

Christmas

December 25, 2004

*"Good news and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord."*

*Merry Christmas! Joyeux Noel!
Buon Natale! Feliz Navidad!
Maligayang Pasko! Fröhliche Weihnachten!*



IN OUR PARISH

As I sit down to write this brief message I find my heart filled with emotion. For the last few months I have had the honour of serving as Acting Pastor at St. Thomas a Becket while Fr. Gilles has been away on his well-deserved sabbatical. He is on his way home even as I write this, driving from Chicago to join us for the Christmas celebrations. In a sense, this is my last official function as Acting Pastor.

The last few months have been extremely busy, and the Advent and Christmas season only makes it more so. I am sure many of you are almost relieved that the hustle and bustle has come to an end! Apart from all our activity, of course, Christmas is also a time to review our relationships.

For many, Christmas is a time of joy and togetherness. For others, Christmas is harder -- perhaps it is a reminder of family tensions, or perhaps a loved one has gone on to the Lord. And of course, there are all those (often insufferable) office Christmas parties.....

More and more our world wants to take Christ out of Christmas, but we as Catholics know that to do this is to lose the essence of the season. The Prince of Peace was born in a stable 2000 years ago, and is again knocking on the doors of our hearts. So as we enjoy the fruits of all our preparations for the holidays, let's turn this moment into a new beginning. The days are already starting to get longer -- let's be sure to let God's light into our lives in a new and powerful way.

God bless you, and all the best for 2005!

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 **not be available** for sign-in during the weekend of Christmas. They will return in the New Year for all Masses on 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 for the Becket pantry Christmas baskets. 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 at the back of church.

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.

Christmas at Becket

December 24 Christmas Eve Masses, 4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Simultaneous masses will be celebrated in the Church and Hall

December 25 Christmas Morning Mass, 10:30 a.m.

Please note that there will be no 4:30 p.m. mass December 25

December 26 Regular Mass schedule **9:00a.m., 11:00a.m. & 5 p.m.**

December 29 Feast of St. Thomas à Becket - regular 8:30 a.m. Mass

December 31 Mary the Mother of God – Holy Day of Obligation:

Holy Hour of Prayer for God's Peace in the World 3:30 p.m.

Mass 4:30 p.m.

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

January 1 New Year's Day Mass 10:30 a.m.

The parish office is closed from Dec. 27 to 31 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!

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

Presented by the Becket Social Club. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., Dinner 8:30 p.m.: Members \$22.00, non-members \$25.00. Door Prizes.
Tickets: 620-1156 or 626-2015.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

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.