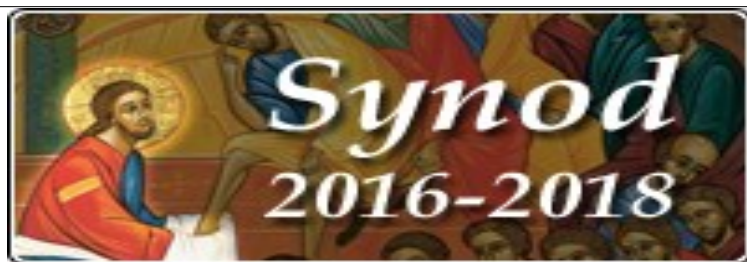


"I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." John 10.14



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 March 18 & 19	Collections Required Per Week	Weekly Collection + / -	Year to Date Collections + / -
\$ 3,123.55	\$ 3,465.00	- \$ 341.45	- \$ 4,946.90

February Sharing God's Gifts - \$ 1,325.80

MARCH		
27	Blood Donor Clinic @ Canad Inn - Ball Room	3:00 - 8:00 pm
29	MDC Mass	10:00 am
APRIL		
2	Children's Liturgy	during Mass
3	Confirmation Class	7:00 pm
6	Douglas Campbell Mass	2:00 pm
7	Stations of the Cross	7:00 pm
11	Lions Prairie Manor Mass	2:00 pm
20	Ministry of Hope	7:00 pm
20	Knights of Columbus Meeting	7:30 pm
Note - change of date		

New schedules are ready for pick up.

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) or babysitting. 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 be on **Sunday, April 2nd** 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.



MUSIC BOOKS - We are looking for the Guitar Acceptant book I and Keyboard I, 2 & 3. If you have borrowed them could you please call the office and let me know that you have them. These are the only copies we have for the Parish. We are unable to order them anymore. Thank you, Bernadette

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - the stations of the



cross is a popular devotion used by individuals or groups who wish through prayer and reflection to follow Jesus Christ on His way to Calvary. It is one of the most important devotions honoring the passion of Jesus. What matters most in the stations of the cross is to follow Jesus Christ in his passion and to see ourselves mirrored in him. To face life's dark side in ourselves and in our world, we need images of hope, and Jesus offers images of hope in his passion. Each Friday evening of Lent, there will be adoration of the **Blessed Sacrament starting at 6:00 pm, and Benediction at 6:45 pm.** Stations of the Cross will be led by various individuals of our parish, beginning at **7:00 pm.**

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICES - for the Central Deanery are listed below. Our evening for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is **April 6th at 7:00 pm.** There will be four or five priests joining me that evening.

Lenten Penitential Services

- March 29th - St. Anthony's Hungarian 7:00 pm
- March 29th - St. Mary's Cathedral 7:00 pm
- March 30th - St. Paul the Apostle Parish 7:00 pm
- March 31st - St Edward's Church 7:00 pm
- April 4th - St Charles School 10:30 am
- April 4th - St Edwards School 9:30 am
- April 4th - St Eustache Church 7:00 pm
- April 4th - Our Lady of Lourdes 7:00 pm
- April 5th - St Charles Parish 7:00 pm
- April 6th - Good Shepherd Parish, Portage 7:00 pm**

"40 CANS FOR LENT" - Knights of Columbus



- are sponsoring "40 Cans for Lent". Hunger knows no season and every day many people go hungry. The goal of this program is for each Council member and each Parishioner to contribute **1 non-perishable food item** per day during the 40 days of Lent in order to help keep our local food pantries well stocked all year round. The items 'can' be dropped off in the baskets in the gathering area. Some items could be used at Prairie Welcome House, and the bulk delivered to Salvation Army and/or the soup kitchen. Thank you for your generosity. Last years total collection was 880. **Collection to Date - 380**

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

4th Sunday in Lent
March 25th & 26th, 2017

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

Following Jesus' example: compelled by force or by love?

By Jeanette Martino Land

It is said that Jesus was compelled by force to carry his cross. That force was manifested by actual physical power, as the Roman soldiers mercilessly kicked and beat Jesus, causing him to stumble and fall under the cross's heavy weight.

I see another force at work here: Jesus' loving obedience to his Father and his great love for us. Love compelled Jesus to carry his cross.

When we meditate on the stations of the cross, we see a very human Jesus becoming progressively weaker, until he staggers and falls, unable to continue carrying his cross alone.

Enter Simon of Cyrene, who helps Jesus. Not because Simon offers to help. Rather, the Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke describe Simon as being "pressed into service," "seized" and "made to give aid."

For whatever reason, Simon was not a happy camper. He did not want to extend himself and was not a willing helper. Perhaps he was hesitant, afraid to get involved with this man who had been judged a criminal. After all, he was an innocent bystander who had to be pulled out of the crowd by the soldiers and coerced into public service. He was summoned, forced into the street, and commanded to carry the weight of the cross behind the weak and bleeding Jesus.

Simon was compelled by force, not by love.

I have often wondered, "What did Simon think? What did he feel?" Perhaps he cursed to himself, "Why did they have to pick on me?" I can identify with that. When things go wrong, my first reaction often is, "Why me?" Only when I forget myself and again focus on Jesus, am I free to respond, "Well, why not me?"

Was Simon upset with himself, disgusted at being present for this spectacle? Did he resent being forced to help? I, too, am Simon, when I balk at feeling forced to help someone at a time that is not convenient for me. Or, like Simon, I can feel upset if I find myself in a situation where I'm put on the spot to say or do something, when I'd prefer to remain silent and not get publicly involved. When I'd rather stay within my comfort zone rather than take the risk of extending myself.

Yet, often times the cross is forced on us. Do we react or respond? Do we accept that cross grudgingly, or do we embrace it, compelled by Christ's selfless love? Do we gladly accept Christ's invitation to follow in his footsteps, ready to say "Yes!" whether it's convenient or not?

Jesus always invited people to follow him. He continues to extend that invitation to each one of us, today . . . to take up his cross. Willingly, no matter what. In joy and in sorrow, for Jesus' path includes a share in his sufferings. Jesus embraced his suffering with love. We are asked to do the same. So was Simon.

Yet, Simon was unwilling to assist Jesus. I believe that through his participation in Jesus' Passion and Way of the Cross, Simon was enabled to listen and respond to Jesus' invitation: "All of you, come to me!" And maybe Simon then was compelled by love to urge his sons and others to follow Jesus.

I believe this is true, because in Romans 16:13, Paul sends greetings to "Rufus, that outstanding worker in the Lord's service. . . ." Rufus was Simon of Cyrene's son.

May each of us be a willing Simon, compelled, not by physical force, but by Christ's love, to spread his kingdom on earth, one loving act of service at a time.

Martino Land is a freelance writer from North Palm Beach, FL.

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4th Sunday in Lent
March 25th & 26th, 2017

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

4th Sunday of Lent Saturday, March 25th Sunday, March 26th	7:00 pm 11:00 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	Special Intentions for the Smith Family by Loreen ✠Paul & ✠Trudi Muller by the Catholic Women's League
Wednesday, March 29th	10:00 am	M.D.C.	Culture of Life-End to Euthanasia, Abortion & Assisted Suicide
5th Sunday of Lent Saturday, April 1st Sunday, April 2nd	7:00 pm 11:00 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	✠Susan Durston by Andy Loucks & Family ✠Anita Ammeter by the Lupkowski Family ✠Nora Hiebert & ✠Olivia Strange by the Family

Friendly Reminders

Saturday, April 1st

Greeters - Helena Kot, Estelle Sinclair
Ushers - Norbert & Donna Rey
Paul Seguin, Andy Louks
Gift Bearers - Bob & Pauline Debusschere
Lectors - Rachael Murray, Jim Ross
Eucharist Ministers - Zennia Semchyshyn, Audree Peech,
Dave & Rosemary Barney, Anju Regimon

Friendly Reminders

Sunday, April 2nd

Greeters - Rose Marie Neault, Ruth Deegan
Ushers - Armand Tanguay,
Richard Fraser & Family
Gift Bearers - Galarneau Family
Lectors - Bernadette Le Lievre, Gary van der Zweep
Eucharist Ministers - Joe & Marie Wermie,
Stan Lambert, Mickey Cuthbert, Rose Marie Neault,
Gary & Dawn Lernowicz

Lent Quotes - Pope Francis Sayings About Love And Mercy

Wednesday marked the first day of the [Lenten season](#). It is best known as Ash Wednesday, or the "Day of Ashes." During this time, people in the Christian religion "give up" something for 40 days and 40 nights. The sacrifice ends on Easter, which is the Holiest day in the religion. In honor of penance, inspirational quotes from Pope Francis have been shared below.

1. "Each of us has a vision of good and of evil. We have to encourage people to move towards what they think is good...Everyone has his own idea of good and evil and must choose to follow the good and fight evil as he conceives them. That would be enough to make the world a better place."
2. "Life is a journey. When we stop, things don't go right."
3. "Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security and, as a consequence, benefits someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style of the good Samaritan, who bent down to his brother in need and took care of him."
4. "We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace."
5. "A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just."
6. "Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy."
7. "We all have the duty to do good."
8. "Wretched are those who are vindictive and spiteful."
9. "Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God."
10. "We must always walk in the presence of the Lord, in the light of the Lord, always trying to live in an irreprehensible way."

Find new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world.

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