



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH FUNERAL LUNCH VOLUNTEERS' NEWSLETTER

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PRAYER CORNER

During the month of May, let's say our daily prayer for all of the women in our Parish—especially for the Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunts, Godmothers, Sisters, Nurses, Teachers; let us remember all women who have lovingly cared for children.

"Good and gracious God, we ask you to pour out blessings upon the women of our Community.

"Be with them and guide them as they help to show the children in their care, how to walk in the Footsteps of Jesus.

"We ask for this blessing in the name of Jesus."

Amen.



Hi Everyone,

Well, maybe the miserable weather of April is giving way to a beautiful May and summery times! Some years we miss Spring altogether and jump right into Summer. That's what this is feeling like! We can only hope!!

Chris and I are wishing all the Moms out there a very happy Day! We hope that every Mom, Grand-Mom, Great Grand-Mom, Aunt, Sister, God-Mom and every Nurse, Teacher or any woman who has helped a child along this rock-strewn path of life, the very best on Mothers' Day! We are hoping that the gifts that you receive will be in the form of visits, long phone calls, board games, card games, more visits and a ton of TLC. Material goods can't hold a candle to an in-person visit!

May is certainly "Garden Time" for many of us. It's too early to plant very much outdoors, but working to get the beds ready satisfies our soul and gets our blood pumping! It's good to be working the soil and raking up debris. Tilling in the earth seems to bring out a primal feeling of being at one with Nature and serves a strange need to work outdoors and get our hands dirty!

I am so lucky to be able to garden at my Daughter's place. We share a garden and it's been a real blessing! I have watched an Australian guy on You-Tube once in a while and he has some good gardening advice! He says that there are five (or more) vegetables that we should always plant! He says that beans - green or yellow, carrots,

beets, tomatoes and zucchini are veggies that grow well in any garden, are nutritious, and store easily for the winter. I agree with him, except for zucchini. I like Swiss chard better and it takes up less space.

One summer, when my children were pre-teen, my husband planted zucchini. Then we went on a trip to B.C. and came home three weeks later. The zucchini was almost crawling up the back of the house and there were at least 30 club-sized zucchini piled up near the gate after we had sorted the attacking plant all out! Later that day, I noticed that many of those huge zucchini were missing. My husband walked over to the baseball diamond, which was on the next street. About eight kids, all from ages nine to twelve, were swinging bats at tennis balls. The bats were the huge zucchini. What a mess! My husband and the kids spent quite a while cleaning up and we poured pails of zucchini mush back on the garden as compost. I could never look at zucchini with any appetite after that! I'll stick with my beans, carrots, beets and tomatoes!

I never plant until after June 6 so I'm not in a panic yet. Walking down the aisles at the gardening centres is very tempting! Best to avoid them until June! Soon we'll all be out working in our yards or on our balconies. Enjoy getting your hands dirty!



MANITOBA QUIZ

May 12 is Manitoba Day. Although we don't really do a huge amount of celebrating, we thought that it would be good to encourage us all to remember the wonderful Province in which we live. Our geography is so varied, with an abundance of Lakes and Prairie land; we may be in the Western part of Manitoba and see for miles around, or we can travel to the more Eastern part of Manitoba and be exposed to numerous lakes. Of course, travelling North brings all kinds of exciting geography, from lovely waterfalls to Arctic-like conditions in our far-northern part of Manitoba. The wildlife is also wonderfully varied. We are so lucky to live in a Province that is composed of so many diverse communities. On May 12, let's say a little prayer of thankfulness for all of the good things that Manitoba has to offer us, as lucky members of this Province.

We have another little quiz for you—here it is! Happy Manitoba Day!

1. Which animal is on Manitoba's Flag? Beaver / Moose / Polar Bear / Bison
2. What are the names of the Mascots for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers? Bam Bam & Billy / Bucky & Bob / Buzz & Boomer / Barry & Booker
3. What is unique about Westhawk Lake? It was created by a meteor / It is a man-made lake / There are no fish in this lake / It is the shallowest lake in Manitoba.
4. Which City or Town is often called "*The Hub of the North*"? Gillam / Churchill / Thompson / Swan River
5. What is the name of the famous drink (*composed of red wine, whiskey, and maple syrup*) often served at The Festival du Voyageur? Buffalo / Moose / Grey Wolf / Caribou
6. What monster apparently lives in Lake Manitoba? Manitoto / Manipogo / Manipega / Manicoco
7. The Winnipeg Art Gallery has the largest collection of what? Cree Artworks / Metis Artworks / Ojibwe Artworks / Inuit Artworks
8. What does "Winnipeg" mean in the Cree Language? Two Rivers Meet / Muddy Water / Flat Land / Our Prairie Land
9. Who might you see at a Winnipeg Jets game? Dancing Frank / Dancing Tom / Dancing Yuri / Dancing Gabe
10. Where is Country Fest held? Winkler / Dauphin / Brandon / Neepawa
11. Brandon is known as the _____ City? Wheat / Hockey / Sunshine / Lily
12. Which of these Festivals has been running for the longest time in Manitoba? Manito Ahbee Festival / Northern Trappers' Festival / Pride Winnipeg Festival / Whoop & Holler Folk Festival

Silly Spot

Woman: "Darling, it's me. Are you at the Golf Club?"

Man: "Yes."

Woman: "I'm at the Mall and I found this beautiful leather coat. It's only \$599.⁰⁰. Is it okay if I buy it?"

Man: "Sure, go ahead, if you really like it."

Woman: "I also stopped by the Mercedes dealership earlier and saw the new 2023 models. I saw a white one that I really liked."

Man: "How much?"

Woman: "\$83,907."

Man: "Okay, but for that much it better come with all the options."

Woman: "Great. Oh, one more thing ... the gorgeous house that we were looking at last month is back on the market. They're asking \$750,000."

Man: "Well, go ahead and offer them \$700,000. They'll probably take the lower price, but, if not, we'll add the extra \$50,000. It really is a pretty good price!"

Woman: "Okay. I'll see you later. I love you so much!"

Man: "Bye! I love you, too!"

The man hangs up. His friends in the changing room stare at him in disbelief.

He smiles and asks, "Anyone know who this phone belongs to?"

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I was having a cold one in my local bar one day when I happened to look out the window and I saw an elderly man with a fishing rod. Now it's been raining all week and there are some pretty big puddles, but honestly, this old guy was dangling his fishing line right in a big puddle. He looked pretty cold and miserable so I went out of the bar, walked over to him and said, "Come on in for a drink and get warmed up!". As we sipped our double ryes, I thought I would humour him. "How many have you caught today?"

"You are the 8th", he replied.

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Mothers are like buttons – they keep everything together!

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Apparently, replying to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time" isn't the correct response!

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Every time you feel yourself getting pulled into other peoples' nonsense, repeat these words:

"This is not my circus.; these are not my monkeys."

Do not feed them! Just walk away!

CRYPTOGRAM

XEHKKHEN HT MWJZ PSEADPHMW KS KUSDNUK. HK HT EHPW KS XEHK L OUHFW, VDK ASOE KUW
EWWAFWT, OJHKW L OUHFW, KUWE KLXW DV KUW TSPX LNLHE.

– Dorothy Day

Hint: W decodes to E.

7. Inuit artwork
8. Muddy water
9. Dancing Gabe
10. Dauphin
11. Wheat City
12. Northern Trappers' Festival

1. Bison
2. Buzz and Boomer
3. Created by a meteor
4. Thompson
5. Caribou
6. Manipogo

Knitting is very conducive to thought. It is nice to knit a while, put down the needles, write a while, then take up the sock again.

TIPS FOR WHEN TO PLANT SOME VEGGIES

1. Wait for the Apple Blossoms to bloom before planting Bush Beans.
2. When those Apple Blossoms fall, plant Pole Beans and Cucumbers.
3. By the time Lilacs are in full bloom, it will be safe to plant tender annual flowers and squashes.
4. Transfer Tomato transplants to the garden when Lily-of-the-Valley is in full flower.
5. Full-sized Maple Leaves signal that it is time to plant Morning Glory seeds.
6. Peppers and eggplant can be transplanted when Irises are blooming.
7. When Peonies blossom, it is safe to plant heat-loving melons, such as Cantaloupe.

Our closing thoughts ...

Chris and I were talking a few days ago and we came to a discussion of the terrible weather. Our conversation soon became a litany of whinging and complaining. Of course, the weather has been really disheartening, but as complaining does, it soon evolved into other topics. We cried the blues about the atrocious cost of groceries, moaned about the state of the roads and the dangers and annoyances of potholes and went on to bitterly complain about how filthy our cars were, from all of the dust in the air and the splashes experienced from passing traffic.

The state of politics in both Canada and the U.S. was thoroughly discussed and we carped about the unfeeling Provincial government who will not establish Harm-Reduction spots for addicts. Our griping and grouching went on to cover the devastating wars in Africa, the Middle East, and Ukraine; the appalling way that we have treated First Nations over the years, Climate Change, and we even carped about the amount of salty sand on the boulevards. Isn't that how it goes? We start to make legitimate points about parts of our life that bug us, but complaining is more contagious than Covid! We listen to one complaint and then we join the chorus and soon we are looking for items to gripe about.

Chris and I usually do more laughing about our attempts to live without making too many blunders and faux-pas, but once in awhile, we fall into that rabbit hole of useless whining and complaining. A short time later, were both back on track-remembering to be grateful! We probably are the luckiest people on Earth! Our governments are stable. As older women, we have disposable income and can pay for our homes, food, gas for our cars and a treat or two when we feel like it. We have a free press and get reliable news. We go to the church of our choice and are also perfectly free to stand on the street corner if we choose and spout our beliefs. We have comfortable warm clothes and are well looked after. Both Chris and I make a point of expressing our gratitude for all of our blessings. Do you find yourself getting unreasonably involved in finding fault and grouching every now and then? It's human to do that, but we always have to keep gratitude as the main model of our life. This little bit of writing says it all.

SIX SIGNS THAT YOU ARE DOING WELL IN LIFE

You have a roof over your head.
Someone cares about you.

You ate today.
You have clothes to wear.

You have clean water to drink.
You woke up to a new day.

Be grateful for all of these things which the Lord has given you!

JUST A LITTLE REMINDER THAT WE WILL PUT OUT A NEWSLETTER IN JUNE AND THEN TAKE THE SUMMER OFF!

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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