



You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." 2 Corinthians 9:8-11

| Collection March 25th & 26th | Collections Required Per Week | Weekly Collection + / - | Year to Date Collections + / - |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| \$ 3,437.50 | \$ 3,465.00 | - \$ 27.50 | - \$ 4,974.40 |

March Sharing God's Gifts - \$ 1,937.00

APRIL

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 2 | Children's Liturgy | during Mass |
| 3 | Confirmation Class | 7:00 pm |
| 6 | Douglas Campbell Mass | 2:00 pm |
| 6 | Lenten Penitential Service | 7:00 pm |
| 7 | Stations of the Cross | 7:00 pm |
| 11 | Lions Prairie Manor Mass | 2:00 pm |
| 20 | Ministry of Hope | 7:00 pm |
| 20 | Knights of Columbus Meeting | 7:30 pm |
| Note - change of date | | |



SHARING GOD'S GIFTS - will be the second collection on **April 1st & 2nd**.

WORD AMONG US REFLECTION BOOKLETS - are available in the gathering area. As you may not be aware, these books come from the States. The cost has gone up because of the exchange rate. **If you choose to pick up a booklet for yourself, they will be \$2.50.** Thank you.



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS - Our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Lena Tanguay who passed away on March 22nd. Please remember her in your prayers. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

BAPTISM PREPARATION - is planned for Saturday, April 22nd from 9:00 am till 1:30 pm (lunch is provided). To register please call the parish office or Dawn at 204-872-2897.

New schedules are ready for pick up.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - the stations of the



cross is a popular devotion used by individuals or groups who wish through prayer and reflection to follow Jesus Christ on His way to Calvary. It is one of the most important devotions honoring the passion of Jesus. What matters most in the stations of the cross is to follow Jesus Christ in his passion and to see ourselves mirrored in him. To face life's dark side in ourselves and in our world, we need images of hope, and Jesus offers images of hope in his passion. Each Friday evening of Lent, there will be adoration of the **Blessed Sacrament starting at 6:00 pm, and Benediction at 6:45 pm.** Stations of the Cross will be led by various individuals of our parish, beginning at **7:00 pm.**

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICES - for the Central Deanery are listed below. Our evening for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is **April 6th at 7:00 pm.** There will be four or five priests joining me that evening.

Lenten Penitential Services

- April 4th - St Charles School 10:30 am
- April 4th - St Edwards School 9:30 am
- April 4th - St Eustache Church 7:00 pm
- April 4th - Our Lady of Lourdes 7:00 pm
- April 5th - St Charles Parish 7:00 pm
- April 6th - Good Shepherd Parish, Portage 7:00 pm**

SCHOLARSHIP - A \$500.00 dollar scholarship for continuing education is being made available by the Catholic Women's League to a Catholic Student from Good Shepherd Parish (including St Ambrose) graduating from Grade 12 this year. The criteria will not be based solely on marks, it will also consider volunteerism in and out of the Parish and other criteria. If you would like an application and full criteria please call either Bernadette at 239-6696, Irene at 857-5015, or Joan 857-8092. Applications should be submitted by not later than **May 30th** to Catholic Women's League 114 Countess Ave. Portage la Prairie, Manitoba R1N 0T2.

MUSIC BOOKS - We are looking for the Guitar Acceptant book I and Keyboard I, 2 & 3. If you have borrowed them could you please call the office and let me know that you have them. These are the only copies we have for the Parish. We are unable to order them anymore. Thank you, Bernadette



CONFESSIONS OF A NIGHT OWL - By Alisha Pomazon

I have always wanted to be like my grandma. Pretty much my whole family wanted to be like her. I, however, was lucky, because my mother and I lived with my grandmother for most of my childhood.

Grandma was a warm, funny, giving, loving woman. She gave me homemade play dough from her bread mixture, and would color it with my favorite colors because she knew it made me happy. She taught me how to pray. I would kneel beside the bed, and she would sit with me, and we would pray: "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep." I don't think she realized I watched her while we prayed. Sometimes I would watch to get the words right. Sometimes I would watch to get the actions right. But mostly I would watch because she glowed when she prayed. Her love for God, her love for Mary, was written all over her. And I wanted to be just like her.

Of course, even as a child, I knew I was not. I realize now it was because I did not have her faith. I did not have her commitment. I did not have her experience. She was, after all, almost exactly 64 years older. But I tried my best to follow her lead, hoping that, one day, I would be just like her.

As I grew up I learned more about the words I prayed alongside her at night. The first part of that prayer, "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep," became the roadmap for my prayers. I developed my own relationship with God by talking to God through my prayers. Many of the words to my childhood prayers are long forgotten, but now, every night when I pray, I talk to God, and I do theology. I let those prayers and theologies shape my soul, my understandings of my failings, my desire to grow, and my gratitude for life, grace, and forgiveness. As Grandma always said when I had a problem: "Alisha, offer it up to God." So I do. Every night. In the dark, in the moonlight, in the star-shine.

To pray at night, in the light of the heavenly bodies, is to pray in the light of the heavenly host. It is to pray in the light of the community of saints. It is to pray having faith that God will keep my soul close no matter what I confess. It is to pray knowing that whatever the darkness, there is still light.

We lost my grandma nearly seven years ago. In the years since she died, I have realized that my grandma's life was revelation to me. She herself was a revelation of what I came to learn is the sacramental imagination — the idea that God can reveal through any moment, anything, and anyone. Grandma is how God came to me. She is how I came to God. She taught me to pray. She taught me how to be. Grandma was, and still is, my role model in faith. She was, and still is, my role model for how to live my faith in the world.

My grandma was always welcoming. She always had food to give, and laughter to share. To me, she was the embodiment of the command to love one's neighbor. Her whole life showed the importance of taking care of others and taking care with others. Why do I know this? Because she told me: "Love is what you do." She taught me that when you love, it shows in your actions.

Love is colored play dough. Love is quoting your grandma in your childhood drawings (my mom kept a drawing of mine with "Love is what you do" inside a heart from when I was seven). Love is taking seriously the lessons the lives of others teach. Love is putting those lessons into action. I still want to be just like my grandma. I want to treat others the way she did — with care, kindness, and love.

It is said that all theology is personal. I believe this is true. It doesn't mean so much that all theology is done from a personal standpoint, although that may be true too. Rather, I believe all theology is personal because it must be personal, personal to each of us. It must penetrate to the depths of us. We must feel its truth. And we, in turn, must be a witness to it, in our words and in our actions. And now when I pray, I hope I pray in my grandmother's light.

Pomazon is assistant professor in the Department of Religion and Culture at St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION - Jesus called to his friend from the dead, "Lazarus, come out!" It is the same call our Lord makes to us unceasingly: "Come out!" Jesus calls us from our tomb of doubt and unbelief, from the darkness of our fear and anxieties; from the depths of our weaknesses and lack of hope. Christian stewards pray for an open heart, so that they may hear the voice of the Lord, heed the continuous call to come away from their former way of living and reprioritize their lives in the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Do we believe Christ has the power to transform our lives? Do we take time to listen for his call?

5th Sunday in Lent

April 1st & 2nd 2017

"I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." John 10.14

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 5th Sunday of Lent Saturday, April 1st Sunday, April 2nd | 7:00 pm 11:00 am 1:00 pm | Good Shepherd Good Shepherd St. Ambrose | ✠Susan Durston by Andy Loucks & Family ✠Anita Ammeter by the Lupkowski Family ✠Nora Hiebert & ✠Olivia Strange by the Family |
| Tuesday April 4th | 9:00 am | Good Shepherd | In Thanksgiving for Prairie Welcome House on the 10th Anniversary by the Bullock Family |
| Wednesday, April 5th | 9:00 am | Good Shepherd | ✠Roger McIvor by the Family |
| Thursday, April 6th | 2:00 pm | Douglas Campbell Lodge | ✠Mike & ✠Alec Zedan by the Family |
| Friday, April 7th | 9:00am | Good Shepherd | ✠Lena Tanguay by the Le Lievre Family |
| PASSION Sunday Saturday, April 8th Sunday, April 9th | 7:00 pm 11:00 am | Good Shepherd Good Shepherd | For the Candidates Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation Deceased Members of the Verwey Family by Donald & Shirley Verwey |

TRIDUUM "THE THREE HOLY DAYS"

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Holy Thursday | Mass of the Lord's Supper | 7:00 pm |
| Good Friday | Passion of Our Lord | 3:00 pm |
| Holy Saturday | Morning Prayer | 10:00 am |
| Easter Vigil | Resurrection of Our Lord | 8:00 pm |
| Easter Sunday | Good Shepherd Parish | 11:00 am |
| | St. Ambrose Parish | 1:00 pm |

GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION

the collection for Good Friday is a collection throughout the world. This collection supports the Church in the Holy Land. I'm sure we are all aware of the difficulties facing individual Christians and the Church as a whole in the land of the Church's birth. It is vital that we try to be generous in helping our "Mother Church". A quote from Pope Francis, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri said that "my thoughts turn in a special way to the Holy Land where Christ lived, died and rose again. Every Catholic therefore owes a debt of thanks to the churches that live in that region."



FLOWERS FOR EASTER - if you would like to make a donation towards this year's Easter Flowers please use a Visitor's Envelope and mark it "Easter Flowers". All donations are greatly appreciated. Donations will be added to your tax receipt at the end of the year..

"40 CANS FOR LENT"



- **Knights of Columbus** knows that every season and every day many people go hungry. The goal of this program is for each Council member and each Parishioner to contribute **1 non-perishable food item** per day during the 40 days of Lent in order to help keep our local food pantries well stocked all year round. The items 'can' be dropped off in the baskets in the gathering area. Some items could be used at Prairie Welcome House, and the bulk delivered to Salvation Army and/or the soup kitchen. Thank you for your generosity. Last year's total collection was 880. **Collection to Date - 637**

Friendly Reminders

Saturday, April 8th

- Greeters** - Ron & Shirley O'Neil
- Ushers** - Karl & Jo-ann Voeselek
Mary Bolton, Estelle Sinclair
- Gift Bearers** - Gerry & Gerri Masson
- Lectors** - Jane Hebert, Linda Leafloor, Dave Barney,
Helena Kot, Rachael Murray, Terry Giercke
- Eucharist Ministers** - Bob Dionne, Anita Kowerchuk,
Lillian Huberdeau, Lynda Jones, Bernadette Gnanapragasam

Friendly Reminders

Sunday, April 9th

- Greeters** - Brenda Franke, Mary Hordeski
- Ushers** - Suzanne Borisenko, Joan McCallister,
Liz Kelly, Monique Laramee
- Gift Bearers** - Brenda Franke, Mary Hordeski
- Lectors** - Emma Gobin, Rosa Rawlings,
Ruth Mulligan, John Chudzik,
Confirmants, Irene Souque Hewitt
- Eucharist Ministers** - Sinto Sebastian Evaristo Garcia,
Gary van der Zweep, Garth Bullock, Pauline Calder,
Sylvia Gauthier, Kerry McGowan

"From the Eucharist, this sacrament of love, flows every authentic journey of faith, of communion, and of witness." (Pope Francis)