

St. Willibrord Roman Catholic Church

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

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Website: www.stwillibrordparish.org

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

9:30am to 11:30am



Dec 25, 2016

Christmas: The Nativity of the Lord

Announced Masses

Saturday, Dec 24th

5:00pm

Anniversary Blessings for Janet & Bernard Burcena..

Thanksgiving Blessings

By Juliet & Pepito Mendoza

7:30pm

†**Deceased members of the**

Doyle Family

By Adeline Doyle

†**Emmett Cavanagh**

†**Gary Cavanagh**

By Lillian Cavanagh

Anniversary Blessings for Janet & Bernard Burcena..

Thanksgiving Blessings

for Bolofer Family

10:00pm

MIDNIGHT MASS

Sunday, Dec 25th

†**Yvette Marchand**

By her children

Thanksgiving Blessings

By Merly Nunez

Thanksgiving Blessings

for Mr & Mrs

Alex Laxina

Birthday Blessings,

For 15 year old

Eiriana Caroline

Gambalan

By her family

Tuesday, Dec 27th

Pro Populo

Wednesday, Dec 28th

For the Intentions of

Fareena Rodriguez

Thursday, Dec 29th

†**Federico Pasal..**

†**Elena Baldos..**

By Melina Pasal & Bong Quoicho

Friday, Dec 30th

†**Sotero Rosales..**

By Beng Bolofer & Family

The shepherds glorified God for all they had seen

Meditation: Have you read the news today - the "good news" of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and son of Mary who was born for us and for our salvation. The word *gospel* literally means *good news!* Jesus' birth in Bethlehem fulfilled the prophecy that the Messiah would descend from David and be born in David's city, Bethlehem (Isaiah 9:6-7, 11:1-2; Micah 5:2-4).

The first to hear the good news of the savior's birth were not the rulers and religious leaders of Israel who were robed in riches and power. The angels first came to those who were humble and ready to receive the newborn king who was born in poverty and was now lying in a manger made for animals. Just as God had chosen and anointed David, a lowly shepherd of Bethlehem to become the shepherd king of Israel, so Jesus, likewise chose the path of humility and lowliness in coming to Israel as the good shepherd king who would lay down his life for their sake and salvation. After the angels had sung their hymn of glory in the presence of the shepherds, the shepherds made haste to adore the newborn king and sing their hymn of glory as well.

Many of the early church fathers have written hymns and homilies in praise of the Incarnation. John the Monk, an 8th century writer, in his *Hymn of the Nativity*, sings of the great exchange in the mystery and wonder of the Incarnation - God becoming man in order to bring man to heaven:

Heaven and earth are united today, for Christ is born! Today God has come upon earth, and humankind gone up to heaven. Today, for the sake of humankind, the invisible one is seen in the flesh. Therefore let us glorify him and cry aloud: glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace bestowed by your coming, Savior: glory to you! Today in Bethlehem, I hear the angels: glory to God in the highest! Glory to him whose good pleasure it was that there be peace on earth! The Virgin is now more spacious than the heavens. Light has shone on those in darkness, exalting the lowly who sing like the angels: Glory to God in the highest! Beholding him [Adam] who was in God's image and likeness fallen through transgression, Jesus bowed the heavens and came down, without change taking up his dwelling in a virgin womb, that he might refashion Adam fallen in corruption, and crying out: glory to your epiphany, my Savior and my God! [Stichera (hymn) of the Nativity of the Lord]

Why was it necessary for the Word of God to become flesh? We needed a savior who could reconcile us with God. Throughout the ages Christians have professed the ancient Nicene Creed: "He became man for our sake and for the sake of our salvation." The eternal Word became flesh for us so he could offer his life as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world through the shedding of his blood on the cross. The Word became flesh to show us the infinite love and tender mercy of God for us sinners.

In the feast of Christmas we celebrate present realities - Jesus Christ our redeemer who reigns in heaven and who also lives and reigns in our hearts through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit. And we commemorate past events - the birth of the newborn Messiah King and his manifestation to Israel and to the gentile nations. We thank and bless God for the way in which he has saved us from the power of sin and the curse of death and destruction by sending his son to ransom us and give us pardon and abundant life through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit. Today we celebrate the birthday of our King and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

God wants to fill our hearts anew with joy and gratitude for the greatest gift he could possibly give us - his beloved Son Jesus. What can we give thanks for in this great feast of the Incarnation? We can praise and thank God our Father for the fact that the Son of God freely and joyfully assumed a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation in it. Jesus came to release the captives from slavery to sin and to open the gates of paradise once again. This day the Holy Spirit invites us to make haste - as the shepherds of Bethlehem did - to adore Jesus our King and Messiah. The Lord Jesus Christ is our eternal good shepherd who guides and cares for us unceasingly and who gives us abundant everlasting life and union with the triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. —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.

Pastor

Fr. Gregory Nunez

Office Staff

Anastasia Wargachuk
Administration

Dec 3-4, 2016—\$1,553.00
Dec 10-11, 2016 —\$1,135.75
Dec 17-18, 2016 —\$645.40

. 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. Temperance Miriam Browning
God is with you always

St Willibrord Parish Mission Statement

That we be a people who desire to grow:
- in our understanding of the Church.
- in our love for Christ.
- in our love of & service to our sisters and brothers.
That we nurture diversities
-Give people the opportunity to discover Gospel values in everyday life.
That we be a Church where all feel welcome to participate

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

Thank you to Angela & Patrick, Paul, Tom & Johanne Susan & Carole, all the Lectors, Lay Ministers, Acolytes, Collectors for their work with the Liturgy this Christmas.

Thank you to
♦Mike for cleaning the Church
♦Jonas, Pedro, Pepito, Bong and Bernard for decorating the church
♦Bong Quiocho for repair
♦Judith, Ann and Cora for their work in the Church and rectory

ST. WILLIBRORD ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Christmas Blessing

Loving Father, we are gathered here today, to have fun and fellowship, and to celebrate and remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love in every one of us. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

Lord God, Your bounty and provision is everlasting. We thank thy food that is on our banquet table. Bless them that they may bring nourishment to our body and to our soul.

Give us also your boundless blessings to our family, friends and everyone all over of the world.

Lord, May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven.

In Jesus Name, we pray (yourcatholicguide.com)

St Willibrord Parish has some wonderful programs and projects that may be of interest to you, as you continue your faith journey: PREX, Faith in the family, Bible Study, Symbolon. There are also opportunities to be an active participant during Mass, such as becoming a lector, acolyte (adult and youth). There are other groups and committees, cooking, flea market, annual bazaar, cleaning, decorating, choir, greeter(usher)... If you are interested in any of these programs or committees, please contact the rectory at 514-769-9678 or by email at stwillibrordparish@videotron.ca

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 and 7:00PM

Jan 1st 10:30AM

• **Important dates to mark on your calendar!**

Every Thursday: Bible Study at 6:30pm followed by **Symbolon** at 7:30pm

Flea Market : Saturday, January 7, 2017, 9:00am to 3:00pm

Parish Potluck Party (Celebrating our Parishioners and Volunteers): All are welcome to attend

Saturday, January 7th, following the 5:00PM Mass, in Cameron Hall

PREX (Parish Renewal Experience) January 27th, 28th & 29th, 2017

On behalf of the 230 families who received their Christmas Baskets today, "Thank you" to Angele Lafleche and her wonderful group of dedicated volunteers, who sorted food, packed boxes and delivered the Christmas Baskets and to all our Benefactors. Your kindness is appreciated

The next session of Faith in the Family Preparations for First Communion and Confirmation is Jan 8, 2017



Thank you to all our Mass Sponsors, Donors and to all who have attended the nine evenings of Novenary of Masses in preparation for Christmas, "Simbang Gabi", (December 16 to December 24, 7:00 pm)

ST. GABRIEL PARISH: NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER AND DANCE

Enjoy a great party with us on Saturday, December 31 (2157 Centre St., Montreal). Doors open from 6:30pm- 1:30am. Open bar, rotisserie chicken dinner, and music provided by Doyle DJs. Midnight snack will be offered after we ring in the New Year. For tickets contact the office at 514-937-3597 or Cindy at 514-462-9047 or Danny at 450-465-8047.