

Epiphany of the Lord

January 8, 2006



WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Jan 9 & 10: 7:30 p.m.

Jan 11, 12 & 13: 8:30 a.m.

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK JAN 9-13

Keep the spirit of joy alive! Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, and Monday, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This week, January 9-13, is dedicated to National Vocation Awareness Week. By our baptism we are commissioned to follow Jesus. The Church needs dedicated people as married and single people, and men and women to serve as priests deacons, brothers, and sisters.



Bountiful God,

You are boundless with your blessings and faithful to your promises. Through our ancestors in faith we have come to know and to trust in your guidance on our life's journey. At Jesus' baptism you confirmed him in his mission. Commission us through our baptismal graces to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Open our hearts to recognize your holy calling. Bless our church with devoted married couples, committed single men and women, and dedicated deacons, priests, sisters and brothers.

Guide those who are discerning how best to serve you. With your favour, we set out to proclaim your reign through Jesus, your beloved Son in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

IN OUR PARISH

FAITH FIRST NEWS



Parent Gathering (all levels) Wed. Jan 11, 7 to 9 p.m.
1st Communion Children's Gathering (blue calendar) Jan. 18, 4:30 & 6:15.
First Communion Parent's Gathering Jan. 19, 7 to 9 p.m.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERINGS

Thank you to all who covered 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:



Dusan Medvescek, Giovanni Ambrosio, The Lee Loy and Wilson families, Anna & Allen Cooke, Rosalba Di Grappa, Anna Roth, André Laurin, Jose C. Untalan, Annie U. Vinarao, Letty E. Untalan, Rosario Dideles, Martin Dideles Sr., Anthony & Grozdana Listes, Douglas Floreani, Mrs. Joan Harkin, Salvatore Ilaqua, Stella & Stanley Szuszkowski, Al Mack, Tadeusz Rzeszutek, Alfonso Mio, Louis A. Pereira, Agnes O'Donnell, Jane & Peter Holloran, Anne Marie Watkinson, Ellis Charasidis.



40TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS

We will continue our video interviews **after all morning Masses on January 22 and 29.**

Interviews are open to **all** parishioners, young and old alike. Come share your stories and memories. You are all part of it!

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF THE HOME – 2006

By our Baptism we share each day in the life-death-resurrection of Christ; called to offer ourselves as living sacrifices pleasing to God (Romans 12:1). At Confirmation we were assured by Jesus of the Holy Spirit's guidance (John 14:26). As a child of God, we know that our prayer of faith in Jesus' name becomes part of Jesus' prayer to the Father and will be answered (John 14:13-14). This is our **Epiphany** prayer to obtain **God's blessing** on our **home: Moment of silence.** We read **Matthew 2:1-12** slowly; then we say:

“Come Holy Spirit and give your divine life to our words: God of Bethlehem and Cana, God of Jordan's leaping waters, in Baptism you bring us into your family. You wed us and embrace us as your beloved. In Jesus, may we fill this place with mercy, forgiveness, and kindness to one another, hospitality to guests, and abundant care for the stranger. By the gentle light of a star, guide home all who seek you on paths of faith, hope, and love; so we can join the angels in proclaiming your praise: "Glory in heaven and peace on earth," and the Magi in distributing your gifts for your glory. We ask you to grant us and our home and all who enter here this your merciful blessing in Jesus' Name. Amen!”

After the prayer, with a piece of chalk we write above our door **20+C+M+B+06** (The crosses stand for the four seasons, and the letters for the name of the Magi; **Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar**, by tradition, and also for "**Christus Mansionem Benedicat**" or "**Christ bless this dwelling.**") We sing a Christmas Carol, while going from room to room sprinkling the four corners with holy water (obtained from the font in the church narthex and brought home in a small container). We close with the Lord's Prayer, a Hail Mary, Glory Be and exchange the greeting of peace and share a meal!

DEARLY BELOVED – HOLY, HEALTHY & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We began to collect photos, stories, and memories in **2005** from 40 years of history at Becket and we look forward in **2006** with joyful anticipation to contribute even more interviews, photos, stories, and pieces of history for the much awaited "40th Anniversary DVD and CD Set!" *Our hearts burned* within us, as we welcomed our Advent Mission "Epiphanies in our Lives" and accepted the invitation to give alternative gifts this Christmas of cards representing donations for the poor orphans in Malawi. We are renewing our enthusiasm for our adopted kids in Honduras at Fania too! We give thanks to God for our *Water Walkers'* dedication. In **2006** may each and every person at **Becket**, in the **West Island**, and the **Diocese of Montreal** have the joy of *total surrender* to the *fire* of **God's love** burning in our hearts - as **Mary** and **Joseph** did in welcoming and caring for **Jesus** - and so find ourselves full members of God's Family! For our Becket Staff...

Fr. Placido Fr. Gilles Cathie & Elsa Deacon Richard Christine

What do we do with the Gift of the Magi?

The word on the slip of paper you received (If you missed it get one from the basket at the Manger until February 2nd.) is a *spiritual gift*. You may already have it and the Lord wants you to use it more or else the Lord now wants to give it to you. Open your heart to the Lord: ask Him to give you this gift and help you use it, and guide you by the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Find out more about this gift and begin using it. ***Enjoy!!!***

ENJOY A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS SEASON!

Keep your **Christmas Crèche** until **Candlemas**, February 2nd, Feast of the **Presentation of the Lord** in the Temple. On this day or the Sunday before we surround the **Crèche** with candles and flowers and a family prayer. The 40 day interval represents our own time of **waiting**, like **Simeon** and **Anna**, for the Lord – **Jesus, Son of God** and **Light of the Nations** – to definitively dispel the darkness oppressing humanity; by his **radiant glorious mercy!**

GROUPS AND MINISTRIES 2006 REPORT TO DIOCESE

At the beginning of each calendar year, the Archdiocese requires every pastor to submit a “Pastoral Situation Report” for the parish. In order to help your priests fulfill this requirement, would Becket Parish leaders of groups and ministries please provide a brief report showing the name and kind of group or ministry, the # of leaders, # of other members = total members – as at year's end – and please email or phone in by January 31st. You may add any details and progress you wish to bring to our attention. This is an exercise in coresponsibility. Thank you very much. Fr. Gilles

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

This year 65 singles, couples and families received Christmas baskets that were prepared by the parents and children of our parish. Thanks to all who generously donated food, toys, gifts, clothing and money, so that the less fortunate in our area could share a little more in Christmas joy. Volunteers



who spent almost 3 weeks collecting boxes, sorting food, gift wrapping and filling boxes reaped the reward of seeing the joy on the faces of those who received some of the approximately 700 boxes that were delivered on December 21st. The spirit of Christmas, initiated by God's gift of himself to us, is expressed best in sharing, and it is deeply entrenched in the community of St. Thomas à Becket. The Lord must be very proud of His flock here. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and God bless all.
C. Moss

WINTER POST CHRISTMAS BREAKS

Our pastors will recover their energy from the final sprint at the end of 2005 and the Christmas season and take some time off. January 16-27, Fr. Gilles will go to visit a Nassau priest he met on sabbatical in Chicago. He will also get a change of pace by reading and writing a bit more on what may become a book on pastoring in the parish of the new millennium. Fr. Placido will take his break from January 30th to February 8th inclusive. It will be a blessing for many families to enjoy a school break towards the end of winter. Many find ways of “giving a break” to elderly relatives. We all need to recuperate somehow the energy we use up during winter. Have you given any thought to doing this for yourself and your family?

THE WONDER OF A MOTHER is her **attentiveness** and **readiness to give**. Even thankful children don't fully realize the **full extent** of all **Mother** does for them or how dependent they are on her **care**. **What a joy** it is whenever a child **does realize** what she does and expresses **deeply felt gratitude**. Father, we bless and thank You for the motherhood of Mary and her ongoing love, prayers, and care for us, for all Christians, and for all of humanity.

FAMILY PRAYER FOR 2006

Holiest Hearts of **Jesus** and **Mary**, united in perfect love, look on us with mercy and caring. Consecrate our hearts, lives, and family to God by your prayer for us to take you as a model for ourselves and for our own family.

When we sin and rebel, ignore or hurt one another, pray that we humbly ask our **Father** for his merciful forgiveness and grace of a heart eager and generous to forgive. May we imitate the **Divine Mercy** in our homes by freely giving sincere affection, patience, tolerance, and mutual respect to all. May our prayers be filled with the needs of others, not just our own, and may we always be close to the Sacraments.

Bless those who are present, as well as those who are absent – both the living and the dead. May the **Holy Spirit** fill us with **divine peace**, and may we preserve it among us. When we are tested, pray for us to remain open to the Christian acceptance of **God's will**. Keep our family close to your Hearts through daily prayer together. **Saint Joseph**, loving Guardian of the **Holy Family** and Protector of **Christ's Mystical Body** the **Church**; keep watch over us. Protect us in temptation, from sin, from harm or anything that might withdraw us from God's Love. Unceasingly pray for us and daily lead us to the **United Hearts of Jesus and Mary!**

A PARENT'S BLESSING

Father in Heaven, I (we) thank You for the life You have given me (us) and my (our) children! Thank You for the grace to seek and give forgiveness, for comfort in sorrow, and the courage to do what is right – even when it was most difficult – and for inspiring the caring gesture, the lending hand, the comforting word, the patient and enduring heart. I (we) praise You for the strength and vitality, for the joy of giving and receiving love and the delight in life's simple pleasures. I (we) praise You for the guidance and light of your Holy Word given to us each Sunday and every day. Thank You for your divine peace upon us even in the midst of doubt, confusion, and the evil and violence in the world.

As we begin this New Year, I (we) entrust to You all these that I (we) love and that You have given into my (our) care: **(Here name each person by name.)** We know that You alone have the power over life and death, and that You allow all things that happen for your good and kind purposes – You want the best for us now, and in eternity. We place all our trust in You, today and all year, through **Jesus, your Beloved Son and our Lord and Savior**. Fill us all with your **Holy Spirit**; that we may abide in your love and do all things in such a way as to please You for the good of our neighbor and the spreading of the **Holy Gospel** to every person on Earth! We ask your blessing upon us now and always, in **Jesus' Name!** Amen! **(Now give one another a sign/kiss of peace: “God bless you!”)**

AROUND TOWN

LECTURE BY JEAN VANIER

As part of the Peace and Conflict Academic Series 2005-2006, The Centre for the Arts in Human Development is pleased to present **Finding Peace: A Perspective by Jean Vanier** Wed., February 1, 7 p.m., Oscar Peterson Concert Hall, 7141 Sherbrooke W. (East side of Loyola Campus).

Dr. Vanier, PhD in Philosophy, is an internationally known and respected author, lecturer and founder of the L'Arche communities which exist in over 40 countries around the world. The L'Arche movement is dedicated to community and shared living with persons with developmental or related disabilities.

Jean Vanier is a gifted and inspiring speaker who will address the relationship of the individual and the community to finding peace on a personal and international level. His talk will also address the issue of overcoming social alienation in disadvantaged populations, drawing on his personal and professional experience in achieving change and resolution.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CWL MEMBERS!

Are you a "stay at home" mom? Or perhaps you are widowed or retired, and you find you're somewhat disconnected from the wide world around you? Get connected now! Join our Catholic Women's League Becket Council and have a hand in shaping our future!

As a member of our Becket Council, you will be a member of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. We are affiliated with the United Nations women's networks that have a strong influence around the world and are a force for good especially in support of helpless poor women. We are also represented at the metropolitan, provincial, and national levels and have a strong sense of being part of something really big!

Have a good time getting to know other women and doing things together! This is membership time in the CWL, and we'll be glad to have you as a new member. Take a moment and fill in the coupon below and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to the CWL c/o the Parish. We will get back to you. You really matter to us. Come discover new friends!

CAN A YOUNG WOMAN BELONG TO THE CWL?

The CWL was started in 1929 by young women, and young women have always been welcome and cherished by all CWL members at all levels all across Canada! Members who are now older were young, most of them, when they joined. Isn't it cool to know you can be part of an organization where you will continue to be valued when you are no longer young? Why wait? Join now, and bring friends with you!



St. Thomas à Becket Parish CWL Membership Drive – 2006

Yes, I would like information on the CWL – Catholic Women's League – and belonging to the network of women's organizations.

NAME _____ **PHONE** _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ **FAX** _____