



Fourth Sunday of Advent

*December 23,
2012*

*Please see the following page for Christmas and
upcoming weekday Masses.*

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: DEC. 22 TO DEC. 30

Saturday	Dec. 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
4:30 pm	Our Parishioners		
Sunday	Dec. 23		
9:00 am	Robert Clark Sr.		Becket Staff
11:00 am	Gerald Forrest		Fr. Mike Shaw
Monday	Dec. 24	CHRISTMAS	
4:00 pm	Ralph Peluso		Marieta & Chuck Lawton
5:30 pm	Clarence Cussen		Janet Arts
7:00 pm	Mark Julius Coelho		Pat & Donny
10:00 pm	Our Parishioners		
Tuesday	Dec. 25		
10:00 am	Maria Rosario Soler, Maria Aurora Soler Sean Richardson		The Richardson and Robertson Families
Wed.	Dec. 26	Saint Steven	
8:30 am	No Mass		
Thurs.	Dec. 27	Saint John, Apostle	
8:30 am	Susan D'Souza		Eddie D'Souza
Friday	Dec. 28	The Holy Innocents	
8:30 am	Messrs & Mesdames Maresca & Principe		family
Saturday	Dec. 29	The Holy Family	
4:30 pm	David Marolly		The Marollys
Sunday	Dec. 30		
9:00 am	Our Parishioners		
11:00 am	Helen Boober		Mike Shaw

Weekday Readings:

Mon. Dec. 24	Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25	Mt 1: 1-25
Tues. Dec. 25	Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/	Jn 1: 1-18
Wed. Dec. 26	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59	Mt 10:17-22
Thurs. Dec. 27	1 Jn 1: 1-4	Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Fri. Dec. 28	1 Jn 1:5--2:2	Mt 2:13-18

SANCTUARY LAMP: Week of December 23: Stanislaw, Richard & Emilia Pawlak, requested by Jean Bisson.

VOCATIONS REFLECTION: Mary set out in haste, carrying the good news of God's great love. Wherever you go today, take God with you.

Diocesan Vocations Office: 514-925-4348. vocationsmtl@diocesemontreal.org

Let's approach Christmas with an expectant hush, rather than a last-minute rush.

~ Anonymous

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

First reading: Micah 5:1-4a
Second reading: Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Adults: When was it hardest for you to trust in God's plan, as Mary did? What can help you at such times?

Children: When is it hardest for you to obey a parent or teacher? What can help you obey with more trust?

FAITH FIRST WEEKLY REFLECTIONS: Following are some of the reflections we have received from the children this past week: *I took some time to get to know God when I...*

was nice to my sister. **Nevio L.**

delivered a Christmas card to my aunt and uncle. **Nicholas F.**

invited my family for dinner. **Gabriella I.**

prayed with the V.A.N. Angel. **Dario I.**

listened to Christmas songs. **Jovanna L.**

I thanked him for Christmas. **Dominic D.**

helped my parents put up Christmas decorations. **Jonathan M.**

prayed at night. **Vanessa C.**

CAFES 2012-2013

The Catholic Adult Faith Enrichment Series are offered to all our parishioners as a means of deepening their life of prayer and learning more about our faith.

Join us in the New Year as we offer more CAFES such as:

- Growing in Love as a Couple (Jan. 16)
- What is Vatican II? (Jan. 23)
- Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast: Mary the Mother of God. (Jan. 24)
- Praying with your Children (Feb. 01)

Visit the parish website for more information www.stthomasabecket.org

DON'T KNOCK PLASTIC: As Pope Benedict's new book "Jesus of Nazareth – The Infancy Narratives" helps us to understand how the entire nativity scene actually happened and unfolded (no, there was no plastic circa 2000 AD), we share with you an another inspiring perspective on the Nativity scene:

There was a time I drew the line at those hollow plastic nativity figures that you light up from the inside with light bulbs. They were, in my humble opinion, way too chachka. Then a miracle happened. My friend Dick never in his life gave religion a second thought. His wife was a go-to-church Catholic, but he preferred to stay home and watch the game. Then, one cold and blustery evening, while he was driving home from work, in the early darkness of late December, a hollow plastic image of the Blessed Mother tore loose from its moorings in a nearby Nativity scene and went sailing across the street, right through the wash of Dick's headlights. Without thinking he slammed on the brakes, leapt from behind the wheel, and set off after the wafting styrene Madonna. Across the frozen tundra of lawn and hedge he pursued the PVC BVM. Just as he was about to concede to the tireless wind, she got caught in a front yard display of eight tiny reindeer, and the chase was over. Hugging Our Lady close, he made his way back to where his car was idling in the middle of the street, driver's door ajar. A small traffic jam had formed, but he held the Mother of God under his arm, so what could anyone say? They watched silently as he returned her to the stable, re-secured her tethers, got back in his car and drove away. After the encounter, Dick's life changed dramatically. He accompanied his wife to Midnight Mass that Christmas. The following Lent he made a full confession and received communion for the first time in thirty years. It's been Mass every Sunday for Dick. He helps out at all the parish events and is very generous in his support of the church. He's become a new creation. His explanation is simple: "I rescued the Virgin Mary on Christmas Eve"! he says.

~ Fr. Paul Boudreau, Norwich, CT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR DEC. 09/10

OFFERINGS: \$ 6407.00
HELPING OTHERS: \$ 4287.00

Due to holiday printing schedules the contribution amounts for Dec. 16, 23 & 30 will be published in the New Year.

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR AT BECKET
2012 – 2013**

Christmas Eve Masses

Mon. Dec. 24, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00 &
10:00 p.m.

*N.B. If you plan to attend the 4:00 pm
Mass please come early as this Mass
will be crowded.*

Christmas Day Mass

Tues. Dec. 25, 10:00 a.m.

Holy Family

Sat. Dec. 29, 4:30 p.m.

Sun. Dec. 30, 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

**Holy Hour of Prayer for God's Peace
in the world**

Mon. Dec. 31, 3:15 p.m.

Mary, Mother of God

Mon. Dec. 31, 4:30 p.m.

Tues. Jan. 1, 10:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL:

Thank you to all who helped to cover the cost of our beautiful Christmas flowers and plants! Dear Lord, grant your abundant blessing on all those on whose behalf these offerings were made: *Frances & Bill Cunningham, Alfonso Mio, Maria Verdone, Oreste Testa, Carmela Bonta, Antonio Bonta, Patrick Loffredo, Mike and Mary Saukas, Mary Hyjek, Paul & Gisèle Gervais, Wilfrid & Opale Dugauy, Joseph Zizek, Agnes O'Donnell, Jane & Peter Holloran, Anne Marie Watkinson, Sean Richardson, deceased members of the Obregon and Lawton families, Joyce, Sabina, Rudy, Tony, Rocky, Flo, Mimi, Anna, & Michel Gallo, Albert & Martin Kojoian, Antonia Pantin*

Donations can still be made! Include your donation in an envelope that is clearly marked "Christmas Flower Donations". Write the name of your loved one (memorial) along with your name (donor) on the envelope. Include your parish envelope number if applicable. Drop your envelope in the collection basket at Mass. Names of loved ones will be included in upcoming holiday bulletins.



NEW NATIVITY SET

Last December, we realized that our old nativity set was very much the worse for wear, and so we began a search for a new set. Shomali Inc. graciously lent us a beautiful, hand carved, olive wood nativity set – made in the holy city of Bethlehem. We received many positive comments about the crèche and so we have decided to purchase this unique treasure for our parish. Shomali Inc. have generously offered us a very special price for this crèche. If you would like to help us defray the cost, please make a donation in the name of St. Thomas à Becket Parish. Donations can be dropped off at the office or during the regular collection. Please mark "crèche" on the envelope, and indicate your name, and envelope number if applicable.



The parish and Faith First offices will be closed from Dec. 24 to Jan. 07