



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH FUNERAL LUNCH VOLUNTEERS' NEWSLETTER

February 2023

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PRAYER CORNER

For the month of February, Pope Francis has asked us to pray for our Parishes and so we are hoping that you will devote a few minutes of your daily prayer to Blessed Sacrament.

Let us remember and be thankful to those who have gone before us and have created such a kind and loving Parish.

We also pray that we may continue to be a welcoming and loving Community of Faith.

Let us always strive to befriend those parishioners around us, who may be suffering invisible hurts and feelings of loneliness that we could relieve with a kind word or gesture.

Amen.



Hi Everyone!

The other day, Chris and I were bemoaning the fact that our grocery budgets-as well as our gas, entertainment and eating-out budgets were taking a real beating this past few months. Of course, we conceded that we are lucky not to be younger and facing mortgage payments. That latest gas hike was hard to take! I guess that the problem of inflation is world-wide and so we are not alone in our misery! Chris and I are probably like many of you - not wealthy, but well able to pay the utility bills and the rent or taxes, and with enough left over to put some tasty food on the table. I wonder how the folks who work at minimum wage jobs and have a few children are coping. Let us try to be extra generous to the charities for whom we collect food at the back of our Church. I'm sure that if we each donated \$5 - \$10 worth of food every week, we wouldn't break the bank, but it would mean a lot to those recipients of that food. The Food Bank and the Plessis Community Family Resource Centre need our support during these tough times. Gifts of Grace is a group that cooks food and feeds the Homeless through the Main Street Project, and they too are always in need of food. Check out the page for Social Justice in our Bulletin if you're not sure what to bring. February is Heart month, so let's show what big and generous hearts we have by upping our donations to those who are less fortunate!

February is a busy month: -February 2 is Ground Hog Day - when supposedly the Ground Hog predicts whether we'll have more winter. What a joke! Of course we'll have more winter! This is Manitoba and it's February. It will be cold for two more months - at least! February 12 is Louis Riel Day - a good day to honour the founder of Manitoba, and a nice break for families to have a long week-end to be able to spend time together! Of course, February 14 is Valentine's Day. This is the day to express your love to your partner, and if you don't have a partner, you can buy yourself a bottle of wine, chocolates, and order in a lovely meal for one! Whatever works! February 17 has two celebrations assigned to it: National Caregivers Day and National Random acts of Kindness Day. You can do an act of kindness for a caregiver and kill two birds with one stone. On February 20, bake a batch of muffins, since that day is devoted to muffins! I am amazed that we will celebrate Ash Wednesday on February 22. It's hard to believe that in a few weeks we will be entering into the Lenten season - time to start to think about where we are on our journey in the footsteps of Jesus. Every now and then, we feel as if we have taken the wrong path and the snow drifts have caused us to wander off the path that Jesus set out for us. Lent is that time to reflect on how we can get back on track. For the past number of years, Chris and I have both opted to choose an action of charity, rather than just giving up some treat. It's not too hard to look around and see where to put our energy. There are many causes that would benefit from our participation or our donation. The Parish is our home, so maybe that's a good place to start!

Whatever you choose to do, the idea that you are following in the way of Jesus will be enough! Have an active Lent!!



We do not have a message from Fr. Kevin this month as he is enjoying a well-deserved vacation, returning to us on February 11. Instead, we thought you would like to join us in sending a message to Fr. Kevin:

Dear Fr. Kevin,

Although we will miss you while you are away, we hope that you will have an enjoyable vacation and return to us well-rested and recharged, ready to guide us through the exciting times and changes that are coming to our Parish this year. Your hard work in revitalizing our Parish is much appreciated and we will strive to support your efforts, each as we are able.

May God keep you safe in your travels,

Your Parishioners of Blessed Sacrament.



CRYPTOGRAM

JDUDNJ DFUD CRJN YHRGPTE, QHJD UJ UTT DFN LDFNC DFROVJ LK OUDHCN DFUD UCN ALCO
UOW VCLZ CUMRWTE, GUOOLD FUSN CLLDJ UOW CUBRKRGRUDRLOJ; DFN KRCJD AUW ZNUDFNC
PRTTJ DFNB.

– Niccolo Machiavelli

Hint: N decodes to E.

Silly Spot

A VEGGIE VALENTINE

You may not "carrot" all for me,
the way I care for you.

You may "turnip" your nose,
when I plead with you.

But if your heart should "beet " with mine,
- forever, "lettuce" hope -
there is no reason in the world
why we "cantaloupe".



KISS ME NOT!!

Roses are red
Violets are blue.

Please don't kiss me
I have the FLU!

What did the Farmer give his wife on Valentine's Day?

Hogs and Kisses!

What is the best recipe for a perfect breakfast on Feb. 14?

A bug and a quiche!

What did one Lightbulb say to the other?

I love you Watts and Watts!

KNOW YOUR CANADA QUIZ – FROM CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC

1. What is the largest Freshwater Island in the World?
2. A massive asteroid struck Canada more than 200 million years ago and caused a huge impact crater. The resulting moat, 70 kilometres across, is often called the "Eye" of its Province or Territory. What is its present-day name?
3. Called "Turcotte's Folly" by some, this roughly 9 metre tall, Northern Ontario roadside attraction cost \$4,000 when it was created in 1960. What is it?
4. Name the only Deer species in which the females have antlers?
5. What bird makes the longest migration in the world?
6. How tall is Canada's tallest tree, in metres?
 - a) 68.2
 - b) 92.2
 - c) 95.7
 - d) 115.6
7. In what Province do students lose the most time due to stormy winter weather?
8. In which Province or Territory is Canada's driest place?
9. Since 1908, the International Boundary Commission has been responsible for keeping the Canada-U.S. border deforested. What is the width, in metres, of this tree-free strip?
 - a) 0.5
 - b) 2
 - c) 6
 - d) 1000
10. Which of the following countries is nearest to Canada's Landmass?
 - a) Mexico
 - b) Bahamas
 - c) Russia
 - d) Norway
11. About when did Canada become an Urban Nation? That is when were more people living in urban rather than in rural areas?
 - a) 1867
 - b) 1918
 - c) 1921
 - d) 1947
12. Which Province was the first to grant women the right to vote ?
13. How much of Canada do Lakes cover?
 - a) About 5 percent
 - b) About 8 percent
 - c) About 12 percent
 - d) More than 15 percent
14. What is the official latitude of the Arctic Circle?
 - a) 60°00' N
 - b) 66°33' N
 - c) 70°66' N
 - d) 78°00' N
15. What was once known as the Medicine Line?

States that rise quickly, just as all the other things of nature that are born and grow rapidly, cannot have roots and ramifications; the first bad weather kills them.

1. Manitoulin Island, Ontario
2. Reservoir Manicouagan, Quebec
3. The Wawa Goose kilometres from Ellesmere Island
4. Caribou
5. Arctic Tern
6. c) 95.7m
7. Prince Edward Island
8. Nunavut
9. c) 6 m
10. d) Norway-Svalbard is roughly 1,200 kilometres from Ellesmere Island
11. c) 1921
12. Manitoba
13. b) About 8%
14. b) 66°33' N
15. The 49th Parallel

Our closing thoughts ...

I had gone shopping for fresh fruit last week and in No Frills a huge bag of apples was on offer for a reasonable price, so I bought it! I firmly believe that *"An apple a day...."*

When I took one out a few days ago, I cut it sideways, just as my children often did, so that they could see the star in the middle of the apple. As I looked upon that apple, and the seeds contained in the star, I remembered a little story that I had read some years ago and so here it is.

An apple usually has about 5 seeds in it. Imagine what it would be like if each seed grew into a tree. Just think about the trees producing apples. Each tree could produce about 100 apples every year. Those apples would produce 2500 or more seeds. And so it would go – on, and on, and on.

Now just imagine that a good deed, a smile, or an act of kindness was an apple seed. Because these actions, too, have the ability to replicate themselves, what a world it would be if we were living, surrounded by all of those seeds of love and kindness, of encouraging words and pleasant faces.

Let's see if we can't get at least a few seeds of kindness and love going in our lives, this February! Remember, Love is not love, until you give it away! This short article from Max Lucado really sums it all up!

"Kind hearts are quietly kind. They let the car cut into traffic and the young mom with three kids move up in the checkout line. They shovel out the neighbour's sidewalk, and they are especially kind at Church. They understand that perhaps the neediest person they'll meet all week is the one sitting behind them in worship. Paul writes "When we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it, but we should give special attention to those who are in the family of believers." (Gal. 6:10)

So for this wonderful month of love, we'd like you to think about these words of John Wesley:

Do all the good you can,
 By all the means you can,
 In all the ways you can,
 In all the places you can,
 At all the times you can,
 To all the people you can,
 As long as ever you can.

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

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