

Sudbury Manitoulin Deanery Digest

February 11, 2015

Deanery Office:

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The following is a reflection written by Rev Glen Miller, Rector of Christ Church in Lively and St. John the Divine in Copper Cliff.

It has been a little while since I have sent a message to all of you because we have been in the midst of annual meetings and the paperwork and other details have taken precedence. As I reflect on the past few weeks I have been struck by the two natures of the Church. There is the part that is spoken of in the New Testament and that part that we can see. The first part is the Body of Christ with Jesus as the head that goes into every part of life with the people who are connected to Christ through baptism and faith. All of you in some way or other are members of that part of the Church and so in small ways and big ways you are bringing the Kingdom of God into your workplaces and classrooms. This may or may not be done consciously but that is of little matter because the fact that you are connected to Christ means that He works through you at all times. So, from that point of view the Church in this parish is thriving. I say that because I am aware of some of your efforts on God's behalf and it fills me with admiration and thanksgiving to God. The other part of the Church is the one we have been concentrating on for the past few weeks and that is the organization that has a meeting place and scheduled meetings. This part of the Church, which is the physically visible part, is the one which struggles with keeping a building in good shape and maintains some physical connection with people in order to facilitate a regular time of worship and praise to God. Throughout history these two natures of the Church have been involved in an intricate dance and that continues today. Currently the physical part is having some difficulty because peoples' schedules and level of health is affecting their attendance and participation. This difficulty causes some to believe that the Church is in great trouble and while that may be true of the physically visible part the invisible part certainly shows signs of health. However, the two parts must dance together for the health of the whole. Over the next few months, as it has been over the past couple of years, there will be many conversations that will likely focus on the physically visible part of the Church because that is what is necessary at this time. Let us never forget that God is at work in both aspects of His Church and let us pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to work at uniting these two natures so that our Mission to the world will be even more effective than it already is.

Glen +

"O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look with favour upon your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; and by the tranquil operation of your Holy Spirit carry out the work of humanity's salvation; so that things which were cast down may be raised up, and that all things may return into unity through him by whom all things were made, even your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen" (BCP p. 39 adapted)

Deanery News and Announcements

DEANERY COUNCIL: Deanery Council meets next on Saturday, April 11th at Holy Trinity Church in Little Current. Members of Deanery Council include all Clergy, Wardens, Synod Delegate(s) and Alternate(s), Treasurers as well as those holding a Deanery Position such as Lay Steward, Program Associate, ACW President etc. The meeting will begin at 10:00 and should conclude by 3:00. At this meeting we will be electing Youth Delegates to Synod, a Lay Steward (preferably from the Island Parishes, but not necessary).

SHROVE TUESDAY PNACAKE SUPPER: The Church of the Ascension invites you to a Pancake Supper on Tuesday February 17th 5:00 – 6:30 – Free Will Offering.

CHALLENGE WEEKED FOR YOUTH: The Challenge Community of the Diocese of Algoma is preparing to host a Youth Weekend in Sudbury on the weekend of May 1-3, 2015 at Christ Church in Lively. Contact the Clergy at your church for more information or call 705-692-3344

FROM THE DIOCESE OF ALGOMA FACEBOOK PAGE: Looking for resources for ministry with children or youth? Check out the listing on Algoma's website... [Click here](#)

READINGS FOR THIS COMING WEEK:

(Taken from <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>)

Transfiguration Sunday (February 15, 2015)

- First reading
 - 2 Kings 2:1-12
- Psalm
 - Psalm 50:1-6
- Second reading
 - 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- Gospel
 - Mark 9:2-9