

# Fifth Sunday Of Easter April 24, 2005



*Habemus  
Papam!!*

“From God I invoke unity and peace for the human family and declare the willingness of all Catholics to cooperate for true social development, one that respects the dignity of all human beings.... ‘Stay with us, Lord!’ ... I impart to you (all) ... a special and affectionate blessing.”

*Benedict XVI – Bishop of Rome, Pope*

**WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE – APRIL 24 to 29**  
**Monday & Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Wednesday to Friday 8:30 a.m.**

**WE STILL PRAY FOR JOHN PAUL II & FOR BENEDICT XVI**

The Lord has so very quickly answered our prayers for a new shepherd and Bishop of Rome in the person of Pope Benedict XVI. He is a humble, simple man, and asks for our ongoing prayers. Conscious of his shortcomings, he is nevertheless confident in the help and strength that comes from God, and has entrusted his person and ministry to the Holy Spirit and to the prayers of the Mother of Jesus and of the Church, Mary. Let us join him in doing the same, entrusting him and ourselves to the divine mercy and providence of God and to the powerful prayers of Mary, and continue to pour out gratitude, praise, and intercession for Pope John Paul II, that even in eternity he may continue to serve the Lord and pray for us, for our new Pope and the Church, and for all Christians and all of humanity. “We praise and thank You, O Lord!”

**PLEASE BEGIN HANDING IN THE COMMUNAL REFLECTION**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of **St. Thomas à Becket Parish** will run from September 5, 2005 (Date our Mission had its first Sunday with founding Pastor Fr. Charles Cahill at 4 Masses) to October 11<sup>th</sup> 2006 (Date Archbishop Paul-Émile Cardinal Leger decreed the foundation of the Parish). If we are to have something to celebrate, we must pause and reflect, and seek out motives for gratitude and joy in the faith we have lived out these past several years.

Who are we, where have we been, what is God doing among us, what have we accomplished, and where are we going? In what way(s) is my life a gift I continue to receive from the Lord? In what way(s) to date have I made my life a gift of love for others: at home, in school, at work, in public office or institutions, in the marketplace, in the neighbourhood, in local activities and associations, among friends, at Sunday worship, at Becket, in the wider Church, or in solidarity with the poor? What changes must I make in the use of the time, talents, and treasure God entrusts to my care as his good steward of all the good things He intends for the good of all his children?

Let us all reflect and report on God’s graces and become one mind and heart as we reflect on the past, report all that the Lord has done, and **“Give an account of our stewardship.”** You can access and print out 2 exercises from our Parish website – just go to Menu and click on Resources. Please hand in the “Communal Reflection Exercise” soon and our reports will be formulated into a Parish History of God’s Grace at Becket. Our wonderful Parish Staff are already on board and working with your pastors. Would you like to help? God bless you! Fr. Gilles

## ARCHDIOCESE ANNUAL COLLECTION APRIL 24 TO MAY 8

The 2005 Annual Collection of the Catholic Church of Montreal begins today. This year's theme: **Thank God**. With Mr. Roger D. Landry, former president and publisher of the La Presse, as chairman, the collection is intended to support the implementation of faith education initiatives throughout the faith communities of the dioceses and assist parishes committed to underprivileged neighbourhoods. Our generosity is vital!!

### UPCOMING SPECIAL HAPPENINGS AT BECKET

May 7-8 Blessing of Expectant Mothers, Fathers, & their other children.

June 4-5 Blessing of Drivers, Families, and their vehicles.

1:30 p.m. Blessing of Pets.

June Meeting of the WIPC – West Island Pastoral Council – an evening.

Membership – from each parish: 1 warden, 1 PPC rep, & pastor

– all W.I. priests with a mandate, 2 DRE reps, 1 Deacon rep.

Fr. Tom will be on vacation in Philippines from April 28 to June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### MALIGAYANG PAGLALAKBAY!

### FAITH FIRST



For families wishing to bring their children more fully into Christ, please attend one of the Faith First pre-registration info meetings to be held on **May 24th & 25th, 2005** in the Church at 7:30 pm. Registration for all levels will be held on **May 31st** and **June 1st** from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

### CONFIRMATION

Children receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 14th **must** attend their **retreat on Saturday May 7th** according to their group number and bring their workbooks to receive a certificate of completion. Please refer to your calendar for appropriate times. If your child cannot attend the retreat please call the info-line at 620-4057. Children who miss the retreat cannot receive the Sacrament on May 14th. **Family guest tickets** for the May 14th celebration were distributed at the last gathering on April 19th. If you are not in possession of your tickets please arrange to pick them up from the Parish office during regular business hours. No guest will be given access to the Church without a ticket. Deadline: May 7th for pick up!

### CELEBRATION OF FIRST HOLY EUCHARIST AT BECKET

Many of our Faith First families will be celebrating their child's First Holy Communion at most of our weekend Masses during the months of **April and May 2005**. Join us as we pray for these children and their families. "Dear friends, there is no doubt that an unforgettable meeting with Jesus is First Holy Communion, a day to be remembered as one of life's most beautiful... Children receive this sacrament solemnly a first time -- in First Holy Communion -- and are encouraged to receive it afterward as often as possible in order to remain in close friendship with Jesus." Pope John Paul II, excerpt from his "Letter to Children" written in 1994 during the "Year of the Family".



### ~ PARISH LAWN CLEAN UP~

Stewardship Opportunity! Join fellow parishioners and help clean up our church lawn! We need people to rake up the gravel and leaves, and turn over the soil in the flower gardens. **April 30, 9:00 a.m.** (rain date: May 7)  
B.Y.O.T. (Bring Your Own Tools – rakes, shovels, etc.) Thank You!!



## YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST & INITIATION

We are currently in a special year of focus, study, and celebration of the Eucharist until October 2005. If you are not Catholic and want to receive Holy Communion in the Catholic Church, now is the time to apply for a preparation process; so that when you are ready, you may come up to receive the Lord in honesty and truth. Already, each year 636 children or more participate in a catechetical faith journey according to the leadership and example of their parents. Some adults also sign up and participate in an adult faith exploration group to prepare to encounter and receive Jesus more personally in the forgiveness of their sins and in Holy Communion with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

By the example of Pope John Paul II, we respect Christians of the other churches and traditions; so if you are such a Christian from another church and practice your Protestant faith, we pray that you grow in your faith and in holiness. However, our churches are not in communion, and in the Roman Church, we do not have open communion, but rather try to obey the Lord's call to first reconcile with our brothers and then come to the altar. If you would honor the Lord and respect Him in the Roman rite, you won't seek Holy Communion here, but rather in your own church.

On the other hand, if you don't really practice your faith in your own tradition but only here; then we invite you to seek full communion with us through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. We will be so happy to journey with you until the next cycle of initiation at Easter. We do enjoy a spiritual union together by virtue of our one Baptism in Christ. It may be that a priest gave you the impression none of this matters, and have in fact been taking communion. That may put you in the precarious situation, though, since our communion in Christ is not complete without communion with the shepherds He sends to lead us and guide us in our faith. Disregarding Roman tradition and practice regarding dispositions for receiving Holy Communion shows contempt for the authority Jesus entrusts to his shepherds, which is really contempt for the Lord himself. I apologize for any priests who may have mislead you in this regard until now. Please consider this matter and bring it to the Lord yourself in prayer, and ask for the strength to take the necessary steps not to receive his Holy Mysteries unworthily and endanger your faith and eternal life through disobedience or pride.

Reconcile yourself to the Lord and his Church. Put aside personal will, and take up humility and obedience. Imitate Jesus, who humbles himself to the point of death on a cross (Phil 2:6-11)

Stop putting it off... talk to one of the priests here... you'll be glad you did! "May Almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit! Amen"



### THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
April 17, 2005	\$ 7504.00	\$6775.94
		(includes \$5720.94 from Wine Festival)



### LECTORS

Please pick up your schedules in the Narthex. Thank you!

## **C.W.L. CORNER**

The St. Thomas à Becket Council of the Catholic Womens League will be hosting the residents of the Father Dowd Residence. There will be a Mass **May 22 at 12:15 p.m.** celebrated by Father Jim McDonald, chaplain of the Father Dowd Residence. A reception and entertainment will follow in the parish hall. All parishioners are welcome to attend this Mass and seniors are welcome to attend the reception as well. Just call Elinor at 620-0951 if you will be attending the reception.

### **CWL ANNUAL CONVENTION**

The 84<sup>th</sup> annual archdiocesan convention of the Catholic Womens League will take place on May 7 at St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Hall – 4455 West Broadway Montreal. All members of the League are encouraged to attend and we would like to have any of your friends who would be interested in learning more about the Catholic Womens League to feel very welcome to join us. We are fortunate to have as guest speakers Dr. Robert Walley, founder of Matercare International. Tickets are \$28.00. Call Elinor Gallagher 620-0951 or Maureen Gomes 633- 9424.

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



**Reminder:** All men who agreed to join the Knights of Columbus at Becket are invited to a meeting **April 24 in the big hall at 7:00 p.m.** to receive their 1<sup>st</sup> degree. Interested in learning more about the K of C? Join us! Become part of the founding council at Becket!

### **BECKET PANTRY NEEDS**

Toothpaste, peanut butter, canned mushrooms, teabags. **Urgently needed:** baby clothes, linens and articles (furniture) for 3 newborns and clothes for a baby girl (up to 18 mos). ***Please call the office before dropping off any items.*** We also need daytime and evening **drivers** who would be willing to make deliveries of non- perishables to needy families. Office: 626-4111. Thank you for your generosity.

### **AROUND TOWN**

#### **DEPARTMENT FOR FAMILY LIFE**

Archdiocese of Montreal, 2000 Sherbrooke W.

Info and registration: Sonia-Kesik-Mitchell,(514) 925-4300 ext. 343

#### **Natural Family Planning**

Plan or postpone pregnancy simply, naturally and effectively. The Billings Ovulation Method is a way of living married life that respects the love-giving and life-giving nature of sexual relationship. Free instructional evening: Apr.21, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Facilitator: Rosa D'Addario

#### **Day of Enrichment for Married Couples**

Take an honest, sincere look at your marriage as it is now and how to identify directions in which you want your marriage to grow. Learn skills and ways in which this growth may be achieved. Sat. May 7, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. \$20 /couple, brown bag lunch.

**St. Thomas à Becket Parish Justice and Peace Committee** would like to share this Pastoral Letter on the Christian Ecological Imperative from the Social Affairs Commission, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Originally printed October 4, 2003 Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (Patron Saint for Ecology) We will reprint this letter in 5 parts over the next 5 weekends. To read the complete letter visit [www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca) and click on media releases.



### **A Religious Response**

*Praise be my Lord for our brother the wind, and for air and cloud, calms and all weather, by which you uphold life in all creatures.*

St. Francis of Assisi, *The Canticle of the Sun*

Throughout history, each people's religious beliefs have conditioned their relationship to their environment. Some Christians have developed the ecological acumen of saints. Others seem to have misinterpreted the Genesis account to "subdue" the earth and establish "dominion" over all living things. Pope John Paul II has emphasized the need for "ecological conversion,"<sup>5</sup> and we are encouraged that many Christian traditions are responding actively to the ecological crisis. They have recognized that churches have insufficiently come to grips with how aspects of Christian theology and tradition are implicated in the Western capitalist development model which has led to so much ecological ruin<sup>6</sup> (not to mention the ecological disasters left by communist regimes). Christians are mining biblical and theological resources in order to gain insight into "eco-justice" issues. Others are collaborating by forming new ecumenical and interfaith alliances. The work to highlight a theology of creation that directs us towards the proper relationship between God and the entire earth community is most timely and appreciated, both within the churches and increasingly among environmental activists.<sup>7</sup>

All spiritual traditions speak of the marvels of the earth: the overwhelming beauty, the vast array of creatures, the complex and interconnected weave of ecosystems. They also teach respect for the earth and call humans to live within its limits. Certainly the Christian tradition has both biblical and theological resources that could deter humans from further ecological ruin. Biblical teachings are rich with ecological guidance and wisdom. The bible has abundant images that connect the earth to God, and teach about God; the wind, water, soil, seeds, trees, birds, sheep. Many passages speak of the need to respect the land, for example.<sup>8</sup> The metaphors of planting and tending, pruning and harvesting are used to speak of God and of life. The magnificent story of Job is a reminder that God loves and tends to all of creation.<sup>9</sup> The rainbow, set by God in the clouds, "recalls the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind that is found on the earth."<sup>10</sup>

The bible also teaches about an equitable distribution of resources, including sharing land, animals and water. This insistence on justice is often directed towards distributing the bounty of the earth and providing for those who are marginalized.<sup>11</sup> The profound interconnection between God's care for humans and care for the environment is noted in Psalm 146, in which The maker of heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them ...secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry ...sets prisoners free ...gives sight to the blind ...raises up those who are bowed down ...protects the stranger [and] sustains the orphan and the widow. Ecological problems are enmeshed within social structures that serve the interests of the few at the expense of the many, especially those marginalized and in poverty. ....to be continued....