

THE SHEPHERDS WALKING STICK

Merry Christmas to all you, my beloved parishioners! Honestly, it feels awkward to greet you in that way. After all, how can we be merry when there is a lot of suffering around us? How can we be merry when some of the measures meant to address this suffering seem wide of the mark? On the other hand, our Christmas joy is founded on hope which cannot be extinguished by hardships. When everything was in darkness, a star rose in the east. In the midst of the poverty, the squalor and the wintriness of the stable – which aptly symbolizes the miserable human situation – the Saviour was born! You see, God will never abandon humanity in its depravity! Despite appearances, God is in control! May the light shining from Bethlehem prevent us from giving in to fear and despair. Rather, we should come and adore the God who heals our disease



and consoles us in our uncertainties. May that same light from Bethlehem make us hold fast to our faith, so that as soon as we can gather once again in our church, like the shepherds, we hurry to adore Him whom our hearts seek. On behalf of the entire parish community, I would like to express our sincerest gratitude to Esther Thiessen for putting up our Christmas manger scene at our church sanctuary. It is so splendid!

The live streaming of Sunday Mass was thought of at the last minute in order to broadcast the lighting of Advent wreath by representatives of our community. Live streaming of church services ended with the Christmas Mass..... Talking still of live streaming, there's another idea that I've been mulling. I saw all these people having fun ice skating on the lake. So, I am thinking of learning how to ice skate. I am thinking of learning it in secret. But, if I can get donation pledges for our church building fund totalling to CAD 2000, then I will allow my first time ice skating to be live streamed! You see, there are about 200 members in our Facebook group. If each one would pledge to donate 10 bucks then that's already 2000 dollars, and you will see Father try ice skating for the first time at Lake Minnewasta, and probably see him crack his skull or break a limb and get his pride shattered into pieces! C'mon, what do you think? Are there any takers out there?