

First Sunday of Advent - December 1st & 2nd, 2018

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

Collection November 24 & 25	Collections Required Per Week	Weekly Collection + / -	Year to Date Collections + / -
\$ 3,368.65	\$ 3,860.00	- \$ 491.35	- \$ 14,001.73

Sharing God's Gifts

2018 Target Amount	Collected As of November 25th	Year to Date + / -
\$ 19,210.00	\$ 17,206.25	- \$ 2,003.75



SHARING GOD'S GIFTS - will be the second collection on **December 1 & 2**

DECEMBER

2	Children's Liturgy	during Mass
2	Couples for Christ	1:30 pm
5	Celebration Scripture Reflection	1:00 pm
5	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting -	postponed till January
6	Douglas Campbell Mass	2:00 pm
8	Welcome House Christmas Celebration	11:00 am - 4:00 pm
8	El Shaddai - none in December	
9	Shut-in Trays	after Mass
9	Spanish Mass	6:00 pm
11	Lions Prairie Manor Mass	2:00 pm



**Walking Together
in God's Embrace**

Walking with Christ is a spiritual journey fed by prayer, scripture reading and the Eucharist.

NATIVITY OF THE LORD (MASS TIMES)

December 24	5:00 pm - Good Shepherd Parish 8:00 pm - St. Ambrose Parish 10:00 pm - Good Shepherd Parish
December 25	10:30 am - Good Shepherd Parish
January 1	10:30 am - Good Shepherd Parish

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Wednesday, Dec. 5th at 7:00 PM - St. Paul the Apostle Parish
Thursday, Dec. 6th at 7:00 PM - St. Patrick's Parish
Wednesday, Dec. 12th at 10:00 AM - St. John XXXIII
Wednesday, Dec. 12th at 6:30 PM - Good Shepherd Parish
Wednesday, Dec. 12th at 6:30 PM - St. Mary's Cathedral
Thursday, Dec. 13th at 6:30 PM - St. Edward's Parish
Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 7:00 PM - St. Charles's Parish
Wednesday, Dec. 19th at 7:00 PM - Blessed Sacrament Church - Elie
Thursday, Dec. 20th at 7:00 PM - St. Francois Xavier Church

New Schedules are ready for pickup.



All are welcome to come to the parish hall after Sunday Mass to enjoy a cup of coffee, the fellowship of other parishioners and a visit.



Thank you to everyone who supported this project. Funds raised were \$ 3, 805.00



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Gerry Gervais & Betty Conrad. Please remember them in your prayers. May they rest in the peace of Christ.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS - Dawn

Lernowicz will be organizing the children's parts of the Christmas Mass (5:00 pm). If you wish to have your child participate, there will be sign up on **December 2nd & December 9th** after mass in the gathering area. There will be a practice on **December, 16th after mass**, will take about an hour. We are always looking for helpers, if you are able please come and see me. Mary Hordeski will be helping this year. You can contact Dawn at 204-872-2897 if you have any questions.



WORD AMONG US REFLECTION

BOOKLETS - December booklets are available in the gathering area. If you choose to pick up a booklet for yourself, the cost of these books are \$2.50 each. Please give as it help to cover our costs.



2019 MISSALS AND COLLECTION



ENVELOPES - are ready for pick up.

2019 Missals are \$ 4.00 each. **Please try to have the correct change. Thank you.**



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - anyone wanting

to donate money towards this years Advent flowers please mark an envelope "Flowers" which can be placed in the collection basket. All donation will receive a tax receipt.

Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together!

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CHRISTMAS TRAYS - each year the Catholic Women's League put together trays of dainties for the shut-ins of our Parish. We would like your help. If you are willing to assist us by doing some baking. Baking can be brought to the kitchen on **December 8th & 9th**. We will be putting the trays together after **Mass on December 9th**. We put together about 60 trays. We also need help with delivering these trays. If you know of anyone in our Parish community who is a shut in and would like a holiday treat let me know. Contact Bernadette at the Parish office. Thank you.



CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN ADVENT - The children of our Parish will participate in a special Advent Activity as we prepare for the Birth of Our Lord. Christmas is celebrating the Love of God in our lives through His Son, Jesus. Jesus was born into poor circumstances as we too reach out to those who are in need and be God's love for them. At Mass during Advent, three treasure chests which represent the three gifts of Kings to our Lord - Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh - will be in the sanctuary. **Gold** - during our collection, **children are invited to come to the Altar and place a loonie in the treasure chest for the poor**. The children will decide what local charity to donate the money that is collected. **Frankincense** represents the prayers written by our children. **Myrrh** represents one good deed the children will do in the coming week. These two chests will be brought forward during procession by the children. This activity assists the children in connecting catechism to the Mass and to our daily lives. We support and encourage our children during this season of Advent.



THE ADVENT WREATH - is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. However, the actual origins are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreaths with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. In Scandinavia during Winter, lighted candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn "the wheel of the earth" back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth. By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21). By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath. The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection. **The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent**. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Saviour. Three candles are purple and one is rose. **The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.** The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead. The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. **Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve.**



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOE BOXES) - Thank you to everyone who supported Operation Christmas Child. A total of 53 shoeboxes were collected from our parish. The total for Portage and area (this includes Oakville, Newton, Gladstone and MacGregor) is 2,460 shoeboxes. This year was the highest that we have ever had, thanks to our Project Leaders, the organizing committee, the cooperation of our local media, newspaper/radio stations and, of course, the churches and local stores that displayed the shoeboxes.

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

First Sunday of Advent Saturday, December 1st Sunday, December 2nd	7:00 pm 10:30 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	†Michele Lalancette by Dave & Rosemary Barney †Joe & †Doreen Delaurier by Edie & Irv
Wednesday, December 5th	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	†Betty Conrad by the Bullock Family
Thursday, December 6th	2:00 pm	Douglas Campbell	Deacon Larry & Arlene Campell & Family by Friends
Friday, December 7th	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	Intentions for Jenifer & Jestin by Friends
Second Sunday of Advent Saturday, December 8th Sunday, December 9th	7:00 pm 10:30 am 1:00 pm 6:00 pm	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd St. Ambroise Good Shepherd	†Shirley O'Neil by Ron O'Neil Intentions for the Ammeter & Lupkowski Families †Frank & †Elmira Ricard by the Family For the Spanish Community

Friendly Reminders

Saturday, December 8th

- Greeters** - Denys Marion, John McPake
- Ushers** - Karl & Jo-ann Voesenek
Ron O'Neil, Bob Dionne
- Gift Bearers** - Lionel & Armande Bernardin
- Lectors** - Helena Kot, Terry Giercke
- Eucharist Ministers** - Bob Dionne, Denise Payment,
Tara Ryzner, Bernadette Gnanapragasam, Doris Nichol

Friendly Reminders

Sunday, December 9th

- Greeters** - Mary Kohut, Linda Podruchny
- Ushers** - Irene Souque Hewitt, Karen McLeod,
Mary Hordeski, Suzanne Borisenko
- Gift Bearers** - Mary Kohut, Linda Podruchny
- Lectors** - Kim Dengate, Michel Touchette
- Ministers** - Gary & Dawn Lernowicz, Gary van der Zweep,
Arthur Rey, Shawn Rawlings, Neenu Shibu, Lidia Garcia de Garcia

“BLUE CHRISTMAS” - An inter-faith service of remembrance and hope **Tuesday, December 4th, 7:00 p.m. at St. Eustache Church**, presented by St. Eustache Church and Adam’s Funeral Services. Christmas is a time for memories and remembering. For some, the memories are of their loved ones who have died, and the pain of their loss is real. For others, the memories of happier times, relocation and poor health cloud this season. We need to remember, and we need the space to acknowledge our sadness and concern; and we need to know we are not alone. For other reasons, we need a special time to be together to receive the words of hope that speak to us in the midst of sorrow. It is time to acknowledge a “Blue Christmas”, a time to hear and share prayers, scripture readings and hymns that help us to know that God’s presence is for those who mourn, and God’s word comes to give light to our darkness.

CONNECTIONS - by Dick Folger - Hurricanes, tornados, thunderstorms, floods and eclipses — all are fearsome forces of nature which can scare us. Collapsing canyons of thunder reverberate like an angry God stomping across the skies. Lightning flashes illuminate the darkening sky and we know something bigger is coming. These natural events in our lives give us a foretaste of the dramatic vision of the second coming which Luke paints for us in today’s Gospel.” The challenge of Luke — “Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.



Giving Hope Today

HELLO EVERYONE

- the Christmas Kettles have started on Thursday November 22nd and will go to Saturday December 2th, and only on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. The shifts will cover from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 pm and I am looking for any group who would fill a complete day. **We are still in need of volunteers to fill some of the spots.** Please let me know as soon as possible if you can help. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ilgin Irmak at work 204-239-7213 or cel - 613-266-6252.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER

- standard items for the Salvation Army Christmas Hampers are stuffing, cranberry sauce, beverages, kraft dinner, hot & cold cereals, rice, canned items such as fruit, pasts, meats, soup, pasta & sauce, dry soup mixes, cake mixes, and jelly puddings, or jello. Please do not forget to donate toys for the children. They are planning to make over **550 hampers** this year. If you can help out with any of these items it would be greatly appreciated. Donated items can be placed in the baskets in the gathering area. Thank you for supporting this specific project.

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