

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 22nd, 2018, 5:00PM

Blessings for Cedrick Burcena & Monsour Niq Bulseco by Burcena family..

Evening Mass (Simbang Gabi)

7:00 pm

Sunday, December 23rd, 2018, 10:30AM

†Maurice Turbide by Carole Wepruk

†The Molloy and Gibbons Families by Lorraine Molloy

Thanksgiving Mass offered by Merly Nunez and family

Evening Mass (Simbang Gabi)

7:00 pm

Monday, December 24th, 2018, 7:00PM

†The deceased members of the Doyle Family by Adeline Doyle

†Emmett Cavanagh and Gary Cavanagh By Lily Cavanagh

Tuesday, December 25th, 2018, 10:30AM

Pro Populo

Wednesday, December 26th, 2018, 7:00PM

†Kianga Lim by Flora Lim and Family..

Thursday, December 27th, 2018, 9:00AM

Healing Mass for Mila Bax by Maria Saleceda..

Friday, December 28th, 2018, 9:00AM

Blessings for Angela Choi and Patrick Lau..

Saturday, December 29th, 2018, 5:00PM

†Leona Panganiban By Maureen Redrino

Sunday, December 30th, 2018, 10:30AM

Blessings for David Briffett..

†Wendy Walker by Betty Luyten-Friedman

St. Willibrord Roman Catholic Church

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Facebook: Find us under "Willibrord Parish"



December 23, 2018—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Joyful Anticipation of the Messiah

Meditation: Do you recognize the indwelling presence of the Lord Jesus in your life? Blessed are you if you see and recognize the Lord with the "eyes of faith". The word "blessed" [*makarios* in Greek] literally means "happiness" or "beatitude". It describes a kind of joy which is serene and un-touchable, self-contained, and independent from chance and changing circumstances of life.

God gives us supernatural joy with hope in his promises

There is a certain paradox for those "blessed" by the Lord. Mary was given the "blessedness" of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. Anselm, a great teacher and Archbishop of Canterbury (1033-1109), spoke these words in a homily: "Without God's Son nothing could exist; without Mary's son, nothing could be redeemed." To be chosen by God is an awesome privilege and responsibility. Mary received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. Her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fueled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises.

Jesus promised his disciples that "no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away. Do you know the joy of a life given over to God in faith and trust?

They were filled with the Holy Spirit

What is the significance of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth before the birth of Jesus? When Elizabeth greeted Mary and recognized the Messiah in Mary's womb they were filled with the Holy Spirit and with a joyful anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promise to give a Savior. What a marvelous wonder for God to fill not only Elizabeth's heart with his Holy Spirit but the child in her womb as well. John the Baptist, even before the birth of the Messiah, pointed to his coming and leaped for joy in the womb of his mother as the Holy Spirit revealed to him the presence of the King to be born.

The Lord wants to fill each of us with his Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us to enable us to know and experience the indwelling presence of God and the power of his kingdom. The Holy Spirit is the way in which God reigns within each of us. Do you live in the joy and knowledge of God's indwelling presence with you through his Holy Spirit?

"Lord Jesus, fill me with your Holy Spirit and give me joy in seeking you more earnestly. Increase my faith in all your promises, my hope in the joy of heaven, and my love for You as my All."

<http://dailyscripture.servantsoftheword.org/readings/2018/dec23.htm>

Pastor
Fr. Gregory Nunez

Office Staff
Anastasia Wargachuk
Administration
November 24-25, 2018—
\$535.90
Dec 1-2, 2018—\$1,375.15
December Flea Market—
\$2,634.00
Dec 8-9, 2018—\$1,124.40
Dec 15-16, 2018—\$1,465.15

Mass Schedule

Saturday @ 5:00 pm

Sunday @ 10:30 am

(incl. Children's
Liturgy)

Tues @ 7:00 pm
(Rectory)

Wed @ 7:00 pm

Thursday & Friday
(Rectory)

@ 9:00 am

Adoration Fridays
9:30am to 11:30am
(Rectory)

**Please note the Mass, on
Tuesday, Thursday and
Friday will be held
in the Rectory**

Anniversary and
Birthday Blessings to

◇All who are celebrating
this week.

Happy Anniversary to
Janet Bulseco and
Bernard Burcena.

Happy Birthday to
Susan Charlebois and
Emmanuel Cruz

Thank you to

◇Mike, Ann, Ruth, Merly, and
all the volunteers who work
at the Church, Rectory, and
Soup Kitchen

THE PURPOSE AND SYMBOLISM OF THE ADVENT WREATH

By Christa Rooks

The Advent season is a time of preparation for our hearts and minds for the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas.

At Mercy Home, we celebrate Advent by putting up an Advent Wreath and lighting candles each week. Our Advent Wreath is located right near the entrance of the cafeteria, and both coworkers and kids are encouraged to look at it and contemplate the meaning of Advent.

The use of the wreath and candles during Advent are a longstanding Catholic tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ. Even the individual evergreens that make up the wreath have their own meanings that can be adapted to our faith. The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering. The pine, holly, and yew signify immortality and the cedar signifies strength and healing. The pine cones that decorate the wreath symbolize life and resurrection. The wreath as a whole is meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.

The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

Though the Mercy Home Advent wreath does not include a white candle, this is a tradition that has become popular in modern day adaptations.

The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.

<https://www.mercyhome.org/blog/sunday-mass/advent-wreath/#.XBqbBtJKiUk>

ST. WILLIBRORD ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Christmas Baskets

Special Thank You and blessings to everyone who contributed, by donating food, gifts and money to the Christmas Basket Project, and to all who worked, organizing, preparing and delivering the Christmas Baskets.

Office Hours of the Rectory

**Please note that the office will be closed from December 26, 2018 to January 2, 2019.
We will be checking the voicemail, as well as, the emails.**

Christmas and New year's Mass Schedule **Revised**

Christmas Eve: Monday, December 24, 2018 Mass: 7:00PM
Christmas Day: Tuesday, December 25, 2018 Mass: 10:30AM
New Year's Eve, Monday, December 31, 2018 Mass: 7:00PM
New Year's Day: Tuesday, January 1, 2018 Mass: 10:30AM



DATES FOR FAITH FORMATION AND FORMATION FOR LAY PEOPLE

Thursday Bible Study:

Every Thursday, Bible Study at 6:30PM, in Rectory

Meeting for Lectors, Lay Ministers and Choir Members:

will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2019, following the 10:30AM Mass

Choir Practice

will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2019, following the 10:30AM Mass

Acolytes:

Meeting will be held in the rectory, on January 12, 2019, at 9:00AM.

Faith in the family:

The next faith in the family will be on January 13, 2019

DATE(S) TO REMEMBER

Flea Market:

Saturday, January 5, 2019, 9:00AM to 3:00PM

Social Gathering

Save the Date: Saturday, December 22, 2018, at 6:30PM, Parish Family, Social Event

Mass in Cameron Hall

Saturday, January 12, 2019, 5:00PM, followed by a light meal

CONFESSIONS will be heard 15 minutes before each Mass weekdays and 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, as it is important to reserve the church before the Hall.