

ST. DENIS Roman Catholic Parish

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Parish web site : www.stdenishaywoodmb.ca
Diocese web site: www.archsaintboniface.ca

Eucharistic Celebrations :

Sunday, Dec. 24th - 9:00 am – Nathalie Bernard (*Cécile & Albert Furet*)

Christmas Dec. 24th - 8:00 pm – For all the deceased members of our parish.

Sunday, Dec. 31st - 9:00 am – Lucille Major (*Simone & André Lambert*)

New Year's Day, Jan. 1st 2018 – 9:00 am - Solange Mineault (*Annette Robidoux*)

Sunday, Jan. 7th – 9:00 am – Paul Émile Sibleau (*Eugene & Yvonne Bazin*)

Sanctuary Lamp this week: Dec. 24th – Blanche Souque
Dec. 31st – Lucille Dheilly

God's Share : Dec. 17th - \$250.00 (15) + \$0.00 loose + \$20.00 (dd) = \$270.00

Ministries : December 24th
Readers: Marcel Dufault
Offerings & Collection: Marcel Dequier family
Communion: Marcel Dufault
Counters: Michelle & prtnr.

Christmas Dec. 24th
Judith Robidoux
Marcel Dheilly family
Judith Robidoux
Eugene & prtnr.

December 31st
Lucille Dheilly
Raymond Massinon family
Lucille Dheilly
Jean & prtnr.

Ministries : January 1st 2018
Readers: Annette Bernard
Offerings & Collection: Jean Souque & Gérald Poirier
Communion: Yvonne Bazin
Counters: Raymond & prtnr.

January 7th
Marcel Dufault
Eugene Bazin & Albert Furet
Marcel Dufault
Dorothee & prtnr.

January 14th
Judith Robidoux
Marcel Dequier family
Judith Robidoux
Maurice & prtnr.

Let us pray for all the sick and the deceased of our community!

Merry Christmas !

Dear parishioners,

Who could have imagined that God's Son would become one of us?

Yes, God took on our humanity. When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit (Tit 3:4-5). What wonderful news that we hear today at Christmas!



Like the yes that seals the promise of love between couples in the sacrament of marriage, Jesus, through his existence on earth, is God's YES to humanity. Christ's fragility and vulnerability reveal God the Father's mercy towards us.

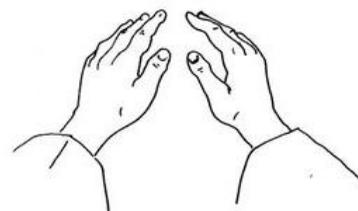
As we begin our Christmas celebration, our wish for each and every one of you is to experience the desire and willingness to say YES to God by embracing the realities of our existence - both our joys as well as our difficulties, so that God will infuse our humanity with His divinity.

Our wish is that you will find joy as your hearts and spirits reach out to God's Son who became one of us!

May we spread this joy throughout our communities through solidarity and sharing!

May you reach out this New Year to others and invite them to partake in God's union with humanity!

May the Lord bless you as witnesses to His love and mercy!



Happy New Year !

Families Shape Us

In St. Luke's Gospel, we read that Jesus' parents brought him to the temple to comply with the Jewish rite for firstborn males. Forty days after the child's birth, Mary would complete a period of purification and present her child to the rabbi at the Temple. The family would offer an animal for sacrifice and a sum of money. This practice recalled the Tenth Plague [Exodus] during which the firstborn in every Egyptian household died. Following this tragedy, the Pharaoh allowed the Israelites to leave Egypt.



We read about animal sacrifice, a financial offering, and the commemoration of a widespread massacre of firstborns. The Gospel presents Mary and Joseph as traditional parents who conformed to these laws. However, Jesus' experiences would be anything but traditional.

Later in his life, their son would call into question some of the religious laws, including those associated with celebrating the Sabbath and purification rites. He would distance himself from Temple customs involving animal sacrifices and propose a religion that came from the heart. How did Mary and Joseph's son evolve in this way? We won't simply answer that he was God's son. This would ignore the Incarnation and that God assumed our human condition. The Gospel passage continues: *The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him* (Lk 2:40).

His parents guided Jesus' development throughout his youth. Our Saviour grew up with love, confidence and attention. His family was his source of life, though he did question aspects of his tradition.

Families guide and support children throughout life's challenges and enable them to make choices that lead to the Source of life.

Gilles Leblanc

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli

He will be called the Son of the Most High

Today we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. St. Luke's Gospel relates a passage on the Annunciation about a young woman who was promised in marriage to Joseph. An angel announced that their child would be called the *Son of the Most High*.



In reading this passage, we understand right away that the child to be born would not be like other children. He would grow up and experience life's joys and sufferings, even death, just like the rest of us. Yet from the beginning, this Child, God's Son, would be extraordinary. *He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High* (Lk 1:32).

Mary was astonished and initially unsure about what the Angel Gabriel proposed. Would she agree to this great leap of faith? *The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.* Mary hesitated and then agreed: *Here am I, the servant of the Lord.*

The Child Jesus resembled children everywhere. Yet, as God's Son, when the heavens opened, earth became part of the God's great mystery. A history of love began which still changes our lives. Mary is not a young, naive and sceptical woman. She is daring and her faith took her beyond reasonable limitations. May she inspire us to enter today to partake in the great mystery of faith!

André Beauchamp

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli