



2018 Target Amount	Collected As of April 8th	Year to Date + / -
\$ 19,210.00	\$ 5,134.00	- \$ 14,076.00



**BURSARY** - A \$500.00 dollar bursary for continuing education is being made available by the Catholic Women's League to a Catholic Student from Good Shepherd Parish (including St Ambroise) 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 no later than **May 30th** to Catholic Women's League 114 Countess Ave. Portage la Prairie, Manitoba R1N - 0T2.



**"A FIDDLING CONCERT"** - presented by Mark Morisseau - **Saturday, May 5th, at 2:00 pm**, at Good Shepherd Parish. The concert is approximately a 75 minute traditional show with a variety of level of artists from emerging artists to recording artists with Dance and vocal arrangements and a whole lot of fiddle of course! There is a full band backing up about 50 artists that share the stage together for a number of group performances. Everyone is welcome to help us cheer on our rising artists. Refreshments served following the concert. Tickets are available at the door but should guests wish to skip the line that day, we encourage purchasing an advanced ticket through one of the performers or at the parish office. Tickets-Adult -\$ 12.00 / 12 & under \$ 5.00



**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION SESSIONS** We will resumed our scripture reflection sessions on Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 pm, **starting April 18th. Please pick up your scripture reflection for the next sessions at the back of the church.**

**PRAIRIE WELCOME HOUSE** - is in need of COFFEE WHITENER and DRINK CRYSTALS or ICED TEA MIX. Your generosity is very much appreciate. Items may be left in our bin in the gathering area or dropped off at Prairie Welcome House at 133 Saskatchewan Ave. E.

My name is Ginette Gauthier from the parish "Blessed Sacrament of Elie". I am a youth group leader that has been using the ALPHA CANADA program for the past 4 years. The youths from the surrounding communities have responded positively to this program and it has even reach out to non denominal youths. On April 20/21, we are running 4 of the Alpha Canada programs. If you are a youth between the ages of 13 - 18 that would be interested in joining us, feel free to contact me at (204) 470-5171 or email: [gauthierg60@gmail.com](mailto:gauthierg60@gmail.com).

*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 April 7 & 8	Collections Required Per Week	Weekly Collection + / -	Year to Date Collections + / -
\$ 4,842.75	\$ 3,860.00	+ \$ 982.75	- \$ 1,970.20



**BUILDING FUND COLLECTION** - will be the second collection on **April 14 & 15.**

**APRIL**

15	Community Breakfast after Mass	
15	East Side Choir	7:00 pm
18	M.D.C. Service	10:00 am
18	Celebration Scripture Sessions	2:00 pm
19	Ministry of Hope	7:00 pm
21	Baptism Preparation	9:00 am - 1:30 pm



**COMMUNITY PARISH BREAKFAST** - will be Sunday, **April 15th, after mass**, in the parish hall, hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Menu will include **scrambled eggs, hash browns, baked beans & sausages**. Suggested donation of \$7.00 per person or \$25.00 for family of 4 or more. Funds raised will go towards the building project. Everyone is invited! Please come and join us.

**EAST SIDE CHOIR** - The Portage, MacGregor, and Gladstone Youth for Christ chapters are pleased to announce a fundraising concert with Wayne Unrau and the East Side Choir. The event will be held at the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Portage la Prairie, on **Sunday, April 15**, at 7:00 pm.



**BAPTISM PREPARATION** - is planned for **Saturday, April 21st**, from 9:00 am till 1:30 pm (lunch is provided). To register please call the parish office or Dawn at 204-872-2897.



**IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS** - Our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Angela Hudon Paridais who has passed away. Please remember her in your prayers. May she rest in the peace of Christ.



## EARTH DAY - APRIL 22ND



Be a Good Steward of the Environment – Stop Plastic Pollution - In his ground-breaking encyclical *Laudato Si* ("Praise be to You"), Pope Francis urged humankind to exercise better stewardship of the earth. Subtitled "On Care of Our Common Home," the pontiff's letter called for a radical "ecological conversion" on the part of people the world over, and especially disciples of Jesus Christ, to honor and save our earth from degradation. One way we can be better stewards of the earth is to fight plastic pollution.

Cheap, capable of being made into any conceivable shape, strong and durable, plastic is the wonder product of the modern world. However, the victim of this technological success appears to be much of life on earth. Almost 80% of the plastic produced since the 1950s has been thrown away, either into landfill sites or into the general environment.

Ending plastic pollution is the focus of Earth Day 2018, the annual event celebrated on April 22 world-wide to raise awareness of ecological dangers and demonstrate support for protection of the global environment.

Items like plastic packaging, bags and bottles are thrown away every day, and end up in trash sites as well as in forests, creeks, rivers, seas, and oceans around the world. While some of these items are recycled, the growth of plastic consumption and its improper disposal currently outpace efforts to recycle and produce post-consumer plastic materials.

But plastic is more than just litter. A petroleum product, plastic is non-biodegradable. And in reality, most plastic does not ever disappear, but becomes long-lasting "plastic dust". When items like plastic bags break down, they readily soak up (and release) toxins that then contaminate soil and water, as well as harming animals that ingest plastic fragments. The increasing presence of plastic in our oceans poisons and ensnares marine life. Check your refrigerator. How much stuff in there is stored in plastic? Hazardous chemicals, some of which can disrupt human hormones, leach from some plastics that are used for food and beverage storage.

Plastic is the basic material of a consumer world. Without it we wouldn't enjoy the same standard of living or convenience. But if we take the Holy Father's urgent pleas seriously, we should take seriously the issue of plastic contaminating and damaging our environment. For Christian stewards, it is a moral responsibility to confront this pollution. And become better stewards of the earth

### *Suggestions for Stopping Plastic Pollution*

A springtime walk on a lovely April day brings you into contact with the ubiquitous presence of plastic in our lives. From the crushed soda bottle lying at the side of the road to the plastic bags floating through the air like kites, plastic pollution is everywhere. It is not possible to be plastic free. But there are steps we can take to reduce consumption of plastic. **Earth Day 2018 asks us to consider the Five Rs: Reduce, Refuse, Reuse, Recycle and Remove plastic in our everyday lives.**

**Here are a few suggestions you can incorporate into your life immediately:**

- Keep reusable canvas bags in your car for shopping trips and commit to refusing plastic shopping and grocery bags.
- Many stores have containers to recycle plastic bags, even newspaper wraps. Utilize them.
- Carry a small set of simple utensils and a reusable straw so that you never have to use throwaway plastic utensils.
- Encourage your school or college to look into utensils made with biodegradable components. Many Catholic schools have gone this route.
- Store left-overs in reusable containers.
- When shopping for gifts or toys, watch for excessive, wasteful plastic packaging.
- Many cities are considering levying a fee for using plastic bags at stores. Urge your local government to consider this proposal to encourage reusable bags. Ireland reduced its plastic bag use by 95% almost overnight by placing a tax on plastic bags!
- Visit [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org) for more ideas and inspiration



*Pope Francis reminds us that care of creation is rooted in the Book of Genesis.*



*The rosary is recited before every Saturday evening mass starting at 6:20 pm*

<b>3rd Sunday of Easter</b> Saturday, April 14th	7:00 pm	Good Shepherd	Birthday Wishes for Clint Jonsson by Maria Dela Cruz
Sunday, April 15th	10:30 am 1:00 pm	Good Shepherd St. Ambroise	†Gerald Pilon by Suzanne & Ken Borisenko †Jim & †Delima Lavallee by Margaret St. Goddard & Family
Wednesday, April 18th	10:00 am	M.D.C.	Celebration of the Word with Communion
<b>4th Sunday of Easter</b> Saturday, April 21st	7:00 pm	Good Shepherd	Celebration of the Word with Communion
Sunday, April 22nd	10:30 am	Good Shepherd	Celebration of the Word with Communion

***Friendly Reminders***

***Saturday, April 21st***

**Greeters** - Zennia Semchysyn, Irma Gobert  
**Ushers** - John & Doris Nichol  
 Estelle Sinclair, Ron O'Neil  
**Gift Bearers** - Fern & Donna Gervais  
**Lectors** - Rosemary Barney, Dave Barney  
**Eucharist Ministers** - Ron O'Neil, Denise Payment, Bernadette Gnanapragasam, Jane Hebert, Bob Dionne

***Friendly Reminders***

***Sunday, April 22nd***

**Greeters** - Irene Souquet-Hewitt, Hazel Desjardins  
**Ushers** - Alinsod Family  
**Gift Bearers** - Garcia Family  
**Lectors** - Sylvia Gauthier, Michel Touchette  
**Ministers** - Kerry McGowan, Suzanne Borisenko, Garth Bullock, Elaine Harder, Arthur Rey, Neenu Shibu, Sinto Sebastian



Greetings and Easter Blessings! I will return to work the first week of May during the Annual Priests Retreat. I had a good follow up appointment with my doctor. I'm looking to start walking more, but I'm taking things slow and steady. I'm learning to rely upon others as I won't be driving until next Month. I keep you in my prayers and look forward to being back with you soon! Thanks for the cards and inquiries about my well being. Peace be with you! Fr. Gerald

**COPING WITH TRAGEDY** - Waiting it out is precisely what is required. The Book of Lamentations tells us that there are times and seasons when all you can do is "put your mouth to the dust and wait." That's bitter, stoic advice, but it imparts real hope rather than false optimism. What it tells us and draws us to is the fact that, right now, for this immediate time, this pain must be borne, however crushing. There is nothing to be done. Consolation will come eventually, but it must be waited for and, in the meantime, we need to keep "vigil". And that is why we call the service before funeral a "vigil". We gather not just to celebrate the deceased life, but to, together, "put our mouths to the dust and wait." That waiting can be very painful, a time when we see everything through the dark prism of our loss and where for awhile we sincerely believe that we will never find joy again. This kind of waiting brings to the surface a frightening kind of loneliness that reveals to us how fragile and vulnerable it all is. But that is exactly what we need to accept and process. And so we shouldn't be afraid to feel afraid, nor despair about feeling despair. Neither negates courage or faith. As Kierkegaard put it, "courage isn't the absence of despair and fear but the capacity to move ahead in spite of them." We believe in life after death, in the resurrection, in the communion of saints, and in God's infinite tenderness and mercy. Faith can be trusted. What it tells us is true. In the end, there is consolation. However our God, it would seem, doesn't always save us from tragedy, but instead eventually redeems tragedy. Jesus didn't save his friend Lazarus from death, he raised him up from death after he had died. In the end, no doubt, "all will be well, and all will be well, and every manner of being will be well", but in the meantime, especially in those moments right after tragedy, senseless accidents, senseless deaths, and senseless loss of all kinds, the consolation and peace of God have to be waited for and we are meant to do that, hand in hand. Ron Rolheiser, OMI



*When we are in the middle of a storm, we shouldn't pretend that the sun is shining or, indeed, that there is anything we can do to stop the storm. The task is to wait it out, together, hand in hand, offering each the assurance that we aren't alone.*

