

Collection January 12 & 13	Collections Required Per Week	Weekly Collection + / -	Year to Date Collections + / -
\$ 3,286.62			

Sharing God's Gifts

Target Amount	Collected As of January 13th	Year to Date + / -
	\$ 1,099.00	

BUILDING TOGETHER BULIDING FUND COLLECTION - will be the second collection on **January 19 & 20**.

JANUARY

23	Scripture Reflection	1:00 pm
26	El Shaddai	4:00 pm
28	Blood Donor Clinic	3:00 - 8:00 pm

@ Canad Inn - Ball Room



**Office will be closed on
Tuesday, January 22nd.**

MINISTRY SCHEDULES - are ready for pick up.



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.



If you would like Father Gerald to visit a family member at the hospital, please call the office to let us know. **Please note that there is no longer a list kept at the hospital**, due to confidentiality, so if you do not inform us, Father will not know to come. There are occasions where he may be at the hospital where he comes across family members who request a spontaneous visit, but it would be best to let him know of your request through the office (204-857-5172).



PORTAGE FAMILY ABUSE PREVENTION CENTRE - We are currently in need of the

following: gently used washable blankets and quilts, bath towels, face cloths, and new pillows. Another item is baby monitors. Schrader encourages anyone who has any gently used items to contact them at (204) 239-5234 to set something up with the staff. Schrader extends her thanks to those in the community, and those throughout the region, who donated over the holidays, and in the past.
Executive Director Joyce Schrader.



*Walking Together
in God's Embrace*

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

ENVELOPES - please remember to pick up your 2019 box of donation envelopes at the back of the church. If you would like to help our parish with the expense of this years Offering Envelopes, your contribution of \$5:00 to \$10:00 would greatly be appreciated. This envelope is in your set and it has the burgundy design on it.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS - if you have moved and changed your address could you please put you new address on your new set of envelopes or let the office know. I will be working on the receipts in the next couple of weeks and I would like to have your correct address. If you have any questions, please give me a call at the office. Thanks, Bernadette



Pre-authorized Debit Plan - Sign up now to make your contributions to the running of our parish more convenient and reliable using pre-authorized debit! We currently have 95 families enrolled in our parish pre-authorized debit plan, who contribute to our General Funds, Building Fund, Prairie Welcome House and Sharing God's Gifts, contributing \$ 6,675.00/monthly. When you contribute through the Pre-authorized Debit Plan, the better the Parish is able to manage the monthly expenditures and any funding for special projects during the year. Please consider enrolling in our Parish's Pre-authorized Debit Plan by contacting Bernadette at the Parish Office.

Living the Catholic Life

FULLNESS OF PURPOSE

with Ken Yasinisk

Blessed Sacrament Parish, Elie

February 10 & 11 at 7:00 pm

Join us for one of our Fullness of Purpose events. Be empowered to become the person God created you to be. It is Catholicism in everyday simple language, making relevant the timeless truths of our faith.

Why do we offer Mass for the repose of souls?

The practice of offering the holy Mass for the repose of the soul of the deceased originates in the early church. The catechism teaches, "From the beginning the church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God" (No. 1032).

Praying for the repose of the souls of the deceased is rooted in the Old Testament. Judas Maccabees offered prayers and sacrifices for the Jewish soldiers who had died wearing pagan amulets, which were forbidden by the Torah. II Maccabees reads, "Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out" (12:43). Continuing, "(Judas Maccabees) took up a collection among all his soldiers, ... which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus, he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from sin" (12:46).

In light of the saving work of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we believe that when a person dies, he faces his particular judgment and must render an account of his life. If that person has died fundamentally believing in God and in a state of grace, but with venial sins and the hurt caused by sin, then God in His divine love and mercy will first purify the soul. After this purification has been completed, the soul will have the holiness and purity needed to share in the beatific vision in heaven.

The faithful here on earth can help those souls undergoing purification. The Vatican Council II affirmed: "This sacred council accepts loyally the venerable faith of our ancestors in the living communion which exists between us and our brothers who are in the glory of heaven or who are yet being purified after their death." ("Dogmatic Constitution on the Church," No. 51). Therefore, just as we pray for each other and share each other's burdens now, the faithful on earth can offer prayers and sacrifices to help the departed souls undergoing purification, and no better prayer could be offered than that of the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical "Mirae Caritatis" (1902) beautifully elaborated this point and emphasized the connection between the communion of saints with the Mass: "The grace of mutual love among the living, strengthened and increased by the sacrament of the Eucharist, flows, especially by virtue of the sacrifice (of the Mass), to all who belong to the communion of saints. For the communion of saints is simply ... the mutual sharing of help, atonement, prayers and benefits among the faithful, those already in the heavenly fatherland, those consigned to the purifying fire, and those still making their pilgrim way here on earth. These all form one city, whose head is Christ, and whose vital principle is love. Faith teaches that although the august sacrifice can be offered to God alone, it can nevertheless be celebrated in honor of the saints now reigning in heaven with God, who has crowned them, to obtain their intercession for us, and also, according to apostolic tradition, to wash away the stains of those brethren who died in the Lord but without yet being wholly purified." Therefore, the offering of Mass and other prayers or sacrifices for the intentions of the faithful departed are truly good and holy acts.

Please note that this belief not only has its origins in our Old Testament roots but also in the early history of the church. Inscriptions uncovered on tombs in the Roman catacombs of the second century evidence this practice. For example, the epitaph on the tomb of Abercius, bishop of Hieropolis in Phrygia (d. 180), begs for prayers for the repose of his soul. Tertullian in 211 attested to observing the anniversary of death of the faithful departed with prayers. Moreover, the Canons of Hippolytus (c. 235), one of the earliest missals, explicitly mentions the offering of prayers for the dead during the Mass. The testimony of many of the church fathers also beautifully supports this belief: For example, St. Cyril of Jerusalem (d. 386), in one of his many catechetical discourses, explained how at Mass both the living and dead are remembered, and how the eucharistic sacrifice of Our Lord is of benefit to sinners, living and dead; and St. Ambrose (d. 397) preached, "We have loved them during life; let us not abandon them in death, until we have conducted them by our prayers into the house of the Lord."

When we face the death of someone, even a person who is not Catholic, to have a Mass offered for the repose of his soul and to offer our prayers are more beneficial and comforting than any other sympathy card or bouquet of flowers. Most importantly, we always should remember our own dearly departed loved ones in the holy Mass and through our own prayers and sacrifices to help in their gaining eternal rest.

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

2nd Sunday In Ordinary Time Saturday, January 19th Sunday, January 20th	7:00 pm 10:30 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	†Mary Margaret Naval by Bill & Florence Zettler †George & †Louis Kelemen by Julia & Family
Wednesday, January 23rd	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	Deacon Larry & Arlene Campbell & Family by Friends
Thursday, January 24th	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	Person Suffering with Cancer by Denise & Dana Payment
Friday, January 25th	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	Special Intentions for John Mathew
3rd Sunday In Ordinary Time Saturday, January 26th Sunday, January 27th	7:00 pm 10:30 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	Special Intentions for Mathew & Neethu †Jeanne Renard by the Bullock Family

Friendly Reminders

Saturday, January 26th

Greeters - Denys Marion
Ushers - Bill & Florence Zettler
 Raymond Smith, Zennia Semchyshyn
Gift Bearers - Reinhard & Adrianna Kirchner
Lectors - Jose Garcia, Helena Kot
Eucharist Ministers - Bernadette Gnanapragasam,
 Donna Rey, Dave & Rosemary Barney, Jim Ross

Friendly Reminders

Sunday, January 27th

Greeters - Armand Tanguay, Richard Pastershank
Ushers - Pauly Appah, Stella Ayoedji,
 Michel Dufault, Brenda Franke
Gift Bearers - Rosa & Shawn Rawlings
Lectors - Irv Wegleitner, Margaret Whiteley
Eucharist Ministers - Arthur Rey, Pauline Calder, Garth Bullock,
 Kerry McGowan, Guy & Sylvia Gauthier, Shawn Rawlings

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION - In today's second reading, Saint Paul makes a list of gifts dispensed to members of the Christian community by the Holy Spirit. Each gift bestowed has a specific purpose for the person for whom it is intended: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, mighty deeds, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and interpretation. Good stewards know these gifts are not meant to be kept hidden by the recipient but to be shared with the community and beyond. As we begin a new year, let us reflect on the gift the Holy Spirit has given to each of us. Do we recognize this gift? How was it intended that we use this gift? Are we being good stewards of this gift?

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY - From January 18 – 25, will we celebrate the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity here in Winnipeg. The theme for 2019 is ***"Justice and only justice you shall pursue"*** (Deuteronomy 16:20a). **A City-wide Ecumenical Worship Celebration will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 20, at The Salvation Army Heritage Park Temple, 825 School Road, Winnipeg.** All are cordially invited to this celebration.



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.** **Next month we will be collecting cereal.**



ENCOUNTER THE LORD EACH DAY - Find time to be with the Lord each day, whether it be for an hour or ten minutes. Have a conversation with the Lord. Give your joys and worries to Him as well. Allow God's love to transform them. Our encounters will keep our eyes and ears open to the presence of Christ in our midst.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION SESSIONS - We have resumed our scripture reflection sessions on Wednesday. The afternoon session is at 1:00 pm. In addition to reading the scriptures for the coming Sunday, we use a commentary from "Celebrations" liturgy publication to assist our discussion. All are welcome.