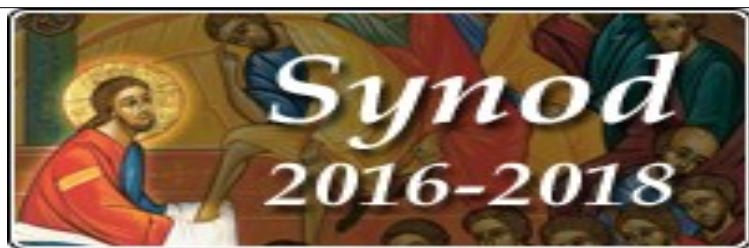


**Easter Sunday - March 31st & April 1st, 2018**

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



2018 Target Amount	Collected As of March 11	Year to Date + / -
\$ 19,210.00	\$ 4,212.00	- \$ 14,998.00



Feeding the Community

**"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. **Collected - 1,041 Last Years Total - 1,151**

*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 24 & 25	Collections Required Per Week	Weekly Collection + / -	Year to Date Collections + / -
\$ 4,001.80	\$ 3,860.00	+ \$ 141.80	- \$ 3,484.70



**SHARING GOD'S GIFTS** - will be the second collection on **March 31st & April 1st.**

APRIL		
5	Douglas Campbell Lodge Service	2:00 pm
8	<b>Children's Liturgy during Mass</b>	
8	First Communion - postponed	
10	Lions Prairie Manor Service	2:00 pm
12	Knights of Columbus Meeting	7:30 pm
15	Community Breakfast after Mass	
15	East Side Choir	7:00 pm



All are welcome to come to the parish hall after Sunday Mass to enjoy a cup of coffee, the company of other parishioners and a visit.

*Christ is risen, he is risen Alleluia! May the peace of the risen Lord come upon you and your families throughout this Easter Season. As we live the new life that Christ has given us through his victory on the cross, may we share the blessings of each day with those around us. Praise be Jesus Christ both now and forever. Father Gerald*



**BAPTISM PREPARATION** - is planned for Saturday, April 21st, from 9:00 am till 1:30 pm (lunch is provided). To register please call the parish office or Dawn at 204-872-2897.



**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION** - **The Resurrection of the Lord - Easter Sunday** - Jesus Christ has risen today! For those good stewards of their faith who die with Jesus, they rise with Christ their savior every day. They are an Easter people. Our Savior is active, alive, and transforming us and our communities of faith, even the world, at this very moment. Easter is a time of joy, a time of celebration. To have faith in the risen Lord is also to believe that we are disciples who bear witness to Christ in a broken and troubled world. To be good stewards of this faith obliges us to be living witnesses to Christ's peace at home and in public. Jesus cannot be found buried in some long forgotten time, in some far away land. He is risen. He lives within each one of us. Alleluia!



**FLOWERS FOR EASTER** - thank you to everyone who made a donation towards this years Easter Flowers. If you still want to make a donation towards this years Easter Flowers please use a Visitor's Envelope and mark it "Easter Flowers". All donations are greatly appreciated.



**EAST SIDE CHOIR** - The Portage, MacGregor, and Gladstone Youth for Christ chapters are pleased to announce a fundraising concert with Wayne Unrau and the East Side Choir. The event will be held at the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Portage la Prairie, on **Sunday, April 15**, at 7:00 pm.



**WALKING TOGETHER** - *Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend, by Albert Camus.* Just a friendly reminder to share with the pastoral council members your suggestions for "Walking Together" as a parish. We look forward to your ideas.

## CELEBRATING EASTER

**Alleluia!** is our song. For forty days in Lent, the people of God listen to his word more attentively and spend more time in prayer and penance as we seek forgiveness and conversion. At the end of Holy Week, we enter the Easter Triduum, when we celebrate the dying and rising of our Lord Jesus Christ. Then, for fifty days we sing Alleluia!

- ✘ **Easter Vigil:** During Holy Saturday night, the Church celebrates the victory of Christ over sin and death. He is the light of the world, who frees us from the kingdom of darkness and brings us into his kingdom of love. The members of the Church profess their faith once more, renewing their baptismal promises to die with Christ to sin, and to live with him for God.
- ✘ **Easter Sunday** is the greatest day of the Christian year. We praise God for all his wonderful works of creation and salvation, but especially for raising Jesus from the dead, and declaring him Lord. Jesus is the saviour, the center of salvation history.

We rejoice today with all Christians, for our heavenly Father has made us sharers in the grace of his Son. By baptism we die with him, are buried with him in death and are raised with him to glory. We share in his victory and his abundant new life.

- ✘ **Easter week:** During this week, we continue our rejoicing over the resurrection of our Lord and his victory over sin and death. The daily gospel readings this week describe occasions on which the risen Jesus appeared to his followers.
- ✘ **The Easter octave** ends with the second Sunday of the season. The gospel presents Thomas as he comes to believe in the risen Lord. We who did not see Christ in the flesh are called blessed also, because he has given us the faith to believe in him.
- ✘ **Easter season:** Fifty days of Easter joy will bring us to the feast of Pentecost. God's gift of life is complete in the sending of the Holy Spirit.
- ✘ **Paschal candle:** During the Easter vigil, the Easter candle is prepared and lighted from the new fire. It symbolizes and reminds us that Christ is the light of the world and that he is always present among his holy people. This candle is prominently displayed and is lighted for all liturgies during the Easter season.
- ✘ **Easter water:** Water is blessed during the vigil for use in baptisms during the Easter season. This water is sprinkled over the people present at the vigil and on Easter Day as they renew their baptismal promises. We use blessed water in our homes as a reminder of our baptism, by which Jesus makes us the holy people of God.
- ✘ **Alleluia!** is the song of the Easter season. It is a shout of joy and means "praise to God!" With Christ and all his Church, we rejoice that God has raised him up from death and has given us a share in his unending life.

### Living in the Easter Season

This season lasts for seven weeks or 50 days, extending between Easter and Pentecost. St. Athanasius (+373) called this period "the great Sunday".

**Meaning:** The Easter season is a time when Christians reflect on what it means to be God's Church, his people established in this place, witnesses to his resurrection. The new life and joy of those baptized at the Easter vigil is shared by all and we remember that it is through baptism that Jesus has made us God's holy people.

**Relation to Lent:** Easter is NOT a continuation of Lent, but rather the time to harvest the seeds which were planted during the 40 days. Now we live as the brothers and sisters of Jesus, sharing his love with others, looking for ways to serve others and save the world.

**Recognizing Christ's presence:** During the Easter season, we reflect on the many ways that Jesus is present among us.

Whenever two or three gather in his name, Jesus is with us—at home, in church, at work or at play. He is present, speaking to us when his gospel is proclaimed to us. He is present in our liturgical celebrations: in the assembly, the scriptures, the ministers, in the power of his sacraments, in the Eucharist. Our Lord assures us that he is the one we help whenever we feed the hungry, visit the sick or imprisoned, and clothe the naked. Jesus is always with his people.

**ALLELUIA!!**

**Easter Sunday - March 31st & April 1st, 2018**

*"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*

<b>Easter Vigil</b> , March 31st	8:00 pm	Good Shepherd	Resurrection of Our Lord
<b>Easter Sunday</b> Sunday, April 1st	10:30 am 1:00 pm	Good Shepherd St. Ambroise	†Yvonne Bouchard by Tony & Family For All Parishioner
Thursday, April 5th	2:00 pm	Douglas Campbell Lodge	Celebration of the Word with Communion
<b>Divine Mercy Sunday</b> Saturday, April 7th Sunday, April 8th	7:00 pm 10:30 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	Celebration of the Word with Communion Celebration of the Word with Communion

***Friendly Reminders***

**Saturday, April 7th**

- Greeters** - Pauline Puff, Denys Marion
- Ushers** - Norbert & Donna Rey,  
Zennia Semchysyn, Cecile Scott
- Gift Bearers** - Gerry & Gerri Masson
- Lectors** - Dave Barney, Jim Ross
- Eucharist Ministers** - Jane Hebert, Lynda Jones, Tara Ryzner,  
Jo-ann Voesenek, Helena Kot

***Friendly Reminders***

**Sunday, April 8th**

- Greeters** - Mary Kohut, Linda Podruchny
- Ushers** - Joan McCallister, Karen McLeod,  
Suzanne Borisenko, Bernadette Le Lievre
- Gift Bearers** - Mary Kohut, Linda Podruchny
- Lectors** - Ruth Deegan, Gary van der Zweep
- Ministers** - Gary & Dawn Lernowicz, Karen McLeod,  
Mickey Cuthbert, Rose Marie Neault, Kim Dengate,  
Pauly Appah

**EASTER - A Joyful Season for Missionary Disciple** - For those who exercise good stewardship of their Catholic faith, this April is the happiest, most joyful of months for it ushers in the great Easter season – a season of profound hope and joy. During the Easter season, which extends 50 days, from the Easter Vigil Mass of Saturday evening, March 31 to the Vigil Mass of Pentecost Sunday, on Saturday evening, May 19, Christian stewards are exhorted to celebrate and be joyful, for our Savior is with us. In his apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (“The Joy of the Gospel”), Pope Francis revealed that the best way to live out the joy of Easter is to become a genuine family of faith, an “evangelizing Church that comes out of herself.” He urged Catholics around the world to contemplate the mind of Jesus Christ and what it means to be the “light of Christ.” From there, Francis believed a spirituality of missionary discipleship could be cultivated that would “help the Church get out of herself “ and reach out to those who live in darkness. At the Easter Vigil, all the great symbols are there: darkness, light, fire, water. The Vigil begins in darkness; not a darkness to be ignored, but a darkness in which we realize where we would be without the light of Christ, a darkness that reveals much about our world, our own sinfulness, the darkness that sometimes envelopes our own lives and even shrouds our own hearts. But then, the great fire of the Vigil is lit, a fire which consumes the darkness, and the procession into the church reminds us of the light and strength provided by the community of the faithful and the saving light of Christ. Indeed, Saint Paul maintains that we are stewards of this great light. We remember the waters of baptism during the Vigil as we renew our baptismal vows. The Vigil also brings into our community those newly baptized who proceed joyfully with us into April. As missionary disciples who exercise stewardship of Jesus’ teachings, come into the glory of this April, join with those apostles whose hearts were on fire, and contemplate the words of the risen Lord: “Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father” (Matt. 5:16). For missionary disciples, this charge should be enough to bring hope and joy. Indeed, April is the most glorious of months. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

***May the risen Christ bring happiness to you and your family all year round.  
Wishing you and all your loved ones a very Happy Easter.***



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