

MASS TIMES

Saturday @ 5:00 pm

Sunday @ 10:30 am

(incl. Children's Liturgy)

Tues @ 7:00 pm (Rectory)

Wed @ 7:00 pm

Thursday & Friday

@ 9:00 am

Adoration Fridays 9:30-11:30

St. Willibrord Roman Catholic Church

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December 13, 2015

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Announced Masses

Saturday December 12th

† **Alistair Barnes**

By David Briffett

Sunday December 13th

In Thanksgiving

By the Burcena Family

Tuesday December 15th

Pro Populo

Wednesday December 16th

SIMBANG GABI

Thursday December 17th

SIMBANG GABI

Friday December 18th

† **Anatole Lesyk**

By Maria Salceda

SIMBANG GABI

Saturday December 19th

SIMBANG GABI

Sunday December 20th

SIMBANG GABI

In Thanksgiving

By the Burcena Family

Meditation: The Messiah will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire

John's baptism was for repentance - turning away from sin and taking on a new way of life according to God's word. John said that the Messiah would "baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Fire in biblical times was associated with God and with his action in the world and in the lives of his people. God sometimes manifested his presence by use of fire, such as the burning bush which was not consumed when God spoke to Moses (Exodus 3:2). The image of fire was also used to symbolize God's glory (Ezekiel 1:4, 13), his protective presence (2 Kings 6:17), his holiness (Deuteronomy. 4:24), his righteous judgment (Zechariah 13:9), and his wrath against sin (Isaiah 66:15-16).

John expanded this image with the illustration of the process of separating wheat from chaff. A winnowing fan or shovel was used for tossing the wheat in the air. The heavier kernels of wheat fell to the ground, while the lighter chaff was carried off by the wind. The chaff was then collected and used for fuel (see Isaiah 21:10).

The fire of the Holy Spirit

In the New Testament, the image of fire is also used of the Holy Spirit who comes to cleanse us from sin and make us holy (Matthew 3:11 and Acts 2:3). God's fire both purifies us of sin and it inspires in us a reverent fear of God and of his word. And it increases our desire for holiness and for the joy of meeting the Lord when he comes again.

Do you want to be on fire for God and for the return of the Lord Jesus when he comes in his glory? Our baptism in Jesus Christ by water and the Spirit results in a new birth and entry into God's kingdom as his beloved sons and daughters (John 3:5). Jesus is ready to give us the fire of his Spirit that we may radiate the joy of the Gospel to a world in desperate need of God's light and truth. The word of God has power to change and transform our lives that we may be lights pointing others to Jesus Christ, the true light of the world (John 8:12). Like John the Baptist, we too are called to give testimony to the light and truth of Jesus Christ. Do you point others to Jesus Christ in the way you speak and live?

- 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.

MARRIAGE Please contact the Parish Office or Father Gregory well in advance.

ST. WILLIBRORD ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pastor

Fr. Gregory Nunez

Office Staff

Yvonne Pelling (mat. leave)

Administration

Terrel Joseph

Adult Faith Formation

Julian Paparella

Administration and PCL

We pray for the healing and peace of all our sick, Flo Davies, Adeline Doyle, Sterling Smith, Joe Brisindi, Dan Boyer, Yolanda Gannacial, Rita Riley and Marie-Paul. God is with you always.

GAUDETE SUNDAY

This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday—*Rejoice* Sunday! Christ is the reason for our JOY! As we reach this Third Week of Advent, our realization that the Lord is near fills our hearts with gladness. Let us read more about this joy from Pope Francis' *The Joy of the Gospel*:

“The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. *With Christ joy is constantly born anew...* Whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. **Now is the time to say to Jesus:** “*Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace.*” How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost! Let me say this once more: **God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.**” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 1, 3)

Thank You, Faith in the Family and ALPHA!!!

Thanks to all our parents, children, volunteers, and catechists who joined us this morning and all year long! We will resume on Sunday, January 10th, 2016! *All are welcome!*

SIMBANG GABI MASSES begin this Wednesday, December 16th

This Wednesday at 7pm, we will begin nine days of night Masses, Simbang Gabi, to prepare our hearts for Christmas and pray for our personal petitions. Masses will continue each night at 7pm (except 5pm on Saturday the 19th), and will conclude with Christmas Eve Mass on the 24th at 7:30pm. Join us!

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve—Thursday, December 24th

Carols at 7pm and Mass at 7:30

Christmas Day—Friday, December 25th *at 10:30*

New Year's Eve—Thursday, December 31st *at 7pm*

New Year's Day—Friday, January 1st *at 10:30*



THANK YOU!

Thank you to Angele Lafleche and all her volunteers for their work preparing for the Christmas Baskets!

Thank you to our VIDEOTRON Volunteers, Salinggawi, and the Nabua Association for their assistance preparing for our Christmas Party!!!

Thank you to all those who attended and brought food!!!

Thank You!!!

Thank you to all those who joined us for our **Annual Christmas Party!** We are very blessed to be able to celebrate as a community. Special thanks to all our volunteers, who we honour at this holy time of year! You are a great gift to our parish!

Sunday Missals for 2015-2016

Sunday Missals for 2015-2016 are on sale for \$6.00!

Available at the back of the church, together with our religious items table!

RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW, We need YOU!!!

Tickets continue to be sold! \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, and 6 for \$10.00. All proceeds go to our soup kitchen and Christmas baskets. Prizes are \$1000.00, \$500.00, and \$250.00. Tickets will be sold after Mass each Saturday and Sunday and are also available at the Parish Office. **GET YOURS NOW!!!**