

*First Sunday
in Advent
November 27, 2005*



WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. 2:00 p.m. (Mass for seniors) **Tues.** Mass at 12 Noon followed by discussion on Mission. **Wed to Fri.:** 8:30 a.m. Mass

FAITH FIRST NEWS



Gatherings for Children in their **Sacramental** year: First Communion (blue calendar) level 2+ **Wed. Nov. 30** at 4:15 and 6:15. Confirmation (yellow calendar) level 5+ **Thurs Dec. 1** at 4:15 and 6:15 Please check your calendar for the time of your child's gathering. Info: 620-4057.

IN OUR PARISH

ADVENT MISSION FOR EVERYONE: NOV. 27-29

Our Advent Mission begins this weekend. Theme: Epiphanies in Our Lives
Our celebration of Christmas will be more powerful this year if we begin to focus now on the Feast of the Epiphany, which reminds us that from the very beginning Jesus was someone to be personally experienced.

Epiphany also points to other encounters that have the potential of rearranging our ways of relating to him. The feast of Epiphany is a call to think about all of the mysterious and wonderful ways in which God appears in surprising forms.

If the God of the universe can be manifest in a helpless baby in a poor stable, then we better be ready for God just about anywhere and in anybody. We had better open our eyes and heart wider, and brace ourselves for something wonderful at the most unexpected moments and in the oddest of places.

Our Mission also gives us an opportunity to encounter Christ in others by reaching out to the poor. We have chosen to focus on the AIDS orphans in a remote part of Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world.

Our parish mission has been planned to appeal to parishioners but also to friends and family who do not come to church regularly. Christ is for everyone and we urge you to extend this invitation widely among the people that you know.

Plan to attend all three evenings from Sunday, Nov. 27 to Tuesday, Nov. 29 beginning at 7:30 p.m. There will be talks and music focused on the awesome reality that Christ is present.

Give yourself and your friends a special gift this year by taking time for what matters most.

For more information, contact the office at 626-4111.



FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

December 2 is the **First Friday** of the month. After Benediction you are invited to join us for an hour between 10:00 a.m. and midnight for adoration of the Holy Eucharist. Please sign up in the book at the back of the church.

*"...If only you knew how much Jesus really loved you,
you would die of Joy!" ~ St. Jean Vianney*

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

St. Thomas à Becket: **Nov 30, 7:30 p.m.**, St. John Fisher: **Dec. 3, 10:30 a.m. to Noon**, St. Edmund of Canterbury: **Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.**, St. David: **Dec 10, 7:30 p.m.**, St. Luke: **Dec. 13, after 7p.m. Mass.**

BLESSING OF DRIVERS AND VEHICLES

Next weekend, at all Sunday Masses beginning Saturday at 4:30, we will ask the Lord to bless all our drivers, families, and vehicles. Then, right after Mass, one of our priests will stand at the Apron steps and sprinkle your vehicle with holy water. Simply drive by the steps, following the direction arrows, coming towards the Apron from the St. Anne Street entrance, along the edge of the Apron towards the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes and on toward the Cayou Street exit. The Lord visit your vehicles and homes with his peace, and bless you all with patience and kindness!



SANTA'S TOY BOX FOR MALAWI

Toy and bake sale, Sunday Dec.4th after the 9 and 11 a.m. Masses in the Parish Hall. Proceeds will be donated the children of Malawi.

LECTORS NEEDED

Lectors: new schedules available in the Narthex.

Lectors are needed for the 5 pm Sun. Mass. Please consider this important ministry opportunity.



NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE



Presented by Becket's **Knights of Columbus** in Parish Hall. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. \$30.00 per person. Dinner at 9 p.m. Mario 624-5506 or Guy 626-8421.

FABRIQUE & H.O.C. ELECTIONS RESULTS

The Fabrique and Helping Others Committee thank the congregation for your ongoing support, and all those who attended and participated in the election meetings last Sunday. Thanks and congratulations to **Janet Arts & Dawn Richardson** for standing and for your election to another 3-year term on the Fabrique, and to **John Bondyra & Christine Agombar** for standing and for your election to the Helping Others Committee for a term of 2 years. May the Lord bless and guide you in your service to Becket for the honor and glory of God! May He bless you and your family for their generous support of your service.

JUSTICE AND PEACE

Last Fair Trade sale for the year on Dec. 3 & 4. Coffee, tea, chocolate, baking chocolate, organic virgin olive oil and soap from Palestine. A few baskets available - ideal Christmas gift. Next sale January 7 & 8.

YOUTH



CALLING ALL LITTLE ANGELS

Becket's Church Mice Productions will be presenting "The Littlest Angel" during our Christmas Concert on Dec 18. Our talent scouts are looking for little "angels" volunteers, ages 2yrs + who would like to perform a non-speaking part. The 1st practice/workshop will be held this **Sunday Nov. 27, from 1:00 –3:00 p.m.** Wanda 626-4619



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

MINI CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Brought to you by Becket's Altar Servers after all Masses Dec. 3 & 4. Bazaar/Christmas items. Please support your altar servers. Thank you!

BECKET PANTRY

CHRISTMAS BASKETS: We ask you to please be diligent about buying the items listed on the slips you received last weekend. This will ensure that our fifty to sixty families are well taken care of. **On December 3rd and 4th** we will repeat last year's DONATION WEEKEND and ask that everyone bring their donation to the church garage behind the priest's home on Hugo St. Thank you for your generosity. *Becket Pantry*

Sunday Liturgy – Anchor & Fountain – not an Obligation

Increasingly devastating hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, droughts, fires and earthquakes are so many signs of the times, causing many to think that our climate is indeed changing. There are other signs of the times pointing to the human climate of how it feels to be alive, married, a child or parent in a family, a student or worker, or simple citizen in the world.

Just as there are more "bad air" days in cities in recent years; so too there are more days when people feel "pushed to the edge." There seems to be more rudeness, where we find ourselves forced to listen to others' cell phone conversations in the most unlikely places, or find ourselves at times pushed out of the way by children, youth, young adults, and even old people hell bent on their destination and annoyed to find us on their path; as though we had no right to exist.

We ourselves can regret missing opportunities to really have a good connection with a spouse, child, co-worker, fellow student, friend or just a neighbor or passer-by. Bigger and bigger pockets of our days can become less human or humane, harsher, colder, and more isolating. We are most certainly in need of being saved from these influences around us and from ourselves, or habits and tendencies within us to pursue our goals at a cost that reduces our sense of being alive, being someone, or having meaning.

One danger signal, a flashing red light that can alert us that we have gone over some invisible line into a danger zone of isolation, or have in some way overextended or exhausted ourselves, is when we receive an invitation to participate in the Sunday Liturgy, or return after an absence, or to keep in mind a special season such as Advent beginning today, and we feel arise in us resentment, or a sense of being coerced against our will.

The Sunday Liturgy is something Jesus began and the Holy Spirit firmed up among the apostolic church, and that He continues today, and will continue until his return in glory. He attracts to himself all those who

are being saved from the darkness in the world and in human hearts. As they gather in his name each Sunday, He speaks to their hearts, nourishes them with his Body and Blood – an infusion of divine life – and develops in them the very intimacy that He has with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

God wants to make us a new creation, and He wants to do it not as we remain isolated, but as we come together. It is for these reasons that we try to welcome one another at the Sunday assemblies, and try to sit closer to the front and center of the pews, leaving room at the back and at the edges for those who will arrive later. It's a small way for us to offer consideration to those who may be having a harder time of it today.

What God gives us as we assemble becomes an anchor for us as we go back into our homes and busy lives, and God helps us find and make more pockets of time where we can stop a moment, draw a deep breath, and be glad just to be alive. Our encounter with God among all the other seekers and believers becomes a fountain within us of living water, and it gushes up inside with unexplainable peace, joy, love, kindness, creativity, understanding, compassion, and consideration for others. May you have a wonderful Advent season of preparation for Christmas. God bless you.

REGIONAL TOUR PRESENTATION “Clergy Pension Collection”

Our Episcopal Vicar, Msgr. Sean Harty, invited our Pastor (Associate Pastor) two representatives of our Board of Wardens and the Chair of our Parish Council, to attend a meeting on Wednesday, November 23.

The purpose of the meeting was twofold:

- a) To review the working conditions and benefits that are extended to our priests, emphasizing the essential role that our priests have in their ministry to God's people.
- b) To solicit the assistance of our parishes in reducing a financial shortfall in the clergy's pension plan.

The working conditions, salaries and benefits of our priests, are set forth in the Diocesan Guidelines which are reviewed annually by our Archbishop, Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte.

Compliance with these conditions i.e. Annual Salary, food allowance, holidays, medical insurance, pension contributions, time for continuing education, is administered by the Board of Wardens with our Parish's Annual Budgets and Financial Reports reviewed yearly by the Episcopal Vicar and the “Economat” Office of the Archdiocese.

Our meeting last Wednesday which was one of many taking place throughout the diocese this month, then reviewed the serious problem which has recently developed with regard to our clergy pension plan.

The problem has presented itself due to unique conditions that have evolved over the last few years namely:

- a) Interest rates have been consistently low for the last few years and are not forecasted to increase in the near future.
- b) The average age of our diocesan priests is 67 years. Therefore, more are drawing their pension at age 65 than contributing.
- c) Actuarial life expectancy of men in Canada has been increased from 77 years to over 79 years.

As such, our Clergy Pension Fund has recently been evaluated using new statistics on mortality and predicting lower interest rates by the Régie des Rentes du Québec. This evaluation states a deficit of \$ 1,375,000 (one million, three hundred and seventy five thousand dollars). To amortize this actuarial deficit, the Church of Montreal must cover as of December 31, 2005, the amount of \$314,400 this year, and over the next four years.

Our Archbishop, Jean-Claude Cardinal Turcotte, is appealing for solidarity among our parish Fabriques and the people of our diocese, to ensure that our priests are adequately provided for during their retirement years. Each parish or mission is asked to contribute \$1,500 per year for five years. So as to not place undue burden on parish finances, a special “Clergy Pension Collection” is proposed for the weekend of December 3-4, 2005, i.e. the Second Sunday of Advent.

Parishioners are encouraged to place their gift of support in any envelope clearly marked “Clergy Pension Collection”. If you are regular envelope users, kindly place your parish envelope number on the envelope, so that your gift will be recorded on your parish donation account. If you are not a regular envelope user, but wish to receive a donation receipt from your parish, please write your name and address on the envelope that you use to make your donation. All donations by cheque should be made payable to the Parish where you are making your gift.

Throughout the year, we as a Diocesan Church are called upon to stand in solidarity with those in need of our support. Often they are from distant lands, however we know it is our responsibility as Christians to support them in their need. Next weekend, we ask for your support for those who have cared for us well over the many years, and for those who are today engaged in the spiritual well-being of the people of Montreal.

May the lives of all our priests radiate the presence of Jesus so that by their word and good example, they may build up the Family of God. May we in all our actions, support and care for them at every stage of their lives. Thank You!

Living and Ministry Conditions of Montreal Priests

At present, all Montreal priests and bishops, regardless of years of service, duties, or education, receive the same salary: \$19,790.00 with an additional value of \$9,000.00 for room and board, and around \$2,000.00 of contributions by the employer to the Clergy Pension and Group Health Insurance plans. They are entitled to 36 hours off each week, a month vacation, a week for annual retreat (60% paid by employer), and 5 days a year for continuing education (shared by the priest, employer, & diocese) for a total salary value of \$35,000.00.

After deductions, they earn just under \$1200/month net, and must set aside amounts to cover their annual contributions to the clergy pension and health plans (ca \$1100) and travel expenses, often including financing and operating a vehicle partly for ministry. Those expenses are deductible from their income tax.

At retirement, they can expect around \$600 (RRQ) + \$477 (OAS) + \$900 Priests’ pension = around \$19,977.00. Priests ordained decades ago are receiving or can expect to receive less, because priests drew no salary at all until around 40 years ago, and the first salary was only \$1000

a year, and did not go over \$10,000 until 20 years ago; so their premiums were very low.

It is true that many people don't have any pension, like my own parents. On the other hand, priests cannot enjoy the benefit of combined couple revenues, and are on their own. One justification for the clergy pension is to allow our priests, at the end of their lives, for however briefly they will be retired, the possibility of choosing where to live, after a lifetime of living in their workplace. For more information, see Fr. Gilles



BUILDING FUND – 1997–2005 REPORT

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

As your Fabrique board prepares to present to you the fruit of our long labours in researching the necessity and means of replacing the roofs to our buildings and further findings elicited by conscientious questions from some of you, we also approach another election. At the end of the Fabrique's year, we present to you a comprehensive report of our Building Fund, reinstated by the Fabrique in July 1997 to repair the Apron, parking lot, and roofs. We thank all who have in many ways contributed with trust in our future to this fund for the past 8 years! Your generosity, diligence, involvement, concern, and trust have given glory to God and helped us accomplish much-needed major repairs. In the months ahead, we will present to you appropriate means to underwrite the projected cost of repairs to the roofs, along with a report of our research into the technical details and of the Fabrique's decisions and intended actions. We thank you for your patience and understanding. Fr. Gilles for the Fabrique.

Opening Balance from 1997:	\$12,312
Italian Night Gala – June 20 th , 1998:	\$11,500
Summer Day Camp 1998–99–2001–02:	\$9,500
Raffle – April 1999:	\$3,400
Bazaar – Fall 2000–2005:	\$21,096
Jubilee Year Raffle 2000–2001:	\$22,915
Craft Sale 2001:	\$5,362
2004 Golf Classic:	\$4,000
2004 Wine Festival:	\$5,721
Other fundraisers & donations:	\$19,719
Offerings to date (October 27, 2005):	<u>\$250,367</u>
Total Receipts to date:	\$365,892

Apron reconstruction – Oct/Nov 1998:	\$44,311
Furnace & Pump Repairs – Fall 1999:	\$6,572
Parking Lot – Fall 2000 – April 2001:	\$85,281
Parking Lot Lighting – Fall 2000:	\$20,316
Parking Lot Final – Jan/Sept 2001:	\$16,639
Oil Tank Replacement – Fall 2002:	\$11,601
Roof Evaluation – Architects 2004–05:	<u>\$21,074</u>
Total Expenditures to date:	\$205,794
Building Fund Credit Balance:	\$160,098

DECEMBER MASS INTENTIONS

1	THURSDAY	8:30AM	MARGARET JORGENSEN
2	FRIDAY	8:30AM	ANNA B. COOKE
3	SATURDAY	4:30PM	DOMENICA & CLAUDIO PEDICELLI
4	SUNDAY	9:00AM	JEAN SENECHAL
		11:00AM	Canterbury Fellowship Pilgrims
		5:00PM	OUR PARISHIONERS
5	MONDAY	7:30PM	NO MASS
6	TUESDAY	7:30PM	ROSIE DI GRAPPA
7	WEDNESDAY	8:30AM	Rosie di Grappa/Maria Palma Masci
8	THURSDAY	8:30AM	SPECIAL INTENTION FOR HEALING
9	FRIDAY	8:30AM	JOHN STEWART DAWES
10	SATURDAY	4:30PM	ERNEST TABUYAN
11	SUNDAY	9:00AM	OUR PARISHIONERS
		11:00AM	RICHARD PAWLAK
		5:00PM	LUCIANO DELLA ROCCA
12	MONDAY	7:30PM	MARGARET JORGENSEN
13	TUESDAY	7:30PM	GREGORY ROCHA
14	WEDNESDAY	8:30AM	DIANE PERLMAN
15	THURSDAY	8:30AM	MARIA & RAFFAEL PULICE
16	FRIDAY	8:30AM	ALFONSO & MARIA REDA
17	SATURDAY	4:30PM	GILBERT BOND
18	SUNDAY	9:00AM	SYBIL LOW (CHEONG)
		11:00AM	ANTHONY PHILIP D'SOUZA
		5:00PM	OUR PARISHIONERS
19	MONDAY	7:30PM	BERTHA MEDINA
20	TUESDAY	7:30PM	ANGELITA SANTAYANA
21	WEDNESDAY	8:30AM	HEINZ BRUES
22	THURSDAY	8:30AM	MARIA PULICE
23	FRIDAY	8:30AM	ELMO REDA
24	SATURDAY	4:30PM	CHURCH: RITA SUSAN DE SOUZA HALL: OUR PARISHIONERS
		7:00PM	CHURCH: LOUIS CONSTANTINEAU HALL: ADOLPHE RIVET
		10:00PM	CHURCH: YVES DAUNAIS HALL: CARLINA/CRISTINA VENTURA & MARIA MUSNI
25	SUNDAY	9:00AM	OUR PARISHIONERS
		11:00AM	MARK JULIUS COELHO
26	MONDAY	7:30PM	NO MASS
27	TUESDAY	7:30PM	MARIA COSTA
28	WEDNESDAY	8:30AM	PASQUALE REDA
29	THURSDAY	8:30AM	SPECIAL INTENTION
30	FRIDAY	8:30AM	EMILIA PAWLAK
31	SATURDAY	4:30PM	EDDIE MALLETTE

Canterbury Fellowship Pilgrims ~ December 2005

Deceased: Kathleen Ellis, Michael Solis, Karl-Heinz Wawak, Rita Suzanna De Souza Jo & Mark Dias, Walter Rother, Piero & Cathrine Mossa, Maryanne Vellozo, Celine Fernandez, Thérèse Côté Grenier, Maria Kozlowski

Living: Healing for Margeurite Grenier

