

Offering # 78, January 7, 2022, Celebrating Epiphany. Enjoy Bishop George Appleton's Epiphany Prayer. Smile with the "Shout out for New Year's Eve" and the hot chestnut recipe. Be sure to read Bonnie Dobson's Brush with Covid 19 Omicron. Closing with the soothing lyrics of "Be Not Afraid".

We welcomed the season of Epiphany on January 6th. Fr. Brad called us to consider the theme "God is Love, the birth of Jesus, the bright shining star." When we look at the problems of the world, homelessness, poverty, the pandemic, the problems seem too big, too massive for us to tackle on our own. But we are encouraged to give a little bit of love, a little bit of light, a little bit of warmth in the circles in which we walk every day. Epiphany is a time to radiate and celebrate a little bit of love, light and warmth to those around us. Bit by bit be bright shining stars in the world in which we live.

With blessings and affection, Deacon Kate Ann

Bishop George Appleton's Epiphany Prayer *with thanks to Fr. Brad*

**Oh God let there be a little brightness,
a little warmth radiating from me,
a little epiphany of love and holiness
as I kneel before the birth of Jesus;
grateful for what it tells me of you
and for what it does within me.
Let me be as simple and humble as the shepherds,
as wise and worshipping as the wisemen
in the stories of that birth,
and let the Christ child born in my heart
to make me with him a child of yours,
a brother or sister of him,
and so a lover of all I meet or hear of,
oh eternal light,
oh infinite love. Amen**

SHOUT OUT FOR NEW YEARS!

I know many of us are really struggling with illness in our families and the current setbacks regarding Covid in our community, but my friend Suzanne (*alias the Zany County Gardener and the Unconventional Cook*) reminds us of simple things in which happiness and joy can be found. *Deacon Kate Ann*

**Goodbye 2021... a year filled with uncertainty and concern
Hello 2022... a new year filled with hope and optimism!**

No New Year's resolution except to just leave all those cookies and squares and other goodies in the freezer.

For New Years, because we were not entertaining and just wishing the new year in together, I thought of a plan to conjure up a bit of fun. I emailed neighbours and friends and invited them to go outside at Midnight and shout out Happy New Year. So on the stroke of midnight we went out on the porch. We heard a very loud horn followed by the loudest Happy New Year from our neighbours across the road. We returned the greetings with all we had. We could hear laughter in the darkness of the night. We live in the country, so did not hear anyone else. However, the results poured in. One dear friend in the city went out at 11:00 (bedtime for her). She shouted out and claimed it was already 12:00 in Halifax. Another friend in Brighton rang her bells out her front door. A friend in Toronto reported in as did other neighbours. It was fun getting the results. It sure made us smile and made our New Year's memorable.

Roasting chestnuts was fun too! We roasted them over an outside fire and that was fun and an experience. But I must say the results in the air fryer were every bit as good and a lot more comfortable. I will include the air fryer recipe.

Blessings and Happy New Year, Suzanne

Air Fryer Hot Chestnuts

- 1. Wash and soak raw chestnuts for 10 to 15 minutes in warm water - this makes the chestnuts easier to peel. Drain water.**
- 2. Preheat Air fryer to 400 degrees F.**
- 3. Lay chestnut on cutting board with the flat side down and rounded side up. Score an "X" on the rounded side of the chestnut.**
- 4. Place chestnuts "X" scored side up in the air fryer basket and place in the air fryer. Toss or shake air fryer basket...cook for up to 8 - 10 minutes- easy to peel.**

**“A Brush with COVID 19 Omicron and a strong testament to the BOOSTER”
Bonnie Dobson’s Experience**

On Tuesday, December 21, I had 2 friends with their husbands to my home for Swiss Chalet lunch and we spent the afternoon together. We all had had 2 shots and I had had my booster 10 days before. We were all healthy and know each other well so that we are aware that all of us are careful. The evening of the 22nd, I received a call from one of those friends to say that she had had a call from their daughter who had been with them on the 18th , saying that she and her family had tested positive and were sick. On the 23rd, my friend and her husband went for a PCR test and received positive results later that day. By then, they were unwell with sore throats, fever, fatigue and achiness. That put me on the alert to isolate although I was not sick. The other couple started with sore throats, fever, fatigue and achiness on the 23rd and on the 24th one of them tested positive with a rapid antigen test and on the 25th the other one tested positive, again with the rapid test. This really shows how contagious Omicron is and how a very innocent small gathering can result in several people becoming infected.

While I wasn’t sick, had no respiratory symptoms at all, I could do nothing but isolate until the 10 days from contact came to an end and I could get a PCR test. Consequently, I had Christmas alone as I couldn’t take any chances of possibly passing COVID on to my family. While it was a very strange day and few days, I don’t mind my own company and was able to amuse myself for the time. I had a PCR test on the 28th and fortunately it was a negative result!

The bottom line or moral of the story is that this is living proof that the Boosters do work to “INCREASE IMMUNITY” as advertised. I was the only one of this small group who had had a booster and I am the only one who did not get sick. Please, if you are uncertain about getting the booster or have gotten fed up with not being able to get booked, persist and get it done. There are more spots opening up all the time so it is easier to register for an appointment now and the process when you go for your appointment is very smooth.

Happy New Year to all!, Bonnie

With sincere thanks for sharing, Kate An

Be Not Afraid

Lyrics by Bob Dufford sung by John Michael Talbot

**You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands and all will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.**

**Be not afraid.
I go before you always.
Come follow me, and
I will give you rest.**

**If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the power of hell and death is at your side, know that
I am with you through it all.**

**Be not afraid.
I go before you always.
Come follow me, and
I will give you rest.**

**Blessed are your poor, for the kingdom shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked men insult and hate you all because of me,
blessed, blessed are you!**

**Be not afraid.
I go before you always.
Come follow me, and
I will give you rest.**

**This can be found on
YouTube by Bob Dufford sung by John Michael Talbot**