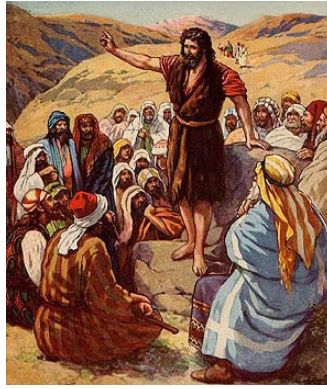


*Third Sunday
in Advent
December 11, 2005*



WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Dec. 12 & 13: 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 14 to 16: 8:30 a.m.

IN OUR PARISH

FAITH FIRST NEWS



Gatherings for Faith First will begin again in the New Year. Next Parent Gathering: Jan 11 at 7 p.m. Info: 620-4057

The Faith First Team wishes you all a joyful Advent.

STRUGGLING WITH GRIEF?

A group workshop series is offered for people on the West Island suffering a significant loss, such as the death of a loved one, divorce or a major change in life. From Death to New Life: A Christian View of Loss. Practical tools for working through bereavement will be presented in talks, reflections and discussions, led by Deacon Richard Boileau, with more than 10 years experience assisting people dealing with loss, are centered on the healing power of faith, hope and love. Next series scheduled on **Fridays beginning Jan. 20 to March 10 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** For details, call 697-9813 or write richard.boileau@videotron.ca

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

St. Luke: Dec. 13, after 7 p.m. Mass. ♦ **St. Joseph's Oratory:** Week: 7:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sunday: 6:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.



NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. \$30.00 per person. Dinner at 9 p.m. Tickets: Phil 696-4167 or Guy 626-8421.

BE A CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONOR

To make a donation in memory of a loved one towards our church decorations for Christmas, include your donation in an envelope that is clearly marked "**Christmas flower donations**", and write on the envelope: name of your loved one (memorial) along with your name (donor). Please also include your parish envelope number if available. You can bring your donation to the office or drop it in the **Flower Donation Box** at the Church doors. Names of loved ones will be included in upcoming holiday bulletins.



A BIG THANK YOU

from the altars servers and the CWL to all parishioners who supported the many fundraisers last weekend.

LECTORS NEEDED

We still require lectors for the 5 pm Sun. Mass. Please consider this important ministry opportunity: 626-4111.



GREETERS NEEDED

If you are interested in doing something for Becket that does not involve meetings, why not become a "Greeter". We could use you individually or why not greet as a family - a wonderful way of getting the children involved. You do not greet each week, but approximately every 3 - 4 weeks, and for that mass you are asked to be here one-half hour early. We



are looking for Greeters for the Saturday 4:30 mass, Sunday masses 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. We would welcome any of you who would be able to greet even one time at one of the Christmas Eve Masses as we require many people to help. For more info - call Norma 620-2019.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Due to security issues in the metro area, we no longer publish amounts of the collections. Information is available through the office. Thank you.

OUR PARISH BULLETIN ADS make our bulletin free of charge for the parish. Please support our advertisers and welcome the new ones!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR PRIESTS!

If you missed the special collection last Sunday, it's not too late to add your support (in this first of five years) to fill in an actuarial loss in the priests' pension fund caused by Canadian financial institutions upgrading the male life expectancy from 77 to 79.4 years and by low interest rates. It is also a problem that more priests are over 65 and drawing a pension than are contributing to the fund. Your contributions: \$1981.00. Thank you!

Did you know that before 1954 priests received no salary, but only \$2 (now \$5) for each Mass, and what people occasionally gave them? In 1954 the Archdiocese noted the great changes in economic and social conditions of our society. The "head contribution" or "dime" offered by people was no longer enough to allow priests to get by. The Christmas and Easter offerings were no longer enough for pastors to administer the rectories. The diocese could no longer provide for a priest's lifetime; so priests were given a salary to provide for themselves.

This was the first 1954 salary scale. Pastor \$175/month - \$2100/year; Assistant \$60 - \$720; Administrator \$100 - \$1200. Each priest received room and board valued at \$75/month. Today, there is a single scale for all priests and bishops: \$1178 net/month - \$19,790/year. Room and board is valued at \$9000/year and the Fabrique contributes around \$2000 to each priest's pension and health plans. There are also vacation and continuing education benefits. However, priests must assume their own vehicle and travel costs. Given the precarious nature of the lopsided clergy pension fund, some priests invest in an additional RRSP, and priests must keep in mind they will not be able to pool their resources as married couples can in retirement. These benefits, while remaining comparatively frugal, yet better than what some lay people have, will allow our priests, at the end of their lives, for a few years, the possibility of choosing where to live, after a lifetime of living in the workplace. For more information, see Fr. Gilles

WHEN DO WE TURN ON OUR CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS?

We needn't be put off that people are already lighting Christmas trees and ornaments, outside and inside. These lights do give honor and glory to the One who is the Light of the World. Their premature lighting also testifies to the great darkness in the world of human hearts. People struggle in the darkness and deeply desire to enter into the light that comes from God. It is different with those who believe in Jesus and live by his Word and pray to Him daily. We are more conscious of his abiding presence, and we can afford – during the preparation time of Advent – to taste more the waiting for his coming into our lives. During Advent we do all we can to remove from our minds, hearts, lips, and practices, anything that hinders the light from spreading. We focus more on noticing the shadows and clearing all that creates them, waiting with expectant hope for Jesus to come again to us like the radiance of the Dawn. On Christmas Eve we will put on all our festive lights as we leave to go to Church for our Christmas celebration!

YOUTH



TEEN SINGERS, (13+ yrs) NEEDED for 5 pm Sunday Mass, twice each month. Join us! Patrick Viegas 453-3986.

BECKET PANTRY

Desperately needed: Baby car seat & regulation crib (post 1986). Also, small dresser for baby & bunk beds.



Christmas Baskets:

We invite you to donate new or nearly new toys, snowsuits, or teen jackets in good condition, baby items (clothes up to 3 years) **NO ADULT CLOTHING** unless new, small gifts for teen girls & boys and mom & dads. Please don't wrap them. If you are getting items from your company, please give the secretary the name so we can send a thank you. Frozen turkeys any size are also welcome. They can be put in the freezer in the garage. Thank you very much for your generosity. *Carolyn Moss.*

JUSTICE & PEACE

We topped our record at over \$900.00 worth of products sold at our Fair Trade table last weekend. The Christmas baskets were a hit. The children & families of Asia, Africa & South America thank you for giving them hope for a better life this Christmas. The Justice & Peace Committee thanks you for your support over the year and wishes you a Blessed & Peaceful Christmas & New Year.

AROUND TOWN



290 CRECHES AT THE MUSEUM OF THE ORATORY
290 creches from 110 countries are exhibited at the Oratory's museum until February 26th, 2006. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. A small donation is welcome at the entrance.

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION AT THE PADUA CENTRE

The power of Mindfulness Meditation: This practice enables us to become aware of our habits of thinking and reacting and the ways in which we create our own identity. January 9, 2006 1950 St Antoine Street S.West, Monday mornings from 10 to 12. Contribution requested: \$ 7.00
Facilitators: Kersti Biro, Joseph Emet, and Valerie Legge.

PARISH ADVENT PROJECT HELPS MALAWI ORPHANS

Our Advent Mission, *Epiphanies in Our Lives*, reminded us that from the very beginning Jesus was someone to be personally experienced. Jesus revealed that what we do to the least of his children, we do to him. Theirs is the contemporary face of Emmanuel, God-Among-Us.

We see the face of the child of Bethlehem in, among others, the AIDS orphans of Africa. **Our mission proposed a seasonal parish project to bring nourishment, healing and hope to orphaned children in Malawi, one of the poorest yet most peaceful countries in the world.** The population of the remote northern community of Karonga has been devastated by deaths caused by HIV/AIDS related illnesses, which have left tens of thousands of children orphaned and without care and support.

Sister Beatrice Chipeta of the Rosarian Sisters of Mzuzu Diocese struggles to relieve the suffering of orphans from her base at the Lusubilo (Hope) Orphan Care Project that she established in 1997. The project that she founded and directs offers basic food and nutritional supplements as well as educational, spiritual, financial and social support to more than 4,000 orphans drawn from 30 villages in the district.

We encourage you to make a difference in the lives of the orphans of Karonga district by purchasing gift cards in support of any of these three activities:

1) Orphan nutrition support: Your donation will pay for a local milk supplement called *lukani pali* as well as beans to prevent the devastating effects of malnourishment. Gift cards that you can give to friends or family at Christmas are \$10 each.

2) Paediatric medicine: Your donation will provide paediatric medicines to improve the survival and health of orphans. Gift cards that you can give to friends or family at Christmas are \$25 each.

3) Building the Nyungwe Vocational Skills Training Centre: Your donation will enable the construction of a facility to teach older orphans skills required to support themselves. Gift cards that you can give to friends or family at Christmas are \$50 or \$100 each.

Tax receipts are available for donations of \$10 or more. **Please be sure to indicate on your envelope or cheque that donations are for the MALAWI PROGRAM.** For information, call the office at 626-4111.

What the Father considers to be pure and genuine religion is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their suffering and to keep oneself from being corrupted by the world.
– James 1: 27

~ *Advent and Christmas Calendar 2005* ~



Sunday December 18 **Christmas Concert** 7:00 p.m.



Saturday December 24 **Christmas Eve**

Simultaneous Masses will be celebrated in the Church and Hall at:
4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Sunday December 25 **Christmas Morning Mass** 9 and 11 a.m.

Thursday December 29 **Feast of St. Thomas à Becket** 8:30 a.m.

Friday December 30 **Holy Family** 8:30 a.m.

Saturday December 31 **New Year's Eve: Mary, Mother of God**

Holy Hour for God's Peace in the World: 3:15 p.m.

Mass: 4:30 p.m.

Vigil of Adoration and Prayer in Cahill Hall 10:00 p.m. to midnight

Sunday January 1 **New Year's Day** 9 and 11 a.m.

Please note that there will be no 5:00 p.m. Mass on
December 25 or January 1

**“Come and
worship Him.”**

