



*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 8 & 9 | Collections Required Per Week | Weekly Collection + / - | Year to Date Collections + / - |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| \$ 4,432.75            | \$ 3,465.00                   | + \$ 967.75             | - \$ 3,401.35                  |

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

**APRIL**

|    |                                |                   |
|----|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 20 | Ministry of Hope               | 7:00 pm           |
| 20 | Knights of Columbus Meeting    | 7:30 pm           |
|    | Note - change of date          |                   |
| 22 | Baptism Preparation            | 9:00 am - 1:00 pm |
| 23 | First Communion                | 11:00 am          |
| 24 | Blood Donor Clinic             | 3:00 - 8:00 pm    |
|    | <b>@ Canad Inn - Ball Room</b> |                   |
| 30 | Confirmation                   | 11:00 am          |

 **COFFEE PARTY** - there will be none Easter Sunday.

 **BUILDING FUND COLLECTION** - will be the second collection on Sunday, **April 16th**.

 **FLOWERS FOR EASTER** - if you would like to make a donation towards this years 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..

 **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.

 **ILLUMINATE** - an evening of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Worship, Reconciliation and Fellowship at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Elie, Friday April 21st at 7:30 pm. Address - 19 Elie St. West in Elie, Manitoba.



***First Communicants***

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Francois Barnachea | Jerome Collera    |
| Aryanna Lernowicz  | John Paul Collera |
| Shelayna Beaulieu  | Ethan Dion        |
| Gavin Fernandez    | Cheyenne Single   |

*Will be celebrating the sacrament of The Holy Eucharist on April 23rd*



***CONFIRMANDS***

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Megan Belinski       | Carter Lupkowski  |
| Stephen Yacucha      | Maria Alinsod     |
| Tunika Appah         | Joshua Gurke      |
| Randi Verwey         | Bradley Miles     |
| Sasha McLeod-Mathieu | Kalie Miles       |
| Eric Schaan          | Ryan Botterill    |
| Jennifer Rangel      | Ainsley Chappelaz |
| Aleisha Caners       | Sophie Chappelaz  |

*Will be celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation on April 30th*

 **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.

*May the risen Christ bring happiness to you and your family all year round. Wishing you and all your loved ones a very Happy Easter.*

**From Father Gerald** - God enters into our lives when we least expect. When all seems lost and there is no way for us to see past the sadness we are feeling, God comes into our midst. Like Mary Magdalene, and the disciples, sometimes it is difficult to see the Lord in the midst of our grief, but the light of Christ pierces our darkness. The Risen Lord gives us hope for a better future than we would dare to believe. Do we keep such news to our self? It's good news after all! What a gift to be able to be sharers in the Good News! In a world where it can be difficult to find good news, the Resurrection of Jesus is the Greatest News that we can share. His light shines for all to see. As we journey through this Easter Season, I pray that what while many may share the abundance of Christ's light with our family, our friends, our neighbors, we will look for ways to share the light of the Resurrection with others who have yet to know the light of the Lord in their lives. Let us do what we can to be bearers of the light! Happy Easter!

**CALLED TO CARE FOR CREATION** - Both Saint Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis remind us that it is a Gospel imperative that we be good stewards of the earth. What better way to remind us of their teaching than to observe **Earth Day 2017** and be good stewards of this precious planet year-round.



Earth Day will be observed worldwide on **April 22**. The first Earth Day was held in 1970, activating 20 million Americans and helping to pass legislation including the Clean Air Act. Today, Earth Day is a global event and possibly the largest civic observance in the world. For the Catholic steward, this day is an affirmation of Pope Francis' call to the world to embrace the ethical dimensions of climate change and our response to it in his 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si*. During the 47 years since the first Earth Day, the world has become more conscious of environmental degradation and humans' role in it.

It can feel overwhelming, and we ask, what can one person do? Pope Francis acknowledges technological fixes, global guidelines, international protocols. He praises solar energy and calls for a decrease in the use of non-renewables. But the pontiff calls for something more radical, more spiritual, and for the Christian steward more deeply challenging: "profound interior conversion."

Climate change, environmental destruction and a change in weather patterns, he reminds us, exert their greatest damage on the world's poor. The poor are a major theme of *Laudato Si*, as they are of Francis' papacy. He challenges us to examine the profit motive that often engulfs respect for nature. He challenges us to consider how the powerful and the rich of this earth are affecting the powerless.

Pope Francis reminds us that care of creation is rooted in the *Book of Genesis*. He begins his encyclical, the first ever dedicated solely to the environment, with a quote from St. Francis of Assisi, and quotes frequently from his predecessors. This, he is telling us, is a spiritual and Catholic issue.

In honor of Earth Day, consider what changes – perhaps some radical – you might make. "Live simply so that others may simply live," has long been a mantra of the Christian steward. Begin by turning down the thermostat and promising to eschew one-use plastics. Take a reusable bag to the grocery and a reusable container to the coffee shop. Cut down on frivolous buying. Consider what the "throwaway culture" of which Francis speaks means in your own life. Prayerfully consider your personal relationship to the poor. Make your environmental concerns known to your legislative representatives. "Teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe," Pope Francis prays to a generous God, "for all things speak of you".

***Easter Prayer*** - *Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope. Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal. Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it.*

## Easter Sunday - April 15th & 16th, 2017

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

|  |                     |                               |  |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Easter Vigil</b> , April 15th                 | 8:00 pm             | Good Shepherd                 | Resurrection of Our Lord                                 |
| <b>Easter Sunday</b><br>Sunday, April 16th       | 11:00 am<br>1:00 pm | Good Shepherd<br>St. Ambroise | †Yvonne Bouchard by Tony & Family<br>For All Parishioner |
| Wednesday, April 19th                            | 10:00 am            | MDC                           | For Peace in the Ukraine & the World                     |
| Thursday, April 20th                             | 9:00 pm             | Good Shepherd                 | †Lena Tanguay by the Bullock Family                      |
| Friday, April 21st                               | 9:00 pm             | Good Shepherd                 | †Mary Fashoway by the Family                             |
| <b>2nd Sunday Easter</b><br>Saturday, April 22nd | 7:00 pm             | Good Shepherd                 | For the Health of Andy Loucks by a Parishioner           |
| <b>Divine Mercy Sunday</b><br>Sunday, April 23rd | 11:00 am            | Good Shepherd                 | For all First Communicants                               |

### *Friendly Reminders*

#### Saturday, April 22nd

**Greeters** - Irma Gobert, Estelle Sinclair  
**Ushers** - Norbert & Donna Rey  
               Zennia Semchyshyn, Mary Bolton  
**Gift Bearers** - Henri & Gertrude Lambert  
**Lectors** - Jane Hebert, Jim Ross  
**Eucharist Ministers** - Helena Kot, Jewley Baby,  
 Luc & Donna Gamache, Denise Payment, Deepthy George

### *Friendly Reminders*

#### Sunday, April 23rd

**Greeters** - Joan Dufresne, Hazel Desjardin  
**Ushers** - Richard Fraser & Family  
**Gift Bearers** - Wermie Family  
**Lectors** - Rosa Rawlings, Irene Souque-Hewitt  
**Eucharist Ministers** Rose Marie Neault, Guy Gauthier,  
 Lidia Garcia de Garcia, Kerry McGowan, Arthur Rey,  
 Garth Bullock, Pauline Calder

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION - The Resurrection of the Lord - Easter Vigil** - In tonight's reading from Saint Paul's letter to the Romans, we are reminded that we are alive in Christ. And it is not merely once a year that we remember what Jesus did to give us this new life, forgiveness and peace. Every day good stewards remember their baptism. They remember that they are united with Jesus in his death; that daily they drown the old sinful nature, and that daily they rise to their new life in Christ. Let us be mindful every day, especially when we are troubled by life or tempted by sin, that our lives are no longer about us, but about Christ's active, loving presence within us. That is our baptism. Alleluia! He is risen!

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION - The Resurrection of the Lord - Easter Sunday** - The reading from the Acts of the Apostles reminds us that we, too, bear witness to the risen Lord. The presence of Christ is within us, making us new, transforming us, turning us into stewards of the Good News. There is no more time for holding grudges, disliking others, seeking vengeance, maintaining old prejudices, tolerating bias. We are Christ's joy and instruments of his peace. Our world is reordered. Reflect on how we are called to let Christ's forgiveness, reconciliation and love permeate our lives. We are Easter people. Rejoice! He is risen! Alleluia!

**"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 years total collection was 880.  
**Collection to Date - 1,052**

*Christ is risen. Hallelujah! May the miracle of Easter bring you renewed hope, faith, love and joy.*

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