

Hello again everyone!

It's a gorgeous Friday, sunshine and a blue sky, and about 4 degrees. I hope that most of you can make it outside today to feel that sun. It's not so slippery anymore, ice all gone in most places. I'm beginning to sound like a weather reporter!

Today I'm thinking about Holy Week and Easter. It does not even seem possible that we will not be together on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Resurrection Day, but that is the reality. We will still be joined in heart and mind, but not in physicality. So I'm hoping to do some things that may bring some joy. And I need help!



Some of you have made Palm Crosses before. Well, I have a bunch of palm fronds just itching to be used. If you could make a dozen (or more) crosses in your home and then deliver them to a box I'll set out on the porch by the main church door, I will package them up and recruit some drivers to take one to everyone we believe to be still in town on the parish list. I will also deliver them as a blessing and gift to our brothers and sisters at St. Ambrose. They will have to be left on a doorknob with no personal contact in order to comply with all the covid-19 regulations. So .. what do you think? Do you think it would be a blessing for people? Can you help? Could you drive? Please get back to me as soon as you can if you are able to help.

I am also concerned for some of our parishioners who do not have email and are therefore not receiving all the Scoops and other info being sent out. If you have a printer, and you know someone who doesn't have email, it would be wonderful if you could deliver a copy ( in a baggie) to their doorstep. Please wash your hands before putting in the baggie. HAVE OUR HANDS EVER BEEN SO CLEAN? I want to go play in the mud!

Some of you will have heard me tell this story, but it is a good one, and I think many on our big St.T and Lake of Bays mail list will enjoy hearing it for the first time. It's a true story from



The Cooper Family Crypt:

Back in 1981, my family and I were going through some difficult times. We were very, very poor and living in a small Northern Ontario village north of Lake Superior. I was newly adapting to having become a single parent. My kitchen cupboards were very nearly bare. One day about noon, the wife of the local Baptist pastor arrived at my door with laundry baskets full of food. She kindly fabricated a bit of a tale, assuring me that I would be helping her out if I had room for all those groceries as she and her hubby had just bought a much smaller freezer and she didn't want her frozen goods to go to waste. I offered her tea ( oh the joy of pre-covid19days) and we chatted awhile until she whisked herself away to some other good deed no doubt. Kelly was seven then, and she was home with me with some sniffles that day. She and I set upon the basket to open various bags to see what our good fortune looked like. There was chicken. There was beef. There was a large ham. Sausages. Bacon. And there were veggies....some frozen , some fresh, 20 pounds of potatoes. ( I should mention there were three baskets full, and I had to help carry them in, as she could not possibly have hefted all that weight) . Fruit as well, canned over the last summer...strawberries, blueberries and even apricot jam. It was wonderful. And finally, there in the bottom of the last brown paper bag, Kelly reached in and found a huge package of cookies and a can of Koolaid. She then said words that have stuck in my heart for 39 years now. She said " Mom, I knew God would send us meat and potatoes, but I wasn't so sure about the Cookies and Koolaid". From that day forth, God, to me, was the generous giver of over and above my needs, but also the giver of my heart's desire. The God of Cookies and Koolaid.

**Psalm 37:4** Says "Make the Lord your sole delight, and He will grant you the desires of your heart". Now I cannot promise that every cupboard in Bracebridge that is low on groceries in this time of reduced income will have a sainted lady

deliver groceries. But I can promise that when we do make the Lord our heart's desire, then He will grant us the desire of our hearts, which is of course HIMSELF. And along the way, He will indeed become the God of abundant generosity doing, as we say so often "more than we can ask or imagine" in and for and through us.

For those who have a BAS at home, I recommend the Home **Prayers** on pages 687-693. They can be done around a meal, with a candle, or anytime or place that you desire. Some of you will be very familiar with using them, and for those who haven't, I believe you'd find it a blessing.

**Joke of the Day:**

Billy Graham arrived in a rural town a day before a great Crusade was planned. He'd been checking out the shops and was looking for the post office. Seeing a young lad sitting on a streetside verandah, he asked the boy "Can you give me directions to the Post Office?" The young fellow was most obliging and gave him those directions. Then, thanking him, Billy said "You know what, I'm having a Crusade tomorrow and if you come, I'll tell you how to get to Heaven". To which the boy replied...."Mr., if you can't find the Post Office, there's no way you can find Heaven".

**Prayer: Portion of the Great Litany Pg. 138 in the BAS**

Bless and defend all who strive for our safety and protection, and shield them from all dangers and adversities ( R ) **Hear us, good Lord.**

Grant wisdom and insight to those who govern us, and to judges and magistrates the grace to execute justice with mercy ( R ) **Hear us, good Lord**

Enlighten all bishops, priests, and deacons with true knowledge and understanding of Your word, that in their preaching and living they may declare it clearly and show its truth. ( R ) **Hear us, good Lord.**

Amen!

The blessing of the Lord be upon you and remain with you always!

Judie+