

Collection January Feb. 9 & 10	Collections Required Per Week	Weekly Collection + / -	Year to Date Collections + / -
\$ 3,669.72	\$ 3,905.00	- \$ 235.28	- \$ 2,766.05

Sharing God's Gifts

Target Amount	Collected As of February 10th	Year to Date + / -
\$ 19,610.00	\$ 2,740.00	- \$ 16,870.00



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

FEBRUARY

20	Scripture Reflection	1:00 pm
20	M.D.C. Mass	1:30 pm
	@ Westgrove Cafeteria (note - time and place change)	
20	Liturgy Meeting	6:00 pm
21	Ministry of Hope	7:00 pm
23	El Shaddai	3:00 pm
25	Blood Donor Clinic	3:00 - 8:00 pm
	@ Canad Inn	
27	Scripture Reflection	1:00 pm

MARCH

3	Children's Liturgy during Mass
6	Ash Wednesday



Father Gerald will be on holidays from February 25 - March 5th.
Office will be open.



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. **We are looking for a team to host a weekend for coffee.** Please contact Bernadette at the office if you are interested. Thank you.

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS - the income tax receipts are ready for pick up. **Sharing God's Gifts** receipts are mailed out by the Archdiocese.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION - The prophet Jeremiah minces no words in today's first reading: "Thus says the LORD: Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings ... whose heart turns away from the LORD." And the prophet's "beatitude" resembles that of Jesus' teaching in today's Gospel reading when he proclaims: "Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose hope is the LORD." Good stewards understand that what the world values is not consistent with Gospel values. They realize that God has placed in their midst all the gifts, charisms, and resources needed to bring Christ to a world desperately in need of his loving presence. But to exercise good stewardship over God's gifts takes a great deal of trust. How does our stewardship reflect our trust in the Lord? What did we do today to give others hope in Christ Jesus?



Walking Together in God's Embrace

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



SALVATION ARMY

Special Food For the Beloved
Ones of Christ.



During the month of **February** we will be collecting, **cold cereal**. At the back of the church, there is a list of items and for what month we will be collecting them. Please take one and put on your fridge as a friendly reminder. Your kind donations can help with the goal of putting an end to hunger. **Thank you very much for your generosity, in supporting this project.**

"MEAL - IN - A - BOWL" SUPPER

Meat, Potatoes & Veggie's all in a bowl of

THICK HOMEMADE SOUP



Served With
Homemade Breads, Biscuits,
Pies & Desserts



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
17 ROYAL ROAD SOUTH

WEDNESDAY: February 20th

Door Opens At 4:30 p.m.
SUPPER FROM 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
\$10.00 @ The Door
SEE YOU THERE!

OPTIONS

GLUTEN FREE, VEGETARIAN
NO SUGAR ADDED DESSERT

Take out or delivery

For delivery call - 204-857-4351 between 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Listing Our God-given Gifts Inspires an "Attitude of Gratitude"

Stewardship requires an "attitude of gratitude." Many times we are inclined to take too much credit for our successes in life and too little blame for our failures. The best antidote I have discovered for the hubris of our sense of self-importance is to set aside time to compile a list of the gifts we have received from God.

The Gift of Life: Life is a gift from God. None of us did anything to deserve being born. Spend a few moments being thankful for still being alive. My younger brother, Mike, died at the age of 56. He was a delightful human being, a loving husband, father, teacher, coach and friend. He died too young. His family and my brothers and I could focus on what was taken from us or focus on the gift of having him in our lives for whatever part of his 56 years we shared. Life is a gift and we need to live each day thanking God for it.

The Gift of Family: Just as we did nothing to deserve being born, we did nothing to deserve the parents and siblings we were given. Sometimes it takes time to fully appreciate the gift of family. There were times when I would have traded in my parents for another set that would have met my perceived needs of the moment. Fortunately, I have lived long enough to realize that they were the best parents for me. My older brother has expressed it this way, "Our father demanded perfection and our mother convinced us that we could live up to his expectation." Once we embrace family as gift, it is amazing how the things that could drive us apart lose their power.

The Gift of Education: I have never met anyone who did not have a story about a teacher who changed her or his life. I have my list of such teachers; I'm sure you have yours. Education has changed our worldview and our self-understanding. We have learned from coaches, scout leaders, neighbors, relatives and friends. All learning is a gift from God. We need to be more thankful for the gift of our education.

The Gift of Vocation: Nothing in life is as important as discovering what God wants us to do with our lives. I truly believe that God wanted me to be a priest. Many people seem to get lost in their search to discover who and what God wants them to be but the happiest and most fulfilled people I know are those who are doing what they love and love what they are doing.

The Gift of Friends: Let us say together, "We do not deserve the friends we have!" The gift of friendship is so precious. Our friends love us not in spite of our faults but because of them. Friends encourage us to grow and take risks. Friends teach us that time is a gift when they chose to share time with us. Most important of all, our friends see our gifts and talents before we do and they lovingly encourage us to recognize and develop our hidden gifts.

The above list of gifts is not meant to be exhaustive; it is offered as an outline. I hope you will use it to create your own list of gifts. Unless we make ourselves aware of the many gifts God has sown in our lives we will never develop the "attitude of gratitude" that is essential for the spirituality of stewardship to take root in our lives. *By Rev. Joseph D. Creedon, pastor emeritus, Christ the King Parish, Providence, Rhode Island*

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC - Monday, February 25th, 3:00 - 8:00 pm, @ Canad Inn - Ball Room. Thanks to all of you for saving lives with your donation of blood. Your efforts have helped us to make a huge difference in the lives of patients in area hospitals. Appointments preferred or **Walk-In (If Available) please call 1-888-236-6283.**

♦ Consider donating blood with someone you know. 1 out of every 2 people who donate for the first time brings a co-worker, a friend or a family member. Save twice the lives!

♦ Half of all Canadians will either need blood or know someone who will need blood at some point in their lives. That's 17.5 million reasons why it's time to save a life.

♦ 1,600 new donors are needed every week to help patients today and in the future receive the blood they need. Blood that is needed to treat cancer, for transplant and trauma surgery.

♦ 16,000 blood donations are needed every week to meet patient needs.



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

6th Sunday In Ordinary Time Saturday, February 16th Sunday, February 17th	7:00 pm 10:30 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	✠Shirley O'Neil by Ron O'Neil ✠Rodrigo Natividad by the Alinsod Family
Wednesday, February 20th	1:30 pm	M.D.C.	✠Cathy Lenting by the Bullock Family
Thursday, February 21st	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	For the R.C.I.A. Candidates
Friday, February 22nd	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	✠John Overwater by the Gerard Verwey Family
7th Sunday In Ordinary Time Saturday, February 23rd Sunday, February 24th	7:00 pm 10:30 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	✠J.D. & ✠Clara Carroll & ✠Eugene Peltier by Bill & Florence Zettler ✠Katherine (Kitty) Sell by Barry & Phyllis Hay

Friendly Reminders
Saturday, February 23rd

Greeters - Pauline Puff, Helena Kot
Ushers - Zennia Semchyshyn, Mary Bolton
 Norbert & Donna Rey
Gift Bearers - Zennia Semchyshyn, Mary Bolton
Lectors - Jim Ross, Terry Giercke
Eucharist Ministers - Rosemary & Dave Barney,
 Audree Peech, Donna Rey, Doris Nichol

Friendly Reminders
Sunday, February 24th

Greeters - Rose Marie Neault, Hazel Desjardin
Ushers - Michel Dufault, Richard Fraser,
 Arthur Rey, Armand Tanguay
Gift Bearers - Art & Cheryl Windsor
Lectors - Margaret Whiteley, Gary van der Zweep
Eucharist Ministers - Irv Wegleitner, Lidia Garcia de Garcia,
 Guy & Sylvia Gauthier, Kerry McGowan, Pauline Calder,
 Shawn Rawlings

The Sermon on the Plain: A Call to Conversion

The message Jesus delivers in the Gospel reading on the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time (February 17) is a difficult one for many to swallow. It is one of those Bible teachings meant to “comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.” The Gospel reading is Jesus’ “Sermon on the Plain” and in it we can see how skillfully the writer, Saint Luke, brings us to a place where we must take the words of Jesus with the utmost seriousness (Luke 6:17, 20-26). While Saint Matthew, in his Gospel, begins the “Sermon on the Mount” with eight beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12), Luke’s Jesus begins the Sermon on the Plain with just four beatitudes, “blessings,” and four woes. Jesus suggests that there exists a divide between the “blessed” and the “woeful.” It is, however, not the divide that our world would create between winners and losers or the successful and unsuccessful. The blessed may be poor or hungry or weeping or hated. But they are blessed by their faith and trust in God’s mercy and justice and future for them in the kingdom of heaven. To be “blessed” does not mean an absence of struggle. Indeed, to be in a Eucharistic community that lives the Gospel invites exclusion, defamation and even hatred. To be blessed is to live through such opposition aware that the struggle is temporary and that “your reward is great in heaven.” The woeful, on the other hand, are those who have grown comfortable and smug. They may not experience discomfort during this life. But their relative abundance, plentiful tables and good times now will place their future in jeopardy. To live under the verdict of “woe” means condemnation. Notably, Jesus does not ask his listeners to become destitute in order to join the “blessed,” but given the options he presents, it is undeniable that he expects a response that reaches out to others and involves sacrifice. Later in Luke’s Gospel we will meet characters such as Zacchaeus and the Good Samaritan, individuals who were depicted by Luke as willing to put ample material resources at the service of others. The Sermon on the Plain is challenging. It means to take us out of our “comfort zone” and into a conversion of heart, a change of attitude, a change of vision, and a change in behavior. It is a call for courageous acts of discipleship, a call to use the gifts we have been given to serve others, even strangers. It is a call urging us to take action now so the world will feel the presence of Christ. The Sermon on the Plain is the Lord Jesus calling us: “Come. Follow me.”

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