

2nd Sunday of Advent - December 9th & 10th
 "I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." John 10.14



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 December 2 & 3	Collections Required Per Week	Weekly Collection + / -	Year to Date Collections + / -
\$ 3,718.90	\$ 3,465.00	+ \$ 253.90	- \$ 61.54



BUILDING FUND COLLECTION - will be the second collection on **December 16 & 17**.


DECEMBER


10	Shut-in Trays	after Mass
12	Lions Prairie Manor Mass	2:00 pm
12	Catholic Women's League Advent Supper @ McKenzie United Church	5:30pm
14	Knights of Columbus Meeting	7:30 pm
17	Community Parish Breakfast - after Mass	
17	Anointing of the Sick	7:00 pm
20	M.D.C. Mass	10:00 am
20	Service of Remembrance & Hope @ McKenzie United Church	7:30 pm

 **Office will be closed on Thursday, December 14th at noon.**

New Schedules are ready for pick up.

Calendars are available, one per family.

 **2018 MISSALS AND COLLECTION ENVELOPES** will be ready **this weekend** for pick up. Price is \$ 4.00 **Please try to have the correct change.**

 We Joyfully Welcomed Into The Family Of God **Asher & Becket Lernowicz** who were baptized in our parish community on Friday, December 1st. May God grant them, their parents, family and godparents many blessings!

"Think of the love that God has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's own children; and that is what we are." —1 John 3:1


Number of Parishioners Contributing to Sharing God's Gifts	Percentage of Parishioners Contributing to Sharing God's Gifts	Sharing God's Gifts Target
125/345	36%	\$ 18,910.00
Target Amount	Collected As of December 3rd	Year to Date + / -
\$ 18,910.00	\$ 23,472.93	+ \$ 4,562.93


NATIVITY OF THE LORD (MASS TIMES)


December 24	5:00 pm - Good Shepherd Parish 7:30 pm - Good Shepherd Parish 9:30 pm - St. Ambrose Parish
December 25	10:30 am - Good Shepherd Parish
<u>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</u>	
January 1	10:30 am - Good Shepherd Parish

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Tuesday, Dec. 12th at 7:00 PM - St. Eustache Parish
 Wednesday, Dec. 13th at 10:00 AM - St. John XXXIII
 Wednesday, Dec. 13th at 7:00 PM -St. Patrick's Parish
 Thursday, Dec. 14th at 7:00 PM - St. Paul the Apostle Parish
 Friday, Dec. 15th at 7:00 PM - St. Anthony of Padua Parish

 **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.

 **COMMUNITY PARISH BREAKFAST** will be on Sunday, **December 17th after mass**, in the parish hall, hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Menu will include **pancakes, sausages, hash browns, baked beans, juice, coffee and tea**. Suggested donation of \$7.00 per person or \$25.00 for family of 4 or more. Funds raised will go towards the building project. Everyone is invited! Please come and join us.

 **SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & HOPE** on Wednesday, **December, 20th at 7:30 pm**, at **McKenzie United Church**. This ecumenical service is for all who have lost a loved one, family member, or friend as we gather to remember and honor them at this time of the year. Everyone is welcome, even if you haven't lost a loved one. We are a community of faith who support and love one another at this time of Christmas.

Accept what is, let go of what was, and have faith in what will be.

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

DAWN MASSES SET TO START FOR CHRISTMAS

Beginning on Saturday, December, 16th, we will be begin our novena of masses leading up to Christmas. While the tradition in the Philippines, Mexico, and Spain is to celebrate the mass early in the morning, prior to dawn, we will celebrate these 9 days of masses in the **evening**. To accommodate those who work, the masses are also celebrated in the evening in preparation for Christmas. Last year was the first time the novena of masses was celebrated here. Please take note of the schedule. Most evenings the mass is scheduled for 7:00 pm. We averaged close to 30 people last year for the masses. Know that the masses are for the whole community here at Good Shepherd. In the midst of the busy-ness of the season, let us take time to prepare ourselves to celebrate the coming of Emmanuel: God with us!

December 16th - 7:00 pm
December 17th - 7:00 pm
December 18th - 7:00 pm

December 19th - 7:00 pm
December 20th - 6:00 pm
December 21st - 7:00 pm

December 22nd - 7:00 pm
December 23rd - 7:00 pm
December 24th - 7:30 pm



All are welcome to this Novena of masses in preparation for Christmas.



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 10th** after mass in the storage room. There will be a practice on **December, 17th after mass**, will take about an hour. We are always looking for helpers, if you are able please come and see me in the storage room. Mary Hordeski will be helping this year. You can contact Dawn at 204-872-2897 if you have any questions.



EVERGREEN TREE - in the gathering area you will see a large evergreen tree, free of all decorations. In our journey to Christmas we are asking you, each week-end leading up to our Lord's birthday to bring a small decoration to place on the tree. Please attach a small name tag on the back. On December 24th, the final decoration will be placed on at the children's Mass, a mysterious top will appear. Let all the decorations be from your heart, your hands and culture. Try very hard to find non-commercialized items Parishioners are asked to contribute. Hooks are available by the Baptismal font.



ANOINTING OF THE SICK - **Sunday, December 17th at 7:00 pm** - At this time of year as we approach Christmas many people experience stress, depression and anxiety. Our celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick can bring comfort and peace to many. All parishioners, whether one desires anointing or not are invited to come and pray as a community for those receiving this Sacrament.



THE WOMEN OF MOTHER EARTH - and friends have been putting on a free dinner for any and all who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day. The 11th annual Christmas Dinner put on by generous volunteers and sponsors. This dinner is funded by donations from people, churches and businesses in the Portage la Prairie area. There are people who donate cooked turkeys, slaw, treats, cookies, coffee, sugar, tea, buns etc. All donation whether monetary or other (that can be volunteer time) food, children gifts, etc. There are volunteers from all over the community including those who provide entertainment. Last year the dinner was host to 150 guests. Christmas is a time that people do not need to be alone. The Christmas Day Dinner will be held in the fellowship hall at Trinity United Church. What a better way to show our love of Christ Jesus then to share what we have. Please contact Angela at 204-240-6259 or 204-872-4299 if needing more information. Thank-you.



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. **We are still in need of volunteers to fill some of the spots for the Christmas Kettles.** Please let me know as soon as possible if you can help. Thank-you for supporting this specific project. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Rose at 204 856-7004.

2nd Sunday of Advent - December 9th & 10th
"I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." John 10.14

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

2nd Sunday of Advent Saturday, December 9th Sunday, December 10th	7:00 pm 10:30 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	†Dal Bilkoski by Edie & Rosie Bilkoski †Juanita & †Geronimo Rodriguez by the Family
Tuesday, December 12th	2:00 pm	Lions Prairie Manor	Special Intentions by Betty Conrad
Wednesday, December 13th	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	In Thanksgiving by Tini George
Thursday, December 14th	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	Birthday Wishes for Philomina & Jackson by Jacklin Jackson
Friday, December 15th	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	Deceased Members of the Lambert Family
3rd Sunday of Advent Saturday, December 16th Sunday, December 17th	7:00 pm 10:30 am 1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd St. Ambroise Good Shepherd	†Lillian Huberdeau by Friends Special Intentions by Len & Helen Roy For the Health of George Flamand †Gisele Wegleitner by the Bullock Family

Friendly Reminders

Saturday, December 16th

Greeters - Helena Kot, Denys Marion
Ushers - Ron & Shirley O'Neil,
 Paul Seguin, Raymond Smith
Gift Bearers - Bob & Pauline Debusschere
Lectors - Rachael Murray, Jim Ross
Eucharist Ministers - John & Doris Nichol, Donna Rey,
 Audree Peech, Zennia Semchyshyn

Friendly Reminders

Sunday, December 17th

Greeters - Hazel Desjardins, Joan Dufresne
Ushers - Bill & Elaine Vint,
 Arthur Rey, Jo Laurans
Gift Bearers - Art & Cheryl Windsor
Lectors - Margaret Whiteley, Emma Gobin
Eucharist Ministers - Karen McLeod, Elaine Harder,
 Arthur Rey, Paulyne Appah, Evaristo Garcia,
 Irv Wegleitner, Rose Marie Neault

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Among the joys of the Christmas season are the many performances of the great oratorio by George Frideric Handel, which he composed in just 24 inspired days. Now, nearly two centuries later, the world still exults to the strains of *Messiah*. At the beginning, long before the familiar Hallelujah chorus erupts in ecstatic triumph, Handel recalls the world that waited in darkness for the coming of the Messiah. In today's Gospel, John the Baptist foretells Jesus coming, saying: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals." The first part of the oratorio draws upon Isaiah's prophesies: "Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, and the crooked straight, and the rough places plain." Now, two millennia later, the world still awaits the coming of the Messiah. By Deacon Dick Folger

Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the Second Coming of the Lord - not so much on the run up to Christmas (until the last week). If we view Advent as a preparation for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it's about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, is a confusing figure: but his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. Today we have a very graphic reference to the end of time and the Second Coming in the reading from Saint Peter; it is a frightening picture, and so the first reading offers tender words to comfort to help us understand who is coming, and why we should be ready to meet him.

In the midst of pre-holiday hyperactivity, we are offered this quiet season of reflection on Christ's coming among us, especially in unexpected moments. As with our ancestors in faith, his final return is unknown to us, so we probably don't think about it very much. But how aware are we of his presence to us now? Have we thought about what our response might be whenever or however he makes himself known to us? Advent is our time to do this.

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