

*Fourth Sunday
in Advent
December 18, 2005*

*I am the servant of the Lord: let it be done to
me according to your word.*

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Dec. 19 & 20: 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 21 to 23: 8:30 a.m.



IN OUR PARISH

FAITH FIRST NEWS



N.B. There will be **no** Mass sign-in for Christmas Masses (Dec 24 or 25), or New Year Masses (Dec 31 & Jan 1). Sign-in will resume on Jan 7 & 8. Info: 620-4057. *The Faith First Team wishes you all a joyful Advent.*

~Christmas at Becket ~



Christmas Eve ~ Saturday, December 24

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.”**



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**



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.



2006 LATIN AMERICA AGENDAS available at back of church.

Witness the practical possibilities of solidarity. Join in the hope for the world's poor. An ideal Christmas gift.

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". 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 all weekend Masses. We would welcome any one able to greet even one time at one of the Christmas Eve Masses as we require many people to help. Norma 620-2019.

USERS OF CONTRIBUTIONS ENVELOPES

Please pick up your 2006 envelope boxes located at the back of the church. They are arranged alphabetically by name.

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!

Two weeks ago we had the first of five yearly special collections 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's great news that men are now living longer, but 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 "dîme" 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 the same with the pre-emptive playing of Christmas music. We can see how in our poverty our society clings to Christmas as soon as Halloween and Thanksgiving are over because we have nothing else of substance and meaning in our lives. Those who believe in Jesus, live by his Word, and pray to Him daily are more conscious of his abiding presence, and want to taste more of his coming into our lives. In Advent we try 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.



AROUND TOWN



290 CRECHES AT THE MUSEUM OF THE ORATORY

Exhibition of crèches from 110 countries until Feb 26, 2006. Daily from 10 am to 5 pm. A small donation is welcome.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PEACE AND JUSTICE MASS

Mass for peace will take place Dec. 31, 9:30 pm at St. Monica's Parish 6405 Terrebonne N.D.G. Reception to follow. All welcome.

RADIO VILLE MARIE 91.3 FM MONTREAL

Celebrate Christmas (9:30 a.m.) and New Years Day (9:30 a.m.) with radio host Lawyer Joseph-John Varga and guests Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte, Bishop Mancini and Msgr. Michel Parent.