



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 15 & 16	Collections Required Per Week	Weekly Collection + / -	Year to Date Collections + / -
\$ 4,856.90	\$ 3,465.00	+ \$ 1,371.90	- \$ 2,009.45

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

Holy Land - \$ 2,900.00

APRIL

23 First Communion 11:00 am
 24 Blood Donor Clinic 3:00 - 8:00 pm
 @ Canad Inn - Ball Room
 30 Confirmation 11:00 am

MAY

7 Children's Liturgy during Mass
 4 Douglas Campbell Lodge Service 2:00 pm
 9 Lions Prairie Manor Service 2:00 pm
 9 Catholic Women's League Meeting 7:00 pm
 11 Knights of Columbus Meeting 7:30 pm

FATHER GERALD will be away for the Annual Clergy Retreat from May 1st - 5th. Holidays from May 8th - 12th.



FLOWERS FOR EASTER - thank you to everyone who made a donation towards this years Easter Flowers.

EKLETIK SPRING CONCERT - Friday, May 5th, at Good Shepherd Church at 8:00 p.m. Tickets (\$10.00) are available from the following choir members: Rosa Rawlings, Linda Szumilak, and Pauline and John Chudzik. Please consider attending this special presentation.

*Your talent is God's gift to you.
 What you do with it is your gift back to God.*



First Communicants

Francois Barnachea	Jerome Collera
Aryanna Lernowicz	John Paul Collera
Shelayna Beaulieu	Ethan Dion
Gavin Fernadez	Cheyenne Single

Today, as you receive your first holy communion, we hope and pray that the goodness of the Lord be upon you each day. May the Lord bless you always. Congratulations!



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.

CHURCH EXTENSION - Having spoken recently to Harold Funk, the architect, a more detailed plan for the building expansion is underway. As the plan is completed by Harold, and a calendar for the beginning of the building project is established, this information will be provided to the parish. I met with Harold's assistant the middle of last month in anticipation of the detailed plan. In the future, I am hopeful that more information will be offered to the parish on a regular basis. Thank you for your interest and concern about this important project for our parish. Fr. Gerald

COME TO THE FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY! - Did you know that in the 1930s, our Lord Jesus, Himself, requested through St. Faustina, that a very special Feast of Divine Mercy be established in His Church, and solemnly celebrated on the First Sunday after Easter every year? In the Jubilee Year 2000, after many years of study, Saint Pope John Paul II fulfilled the will of Christ by establishing this special Feast of Divine Mercy in the Catholic Church, and gave it the name **"Divine Mercy Sunday"**! By God's Providence, Saint John Paul II died on this feast day in 2005.

What is so special about this new Feast of Divine Mercy you might be asking yourself? It is the promise of the total forgiveness of all sins and punishment for any soul that would go to Confession and then receive Jesus in Holy Communion on that very special Feast of Divine Mercy! **Why would Jesus offer us something so great at this time?** Jesus told St. Faustina that she was to prepare the world for His Second Coming and that He would be pouring out His Mercy, in very great abundance, before He comes again as the Just Judge and as the very last hope of salvation.

Jesus is in the Confessional - One of the most reassuring things Our Lord Jesus revealed to us through Saint Faustina includes the several times when He indicated to her that He is really there in the Confessional when we are making our individual Confessions to the priests. Jesus said that every time we enter the Confessional, that He Himself is there waiting for us, and that He is only hidden by the priest. Jesus said never to analyze what sort of a priest that He is making use of, but for us to reveal our souls to Him and that He will fill us with His peace and light. Some have wondered why Jesus would want us to confess our sins to a priest, but the answer is in the very first instruction that Jesus gave to His Apostles directly after His Resurrection from the dead. On the evening of the Resurrection, Jesus walked through the door of the Upper Room where the Apostles were hiding and said to them "Receive the Holy Spirit, what sins you forgive are forgiven them, what sins you retain are retained". This was the start of Confessions. For sure, that command was not only for the Apostles to be able to forgive sins and then to be forgotten, but for that power to be passed on to all the ordained priests of today in the Catholic Church. Jesus said that the greater the sinner, the greater the right they have to His mercy! Don't continue to carry your sins, Jesus forgives!

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION - In today's first reading, the four activities of the earliest church are introduced to us as priorities of the church: devotion to the teachings of the apostles, communal fellowship, the Eucharist, and prayer. The early members of the church saw themselves as devoted stewards of these activities. These were not options. They were the fruits of a genuine conversion to a life in Christ. Sharing in the Eucharist was the most intimate expression of fellowship, while the most common expression of fellowship in the New Testament was that of sharing financial resources – giving. It was not a perfect community, but one that gave evidence of God's active presence in its midst. This early community offers us an excellent example of how to better exercise

2nd Sunday of Easter - April 22nd & 23rd, 2017
"I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." John 10.14

2nd Sunday Easter Saturday, April 22nd	7:00 pm	Good Shepherd	For the Health of Andy Loucks by a Parishioner
Divine Mercy Sunday Sunday, April 23rd	11:00 am	Good Shepherd	For all First Communicants
Wednesday, April 26th	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	✠Lena Tanguay by the Catholic Women's League
Thursday, April 27th	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	Deceased Members of the White Family by Dave & Rosemary Barney
Friday, April 28th	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	✠Michelle Beaudin by Linda, Stan Szumilak & Family
3rd Sunday Easter Saturday, April 29th	7:00 pm	Good Shepherd	All Souls in Purgatory by Jacklin Jackson
Sunday, April 30th	11:00 am	Good Shepherd	For all Confirmands

Friendly Reminders

Saturday, April 29th

Greeters - Madeline Provo, Carolyne Roberts
Ushers - Ron & Shirley O'Neil
 Bob Dionne, Cecile Scott
Gift Bearers - Pierre & Lillian Huberdeau
Lectors - Helena Kot, Linda Leafloor
Eucharist Ministers - Zennia Semchyshyn, Bob Dionne,
 Audree Peech, Rosemary & Dave Barney

Friendly Reminders

Sunday, April 30th

Greeters - Jo Laurans, Armand Tanguay
Ushers - Bill & Elain Vint
 Sharon Murkin, Michel Dufault
Gift Bearers - Lupkowski Family
Lectors - Margaret Whiteley, Ruth Mulligan
Eucharist Ministers - Neenu Shibu, Elaine Harder,
 Gary van der Zweep, Joe & Marie Wermie,
 Mickey Cuthbert, Suzanne Borisenko

HOSPITAL VISITS - In addition to the masses and prayer services we offer at the Church, I am grateful for the occasions to come to pray with parishioners at the hospital and offer them the Sacrament of the Sick. I am also thankful to our communion ministers who offer their services to visit both at the hospitals and at the care homes, or assisted living facilities here in Portage. They are good to let me know if someone has requested a visit. The staff at the hospital and the care homes are also very good to give us a call if you ask them or have a family member, with your permission, request a visit. In addition, with permission, I stay in contact with my brother priests when I have visited their parishioners to make sure that they are aware that I have seen them and if they require their presence. The list at the hospital may not always acknowledge your presence at the hospital. Privacy and Confidentiality are always of utmost importance. The PHIA (Personal Health Information Act) is always to be followed. If I have not been to visit you, the quickest way is to have someone contact the parish office.

HELLO - As you will note the weather has changed and therefore our families need Spring coats. Does anyone have a gently used Spring jacket that they no longer need? We are looking for Women's sizes Small, Medium and Extra Large and Men's sizes Medium and Extra Large. Please drop off coats at Trinity between 9:00 and 12:00 or 1:00 to 4:00 on Monday to Friday before **Thursday, April 27** at 8:30 a.m. We will be making a plan on **Thursday** to purchase whatever is missing. We are also looking for one more women's bike. If anyone has this, please be in touch and we will coordinate delivery to where it is needed. Thank you, Beth Kerr, Trinity United Church, Phone: [204-857-4471](tel:204-857-4471), or Email: trinitybeth@mymts.net.



"40 CANS FOR LENT" - **Knights of Columbus** - **HUGE** thank you very much for your generosity in sponsoring the "40 CANS FOR LENT". With your help we collected 1,151 items. Hunger, as we know, has no season and every day many people go hungry.

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