



Willi's Word

The Newsletter of the Community of St. Willibrord Parish
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Fall 2008

The beautiful, crisp season of autumn is here and at St. Willibrord's that means the Fall Fair! So please come, help, donate, buy, and enjoy this fun event so important to the finances of our Parish. We are also in a celebratory mood (not unusual for St. Willibrord's!) because it's our 95th anniversary this year and we will be celebrating that in November on the Feast of St. Willibrord. The theme for the celebration will be *"From this Body Flows the Water of Life"*. Also in this issue, learn a little more about two talented women who contribute so much to the liturgy at our 5:00pm Mass on Saturday.

The Sign of the Cross: Layers of Meaning

When you bless yourself with the Sign of the Cross have you ever thought of how many layers of meaning this simple act of worship contains? With the Sign of the Cross you are literally marking your own body with the symbol of our salvation. With the Sign of the Cross you are recalling your own baptism. With the Sign of the Cross you are invoking the Three Persons of the Most Blessed Trinity. Do you realize that when you make the Sign of the Cross you are actually blessing your own body? Spouses often bless each other with the Sign of the Cross and parents bless their children with it. We are absolved from our sins with the Sign of the Cross.

At your Baptism the first thing the priest did was make the Sign of the Cross on your forehead and say the beautiful words: "I claim you for Christ." And when you are dying, the priest will again make the Sign of the Cross on your forehead as he anoints you saying these words: "Through this holy anointing, may the Lord in his loving mercy help you."

So from birth until death we are wonderfully blessed by the Sign of the Cross.

-Dorothy Ormsby



Inside This Issue

- A look at our talented five o'clock musicians.
- A conversation with our much loved Sr. Anne.
- Find out why celebration is in the air here at St. Willibrord's.
- Celebrating the Year of St. Paul through scripture study.
- The Hospitality Centre opens their doors for yet another year of dedication and service
- Parish children will now be treated to the new Faith First series on Sundays. See what this entails.
- Read up on how we're keeping the church in top shape.

Music Worthy of Divine Service

One parishioner who was among the first of the few who grumbled at the elimination of the 9:00 Sunday Eucharist has confided that whether she attends either the Saturday 5:00 or the Sunday 10:30 she is refreshingly delighted by the accompanying music at both Masses.

Each Saturday we are treated to a prayerful enhancement of the celebration by soloist Johanne Patry and organist Sarah Fraser. The undisguised talents of this duo bring forth the qualities that create the distinctive character of liturgical music. Each week they prepare hymns calculated to foster music worthy of Divine service.

Johanne Patry, a native of Montreal, who was “recruited” from the choir of St. Patrick’s Basilica by our own Dorothy Ormsby, spent her early years in Toronto where she studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music. Returning to Montreal she attended McGill University and re-settled in the Plateau district.

Besides her obvious vocal gifts the diminutive mezzo-soprano has earned diplomas in Advanced Music Performance Studies both in classical guitar and recorder. In addition to Saturday afternoons at St. Willibrord’s, Ms. Patry directs the Loyola Chapel choir each Sunday, and is a founding member of Amaryllis, a highly acclaimed trio performing early music and song interpretations. She has been seen in local performances of Handel’s Messiah, Mozart’s “Requiem” and most recently performed in a classical concert at the *Townshippers Festival* in Sutton. She also teaches classical guitar and recorder at the McGill Conservatory.

Of her association with St. Willibrord’s Ms. Patry says her musical ministry is not a ‘performance’ but a joining in prayer with the people of Willibrord that enables her to “be part of something that soothes the burdens of the week.”

Organist Sarah Fraser, who accompanies Ms. Patry at ‘the five’ is also a multi-talented musician. A native of Montreal as well, she is a graduate of “la Conservatoire de Musique de Montreal” and the Toronto Conservatory of Music. Fluent in French, English and Dutch (which probably explains that delightful lilt in her accent,) Ms. Fraser came to St. Willibrord’s by way of introduction by her predecessor, Lenore Alford.

In addition to gracing the Saturday liturgy at St. Willibrord’s, Sundays find her the organist and choir director at Southwest United Church in Crawford Park. During the week she teaches harpsichord and organ, home-schools her son, Roman, 12, who is a gifted student violinist presently studying at la ‘Conservatoire’ and who, on occasion, has joined his mother to enrich our Saturday liturgy with his ostensible talent.

Ms. Fraser is gifted not only in the world of music but also is a professional translator and is a graduate of McGill University in that discipline. Having lived fourteen years in Holland prior to returning to Montreal, her knowledge of Dutch has obviously been an asset in that chosen field. In spite of her busy life she still somehow finds the time to perform in six or seven organ concerts a year.

Her observation of St. Willibrord’s during her three plus years as Saturday organist is one of a parish that is “forward-looking and that embraces its role with reverence and a vibrancy that is real.”

We at St. Willibrord’s are blessed and grateful to have such a talented tandem enhancing our Saturday liturgy.

-Paul Moreau

Next issue: The musicians who grace our 10:30 Sunday liturgy.

A Conversation with Sr. Anne

I recently made a phone call to a very courageous person in Kelowna: our own Sr. Anne McNally, who has been struggling with a second cancer. I was pleased to hear how hopeful and even cheerful she sounded. She especially wanted me to thank all of you for your prayers. She told me that when the side effects of chemo keep her awake at night, the thought of all our prayers for her sustain her and give her courage. She hopes to be in “recuperative mode” soon because her last chemo infusion will be on October 20th which also happens to be her birthday. Let us all especially lift her up in prayer on that day. Let us also remember in prayer Sr. Katherine Coltart who suffered a stroke but is recovering well at Villa Marguerite.

-Dorothy Ormsby

Celebrating both St. Willibrord and St. Willibrord's

The St. Willibrord parish community is celebrating the 1350th anniversary of the birth of our patron saint as well as the 95th anniversary of the founding of our parish with a colorful banner in St. Willibrord's honour extending above the sanctuary. It depicts St. Willibrord and the two church buildings in which we have worshiped since 1913.

The representation of St. Willibrord on the banner is taken from a painting, which hangs in the Basilica of St. Willibrord in Echternach, Luxembourg, where he built his original monastery.

Two parish pilgrims who passed through Echternach this past summer returned with water taken from a spring flowing near the tomb of St. Willibrord in the lower crypt of the Basilica. This spring has flowed constantly since the middle ages. The water they carried back will be blessed and used in the sprinkling rite during our celebration of the feast of St. Willibrord at 10:30 on Sunday November 9th.

All parishioners and friends are invited to this special Mass which will see, as usual, the solemn ‘Hopping Procession’, as well as a special blessing at the shrine of St. Willibrord before dismissal. Following Mass there will be a reception with refreshments in the parish hall.

-Paul Moreau

The Year of St. Paul

A few of us have been gathering in the rectory dining room on Thursday evening with Fr. Cameron for a discussion of the letters of St. Paul in order that we might celebrate the Pauline Year along with the universal Church. The people taking this little course have been very interested and enthusiastic with much to contribute. We discuss a different epistle every week and Father is thinking of extending the course at a later date. If all this sounds good to you, please join us on Thursday at 7:00pm.



Official logo of the Pauline Year

Glorious St. Paul, most zealous Apostle, Martyr for the love of Christ, give us a deep faith, a steadfast hope, a burning love for our Lord; so that we can proclaim with you,
“It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”

Amen.

Hospitality Centre

Tess Allonar, our coordinator, and all our volunteers and guests were very happy when on Monday, September 29th, we were able to open the Hospitality Centre for this year. Our guests not only miss the soup and sandwiches, but also the companionship with others who come at 9:30am for coffee and conversation; so we were very glad to open our doors again this year.

Without financial support, we could not open at all; so please continue to aid us with your prayers and contributions.

Our Catechetical Program

Things are looking new in our Catechetical program with the introduction of the Faith First series. Beginning October 12th, our children will have religious instruction one half hour before Mass as well as children's liturgy during Mass. The Faith First series has been quite successful in many parishes, both for catechesis and sacramental preparation. We are very grateful to Helene Dilallo for animating this program and for all our faithful catechists.

Repair & Maintenance

Following the advice of Duschenes & Fils, the Parish architectural consultants, and approval by both the board of wardens and the Archdiocese, a contract was awarded in the amount of \$65,000.00 to contractors Frare & Gallant for seven items, (most of which were outlined in the Summer issue of "Willi's Word") requiring attention prior to the arrival of winter.

Like most buildings, over the course of a year or years the church requires some repair, some maintenance, and some upgrading of an existing facility. Some repair work such as the lower vestibule windows was foreseen but forestalled by other priorities and budget limitations, but now has become necessary. Other work such as the roof snow-guard is motivated by reasons of safety, and some, such as the repair of east façade window, are brought about by an unforeseeable event, in this case a wayward tree branch.

All the work, however, is preventive, done to keep our church up to date in maintenance and repair. Because upkeep is naturally an ongoing process we continue to ask you to consider the Building Fund in your generous giving.

—Paul Moreau

Announcements

- October 17-18 Bring your friends and enjoy our **Annual Fall Fair!!!** (*Fri 1:00-9:00pm, Sat 11:00-7:00pm*)
- October 31 All Saints - All Souls Mass with special remembrance of parishioners who died this past year
- November 1 Flea Market
- November 9 **Feast of St. Willibrord and 95th Anniversary** celebration at 10:30 Mass
(Followed by reception in the church hall)
- November 28 Advent evening of reflection
- November 30 First Sunday of Advent
- December 6 Flea Market
- December 13 Christmas Dance

