

Coop's Scoops # 140 Tuesday December 15th, 2020



BUDDY THE ELF dropped by today!

Who is this lovely little gnome/elf/lady? Take a guess... you could win!

Another beautiful sun-shiny day today! It seems even more wonderful because of the two gray, dismal, sometimes stormy days that preceded it! I am hoping that 2021 is like that... more wonderful at least partially because of the difficulties and challenges of 2020. We still need to love our neighbours and ourselves by minimizing personal contacts over the holiday period especially, and following all the other health protocols. On Christmas day, let's plan now to mark off about ten minutes to pray specifically for each

other asking our Lord to comfort the lonely, help the sick, and then to guide us as to how we might make a difference to someone else in our Parishes on that busy day. A phone call? A text? Could make all the difference and won't take too big a slice of time out of whatever our celebrations may be. If Christmas Day is just not going to work for you to do that, jot in some time on Christmas Eve or Boxing Day. That's the challenge and I know you are up to it!

Speaking of challenges, I'm going to fess up to breaking my own "rules" for our weekday Eucharist last Friday. We were so good, all masked and sanitized and temp checked and sitting far apart, no hugs, no singing, no coffee....UNTIL...a photo-op presented itself, and in the blink of an eye, we forgot it all and huddled together for a quick photo. I'd changed into my Christmas sweater and Nancy Cox Godfrey was already wearing one with a great Santa beard on it, we were near the main door on the way out, and suddenly, there we were pretty much glued to

each other waving for all of you. I was tempted to pretend it just didn't happen. But it's such a nice picture, I just had to share it, so please forgive..... won't happen again....maybe.... do our best..... but here it is!



Happy Saviour's Day from Nancy, Jane, Mary, Judie, and Sandy

NEWS FROM THE PARISH:

Hope that many of you logged in for the Diocesan Advent Service of Hope on Sunday... it was a many splendoured thing indeed. Don't forget to watch the St. Thomas/Lake of Bays Christmas Eve service at 7pm December 24th. Just google Deanery of Muskoka or St. Thomas Facebook and click on the heading. If it is possible for me to send you a live link before the 24th, I will do so. Thanks to those who participated, and to Ven. Kelly Baetz for filming, editing and posting.

A reminder that the office at St. Thomas will be closed until January 15th. Tracy and Cathy will be working from home and coming in a few hours each week alone to tend to administrative things that I am just not competent to handle (!). I will be alone in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or possibly Fridays, to handle all the internet work and Scoops etc, but working at home on the other days of the week. This is being done to minimize personal contacts for all

of us so that we can have Christmas safely in our family bubbles. Services have also been cancelled as our contribution to reducing community spread during a peak time of family visits, tourism and commerce involving many other parts of our province with much higher Covid rates.

I am available by cell phone 705 205 0549 or land line 705 646 8934 anytime for emergency pastoral needs or during reasonable day time hours for questions or conversation. Monday is my “Sabbath”, so I would ask for no calls on that day, unless of course it is an emergency.

A further comment about weekly Scoops for those who have been receiving a Saturday delivery. From now until January 15th, Scoops will be placed in sealed plastic bags in a tub outside the main church doors on Friday’s around noon. You can pick them up there. If you don’t drive and have absolutely no one in your family or friend bubble who could pick one up for you, please call, and I will ensure that they are mailed to you. So you’ll get it a little late, but it will come. I have asked that Peter and Paul do not do personal deliveries until mid-January again to limit personal contacts; for your safety and for theirs! Thank you for your understanding. You will already have your sermons for Advent Four and Christmas, but they will be in your “baggies” after that.

On the Lighter Side:



Who could ever forget Bing Crosby’s “I’ll be home for Christmas!”

Certainly not this little fellow! He’s “gnome” all the time!

Thanks to Caroline Sokoloski for this one!

- **A STORY ABOUT THE TRUE MEANING OF SHARING IN MARRIAGE.** (from Jane Lever)
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In a small restaurant a man and his wife took their seats.

The man placed an order for one hamburger, French fries and a drink.

He unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half, placing one half in front of his wife

He then carefully counted out the French fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife.

He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them. As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them were looking over and whispering.

Obviously they were thinking, 'That poor old couple - all they can afford is one meal for the two of them.'

As the man began to eat his fries a young man came to the table and politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said, they were just fine - they were used to sharing everything.

People closer to the table noticed the little old lady hadn't eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink.

Again, the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said 'No, thank you, we are used to sharing everything.'

Finally, as the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man again came over to the little old lady who had yet to eat a single bite of food and asked 'What is it you are waiting for?'
She answered = (Are you ready?)

'THE TEETH'

Scripture for Today: Psalm 147 (vs 1,3-5, 7-11)

Praise the LORD!

**How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.**

**He heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.**

**He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.**

**Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.**

**Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.**

**He covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.**

**He gives to the animals their food,
and to the young ravens when they cry.**

**His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;^[a]**

**but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

Homily:

There is nothing like a psalm of praise to lift our hearts and fill our minds with lovely things. Paul told us the antidote for anxiety, fear, and despair in Philippians 4: 8,9 when he tells us the following:

Finally, beloved,^[a] whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about^[b] these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Think on these things! Keep on thinking about them, and doing them, and then the God of Peace will be with you. The Peace of God will abide in your hearts.

The Psalm chosen for today is an excellent one in which to list some of the things that are lovely and true and pleasing and honest..... fits the whole list in fact...and they are all things about who God is, and what God does, intended to build our trust in the character of God so that we may rest in HIM in peace.

So many people have told me that they can no longer handle hearing nothing but news about COVID on daily broadcasts. Over and over and over again. And when something interrupts the covid news, it is generally even more dire or dreadful or dark, such as the kidnapping of so many boy students in Nigeria this week. It is hard to keep our minds filled with “good” when our ears are so assailed by “bad, awful and worse”. So what are we to do?

I suggest we listen to one news station once a day in case there is something we really NEED to hear about health and safety behaviours, and, unlike many things, do not repeat in four hours, do not “take” with liquids (especially alcoholic ones) and do not let the news become the newest ear-worm assaulting our hearts. Music is great to help with that. So is art. You can visit many a museum right on your computer...google away and wander through. So is conversation, even if it has to be on the phone...human voices are like antiseptic cream for wounds of loneliness. I think you get my drift. So I’ll stop drifting now.

As our **Prayer for Today**, I offer the words of Hymn # 384:

Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul praise Him for He is thy health and salvation:
All ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth!
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen how thy entreaties have been
Granted in what He ordaineth!

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew, what the Almighty can do,
When with His love He befriends thee.

