

**ST. THOMAS BECKET**

**50TH ANNIVERSARY**

**1969-2019**



**HONORING THE PAST  
BUILDING THE FUTURE**



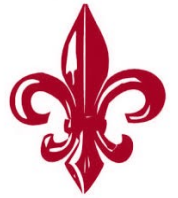


## **Parish Mission Statement**

**We, the parish family of St. Thomas Becket, are a community of believers united in Christ, who dedicate ourselves to proclaim the Good News and foster a sense of belonging. As we gather together in prayer and worship, we draw our nourishment from His word and the Bread of His Table. With shared responsibility we go forth to serve and affirm our sisters and brothers. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we strive to build the Kingdom of God within and beyond our parish.**

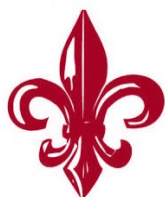
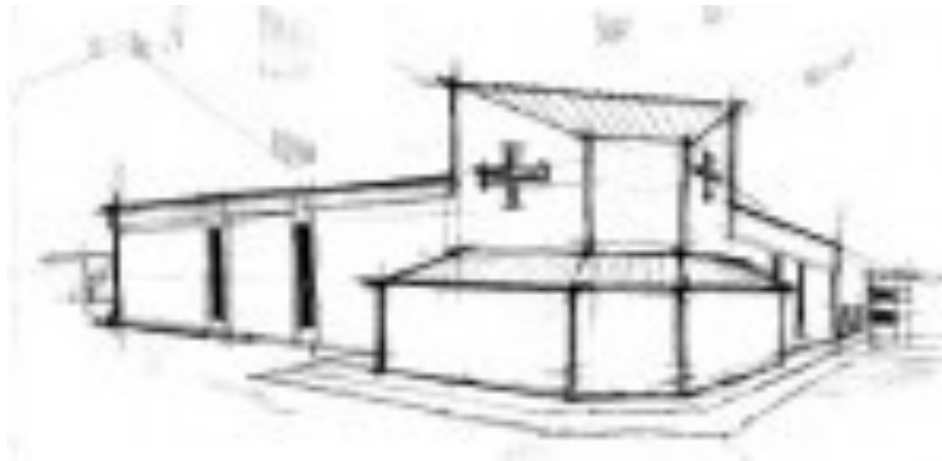
\*\*\*\*\*

***My, Parafia Świętego Tomasza Becketa, jesteśmy wspólnotą wiernych zjednoczonych w Chrystusie, którzy troszczymy się o Boże dziedzictwo i z oddaniem głosimy Dobrą Nowinę. We wspólnym gromadzeniu się i modlitwie, karmimy się Jego Słowem i Chlebem z Jego Stołu. Z poczuciem wspólnego obowiązku podążamy w służbie naszym braciom i siostram. Pod przewodnictwem Ducha Świętego dążymy do budowania Królestwa Bożego wewnątrz i poza naszą parafią.***



*DEDICATION...*

*This book is dedicated to the people of St. Thomas Becket.  
From the first parishioners who, along with Fr. Frank Wachowski,  
labored and shared their gifts of time, talent and treasure  
to fulfill the vision of creating this great Catholic community;  
to the people throughout the years who worship,  
share and continue the traditions and ministries started so long ago.  
St. Thomas Becket is not a building, it is a people of God;  
people who care for one another and for their church.  
May we leave this legacy stronger and greater for the next generation.  
God Bless the People of St. Thomas Becket Parish!*







The Holy Father Francis  
 on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation of  
 St. Thomas Becket Parish

cordially imparts the requested Apostolic Blessing to the Pastor and to the Priests collaborating with him, to the parish staff and to the whole parish Community and invokes on all God's help and celestial comfort wishing that this blessing might be a stimulus and encouragement for continual growth in fidelity to the Lord and a reinforcement of the commitment to the building up of the living Temple founded on Christ the cornerstone

Mount Prospect, Illinois, 1969, 2019

*Ex Aedibus Vaticanis, die 01.03.2019*

*Card. Giovanni D'Ercole  
 Elemosynarius Apostolicus*



# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office of the Archbishop  
835 North Rush Street  
Chicago, IL 60611-2030  
312.534.8230  
archchicago.org



February 27, 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As you celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Saint Thomas Becket Parish, I welcome this opportunity to offer you my heartfelt greetings and best wishes. May this anniversary be a celebration of abundant joy, thanksgiving and renewal.

Your history is one of strong Catholic worship over generations. There have been many changes over the years since Father Frank Wachowski first established the parish in 1968, but a vibrant community of believers has always persisted. Those humble beginnings, with Mass being held in the garage of the parish center, helped establish the devotion of parishioners and pastoral staff which is still evident today. Many thanks for your lives of faith and for the many ways you contribute to the life of St. Thomas Becket.

With you, I thank your pastor, Father Krzysztof Kulig, and the many priests, religious and laity who have served the parish throughout the past fifty years. Be assured of my continued prayers during this important time in the parish's history. Through the intercession of your patron, St. Thomas Becket, may your faith community experience of true witness of love during this special time. Wishing you every blessing, with kind regards I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Archbishop of Chicago

*Saint Thomas Becket Church  
Mount Prospect, IL  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*



**Most Reverend Alberto Rojas**  
*Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago*



Reverend Chris Kulig  
St. Thomas Becket Parish  
3121 N. Burning Bush Lane  
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

Dear Father Kulig and the faithful of St. Thomas Becket Parish,

Christ's peace be with you!

It is a joy to greet you on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of St. Thomas Becket Parish! As individuals we claim Jesus Christ as our teacher and savior. As a community of believers, Jesus Christ unites us; he strengthens us, and he calls us forth in service to others. This is the beauty of the Church, that it gathers us together as believers.

There is much to celebrate of 50 years! Since its founding in 1968, the parishioners, priests and staff of St. Thomas Becket Parish have been united in Christ, praying, laboring, and testifying to Christ's call to follow him. Your love and dedication to the gospel has been evident in your actions. You continually strove to provide permanent spaces for worship and faith education because your belief in the love of God was true and strong. Significantly, throughout your parish history, you have been an example of God's love as you offered yourselves to be teachers, laborers, leaders, consolers, and ministers to the sick and the poor. This is the power of Christ that urges you!

Over 50 years, St. Thomas Becket Parish has experienced many temporal achievements, but most important has been your commitment to the faith. I always encourage you, in the name of Jesus Christ, to renew your trust in him, to know him and the truth he teaches, so that you may continue revealing Christ to the world. Let us look forward to this beautiful hope.

With my continued prayers

Sincerely yours in the love of Christ,

Most Rev. Alberto Rojas  
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago



# St. Thomas Becket

1321 N. Burning Bush Lane, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

P: 847.827.9220 Fax: 847.827.0370 Email: stthomasbecket@stbmp.org



Wrzesień 2019

*Drodzy Parafianie i Przyjaciele parafii Św. Tomasza Becketa,*

*Z wielką radością w sercu przedstawiam ten Pamiętnik uświetniający 50-lecie naszej parafii.*

*Nasza społeczność parafialna wyrosła z małego zgromadzenia spotykającego się w sali gimnastycznej w szkole Indian Grove, do okazałych rozmiarów w chwili obecnej. Pamiętnik ten wspomina historię naszej wspólnoty, od najwcześniejszych jego członków i ich działań poprzez liczne zmiany w świątyni i wokół niej.*

*Nasza wspólnota kościelna jest wieloetniczną, Msze Święte i sakramenty odbywają się w dwóch językach angielskim i polskim. W latach dziewięćdziesiątych kościół zmienił swój wygląd wewnętrzny co odpowiadało potrzebom ówczesnych parafian. Ufundowany pomnik naszego patrona i ogród wita wiernych przychodzących do świątyni. Prężnie przy naszym kościele działają grupy: Klub Kobiet i Mężczyzn, Katecheci, Lektorzy, Szafarze Komunii Św, Marszałkowie i wiele innych, są one wspaniałym dowodem jak umacniać i rozwijać naszą wiarę oraz pomagać innym. W chwili obecnej wróciliśmy do pierwotnego wyglądu kościoła z centralnego umieszczenia ołtarza do tradycyjnego.*

*To czym jest teraz parafia Św. Tomasza Becketa jest zasługą pierwszych rodzin jak i całej społeczności pracującej pod natchnieniem Ducha świętego przez ostatnie 50 lat. Jako katolicy musimy być gotowi stawiać czoła wyzwaniom zmieniającego się świata wokół nas. Nasza wiara podtrzymywała nas przez ostatnie 50 lat i wierzę, że Bóg poprowadzi nas we właściwym kierunku przez następne pół wieku i dłużej. A więc, uczcijmy przeszłości i przygotujmy się do budowania naszej przyszłości.*

*Z pokojem w Chrystusie,*

Ks. Krzysztof Kulig  
Proboszcz

**50th Anniversary 1969-2019  
HONORING THE PAST— BUILDING THE FUTURE**





# St. Thomas Becket

1321 N. Burning Bush Lane, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056  
P: 847.827.9220 Fax: 847.827.0370 Email: stthomasbecket@stbmp.org

September 2019

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Thomas Becket,

It is with great joy in my heart that I present this book marking 50 years of our parish.

Over the past half century, St. Thomas Becket grew from a small congregation that met in the gym of Indian Grove Elementary School across the street into a thriving community of those faithful in Christ. This book remembers the history of our flock, from the earliest members and their sacrifices to the multiple changes in the sanctuary and the rest of the grounds on which we sit.

St. Thomas Becket has grown into a diverse community, celebrating Mass and the sacraments in English and Polish. The sanctuary underwent a remodel from the original “straight-forward layout” to a “circular layout”, and now we are back to the straightforward. A garden and statue to our name-sake were founded and have greeted parishioners as they come in for services for years. Groups like the Women's Guild, Men's Club, Catechists, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers and others have grown from small gatherings to great forces doing good for the greater church community.

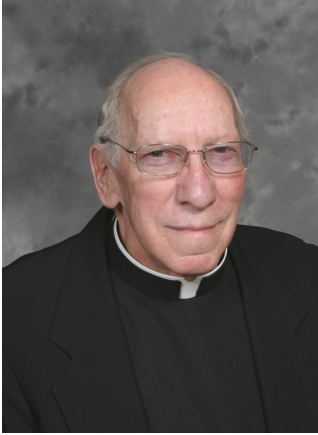
This is a testament to the parishioners of the past, and a remembrance of their work as guided by the Holy Spirit as we celebrate what St. Thomas Becket is today. We as Catholics must be ready to face the challenges of a changing world around us. But our faith has sustained us for the past 50 years, and I know that God will keep us in the right direction for the next half century and beyond. So, for now, let us take a moment to honor our past, and prepare as we build our future.

In the Peace of Christ,

Rev. Chris Kulig  
Pastor



**50th Anniversary 1969-2019**  
**HONORING THE PAST— BUILDING THE FUTURE**



**St. Emily Parish  
1400 E. Central Road  
Mount Prospect, IL 60056**

Dear Fr. Kulig and Parishioners of St. Thomas Becket,

Warmest congratulations on this, your fiftieth anniversary of being such a visible sign of Christ's presence in Mt. Prospect.

Your various ministries, commissions and sensitive efforts at outreach have made the compassion of the Lord felt and experienced by countless people over these years.

The welcoming of the Polish Community was an inspired and tangible sign that you shared the vision and hope of Christ that "they all be one."

May the Lord in His goodness keep you close to each other and to Him as you continue to fulfill His charge to the Apostles and those who heard them, "You are witnesses to all this!"

Much Blessing on all of you!

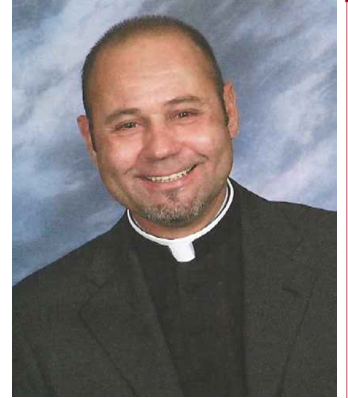
*Fr. John Roller*

Pastor Emeritus

# St Raymond De Penafort

"Welcome. Love. Serve."

301 S. I-Oka Avenue  
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056  
(847) 253-8600  
[www.st-raymond.org](http://www.st-raymond.org)



Dear friends of St. Thomas Becket Parish,

Congratulations and best wishes as you celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Catholic community of Saint Thomas Becket!

In the Gospel of St. John, there is no institution of the Eucharist at the last supper. Instead, there appears a scene of Jesus washing his disciples' feet and entrusting them a new action and commandment: *"You are to do what I have done for you. Love one another as I have loved you."* [JN 13-16] Similarly, St. John has a long discourse on the Bread of life, that is, Jesus the bread come down from heaven. [JN 6]

What do these passages say about the heart and soul of a Christian community? They invite us to see God's grace working inside that very Christian community. It reveals for us how the Lord Jesus desires to nourish, accompany, satisfy, heal and live with his followers. It commands us to continue living in, and sharing, that life-giving spirit with others. The real presence is in the Eucharistic food and in the lived in the community of faith!

As St. Thomas Becket continues in ministry, may these passages be fulfilled in your midst. As a former minister and pastor to St. Thomas Becket, I have witnessed first-hand the courage and zeal of the parishioners ministering with the heart of Christ's vision and mission in mind.

Anniversaries are a time of remembering and honoring women and men of faith who have given so much to creating, supporting and building up our catholic tradition over the past 50 years. It is a time to remember our past, and look forward to our future. When all is said and done, the good works of grace of St. Thomas Becket will always be recalled, not just through our words, but in the minds and hearts, and friendships that were formed and lived as a community of faith.

God Bless you all,

*Rev. Edward Panek*

Pastor, St. Raymond de Penafort

Dean Vic. 1F





**CARMELITE MONASTERY**  
949 N. RIVER ROAD  
DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS 60016

Pax Christi!

March – 2019

Dear Friends as Saint Thomas Becket Parish,  
Praised be Jesus Christ!

It was such a joy to hear that you are celebrating such an important milestone this year! God is certainly alive and active in your parish, and it fills our hearts with gratitude. We hope this special celebration brings an avalanche of graces upon your entire parish community.

Right now, we are lifting up all of your planning efforts during our novena to Saint Joseph. He spent his life serving our Blessed Mother and Little Jesus, and we know that he will intercede for all the practical needs of the parish. It is not easy to organize so many different initiatives and we support you with our daily prayers. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and bless your hard work!

We are now in the blessed season of Lent, which provides special opportunities to draw closer to God. Our world is in desperate need of His healing graces, and we can use these days to help others to see how much God wants to shower them in His mercy. Your work is incredibly important, and we ask the good God to bless and guide you as invite others into a deeper relationship with the One Who makes all things new. We hope it is a blessed and fruitful time for all of you.

Devotedly in Our Lord,

*Mather Anne of Jesus, OCD*

Arlene A. Juracek  
Mayor



Phone: 847/392-6000  
Fax: 847/392-6022

## Village of Mount Prospect

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
50 South Emerson Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056  
[www.mountprospect.org](http://www.mountprospect.org)

To the St. Thomas Becket Faith Community,

Greetings and congratulations on the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the parish! The history of the parish mirrors that of Mount Prospect over the past 50 years and illustrates the tenacity of your faith, the creativity of your members as you sought to establish a permanent worship location, and your dedication to meeting the liturgical needs of your parishioners and their families.

On behalf of myself, the village board and staff, and the entire community we extend our gratitude for the role you play in the quality of life in our village. Mount Prospect has a strong faith tradition and we are proud to help celebrate your long-standing part in that tradition. Our sincere hope is that you continue in that role for at least another 50 years!

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arlene A. Juracek".

Arlene A. Juracek  
Mayor





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 28, 2019



Saint Thomas Becket Catholic Church  
Mount Prospect, Illinois

Dear Friends,

Melania and I send our warmest greetings to Saint Thomas Becket Catholic Church in celebration of your 50th anniversary. We are grateful for the many years your congregation has served its people and neighbors.

Our Nation has a long history of drawing strength from faith, and I commend your efforts to instill the sacred values our country holds dear. Your congregation has been a central pillar in your community and family. It has provided a place of comfort and healing, as well as great joy, fellowship, and peace. Your assembly is central to life's most meaningful moments and milestones.

As you reflect on the many memories you have made together, may you continue to uplift all who enter and remain a place of service to God and country.

Best wishes for the future and God bless.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald Trump". The signature is stylized and cursive.

RICHARD J. DURBIN

ILLINOIS

DEMOCRATIC WHIP

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES  
AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

September 28, 2019

Dear Friends:

I would like to extend my best wishes and congratulations to St. Thomas Becket Catholic Church for celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This gathering is a special opportunity to recognize the great work of St. Thomas Becket Parish.

For 50 years, St. Thomas Becket Catholic Church has served their local faith community along with countless other individuals and families. I applaud Reverend Chris Kulig and the community for their contributions and am looking forward to future growth and success.

Again, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to the St. Thomas Becket Faith Community on all your work and achievements, and I wish you the very best of luck in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



711 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1304  
(202) 224-2152  
VRS (202) 540-9782

230 SOUTH DEARBORN, 38TH FLOOR  
CHICAGO, IL 60604  
(312) 353-4952

525 SOUTH EIGHTH STREET  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
(217) 492-4062

1504 THIRD AVENUE  
SUITE 227  
ROCK ISLAND, IL 61201  
(309) 786-5173

PAUL SIMON FEDERAL BUILDING  
250 W. CHERRY STREET  
SUITE 115-D  
CARBONDALE, IL 62901  
(618) 351-1122

[durbin.senate.gov](http://durbin.senate.gov)

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

SENATOR TAMMY DUCKWORTH'S  
OFFICE CALLED THE PARISH WITH A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE.





BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER  
10TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1432 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4835

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
111 BARCLAY BLVD, SUITE 200  
LINCOLNSHIRE, IL 60069  
(847) 383-4870



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1310

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION  
AND TRADE

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS, INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY, AND THE INTERNET  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY REFORM,  
COMMERCIAL AND ANTITRUST LAW

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS  
RANKING MEMBER ON THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, ENERGY AND TRADE

February 11, 2019

Reverend Chris Kulig  
St. Thomas Becket Catholic Church  
1321 North Burning Bush Lane  
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

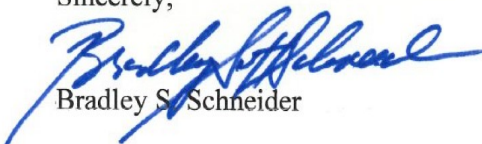
Dear Members of St. Thomas Becket Catholic Church,

I offer my sincere congratulations to everyone at St. Thomas Becket Catholic Church on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

St. Thomas Becket Catholic Church has been an important part of Mount Prospect for the past five decades, providing the community with a welcoming home and vital services. The work you do in the community has changed countless lives. St. Thomas Becket Church continues to flourish due to the commitment, dedication, and strong faith of the leadership and the parishioners.

I am proud to be your representative in Congress. I look forward to working with the St. Thomas Becket Catholic Church family for many years to come.

Sincerely,

  
Bradley S. Schneider



700 OSTERMAN AVE  
DEERFIELD, IL 60015  
(847) 945-5200

M115 CAPITOL BUILDING  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706  
(217) 782-3650



ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

**JULIE A. MORRISON**

STATE SENATOR • 29<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES:**

HUMAN SERVICES - CHAIR  
APPROPRIATIONS II  
GOVERNMENT REFORM  
ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION  
TRANSPORTATION  
GAMING

March 29, 2019

Dear Friends,

Congratulations on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your parish!

I know this monumental occasion is cause for both celebration as well as a time to reflect on the countless ways St. Thomas Becket has served its members and the community throughout the last half century. You have so much to be proud of!

With my best wishes and appreciation,

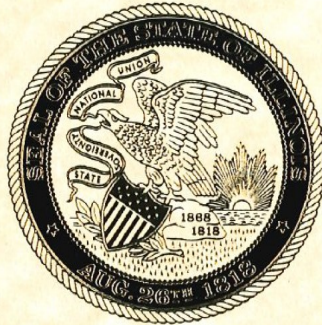
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Morrison".

Julie A. Morrison  
State Senator, 29th District





Illinois State Senate  
Certificate of Recognition



THE ILLINOIS SENATE  
OF THE 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
THE STATE OF ILLINOIS ACKNOWLEDGES  
St. Thomas Becket Catholic Church  
Mt. Prospect, Illinois

IN RECOGNITION OF  
ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY,  
CELEBRATING A HALF CENTURY OF SERVICE,  
1969 - 2019,  
AND EXTENDS ITS CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO  
ALL THE MEMBERS OF ST. THOMAS BECKET CATHOLIC CHURCH  
ON THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION.

OFFERED BY: SENATOR JULIE A. MORRISON

*Julie A. Morrison*  
STATE SENATOR

*John J. Cullerton*

JOHN J. CULLERTON  
SENATE PRESIDENT

*Tim Anderson*

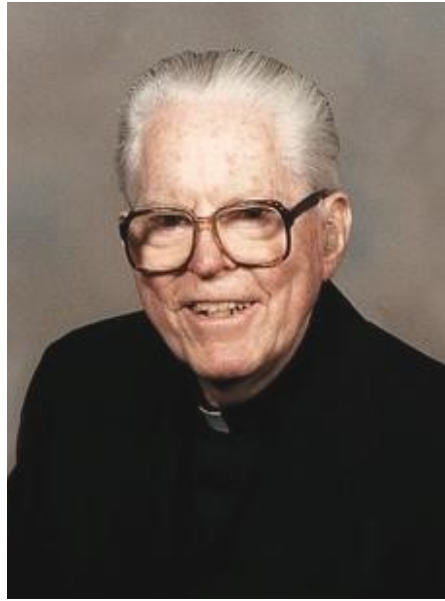
TIM ANDERSON  
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE



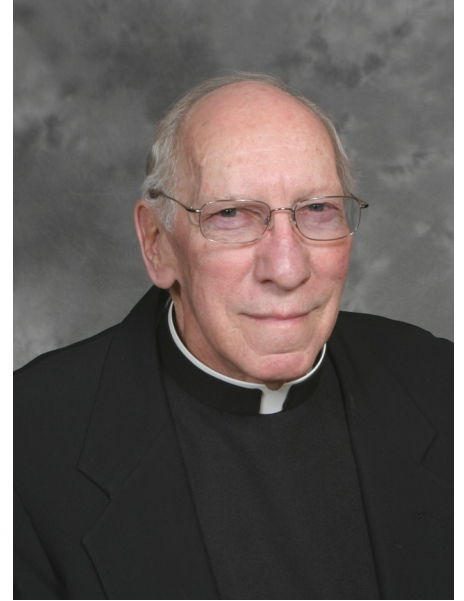
# PARISH PASTORS



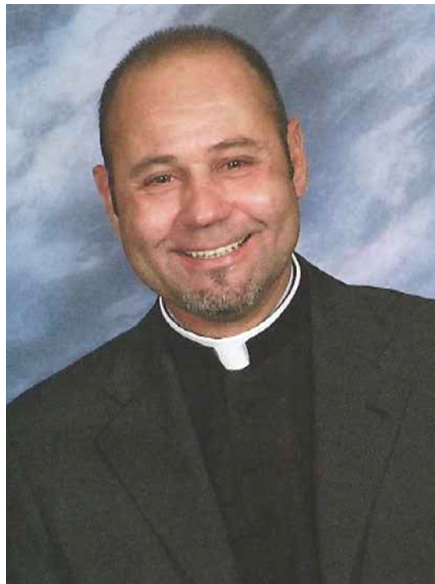
**PASTOR AND FOUNDER  
REV. FRANK WACHOWSKI  
1968 - 1980  
Deceased 9-1-1980**



**PASTOR  
REV. RALPH MOLLAN  
1980 - 1989  
Deceased 4-14-2009**



**PASTOR  
REV. JOHN ROLLER  
1989 - 2004**



**PASTOR  
REV. EDWARD PANEK  
2004 - 2015**

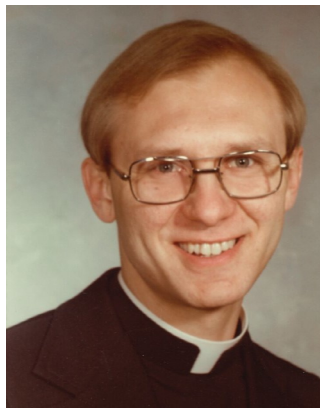


**PASTOR  
REV. KRZYSZTOF KULIG  
2015 - present**

# PARISH CLERGY



**REV. ROBERT TONELLI**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
1972 - 1977



**REV. THOMAS SRENIAWSKI**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
1977 - 1978



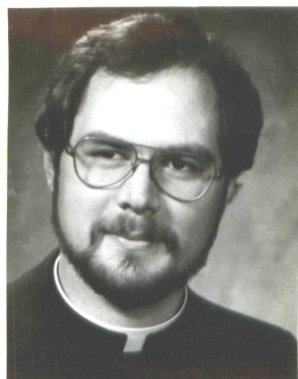
**REV. JAMES OULETTA**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
1978 - 1982



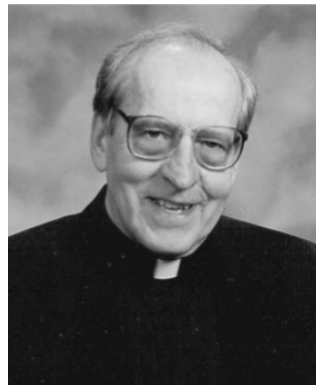
**REV. JOHN AHERN**  
REV. HELPER  
1980 - 1984



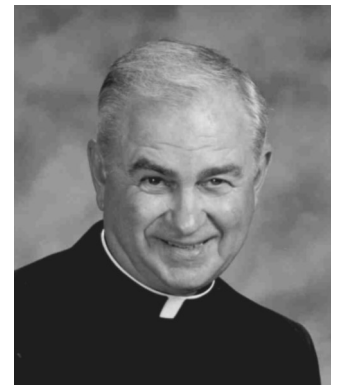
**REV. CARL PALLASCH**  
REV HELPER  
1980 - 1984



**REV. MICHAEL WOJCIK**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
1983 - 1988



**REV. ARNOLD PERHAM**  
SUNDAY ASSISTANCE  
1988 - 2008



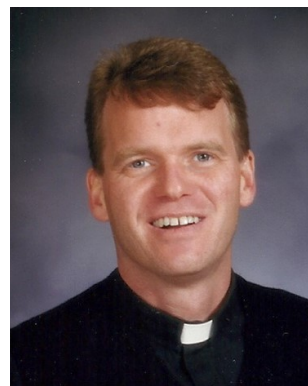
**REV. JOHN VanWIEL**  
SUNDAY ASSISTANCE  
1988 - 2015



**REV. EDMUND SIEDLECKI**  
SUNDAY ASSISTANCE  
1996 - 2001



**REV. WALTER TAKUSKI**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
2005 - 2008



**REV. PETER McQUINN**  
RESIDENT  
2009 - 2010



**REV. PRZEMYSŁAW WOJCIK**  
SUNDAY ASSISTANCE  
2010 - present

## DEACON COUPLES



**GENE & POLA DAMIAN**  
1985 - 1995



**ANTHONY & DOREEN JANNOTTA**  
1999 - present

Thank you to the parishioners, staff and clergy for welcoming support and encouraging our ministry at St. Thomas Becket. For 38 years, we have served at many parishes around the country as a deacon couple. St. Thomas Becket has been, by far, the most exciting and challenging of them all.

Becket, the Church in our country, and the universal Church have flourished; and at the same time are confronted with adversity like we have never seen in the past. During these times the Becket community has been steadfast in their Faith, while never letting the difficulties go unaddressed.

No doubt the Becket community will go forward to embrace change, no matter how inspiring, or in the daunting unknown. Transformation is never easy, yet is necessary for all of us. We must never stop; in our personal prayer, worship, and work in and for the parish.

Relationships made, and relationships yet to come, will continue to illustrate the “unity in diversity” which is St. Thomas Becket.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of our Faith community.

*Doreen and Tony Jannotta, Deacon Couple*