 & 16**. The money collected will be sent through the Archdiocese of Montreal to Development and Peace, a member of Caritas Internationalis, a Catholic international aid network based in Rome. Thank you for your generosity.

### **ARMCHAIR RETREAT**

**February Armchair Retreat** is fully booked. **Next Date: Apr. 8 to 10.**

Join us for 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. Cost: \$95.00. Led by Margaret Million and Fr. Mike Shaw at Ermitage Retreat Center, Pfds. Info: 626-1154 or 696-6451.



### **D. L. S. LENT EASTER MUSIC EVENING 2005**

**All Choir Directors and /or choir members:** Lent and Easter music workshop, **Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.** St. Monica's Parish. Resister by January 10<sup>th</sup>. **Liturgy Chairpersons and Children's Liturgy Leaders:**

Workshop: **Jan 17, 7:30 p.m.** St. Gabriel's Parish. Register by Jan 15. To register for either workshop, 937-2301, ext. 271, \$20.00 per parish.

### **THE PILGRIM PROJECT**

Bereavement Support Groups begin Feb/March. Rachel: 633-9315.

Wanted: volunteers for children's program which offers support and respite to families with children with chronic illness or disabilities.

Training begins end of January. Info: Rachel: 633-9315