

Epiphany of the Lord

January 7th & 8th, 2017

"I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." John 10.14



Collection December 31st	Collections Required Per Week	Weekly Collection + / -	Year to Date Collections + / -
\$ 8,003.10	\$ 3,435.00	+ \$ 4,568.10	+ \$ 1,067.40

Christmas - \$ 6,300.00

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

JANUARY

8	Children's Liturgy	during mass
8	Catechism Classes Resume	10:00 am
10	Lions Prairie Manor Service	2:00 pm
12	Knight's of Columbus Meeting	7:30 pm

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD - is an opportunity for children to gather during the celebration of Mass to hear God's word proclaimed at their level of understanding and reflect on the Word in their own way. This is not catechesis (religious instruction). This is liturgy and prayer for the children. It is an experience of prayer, of dialogue with God at their level. This is for children between the ages of 4-12 (approx.). This opportunity for the children will begin on **Sunday, January 8th** during Mass and continue for the first Sunday of each month. We are blessed to have Mary Hordeski lead the children during their time together.



We Joyfully Welcomed Into The Family Of God, Nash Lernowicz-Barth who was baptized in our parish community on Wednesday, December 28th. *"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*



THANK YOU - to everyone who contributed to the great Christmas tree. The tree will remain up until after the New Year. Your ornaments will be placed on a table in the storage room, for you to pick up. You can leave them, and they will be stored for next year.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - thank you to everyone who made a donation towards our Christmas flowers.

Number of Parishioners Contributing to Sharing God's Gifts	Percentage of Parishioners Contributing to Sharing God's Gifts	
143/345	42%	
Target Amount	Collected As of December 31	Year to Date + / -
\$ 35,280.00	\$ 31,264.50	- \$ 4,015.50

WORD AMONG US REFLECTION

BOOKLETS - for the month are available in the gathering area. If you choose to pick up a booklet for yourself, they are \$2.00. Thank you.

PRAIRIE WELCOME HOUSE - Many thanks for the recent donations to our Christmas festivities. We are currently in need of floor cleaning supplies. We are looking particularly for products called REJUVENATE and CLEAN & REVIVE. There is also a need for plain TEA BAGS & SUGAR. Items can be left in our bin in the gathering area or dropped off at Prairie Welcome House at 133 Saskatchewan Ave. East. Monetary donations are welcomed and can be tagged for Prairie Welcome House and put in with the collection. Thank you.

UKRAINIANS celebrate the Holy Birth Saturday, January 7, 2017, according to the Eastern Orthodox tradition, which follows the Julian calendar. On Christmas Eve, the dining table includes dishes like kutia, borshch, mushroom dumplings, varenyky, and holubtsi, as well as kolach, the traditional Christmas bread. Many families will have no less than 12 dishes to honor the 12 apostles, although other traditions suggest that each dish corresponds to a month of the passing year. As fascinating as dining traditions are, the Christmas spider that decorates the yalyinka makes for a more interesting story. According to the legend, a poor widow had a bare Christmas tree, and her children sobbed and cried at night, saddened by the perspective of an empty tree on Christmas day. The widow hung nuts and fruit on a tree outside the door of their home and prayed for joy and cheer for her children on Christmas Day. The spiders heard her prayers on Christmas Eve and decorated the tree overnight with beautiful webs, which glittered like tinsel in the morning sun. This is the legend that inspires many Ukrainians to decorate their trees with spider ornaments and webs. Ukrainians also believe that spiders bring good luck and good fortune in the new year. (Another version has the Holy Family hiding in a cave during their flight to Egypt. The benevolent spiders spin webs and cover the whole entrance to the cave. When Herod's soldiers pass by, they do not bother searching the cave, because obviously it has not been disturbed in a long time – and the Holy Family is safe). **ЩАСЛИВОГО РІЗДАВА**

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A Shepherd's Thought

Are you resolved...? Resolutions are so often spoken of in the beginning of a new year only to be broken a short time after. In the "ordination rite" in the Church for Holy Orders...(for deacons, priests, and bishops), there is a series of questions that a candidate is asked. The question begins... "Are you resolved"?...So may I be so bold as to ask you about some resolutions for your practise of the faith in the coming year? OK then! Here goes.

1. Are you resolved to take both spiritual and physical care of yourself to better prepare yourself to witness your faith? I know that I have not always been the best example...the clock is ticking in my own life...how can each of us be better examples of taking care of the "temples" that God has made of us?

2. Are you resolved to pray for others in a new way? We can all get cynical about how we see others...Instead of challenging others or inviting them to hear our concerns for them, we can often talk behind others backs and judge them. Why not try another way? Those individuals that we struggle with need our prayers and encouragement more than ever. Only we can break the cycle of negativity if we show the courage to try a new way..

3. Are you resolved to support others joining our Church community? Whether through the RCIA, our children and young people, or people joining us from near and far we lead others to Christ by our example. How are we to be signs of Hope. Pope Francis said over 3 years ago that things are not going to go back to the way they used to be...some people call them "the good old days". How about "the good new days"? Let's discover together what they look like...!

4. Are you resolved to discover more about your faith that you did not know? In addition to a couple of learning sessions that will be offered about the Liturgy in February and March, there will be opportunities to study a couple of different video series from "Word on Fire" Ministry. Bishop Robert Barron is the speaker for these videos and is a very good presenter. Give th a chance! You won't be disappointed!

5. Are you resolved to witness some faith based films in the coming months? Anyone interested in helping organize some movie nights or days? There are a tremendous amount of faith films that give testimony to the courage that has been shown in people's journey with God. Each of us can be strengthened and built up by the inspiring stories of real life witnesses of faith. We can even serve popcorn!

6. Are you resolved to invite someone back to Church...or for the first time? Too risky? Ever tried it before? Rejection is part of life if you haven't experienced it before...just saying...but to see someone encounter God...to develop a personal relationship with Christ...now that's worth fighting for!

7. Are you resolved to live the "Epiphany" in your life? The Epiphany is more than following a star. As God becomes "manifest" (truly present) in our life do we not bear that responsibility to share the love and mercy of Christ before others? As we hear more about the Synod in the new year and the call to be disciples for others, I pray that we can show the light of Christ...a light that will guide our path...our journey each day...and be the light so that others can join us and our call to follow Christ the Good Shepherd! ARE YOU RESOLVED? Let us all say, "I am with the help of God"!

EXPANSION UPDATE - Next weekend, there will be an update on the voting and pledge process for the Church expansion. Please take the opportunity to submit your responses if you have yet to do so. The sooner we get in all the forms the clearer the picture will be to the option/plan chosen and the financial support to go forward with the project! Respectfully, Fr. Gerald

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR - Good and gracious God, a new year of grace is upon us, giving us impressions of crisp beginnings new goals, a fresh sense of hope. Though we cling to our own expectations for the year ahead, we know you alone are the sovereign of our future, Lord of our lives, and the source of whatever good we may do. We thank you, O Lord, for the gift of the days and weeks you have entrusted to us. Teach us to be good stewards of our time ahead, that we go about our days keeping you at the center of our lives. In the midst of our daily pursuits and activities, focus our eyes on the needs of others; help us respond with compassion to the poor; and open our hearts to a suffering world. We ask for a year of peace, a year that brings an end to hatred and strife, and a year where we find a deeper joy that can only be found in you. We ask this through Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

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Epiphany of the Lord Saturday, January 7th Sunday, January 8th	7:00 pm 11:00 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	†Carolyn Loucks by Andy Loucks & Family Special Intention by a Parishioner
Tuesday, January 10th	2:00 pm	Lions Prairie Manor	Celebration of the Word with Communion
Wednesday, January 11th	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	For the Health of Tim Norman by Marjorie & Tom Norman
Thursday, January 12th	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	For the Health of Olia Jeson by Margaret & Family
Friday, January 13th	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	For the Health of Father Chris Soeterboek
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Saturday, January 14th Sunday, January 15th	7:00 pm 11:00 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	†Jack Schick by the Dacquay Family Cure for Cancer by the Lupkowski Family

Friendly Reminders

Saturday, January 14th

Greeters - Andy Loucks, Louis Lasson
Ushers - Norbert & Donna Rey,
 Mary Bolton, Estelle Sinclair
Gift Bearers - Lionel & Armande Bernardin
Lectors - Rachael Murray, Linda Leafloor
Eucharist Ministers - Luc & Donna Gamache, Jim Ross,
 Donna Rey, Jo-ann Voeselek

Friendly Reminders

Sunday, January 15th

Greeters - Ron & Julie Prieur
Ushers - Adrian & Myla Alinsod,
 Dimple Alinsod, Fe Rodriguez
Gift Bearers - Lupkowski Family
Lectors - John Chudzik, Ruth Mulligan
Eucharist Ministers - Joe & Marie Wermie,
 Rose Marie Neault, Kerry McGowan, Mickey Cuthbert,
 Gary & Dawn Lernowicz

EPIPHANY : To Find Our Meaning in Christ - On the weekend of January 7 and 8, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany! What a wonderful word. Even its secular definition is thrilling: "a sudden realization about the nature or meaning of something." It brings all sorts of images to mind: a light bulb suddenly turning on, shedding brilliant illumination; a revelation that brings a gasp; an idea so vivid we pause and give thanks; a truth so powerful we fall to our knees. The feast of the Epiphany is all of those things and more. We celebrate the mysterious appearance at Jesus' birthplace of three men from the East. They had set off on a most quixotic journey, seeking what they would find at the end of a star's dazzling rays. What, we wonder, did they make of the epiphany with which their journey ended? Did they spend the rest of their lives trying to discern what their discovery of the baby meant, or did the Christ Child gift them with "a sudden realization" of His nature? What more could they – or we – want of a life's journey, than to find, in our epiphany, the Christ waiting for us? The twelve days of Christmas have led us to this place, where Gentiles from afar have discovered Christ, thereby revealing that He came for everyone, for each one of us throughout history, and not just for the Jewish people to whom he was born. The feast of Epiphany brings us to the last week of our liturgical celebration of Christmas. But for the Christian steward, Epiphany is not an end but a beginning. This feast reminds us that the New Year beckons us to openness about the epiphanies to which God leads us if we but keep an open, prayerful heart, a heart full of deep, awed gratitude. Let us pray never to become too jaded, too full of certainty, too wrapped up in the routine of life to be asleep at the time of epiphany. If we could resolve to keep only one New Year's Resolution, let it be this: to pay attention to the epiphanies God places before us.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION - In today's second reading we hear the teachings of Saint Paul to the members of the Church at Ephesus. He proclaims that he, and they, are stewards of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and therefore stewards of God's loving, unifying and inclusive grace. He also proclaims that the Holy Spirit is at work within each of them, if only they would be open to the Spirit. Today, our world races by with intolerance, violence, desperate poverty, fear and division. At the beginning of this New Year, perhaps it is appropriate to reflect on Saint Paul's words and ask ourselves how we can be good stewards of the Gospel today. How will we allow the Holy Spirit to work within us? How can we be better stewards of Christ's justice and peace?

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