



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH FUNERAL LUNCH VOLUNTEERS' NEWSLETTER

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PRAYER CORNER

During the month of November, in this time of such turmoil in our world, it is hard to keep our faith and to see the hand of God in the chaotic events that are taking place. Let us remember to pray especially fervently for those people who are caught up in a dangerous and frightening war, through no fault of their own!

Let's also pray for all of those folks in our Armed Forces who give of themselves so that we may live in a safe and democratic Country.

God has a plan and we need to remember that he is always with us, through every terrible event that we witness on TV. Let's really pray for the gift of Faith. Pray that our trust in God's love keeps us close to Him and help those folks in charge, so that their love will begin to show in their determination to live in Peace, not War!

Amen.



Greetings friends,

In my time as Pastor of Blessed Sacrament, I consider it a privilege to have met many kind people who have now gone to the company of saints in heaven. I'm sure for you as the funeral lunch committee, you too can remember the smiles and joy of friendships you have shared in the parish community over the years.

November is a month of remembrance. Why not take a moment recall the faces of friends in heaven and keep their memory alive in our hearts today ...

Fr. Kevin



Hi Everyone,

Wow! One day we were raking leaves and the next day we were shoveling snow! That's weather in Manitoba, I guess! As I glance out the window, I think that the spruce trees are so beautiful, with huge puffs of snow contrasting with the dark green needles! But ... I always like the snow to wait until after Hallowe'en. It's so discouraging for little ones to struggle through the snow to go out trick or treating.

Life often doesn't happen the way we plan. I imagine that we like to think that we are in control of so many different aspects of life, but we really aren't. Many of us would have chosen different careers, if world events hadn't gotten in the way. I had a fantastic high school English teacher, who was just wonderful at his job. He shocked us one day, by saying that he had always wanted to become a doctor, but his Father had died of a sudden heart attack when our teacher was in grade twelve. Since he was the eldest child in the family of five children, he had to quickly change his plans and so he went to Teachers' College for one year and became a teacher to support his mother and his siblings. By the time his youngest sibling was finished high school, he himself was thirty and had fallen in love and decided to get married. Becoming a Doctor was out of his range and so he made up his mind to be just the best teacher he could be.

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I always admired that quality of being able to pivot and make the best of difficult situations. I think that Veterans are a perfect example of people who had to postpone their dreams when they came home from war. Either they were wounded and had to learn to live with a physical disability or many were left with serious mental and emotional disabilities. These men and women were full of hopes and plans, but they had to pivot and work out a new and often difficult plan for how to live in a society that didn't understand what they had been through.

November has always seemed like a rather sad month. We remember all of the Saints that the Church recognizes on November 1st and the next day, November 2nd, we remember all of the souls that have gone before us. On November 11th we remember those men and women who belonged to our Armed Forces, who were willing to put their lives on the line so that we might live in a free and democratic country. Although November is a sad month, it is good to keep in mind that we are indebted to our veterans. Let's not forget to say "Thank You" to a member of the Armed Forces whenever we see them.

Although we feel sad, we always need to have hope. Our hope is a sign that we trust in our loving God. During difficult times, hope is often in short supply but keep your Hope and Faith alive. The Lord is with us!!



*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

***Written by Colonel John McCrae on the battlefield,
3 May 1915 during the second battle of
Ypres, Belgium***

Is there a more loved poem in the world? It's doubtful. The wooden crosses mentioned in the poem have been replaced by marble ones and a memorial Chapel has been built near the spot where McCrae wrote his famous lines. McCrae was gassed during the fighting in Ypres and just three years later, died of pneumonia and meningitis. Because of the impact of this poem, the idea of wearing a poppy on Remembrance Day became popular and we see Poppies worn during the last part of October, until November 11th.

This year, the Remembrance Day service in Transcona will take place at the East End Arena on Saturday, 11 November. Please arrive at 10:30 a.m. so that the service can begin at 11:00 a.m.

**The Information about John McCrae came from
Lowell Green, Author of
"Amazing but True -150 Fascinating Stories About Canada"**

15 Snowy Groaners

1. Where does a Snowman get the weather report?
From the winter net.
2. What's the Weatherman's favourite food in winter?
BRRRRitos.
3. Who were the Snowman's parents?
Mom and Popsicle.
4. What do you call a ghost in winter?
Casp brrr.
5. What does a barber shop serve in winter?
Cold Cuts.
6. What time is it when snowflakes begin to fall outside the classroom?
Snow and Tell.
7. How do snowmen make their beds?
With sheets of ice and blankets of snow.
8. What do you get when you cross a Vampire with a Snowman?
Frostbite.
9. What do Snowmen eat for breakfast?
Frosted Flakes.
10. How do you get a Snow Monster to go away?
Get him into a heated argument.
11. Where do Snowmen keep their money?
In snowbanks.
12. What do you call an old Snowman?
Water.
13. How does a Snowman get to work?
By icicle.
14. What did the toque say to the scarf?
You hang around, while I go on a head.
15. What's an ig?
A house without a loo. *

Despite its British popularity for a slightly less crude way to call the toilet, the word "loo" is actually derived from the French phrase 'guarder l'eau', meaning 'watch out for the water'. You may have already started using your imagination to fill out the rest, but the phrase was used by medieval Europe who would shout the phrase as a warning to pedestrians on the street below before emptying their chamber pots out of their bedroom windows – how delightful!

THE CUP

When I look at my cup, what do I see?
An earthenware vessel, much like me.
We started from dust, until a blueprint was formed
in the minds of our creators, and then we were born.
The cup was shaped from hands humankind
while I was created by hands Divine.

Once formed, the cup was fired, decorated and glazed.
When I think of its journey, I am completely amazed.
Such work! Such artistry! Such exquisite form!
To serve up beverages cold, hot or lukewarm.

My cup's journey through fire is over and done.
My journey however, is only half run.
And, the kiln of life will continue its fire
with trials, temptations, and worldly desire.

Like me, my cup has some scratches; its colour is fading
for we share the natural signs of our aging.
But, as things made by man are fragile and cannot last,
eventually, into a recycle bin, my cup will be cast.

And when my time on earth is done
I'll be returned to the dust from whence I come.
There to remain until the one Divine
gazes upon me with His blueprint in mind.

My prayer is that He will find me worthy
of one final glaze that will take me to glory.
A glaze so clear, so pure, and bright
my soul will rise and take to flight,
until it reaches Heaven's shore
to sing God's praises ever more.

- Mavis Breiter

Our closing thoughts ...

Someone asked me a while ago if I was happy. I was taken aback, because I am an optimistic kind of person but I just said, "I guess that I'm more content than happy." "What an insipid answer! Then I began to dwell on the question and I decided to pose that same question to 10 people and to see whether people are happy or not! Well, I found quite a variety of answers. Two older men both said "Sure. One included, "I'm fine" and the other said, "It's all good."

Two older women were not so sure. One grouched a bit when she said, "What's to be happy about? I'm 83 and everything is falling apart. I even had to give up my driving license last month. No I'm not very happy." The other said, "If you had asked me yesterday, I probably would have said yes, but my stupid car was acting up today and so I'm very annoyed and not happy at all!"

The two couples that I asked were both happy - so they said! Maybe I should have asked them when they were alone.

I also approached two young people separately, and neither admitted to being happy. The guy was in a bit of turmoil at work, being forced to return to office work and he was trying to resist but had been given an ultimatum - so he definitely was not happy. The young lady was concerned about her romantic partner, whom she felt was ready to end their relationship, so she was feeling unsure about where she stood and what was in store for her, so she was not happy either.

The last person that I called and asked if she was happy paused before answering, and then Chris Klassen gave me the most sensible answer of all.

"Well," she said, "Happiness is pretty complicated. I'm quite satisfied with my life right now and probably more content than outrageously happy. Sometimes, when everything goes well and I have an overwhelming feeling of peace, I guess that is happiness. But I don't think that those feelings are sustainable and so I'm glad they come along fairly often. As far as day-to-day living goes, I prefer to think that I'm comfortable in my life and I'm so grateful that I have been able to have this life journey. If you need a definite answer, then YES, I am happy."

Chris is also an optimist and so even when life events get us down, the optimist always looks for the best in life. So yes, we are both happy - with reservations, of course: as long as the car doesn't act up, or hackers get into your computer!!

We love this little story from Buddha about a burning candle:

Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle and the life of that candle will not be shortened.

Happiness is never decreased by being shared.

So there you have it - no definitive answer! I agree with Chris - happiness depends on a lot of things and many of life's events are out of our control. Just keep on doing your best! Have a grateful attitude and try to help others as much as you can ... and don't forget to pray!!!

Carol and Chris

That's all for now, but let's continue to pray for each other and to keep in touch as much as possible!

Carol Engstrom and Chris Klassen