

Coop's Scoops # 134 Tuesday December 1, 2020

We are not fully into Advent Week One. You have, I hope, already viewed the Messy Church video to see some joyful symbols. Here are some pictures to build up some hope and expectation in your hearts as we watch and wait over the coming weeks for the celebration of the birth of Christ.



Candles on the Altar made by Messy Church's Connie



Indoor Snowball Fight is Always ready at my house!!!! Had a great one with Kelly, Bill, Gregory and Claire (my household bubble) on Sunday night! Look out Tracy and Cathy.....he's portable!

HOW ABOUT
FILLING THIS
EMPTY SPACE
BY EMAILING ME
ONE OF
YOUR PHOTOS
I'D LOVE TO POST
LOTS OF THEM OVER
THE NEXT FEW
WEEKS!

News from the Parish:

- Filming was done outside St. Ambrose this past Sunday for inclusion in the Christmas Eve virtual service being created at St. Thomas for posting at 7pm on December 24th. Stick a note on the fridge to remember to worship together on line. Participants will include Connie and Rob Knighton, Rev. Judie+, Lay Readers and Deacon Margaret as well as an unconfirmed as yet reading/reader from St. James, Port Cunnington. Videographers are Cory Brunatti and Ven. Kelly Baetz.
- I am announcing that St. Thomas, which has been open for some time for Weekday Eucharists, will be **CLOSED** from December 15 – January 15th. I will remain available for pastoral care and continue to send out Sunday services and some Scoops over that period. The office will also be closed. This is being done to act responsibly and with kindness toward each other and our neighbours during the peak time of family visiting and tourism which will almost certainly impact community spread in our communities.
- Please continue to heed the health recommendations of our Province and the Medical Officer of Health Dr. Tam during this critical period of time. Be safe, take care, and have fun in whatever creative ways your wonderful minds can come up with!

On the Lighter Side!

From Mary Thomas : "I was climbing on an old cannon down by the docks in Gananoque with one of my great-nephews and we looked at the date cast in the barrel: 1814. "Wow!" said Russell. "How old were you then?" Thanks, Mary!



It's not only the pandemic that prompts needs for hand washing! Any dog can tell ya!de

Scripture for the Day!

Psalm 27: 13 -14

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the Living. Wait for the Lord; Be strong, and let your heart take courage! Wait for the Lord!

And

Matthew 24: 42-44

Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming; But understand this, if the owner of the house knew in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Homily: Stay Awake!

This reflection is by the Rev. Bob Dannals Philip Gunyon sometimes shares Bob's messages with me, and liking this one very much, I decided to pass it on to you. (It also got me out of writing a sermon on a blustery day so I can leave the office in daylight....truth is always good...and I do enjoy writing sermons, just

finding this day very busy and having a little angst about getting home with Fraserburg Road unplowed....So just enjoy this message, please! The Rev. Dr. Bob Dannals is Priest at St. John's Cathedral in Jacksonville, Florida.

"In spite of my best intentions, my ability to stay on top of things begins to unravel. It gets more and more difficult to remain current with the plethora and levels of unfoldings in church and society. As the news piles up and the day-to-day routines become complicated (I am Zoom saturated, how about you?) a kind of lethargy and disappointment can set in. I can sense it seep into the lives of everyone in my household, at the cathedral where I serve, and among the myriad of organizations in my sphere of living. Even our dog seems to feel it, curled up more often and grimacing at the weather.

So when the first candle is lit and the voices of the prophets announce the Advent of a new age, I'm reminded of the slang encouraging us to stay attuned to social imperatives: "Stay Woke." Wake up! It's time for new beginnings. It's an invitation sorely needed in our society, and the Church is heralding this new beginning with the Season of Advent.

Advent reminds us that the kingdom announced by John the Baptist, the kingdom that comes near in our own day, is not like a train we either catch on its way through town or miss forever. The kingdom of heaven is more like a comet that blazes regularly into view, lighting up the sky and taking our breath away. The prophetic voices of Advent reach us in our lethargy and disappointment and urge us to "stay woke" and get moving, to travel inward toward greater understanding of the world inside us and outward toward a deeper engagement with the world all around us. In Advent, we are called to beat our swords into plowshares and to wait with alertness. To resist injustice and to keep silent before mysteries we cannot fully understand. The prophetic voices of Advent remind us that the way in and the way out are the same way, that life inside of us and the life all around us are animated by the same source.

This invitation does not come just once a year, of course. It comes with each new week, with each new day, with each new moment. The Lord does not come once in the past and a second time in the future but comes to us again and again and again and again, every blessed day of our lives; he is known to us not only in his miraculous birth two thousand years ago, or in his cataclysmic return at the end of time, but also in the current challenges of a pandemic, a contentious election season and a very unusual time in the church's life. The invitation comes to us in the life and teachings of Jesus, whose story we prepare to enter once

more from the beginning. Jesus, whose life was wholly woke, whose inner and outer lives matched so completely that his one life promised new life for us all, beginning now.” Bob Dannels

Prayer for Today:

God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become **one** with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, **one** God, forever and ever. Amen.

Into my heart, into my heart,
come into my heart Lord Jesus
Come in today
Come in to stay
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus!

Blessing:

In your waking and your sleeping, may your soul watch and wait patiently
For the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, may you be refreshed with hope and
anticipation of the holy Feast approaching and may the blessing of God the
Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you
always.

Judie+