

MASS TIMES

Saturday @ 5:00 pm

Sunday @ 10:30 am

(incl. Children's Liturgy)

Tues @ 7:00 pm
(Rector)

Wed @ 7:00 pm

Thursday & Friday

@ 9:00 am

Adoration Fridays

9:30am to 11:30am

Announced Masses

Saturday, Dec 10th

†Gladys

Briffett Spurrell

By David Briffett

Sunday, Dec 11th

Healing Mass for

Dianne Lalonde

By Carole Wepruk

Tuesday, Dec 13th

Pro Populo

Wednesday, Dec 14th

Thursday, Dec 15th

Friday, Dec 16th

Saturday, Dec 17th

†Barnes Family

†Cyr Family

By Nikki Cyr

Sunday, Dec 18th

Thanksgiving

& Birthday Blessings

for Janet

By Burcena Family

St. Willibrord Roman Catholic Church

351 Willibrord Ave., Verdun, Qc. H4G 2T7

Tel: 514-769-9678 Fax: 514-761-1717

Email: stwillibrordparish@videotron.ca



Dec 11, 2016

Third Sunday of Advent

"They shall obtain joy and gladness"

Meditation: Why did Jesus praise John the Baptist as the greatest person born of a woman and then in the same breath say that those who enter God's kingdom will be greater than John (Matthew 11:11)? John is the last and greatest of the prophets of the old covenant. He fulfilled the essential task of all the prophets - to be fingers pointing to Jesus Christ, God's Anointed Son and Messiah. John prepared the way for the Messiah and he pointed others to Jesus the Messiah at the River Jordan when he exclaimed, *Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world* (John 1:29)

John saw from a distant what Jesus would accomplish through his death on the cross - our redemption from bondage to sin and death and our adoption as sons and daughters of God and citizens of the kingdom of heaven. When King Herod tried to silence John by throwing him into prison, John sent his disciples to Jesus after John had heard the reports about Jesus performing signs and wonders and speaking to people about the coming of God's kingdom. John wanted his disciples to hear and see firsthand what Jesus was doing to bring the kingdom of God to those who were receptive and ready to receive his message.

Jesus the Messiah performs the signs of God's kingdom power

Jesus confirmed for John that the miracles and healings which he performed were in direct fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies announced by Isaiah some 700 years previously. Isaiah had prophesied that when the Messiah would come to save his people he would "open the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf, the lame would leap, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy" (Isaiah 35:5). Jesus' miracles are a demonstration of the power of God's kingdom at work in the midst of his people. When God acts to save his people he turns their sorrow and weeping into joy and singing, and their fear and weakness into strength and hope.

The greatness of John's life and witness of the Messiah

When Jesus had answered the disciples of John, he in turn asked them a question. "Why did you go out in the wilderness to see John the Baptist?" "Did you go because you were hungry for the word of the Lord?" Jesus said that John was more than a spokesman for God. John was the faithful witness and friend of the bridegroom who pointed others to the coming of the Messiah in their midst. Jesus contrasted John with the image of a reed shaken by the wind. Unlike a reed which is weak and spineless and can be easily crushed or bruised, John stood as a pillar of strength and truth in the face of opposition and persecution. No demonic force could weaken or crush John in his unswerving trust in God and his word.

Jesus offers us abundant life and joy to be his witnesses

Jesus knew that what the Father in heaven had sent him to accomplish for our sake would supersede all that the prophets had done and foreseen in the past. Jesus' atoning death on the cross cancels the debt of our sins and sets us free to live as citizens of his kingdom. He gives us pardon, healing, and abundant life through his Holy Spirit, and the promise of unending joy with him in his everlasting kingdom.

John the Baptist paid the ultimate sacrifice of his life for speaking God's word and preparing the way for Jesus the Lord and Savior of the world. The Lord Jesus offers us the same assurance of faith and the strength to stand against every force that would try to rob us of our conviction and courage to live and proclaim the *good news* (the *Gospel*) of God's kingdom. Do you know the joy, strength, and power which Jesus gives to every one who puts their trust in him and the power of the Holy Spirit? Ask the Lord Jesus to increase your faith and hope in his promises for you.

"Lord Jesus, strengthen my trust in your word and my hope in the saving power of your kingdom. Free me from everything that would hold me back from pursuing your kingdom and your will for my life." —

rc.net

CONFESSIONS will be heard 15 minutes before each Mass ~ weekdays, as well as on weekends.

BAPTISM Parents wishing to have their child baptized are asked to contact the Parish Office at 514-769-9678. A meeting with Parents and Godparents is a pre-requisite.

Godparents must be baptized and confirmed in the Catholic Church.

ST. WILLIBRORD ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor

Fr. Gregory Nunez
Office Staff
Anastasia Wargachuk
Administration

Nov 5-6, 2016—\$1,247.90
Nov 12-13, 2016—\$880.65
Nov 19-20, 2016—\$512.30
Nov 26-27, 2016 —\$1,077.85
Dec3-4, 2016—\$1,553.00

We pray for the healing and peace of all our sick,

Flo Davies, Adeline Doyle,
Adrienne Coombs,
Sterling Smith, Joe Brisindi,
Dan Boyer, Rita Riley, Marie-
Paul, Rickie Walsh, Muriel
Boutin, Joey Walsh, Johnny
Palisoc, Myrna Bolofer Go,
Carmen Al Fudhaili.
Temperence Miriam Browning
God is with you always.



BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Birthday Blessings to Janet
Bulseco and Jackie Bolofer

Anniversary Blessings to
Susan and Gilles Charlebois

Birthday Blessings and
Anniversary Blessings
to all Parishioners
who are
celebrating this week.

Thank you to

- ◊Mike for cleaning the Church
- ◊All who have generously made donations to the Christmas Basket food drive
- ◊Merly, Cora and all who helping with the cleaning of the Rectory
- ◊Judith and Ann for helping at the rectory and Church
- ◊Jonas & Beng for the flowers

Simbang Gabi (Night Mass) A devotional series of nine daily masses (Novena) The Simbang Gabi originated in the early days of Spanish ruled over the Philippines (1669) as a practical compromise for farmers, who began working before sunrise to avoid the noonday heat out in the field. Simbang Gabi marks the beginning of the Christmas Season and honors of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Expectant Mother of God, and in preparation for the commemoration of the birth of our Savior.

We will be celebrating Simbang Gabi at St Willibrord's Parish, Dec 16th, 2016 to Dec 24th, 2016. If you would like to sponsor one of the nine masses, please contact the rectory. How can you sponsor a Mass? Let the office know that you are interested and which day you would like to sponsor

1. Invite family and friends to attend the celebration
2. Make a donation, traditionally the donation is \$15, but any amount would be appreciated.
3. Bring an offering to the Lord that can be brought up during the offering procession, examples: flowers for the sanctuary, food for the needy, gifts to be placed in Christmas Baskets, a bottle of wine.....
4. Participation at the Mass is encouraged but not mandatory
5. Bring food to socialize and eat as a community.

If you are a family, community or a group of people, then it is a good idea to assign a person as coordinator to facilitate this process.

Flower donations for Sanctuary

If you would like to donate flowers or money to purchase flower, please bring the flowers to the Church or In a clearly marked envelope, place the donation into the collection basket.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. —John 1:14



Christmas Mass Season Schedule

December 24th 5:00PM Mass
7:00pm Singing Carols with the Choir
7:30PM Christmas Mass with Children's Pageant
10:00PM (Midnight Mass)
December 25th 10:30am (Mass at Dawn)
Dec 31st 5:00PM
January 1st 10:30AM



This week's session of Faith in the Family Preparations for First Communion and Confirmation is Dec 11, 2016 and the next session will be Jan 8, 2017

Important dates to mark on your calendar!

Every Thursday: Bible Study at 6:30pm followed by **Symbolon** at 7:30pm
All Things Christmas Baked Table: Saturday, Dec 17, 2016, from 9am to 1pm
Flea Market: Saturday, January 7, 2016, 9:00am to 3:00pm



Christmas Basket

We have received many requests for Christmas Baskets and we are doing our best to ensure that all will be able to receive a Christmas Basket this year.

Donations Many thanks to the people and companies who have made donations to our Christmas basket food drive. We will be able to provide Christmas Baskets to the people in need. It is not too late to make a donation. If you would like to make a donation, please contact the rectory.

Preparing Christmas Baskets: If you would like to donate some of your time packing the Christmas Baskets, please contact the rectory at 514-769-9678

NOTRE-DAME BASILICA: CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Take a Seat at the Organ from December 27-30, 2:30pm (110 Notre-Dame St. West, Montreal). Come enjoy listening to, from the second balcony, our organist Pierre Grandmaison, as he plays beautiful Christmas hymns. This year, he will be accompanied by the voice of soprano Béatrice Baillargeon. All are welcome! Book quickly. Only 60 places available!
Cost: \$10 for adults, \$8 for youth 7-17 years old