



Collection December 16 & 17	Collections Required Per Week	Weekly Collection + / -	Year to Date Collections + / -
\$ 4,417.55	\$ 3,465.00	+ \$ 952.19	+ \$ 568.36

Number of Parishioners Contributing to Sharing God's Gifts	Percentage of Parishioners Contributing to Sharing God's Gifts	Sharing God's Gifts Target
140/345	40%	\$ 18,910.00
Target Amount	Collected As of December 17th	Year to Date + / -
\$ 18,910.00	\$ 29,152.93	+ \$ 10,242.93

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



SHARING GOD'S GIFTS - will be the second collection on **January 6th & 7th.**

DECEMBER

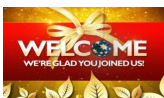
26 Blood Donor Clinic 2:00 - 7:00 pm
@ Canad Inn - Ball Room

JANUARY

4 Parish Office Reopens 9:00 am
 4 Douglas Campbell Lodge Mass 2:00 pm
 7 Catechism resumes
 7 Children's Liturgy during mass

PARISH OFFICE - will be closed Monday, December 25th to Thursday, January 4th, 2018.

COFFEE PARTY - no coffee party on December 24th. December 31st, there will be coffee party.



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 festive season. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!



SEASON'S GREETINGS - The Catechists of Good Shepherd Parish would like to wish all the young people in our parish a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Remember that everything that you do reflects on who you are, lead your life as Jesus taught us.



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - from Good Shepherd Catholic Women's League. As we take time out of our busy lives to celebrate the birth of our Lord, we pray that your holidays are filled with God's wonderful gifts of Faith, Hope, Peace and Love. May your New Year be filled with Joy, Health and Happiness.



GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

- May you feel God's presence in the candles, that softly spread their glow at Christmas and may you experience the wonder of His abiding love, as He guides you, through each day of the coming year. May God's blessings be with you at Christmas and throughout the New Year! From everyone on Parish Council.



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

- along with their Families, wish all Parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish a Blessed Christmas with an abundance of Peace and Happiness with Family and Friends It is our prayer that 2018 be a fruitful year filled with an exuberance of good health, contentedness, and prosperity for all.



PRAIRIE WELCOME HOUSE

- Thank-you to all who share their ministry of presence in this important parish outreach. Our visitors share many moments of grace with us, as in all relationships, and we thank God for giving us the opportunity to spend time together. Thank-you, as well, to all parishioners; you have been so generous once again with financial support and donations of gifts, food and drink. We have a number of people working behind the scenes in this ministry, too, and we acknowledge their important contributions. All the volunteers from Prairie Welcome House wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a joyful time with your family.



Long before there was a cross, one tiny heart beat with the purest Love the world would ever know. And two faithful people carried that Love to Bethlehem so it might be born in every heart one day. When the world had forgotten the One who created every person, three kings remembered and came to kneel before the Author of their lives. And seekers everywhere set out to find Him, drawn by the radiant light of his Love. Long before we knew His Name, He cherished every one of us – Before His tiny lips spoke a word, He knew us by heart. And this time called Christmas is our chance to give Him the greatest gift we could offer in return – the gift of ourselves.

A Shepherd's Thoughts

In the giving and receiving of Christmas, the most challenging of gifts given and received is the gift of "Presence". It is a gift that can often seem beyond our grasp. It does require both time and attention that is elusive at the best of times even amongst the most organized people we know. For some, being present to others at Christmas can intimidate us. Relationships past and present may give us the backing to avoid others and the awkwardness of hurts that remain as old wounds. Reaching out may cause us fear in the bravest among us. And yet, in the midst of all that may cause us anguish, Emmanuel, God is with us. Not just at Christmas, not just in the beautiful images of this festive time, but in the vulnerable sign of the "Word made flesh". As God makes himself present to us, may we come to be present in new and wonderful ways to each other. Merry Christmas!



CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES - would like to invite the residents of Portage la Prairie to come and join us at our next blood donor clinic **December 26, 2017 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM** at the Canada Inns Portage la Prairie. While all blood types are needed, O-negative blood is in particular demand by hospitals because it is the only type compatible with all other blood types. O-negative blood is used in the most critical situations. When seconds count and somebody's life is on the line, there's no time to check their blood type. In an emergency, all patients can receive O-negative blood. What many people may not know is that every year, close to 40 per cent of all blood donors stop donating for 12 months or more for a number of reasons. Patients, however, continue to need blood for treatment of various medical conditions. With its limited shelf life, blood is in constant demand. One in two Canadians is eligible to give blood; however, last year only one in 60 eligible people actually donated. We need your help to fill appointments in Portage la Prairie this year. I hope that existing donors will carry on assisting their neighbours, and I encourage those in the area who have never donated to book their first appointment. Canadian Blood Services' clinics operate once per month in our community. Please make an appointment to give blood by downloading the GiveBlood app, or visiting blood.ca. Somewhere, a patient and their family will be thankful! Give the perfect gift - the gift of life! Thanks to all and the best of the Season and a Happy New Year. Steve Raizen, Territory Manager



WE'VE RAISED \$500,000 THANKS TO YOUR POSTAGE STAMPS! - stamps project for **C.C.O.D.P.** The stamps affixed on the right corner of your envelopes can be very useful. Back in 1984, two philatelists from Beloeil, QC, Jean-Pierre Lagacé and the late Marcel Désilet, had the idea to collect the stamps affixed on envelopes arriving from around the world at Development and Peace – Caritas Canada and offer them to stamp collectors for purchase. The money raised by the sale of these stamps would then be entirely given to Development and Peace to support its programs. During the first years of this initiative, the amounts collected were minimal, but the funds raised became increasingly significant once stamp sales were organized, not only in Beloeil, but also in Montreal and Quebec City. Today, volunteers in these three cities collect nearly \$30,000 per year. The first sale of the 2017-2018 season was held in Beloeil on Saturday, September 16th and more than \$3,000 was raised. This pushed the amount raised from these sales to more than **\$500,000** when added to the amounts raised since 1992, the year when sales results began to be recorded. Jean-Pierre Lagacé, one of the two founders of this initiative, was on hand in Beloeil last Saturday, saying that "to see the results and the involvement of our many volunteers over the course of the last 33 years, we can conclude that the stamp sale was... a good idea!" Currently, there are 30 volunteers that are part of Project Stamp. They recognize that there are fewer people nowadays that use stamps for their mail, but they encourage everyone to be mindful of the letters that they receive and to put aside envelopes on which stamps are affixed. We still get some from donations and letters sent to the office, but most come from churches, schools, unions and individuals who save stamps and send them to us. Members of the Catholic Women's League are also big supporters. Each week, we receive at least one big envelope or a box from a local council somewhere in Canada. Most of the stamps we get are Canadian, many also come from other countries. Collectors know if they want a stamp from a foreign country, the Development and Peace table is the place to go. Most of the stamps sell for five to ten cents, but a few rarer ones have sold for up to \$40. By themselves, the stamps aren't worth much. But together, they add up to bring in a lot of money to help others. **Thank-you for your support, don't forget to save your stamps over the Christmas Season and throughout the year..** They can be placed in the mail boxes on the way to the hall or at the back of the church. Thank-you to Linda Leafloor, who has been doing this project for many years. Sylvia Gauthier and Brenda Franke will be taking over. May your New Year be filled with Joy, Health and Happiness.

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

4th Sunday of Advent Saturday, December 23rd Sunday, December 24th	7:00 pm 10:30 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	Monsignor Maurice Comeault, 50 Years to the Priesthood †Dave Samolesky by Armand & Teresa Tanguay
Nativity of the Lord Sunday, December 24th	5:00 pm 7:30 pm 9:30 pm	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd St. Ambroise	For All Parishioners For All Parishioners For All Parishioners
Monday, December 25th	10:30 am	Good Shepherd	For All Parishioners
Saturday, December 30th	7:00 pm	Good Shepherd	†Michelle Lalancette by Denise & Dana Payment
Holy Family Sunday, December 31st	10:30 am	Good Shepherd	All Deceased Members of the Verwey Family by Donald & Shirley Verwey
Mary, Mother of God Monday, January 1st	10:30 am	Good Shepherd	Special Intentions for Ashwin Alex & Jacklin Jackson
Wednesday, January 3rd	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	Special Intentions by Lijo Padickal Joy
Thursday, January 4th	2:00 pm	Douglas Campbell	†Michelle Lalancette by Dave & Rosemary Barney
Friday, January 5th	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	†Juanita & †Geronimo Rodriguez by the Family
Epiphany of the Lord Saturday, January 6th Sunday, January 7th	7:00 pm 10:30 am 1:00 pm	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd St. Ambroise	†Caroline Loucks by the Family †Caron Jeppesen by Bryan & Family †Myrtle Charbonneau by the Family

Friendly Reminders - Saturday, December 30th

Greeters - Madeline Provo, Pauline Puff
Ushers - Ron & Shirley O'Neil,
 Carolyne Roberts, Cecile Scott
Gift Bearers - Bob & Pauline Debusschere
Lectors - Jane Hebert, Rachael Murray
Eucharist Ministers - Denise Payment, Bob Dionne,
 Bernadette Gnanapragasam, Jo-ann Voesenek, Anita Kowerchuk

Sunday, December 31st

Greeters - Appah Family
Ushers - Michel Dufault, Evaristo Garcia,
 Brenda Franke, Sharon Murkin
Gift Bearers - Appah Family
Lectors - Kerry McGowan, Ruth Mulligan
Eucharist Ministers - Stan Lambert, Joe & Marie Wermie,
 Margaret Whiteley, Gary & Dawn Lernowicz, Suzanne Borisenko

Monday, January 1st

Greeters - Alvin & Antonia Rossnagel
Ushers - Bill & Elaine Vint,
 Zennia Semchyshyn, Dawson Lernowicz
Gift Bearers - Gonzalez Family
Lectors - Rosa Rawlings, Terry Giercke
Eucharist Ministers - John & Doris Nichol, Helena Kot,
 Mickey Cuthbert, Sinto Sebastian

Friendly Reminders - Saturday, January 6th

Greeters - John & Doris Nichol
Ushers - Bill & Florence Zettler,
 Mary Bolton, Raymond Smith
Gift Bearers - Don & Cecile Scott
Lectors - Denise & Dana Payment
Eucharist Ministers - Tara Ryzner, Jo-ann Voesenek,
 Donna Rey, Helena Kot, Jim Ross

Sunday, January 7th

Greeters - Joan Dufresne, Hazel Desjardin
Ushers - Armand Tanguay, Gayly Reindo
 Anayn Fenis, Dawson Lernowicz
Gift Bearers - Lernowicz Family
Lectors - Tracy Maloney-Bullock, Irene Souque Hewitt
Eucharist Ministers - Evaristo Garcia, Garth Bullock,
 Karen McLeod, Guy Gauthier, Pauly Appah,
 Pauline Calder, Kim Dengate

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

