



Holy Cross Priory

An Anglican Benedictine Community
In Canada

*The Brothers wish you
God's blessings at this
holy festival of the
Nativity of our Lord.*



CHRISTMAS 2017

Immanuel— God is with us

(ISAIAH 7:14; MATTHEW 1:23)




The festival of the Holy Nativity of Jesus, Christmas, is a celebration of God's presence in our human lives and in the life of the world. We desire intimacy, yet many fear it. Life begins in the safety of a mother's womb. New-born infants depend on maternal comfort; small children crave the love and attention of family; teenagers seek to belong to a circle of peers; young adults gravitate to others who share interests and goals and to possible life partners. Older adults expend passion and energy in forming relations, success in employment, and establishing homes. Seniors desire safety, comfort and affirmation. Human development depends on relationships. Among relationships are

those whose personalities, achievements, and appearances delight and inspire. Today's media, which includes sophisticated technology, allows us a glimpse into the lives of others; perhaps a tiny bit of intimacy with the admired: e.g. movie stars, athletes, writers, artists, political and religious leaders, entrepreneurs. Because they are fellow human beings we seek to understand them; we may even fantasize about them.

If Christmas is a time to honour God's being in our midst, should we not be energetic in making it known: too often our desire to do so is minimal, nearly non-existent. The Gospel appointed for the Holy Eucharist on Christmas morning is the prologue to the Gospel according to St. John: "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth". (John 1:14) The catechism of the American Prayer Book says "by God's own act, his divine Son received our human nature from the Virgin Mary, his mother. The divine Son became human, so that in him human beings might be adopted as children of God, and be made heirs of God's Kingdom." (page 849)

In his time on earth some acclaimed Jesus as rabbi, teacher, healer, miracle worker, master, lord, Son of Man, Son of God, Messiah. Others regarded him as a trouble maker, blasphemer, and enemy of his religious tradition. Jesus



was crucified as a criminal, a threat to the Pax Romana. St. John wrote: “The Word was in the world, and though God made the world through him, yet the world did not recognize him. He came into his own country, but his own people did not receive him.” (John 1:11)

For 33 years Jesus was a physical presence on earth. Before his ascension he reassured his disciples that he would be with them always, even to the end of time. (Matthew 28:20) Christians should affirm that promise. We are not given to see Jesus of Nazareth, but we are the recipients of the presence of Christ in many holy and sometimes mysterious ways. A hymn by Edward Osler is entitled “O God, unseen yet ever near, thy presence may we feel.” Another author Timothy Dudley-Smith wrote:

He comes to us as One unknown, a breath unseen, unheard;
as though within a heart of stone, or shriveled seed in
darkness sown, a pulse of being stirred.
He comes when souls in silence lie and thoughts of clay depart;
half-seen upon the inward eye, a falling star across the
sky of night within the heart.
He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood
and birth; to bear within our mortal frame a life,
a death, a saving name, for every child of earth.

(1973, HOPE PUBLISHING COMPANY)

As we keep this holy Christmas season may we find gladness in our encounters with One who reminds us that he is with us in all of life – its joys and sorrows, successes and failures. To quote the late Fr. Leo OSB (St. Gregory’s Abbey, Three Rivers, Michigan): “God is with us in all our yesterdays, whether they were good or bad, or indifferent. God is with us in our todays and in our tomorrows.” The Holy Cross brothers join me in wishing you and yours God’s richest blessing as we celebrate Immanuel, God with us.

Br. David Bryan Hoopes OHC, PRIOR



Community Notes

THE ORDER

The Rev'd Peter Pearson was clothed as Br. Peter at Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, New York. Br. Aidan William Owen was ordained to the transitional diaconate on November 14 at Holy Cross Monastery.

THE TORONTO COMMUNITY

BRS. CHRISTIAN, LEONARD AND CHARLES enjoyed a five-day visit to Holy Cross Monastery October 16 – 20. The brothers hosted a gala Thanksgiving Day dinner for 28 people. Br. Adrian joined us for the holiday and was with us for a week.

BR. DAVID BRYAN continues his parochial and chaplaincy ministries which have included baptisms, funerals, and a wedding. He also participated in a meeting at Niagara Falls with the House of Bishops Committee on the Religious Life. David Bryan was a guest at a presentation at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. He attended a celebration at St. James' Cathedral in honour of the 200th anniversary of the life and work of Bishop John Strachan, a founding member of McGill University, Montreal, and King's College, Toronto which became the University of Toronto and Trinity College, Toronto of which our brothers Christian, Brian, Leonard, Charles and Robert Hagler are alumni. David Bryan served as chaplain for the Synod of Toronto on November 24 and 25.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

BR. LEONARD has been active in Sunday supply work, helping at the Ghanaian Anglican Congregation where he assisted at two weddings. Leonard has attended several Ghanaian functions including the out-dooring of babies, naming ceremonies, BBQs, birthdays and funerals. He has also collected school supplies given by parishes and individuals; the supplies will be sent to needy communities in Ghana. He will spend January and February in Ghana where he will see family, visit associates, St. Nicholas Seminary, the farm in Kumasi and will help in churches as needed. On October 25, Leonard celebrated his 30th anniversary of priesthood.

BR. REGINALD continues as the leader of the interim ministry team at Saint James the Apostle, Brampton. The Bishop has extended that assignment until the end of May. Reginald conducted a workshop on the dismantling of racism for the Trent-Durham region of the Diocese of Toronto and was also the facilitator for the October clergy conference of Trent-Durham. He was a co-host for the CAROA novice directors' workshop at the Convent of St. John-Baptist in Mendham, New Jersey.

BR. CHARLES continues his monastic studies. Along with fellow novice Br. Peter at Holy Cross Monastery, he is in a class on the theology of the religious life; this done online via Zoom conferencing. Charles is also reading about the origins of Christian monasticism, the sayings of the early Christian monks and, currently, Letters from the Desert by Carlo Carretto. He continues to serve as Honourary Assistant Priest at The Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., Toronto, and alongside his siblings supports his mother in her home.

Welcome

Since 1984 the gracious Victorian house on High Park Avenue at Humberside has been home to the Brothers of the Order of the Holy Cross and to many guests who have come for rest, retreat, and reflection. Located two blocks north of High Park, the neighbourhood is a pleasant and safe place. It lends itself to leisurely walks. Guests are invited to join us for times of prayer, the Holy Eucharist, and meals; they are also encouraged to plan their time as is best suited for them.

Our guest facilities include a self-contained suite (bedroom, bed-sitting room with fireplace, study area, kitchenette, bathroom and private entrance) as well as two small bedrooms. In warmer times of the year the front porch and rear garden are popular areas for reading and relaxation.

Suggested donations for a stay at the priory are \$100 per day for the guest suite and \$75 per day for a small bedroom. Meals are included. This may be negotiated with the guestmaster. Please note that the brothers keep Monday as a rest day.

"The priory is a wonderful place to carve out sacred time and quiet in the city. I loved the new guest suite which was perfect for private prayer and rest. The brothers are generous hosts and great cooks!"

LT. COL. AND REV'D CANON LISA PACARYNUK
CHAPLAIN, CANADIAN ARMY,
CANON OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, OTTAWA



Thank you

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gifts which we have received during the past year. Please know that they are an important supplement for our maintenance of the Order's work in Canada. Thank you also for your prayers and expressions of affection and encouragement. These warm our hearts. Your prayer requests are offered at the daily Eucharist as well as in the private prayers of the brothers. God bless you.

Faithfully,

Br. David Bryan Hoopes OHC

for Brs. Christian, Leonard, Reginald and Charles



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Lenten Quiet Day

EACH YEAR THE BROTHERS CO-HOST WITH ST. JOHN'S, WEST TORONTO, AND ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELD, A QUIET DAY DURING LENT.

WHEN:

Saturday, March 3, 2018,
9:30am-2:30pm

WHERE:

St. John's, West Toronto,
288 Humber Avenue

RETREAT LEADER:

The Reverend Louise Peters,
Vicar, St. James Cathedral

DONATION:

\$10 suggested (lunch included)

RSVP:

Please email info@ohcpriory.com

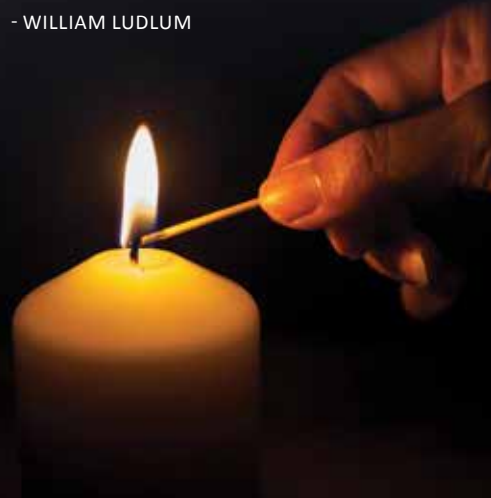


Louise Peters has been an ordained Anglican priest for 32 years, serving in varied ministries including team ministry at three cathedral communities, university chaplaincy, incumbency, co-rectorship with her husband, and as an executive director of a retreat and conference centre. Presently she is serving in ministry as the Vicar of St James Cathedral. Louise has also provided spiritual direction, vocational discernment and ministry mentorship to young adults exploring their faith and walk with God. Her best work has been the privilege of sharing in the parenting of three children. Louise is nourished spiritually through art as prayer (collage, word, music, ink doodles), cooking, walking and imagining scripture in small group settings.

A Poem for Christmas

God places a candle in his hand—
that to our earthly night
there might be brought a beam of hope
forever burning bright;
each of us also a candle bears,
that when touched by His flame
becomes another glowing torch
to glorify His name.
So through the years the dark has fled
before the ones who bear
the candles they have lit from His,
to carry elsewhere;
and from each of these lower lights
have other lights been born
until from hand to hand has passed
the brightness of His dawn.
A candle, as to wick and way
and form may perfect be,
and yet, unless by fire touched—
can aid no one to see;
so we need fire in our souls,
a spirit made to flame
by contact with that deathless spark
God lit — when Jesus came.

- WILLIAM LUDLUM



**Love must act
as light must shine
and fire must burn.**

- Fr. Huntington OMC



Worship Times

7:00am Matins

8:00am Eucharist

(TUESDAY-SATURDAY AT 8:00AM)

**11:30am Diurnum
(Midday Prayer)**

5:00pm Vespers

7:30pm Compline

* MONDAY IS THE BROTHERS' "GRACE DAY"
(DAY OF REST)



Holy Cross Priory

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Holy Cross Priory is a monastery of the Order of the Holy Cross, a community founded in 1884 by The Reverend James Otis Sargent Huntington to provide a specifically North American expression of monasticism for Anglicans. The Order has had a ministry in Canada since the 1890s. The Priory was founded in 1973.

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