



Collection December 15 & 16	Collections Required Per Week	Weekly Collection + / -	Year to Date Collections + / -
\$ 3,936.05	\$ 3,860.00	+ \$ 76.05	- \$ 14,758.63

Sharing God's Gifts

2018 Target Amount	Collected As of December 16th	Year to Date + / -
\$ 19,210.00	\$ 19,124.25	- \$ 85.75

 **SHARING GOD'S GIFTS** - will be the second collection on **January 5th & 6th**.

DECEMBER		
31	Blood Donor Clinic @ Stride Place	10:00 am - 2:00 pm
JANUARY		
3	Parish Office Reopens	9:00 am
6	Catechism resumes	
6	Children's Liturgy	during mass
8	Loins Prairie Mass	2:00 pm
9	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7:00 pm
12	Baptism Preparation	9:00 am - 1:30 pm

 **PARISH OFFICE** - will be closed Monday, December 24th to Thursday, January 3rd, 2019.

 **COFFEE - Christmas Day** - all are welcome to the parish hall after Mass to enjoy a cup of coffee, and fellowship of others.

 We joyfully welcomed into The Family of God **Bernard James Nostedt Cote & Harvey Russell Roberts** who were baptized in our Parish community on Sunday, December 16th. May God grant them, their parents, family and godparents many blessings!

 **A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE** - "What is Christmas?" It is tenderness of the past, Courage for the present, Hope for the future, It is our wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal and that every path may lead to peace.



WELCOME - Good Shepherd Parish would like to welcome all visitors to our parish. Love, joy and peace are the ingredients for a wonderful Christmas. We hope you find them all this festive season. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!



**WE HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED!!!
 GIVE A GIFT - CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES**

- As we arrive (so quickly) to the Christmas/holiday season, many activities seem to take over our lives. So much so, sometimes that we lose sight of what's really important. At the same time, there are many patients requiring blood treatment for trauma, cancer and other procedures. **Our Parish has been challenged to ask for 5 new donors to attend this clinic.** Please take the time this holiday season to give the perfect gift, the gift of good health to patients and good cheer to their families. **Did you know less than 4% of eligible Canadians give blood yet 50% of Canadians have either needed blood or know someone who has?** There is a clinic at **Stride Place on Monday, December 31st from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.** Call 1-888-2-DONATE. You can now book your appointment on line www.blood.ca. limited walk in spots available. Give the perfect gift - the gift of life! Thanks to all and the best of the Season and a Happy New Year.



SALVATION ARMY
 Special Food For the Beloved Ones of Christ.

The food bank is a critical link between food & people. It provides over 3,240 meals a year to families in our local community. Your kind donations can help with the goal of putting an end to hunger. **We are trying something different for the collection of food items.** Every Saturday & Sunday Mass during the month we will collect one specific food item. **During January we will collect Canned Fruit.** Thank you to everyone who made donations to the Christmas Hampers.



BAPTISM PREPARATION - is planned for Saturday, January 12th, 2019 from 9:00 am till 1:30 pm (lunch is provided). To register please call the parish office or Dawn at 204-872-2897.



WORD AMONG US REFLECTION BOOKLETS

- for the month of **January** booklets are available in the gathering area on **December 29th & 30th**. 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.



"Be Not Afraid" is a powerful message that we hear in sacred scripture. This is a key phrase we hear in the liturgies leading to the Feast of Christmas. This message from the angel to Mary, to Joseph, and to Zechariah is a message for all of us. Accompanying that message is a call from God to each of them, and it is a call to us. Does fear stifle us? Are we overcome by it? The power of God's call enables us to overcome fear. As we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of Jesus Christ, may we be enriched by God's love. May the loving arms of the Infant Christ embrace us and invite us give thanks for His life and the opportunity to proclaim and praise His name always! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Respectfully, Fr. Gerald



As the wise men followed the star to Bethlehem, let us remember to focus and to follow the true light of the world, Jesus the Christ. He was born into poverty and it is in this state that we will encounter the infant Jesus in our midst, in those who are mourning, ailing or lonely. Let us be the light that Jesus calls us to be. We pray that you and your family and friends will experience a Blessed [Christmas](#) and a peace filled New Year. Deacon Rick & Tara Ryzner

The Legend of The Candy Cane

According to the legend of the candy cane, this candy was first created back in the 18th century. At that time, in certain areas of Europe, there was said to be a ban on public displays of Christianity. Christians were oppressed and no Bibles or crosses could be owned at the time. One man found this oppression distressing and wished he could share the love of Jesus and the joy of Christmas with the rest of the world. When Christmas came around, children didn't get to see nativity scenes or enjoy learning about the truth of Christmas. As a candy maker, this man prayed to find a way that he could offer local children a Christmas gift that would allow him to communicate the real story of Christmas. **His prayer led to an idea--The Candy Cane.**

- **The Shepherd's Staff:** He chose to make the candy cane in the shape of a shepherd's staff. After all, Jesus is the shepherd to his followers and the Bible notes that the "sheep" would hear His voice and follow him (*Psalm 23:1, John 10:11, John 10:27-30, Isaiah 40:11*).
- **The Letter J for Jesus:** Not only was the candy cane in the shape of a staff, but when held upside down, it formed a "J," which stood for Jesus (*Luke 1:31, Matthew 1:21*).
- **He is A Rock:** The candy maker chose hard candy for the candy cane, which was done to remind children that Jesus was our "rock," dependable and strong (*Psalm 31:3*).
- **By His Stripes:** Wide red stripes were added to the candy cane, representative of the crucifixion and the blood Jesus shed for our sins.
- **Red-His Shed Blood:** Through his blood, we are given salvation and life (*Revelation 1:5, John 3:16, Luke 22:20*).
- **White-Purification from Sin:** There are also white stripes on the candy cane, which represents the holiness, and purity of Jesus, who was sinless (*I John 1:7*).
- **Sweet Fragrance of Christ:** Peppermint was the flavor that the candy maker chose for the candy cane. Peppermint was very similar to hyssop, which was used for sacrifice and purification in the Old Testament, reminding us of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. It also reminds us of the spices brought by the Wise Men when they came to visit Jesus (*Psalm 51:7, John 10:29, Matthew 2:11*).
- **Broken For Us:** Of course, when the candy cane is eaten, it is often broken, which the candy maker meant as a reminder that when Jesus was crucified, his body was broken (*I Cor. 11:24*).
- **Love of Christ:** The candy cane was also made to be given as a gift, representing the love of Jesus when he gave us the gift of salvation.

Although no one is quite sure if the legend of the candy cane is really true, the beauty of the legend is such a reminder of God's love for us around Christmas. In this legend, it was a way that the candy maker could tell the children the story of Christmas today.

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent Saturday, December 22nd Sunday, December 23rd	7:00 pm 10:30 am 7:00 pm	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	†Florence & †George O'Neil by Ron O'Neil Deceased Members of the Verwey Family by Don & Shirley Verwey Thanks Giving For God's Mercy and Kindness in my Life & Family and for the Restoration in my Faith
Nativity of the Lord Monday, December 24th	5:00 pm 8:00 pm 10:00 pm	Good Shepherd St. Ambrose Good Shepherd	For All Parishioners For All Parishioners For All Parishioners
Tuesday, December 25th	10:30 am	Good Shepherd	For All Parishioners
Saturday, December 29th	7:00 pm	Good Shepherd	†Shirley O'Neil by Ron O'Neil
Holy Family Sunday, December 30th	10:30 am	Good Shepherd	†Dominic Paul, †Jimmie, †Jijo, and †Jannis Jackson by Jacklin & Family
Mary, Mother of God Tuesday, January 1st	10:30 am	Good Shepherd	Special Intentions for Ashwin & Jacklin on their 1st Wedding Anniversary
Epiphany of the Lord Saturday, January 5th Sunday, January 6th	7:00 pm 10:30 am 1:00 pm	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd St. Ambrose	†John Overwater by the Gerard Verwey Family †Rodrigo Natividad by Stride Credit Union Family †Delores Lavallee by the Family

Friendly Reminders - Saturday, December 29th

Greeters - Ron O'Neil, John McPake
Ushers - Karl & Jo-ann Voesenek
 Mary Bolton, Zennia Semchyshyn
Gift Bearers - Debusschere Family
Lectors - Josue Garcia, Kriztofer Cuesta
Eucharist Ministers - Helena Kot, Audree Peech, Jim Ross,
 Bob Dionne, Doris Nichol

Sunday, December 30th

Greeters - Alvin & Antonis Rossnegal
Ushers - Alinsod Family
Gift Bearers - Alinsod Family
Lectors - Margaret Whiteley, Bernadette Le Lievre
Eucharist Ministers - Joe & Marie Wermie, Mickey Cuthbert,
 Stan Lambert, Rose Marie Neault, Gary & Dawn Lernowicz

Tuesday, January 1st

Greeters - Madeline Provo, Mary Bolton
Ushers - Bill & Florence Zettler,
 Bill & Elaine Vint
Gift Bearers - Zettler Family
Lectors - Helena Kot, Terry Giercke
Eucharist Ministers - Sinto Sebastian, Shawn Rawlings,
 Paulyn Appah, Garth Bullock, Lidia Garcia de Garcia

Friendly Reminders

Saturday, January 5th

Greeters - Pauline Puff, Helena Kot
Ushers - John & Doris Nichol
 Paul Seguin, Bob Dionne
Gift Bearers - Masson Family
Lectors - Rosemary & Dave Barney
Eucharist Ministers - Bernadette Gnanapragasam,
 Donna Rey, Jane Hebert, Tara Ryzner, Zennia Semechshyn

Sunday, January 6th

Greeters - Catechism
Ushers - Dawson Lernowicz, Evaristo Garcia,
 Francisco Gonzalez-Cortez, Candida C Martinez-de Conzalez
Gift Bearers - Catechism
Lectors - Ruth Mulligan, Irene Souque Hewitt
Eucharist Ministers - Pauline Calder, Kim Dengate,
 Joe & Marie Wermie, Kerry McGowan, Irv Wegleitner,
 Arthur Rey



*May you have the
 gladness of Christmas which is hope;
 the spirit of Christmas which is peace;
 the heart of Christmas which is love.*