

Coop's Scoops # 122, November 4, 2020

What a busy weekend for all of us! We've celebrated Halloween however it may have happened.....I heard of one neighbourhood parade where the parents all got together and planned a ten foot distance parade for ALL kids in the neighbourhood. At 6pm, off they went, with music sounding a beat for them, to every door where the families had agreed to provide snacks in bags taped on a hockey stick. Lots of the kids did a trick...sang a song, or did a dance...and then pulled their bag off the hockey stick to pop into their fancy containers or pillow cases. When the four blocks of the neighbourhood were "done" that was it....home to sort your loot and have fun activities in your own family. Pioneer Bible Camp held a family Halloween event, where families had their own cabin, had assigned times for meals, were always masked and did all kinds of outdoor activities as families. There were special tasks like axe throwing and archery where kids were allowed to be in a masked group of four, well supervised of course. Gregory and Claire, Ven. Kelly and Bill all had a fabulous time. I'd love to hear how things went out in Lake of Bays and here in town. Pictures would be most welcome!

Then came All Saints Day. **St. Thomas** parish offered a Cemetery Service involving only myself and John Andison, our Cemetery Chairperson. We read the names of all in our book of Remembrance, and then we visited the grave site of everyone buried during the past year in order to lay a carnation and speak prayers of honour and of comfort for their families. The service included a very special blessing in the interment of Campbell Keith Schell, husband of Jessie. Cam died 12 years ago, and it was time for him to be placed into his niche in the Columbarium. Son John videotaped the service for those in the family who could not attend. Marsha Smart wrote and sent out a letter to everyone who would normally have received an invitation to advise the due to Covid the Service could not be held with public attendance this year, and letting them know of our plans to offer prayers for their loved ones. And, of course, letting them know that we hoped to resume our usual annual tradition welcoming them to the service next year. And for the record, John and I endured the coldest, most frigid, windy hailstorm as we trudged around the cemetery on our prayer mission. The picture



shown is BEFORE the deluge! He tells me we heroically endured the worst Cemetery Service in decades! Our crowns are shiny!

For the St Thomas Wardens, Treasurer, Bookkeeper and I, there was a Zoom meeting the next day, on All Soul's Day, with our Regional Dean Rev. Heather Manual and our Deanery Officials Susan Pincoe and Lynne Preston. We were able to report on excellent building work during the year, meeting the standards of the Insurance Assessment, and on the health of our financial givings. Our expenses have been greatly reduced, and our offerings have been generous with the result that we have just paid \$30,000 to the Diocese to greatly reduce our accrued debt on apportionment and stipend. We expect to be able to pay off all of the debt remaining (about \$25,000) by the end of the year, due to another generous bequest. You'll all want to come to Vestry in the New Year to see just how all of that was accomplished! In the meantime, we count on your offerings to ensure we can meet our monthly obligations and pay our bills so we don't build up any new debt. Our new Treasurer Paul LeMay keeps a firm hand on things to keep our costs down and we are very grateful for his services, as well as for the ongoing bookkeeping of Meredith Hendie and work of Don Evans.

The meeting went very well indeed, and we expressed our appreciation to the Archbishop, the Diocesan Staff, our Deanery Archdeacon and Regional Dean for all the work they do to keep us informed and encouraged.

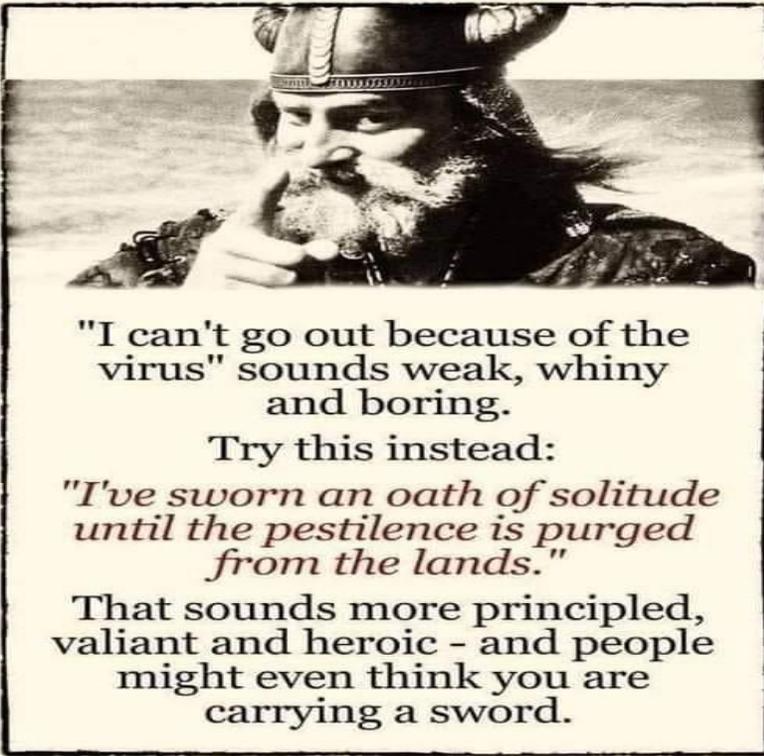
Some News from Lake of Bays:

The Winter Pantry is now open. They provide good food, canned and fresh, to their clients who depend on them for nutrition during the winter months when employment opportunities diminish and special needs always seem to rise. Susan Pond is the leader of this challenging programme, assisted by one staff person and with a few other volunteers available as needed. Shirley Burton also plays a major role in the work of administering the Pantry. The Winter Pantry fulfills in a hands-on way Jesus's command that we feed and care for the poor. Please keep this mission in your prayers! Thank you to all involved!

On the Lighter Side, at least a little bit!

Q: What is the longest word in the dictionary?

A: Smiles, because there is a mile between each 's'



This cartoon from Rose kind of tickled me, except for the part about the sword, given the atrocities in Nice and Austria. I tried to delete that part but it is impossible, so enjoy the rest but folks, no swords, ever. Except for the Sword of the Spirit!

Today's Scripture: Matthew 22: 34- 40

The Greatest Commandment ³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."^[c] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[d] ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Homily: One of the greatest ways we can show that we love our God and we love our neighbour these days is doing everything we can to keep other people safe. Ourselves as well, for God loves us in the same way that we are called to love.

Eileen Hewitt sent in the following picture and poem, and I think it speaks visually and verbally more powerfully than anything I might write today. So thank you, Eileen!



Painting by Joe Rivera, 2020. Used with permission.

May I see the holy moment in the wearing of this cloth
—a sign to the world that I care—
a tangible and visible way of living my love for my neighbours, as I love myself.

Since my lips will be covered, may I uncover my heart,
that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes.

Since my voice may be muffled, may I speak clearly,
not only with my words, but with my actions.

As the elastic touches my ears,
may I listen carefully—*may I be full of care*—for all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner,
and each breath that it holds, be filled with divine love.

By all that I hold sacred, by the love that is intended,
I say these things, I take this action.

May it be so. May it be so.

Blessing:

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you, the Lord lift up His countenance and give you peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Judie+