

Coops Scoops # 132: Thursday November 25th, 2020

It's Nov 25th! Just one more month 'til Christmas.

Only 30 more sleeps! It's great to remember the excitement of children as the great day approaches.

I was one of five children, and three of us shared one bedroom until we were about ten. There was little sleep going on.. lots of "I hope I get...." Or "will Santa really come?" or "you were naughtier than I was" going on, but very little sleep.

As we enter Advent, I actually get the same sort of

excitement thinking about Light. We light candles to show that God's reign, God's Kingdom is bringing more and more light into the darkness of our world. And as we Light Candles 1, 2,3, 4 and the light grows brighter and brighter around the Advent circle wreath, I can almost taste and touch the Star of Bethlehem as it will rise over a Stable and the ONE who IS the light of the world will be born. And yes He really did come. And yes He has granted me the desires of my heart. And yes He knows I was naughtier and forgives me anyway And yes, He will come again. I am a Christmas LOVER! Yes, there's lots of tinsel and glitter and over-spending and all manner of secular extravaganzas, but there is also a turning of human hearts toward being kinder, and more generous, and hospitable, and that is all all good.

I love it when I meet a fellow Christian in the "marketplace" ...I shout out a "Happy Saviour's Day!" instead of Merry Christmas. I get a lot of looks, some glares, but usually the grin on my face from ear to ear softens the hearts of many a scornful passerby and sometimes they start to grin back. Try it! It'll do your heart good. And it is, after all, HIS DAY!

News for the Advent and Christmas Seasons:

___Hang tight for a minute while I screw up my courage, stiffen my spine and reach for the Kleenex box! There, I'm ready. **There will be no Advent or**



Everyone likes to make Christmas cookies! Shannon and Kim like to eat them too!

Christmas Eve services in our churches at St. Thomas and Lake of Bays this year!

Let me give you a tissue! There. WE all know why....with the numbers of family members, visitors and shoppers coming into Bracebridge from all over the Province and beyond, the risk of covid infection is greatly heightened. You have heard the experts begging us to “stay home”, “ have only the people who live in your house enter your house”, “ don’t go out except for absolute essentials” and so on. There may be even more restrictions coming in the weeks ahead. It is I, and I alone, who have made this decision, but it has been supported by our Wardens, and our Archdeacon and our Archbishop. The vast majority of churches within our Deanery and Diocese will not be open for public worship, although a few will be. Those who choose to open have much reduced capacity and a throng of folks from other churches entering their open doors will not be possible. The logistics as to “who” might be the 20 who could come, how to make appointments fair, and “who” will be the bouncer at the door when over 20 show up were just too much. So as I said, most churches will not be OPEN.

HOWEVER WE WILL STILL HAVE A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE. It will just be in your home, instead of in our lovely sanctuaries. At 7pm on December 24th, an on-line service for ST. T and LOB will be posted on the Deanery of Muskoka Face Book page and the Deanery of Muskoka website. It will feature music, candle lighting, readings, the glorious Nativity Gospel, prayers, and a sermon and blessing. There will be participants from St. Thomas, St. Ambrose and St. James. It will be wonderful! I promise! For those who do not have internet access, we will deliver a print copy of the service for their own personal use at home. Let us know if you need one, and depending on where you live we will do our best to find someone to get it to you...or perhaps you could pick it up before noon on the 23rd.

It will certainly not be the same! And there will be many missing faces around our very small gathering tables. Some of you who live alone will BE alone, and that is a hard thing to even contemplate much less experience. Christmas Past is gone for now, Christmas Present will take some determined rejoicing, but Christmas Future will come. Take heart, and call if you just need a conversation

or encouragement or whatever else I or another parishioner may be able to do for you.

I am **looking for some elves** to help out in the next few weeks....we have letter stuffing, cooking baking, idea brainstorming work to do and extra hands and hearts are needed. Leave your name with Tracy or Cathy at 645 3486 and we will find you a proper elf job to do!



Bet I know a few of them....

There's Margo Almond cookie

Judie mint julep

Don the doughnut maker

Peter the Peeler

Tracy the Taster

Cathy the Cookie Cutter

And so on.....

On the very light side! (no Kleenex needed)

Margo sent me some great grandchildren sayings today. They picked up so high I almost hit the ceiling! Enjoy.....

- Grandma was putting on her lipstick in the bathroom with little granddaughter Susie watching, as she did most days. When grandma finished she took Susie's hand and said "Off we go!" Susie put her brakes on and said "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper!"
- 2. My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 72. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"
- When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised "Mine says I'm 4 to 6." (WOW! I really like this one -- it says I'm only '38'!)

Scripture for Today: Psalm 37:4

⁴Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Homily: A short verse from a wonderful psalm that speaks to so much deep inside us. And the homily will be just as short.

Question: If your greatest delight is the LORD, then what will your greatest heart's desire be? The LORD. And you surely will "have" the Lord. He has promised:

"Anyone who turns to me, I will in no wise (ever no matter what) cast out!"

John 6:37

And ⁹"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you." John 15:9

Now if the desires of your heart are all about "things", you may or may not wind up with them with God's blessing and direction. But if the desires of your heart are about Jesus - wanting to love Him, wanting to serve Him, wanting to be closer and closer to Him, wanting to do His will...then guaranteed God will grant those desires through the power of His gift of the Holy Spirit!

I'm thinking of adjusting my Christmas List! How about you?

Blessings! - Judie+

A Section of How the Grinch Stole Christmas

His dirty work done, the presents all gone, the tinsel all tangled, the Grinch paused above Whoville to hear what he hoped would be sobs.....BUT

"That's a noise," grinned the Grinch, "That I simply MUST hear!"

So he paused. And the Grinch put his hand to his ear.

And he did hear a sound rising over the snow.

It started in low. Then it started to grow.

But the sound wasn't sad! Why, this sound sounded merry!

It couldn't be so! But it WAS merry! VERY!

He stared down at Whoville! The Grinch popped his eyes!

Then he shook! What he saw was a shocking surprise!

Every Who down in Whoville, the tall and the small,

Was singing! Without any presents at all!

He HADN'T stopped Christmas from coming! IT CAME!

Somehow or other, it came just the same!



And the Grinch, with his grinch-feet ice-cold in the snow,
Stood puzzling and puzzling: "How could it be so?"
"It came with out ribbons! It came without tags!"
"It came without packages, boxes or bags!"
And he puzzled three hours, till his puzzler was sore.
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!
"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store."
"Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!"
And what happened then? Well...in Whoville they say,
That the Grinch's small heart Grew three sizes that day!
And the minute his heart didn't feel quite so tight,
He whizzed with his load through the bright morning light,
And he brought back the toys! And the food for the feast!
And he, HE HIMSELF! The Grinch carved the roast beast!

(Even when, perhaps especially when Christmas is not the SAME, it still comes!)

Blessing! To all a good night! And peace from God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, Amen!