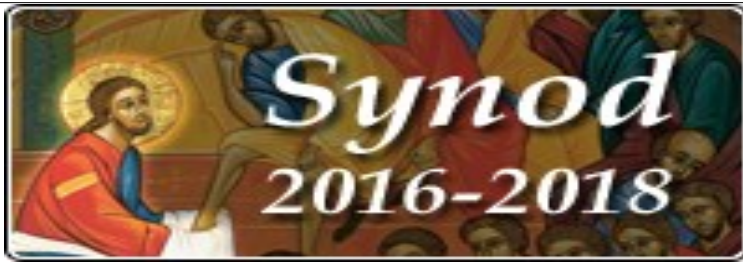


"I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." John 10.14



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 February 25 & 26	Collections Required Per Week	Weekly Collection + / -	Year to Date Collections + / -
\$ 3,388.10	\$ 3,465.00	- \$ 76.90	- \$ 3,952.00

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

MARCH		
5	Children's Liturgy	during mass
6	Knights Cribbage Tournament	6:30 pm
9	Knights of Columbus Meeting	7:30 pm
10	Stations of the Cross	7:00 pm
13	Confirmation Class	7:00 pm
14	Lions Prairie Manor Mass	2:00 pm
14	Hospitality Workshop	7:00 pm
16	Ministry of Hope	7:00 pm
17	Stations of the Cross	7:00 pm
18	Liturgy Workshop	9:00 am
18	Hospitality Workshop	1:00 pm
19	Lenten/Mission	7:00 pm
20	Lenten/Mission	7:00 pm
21	Lenten/Mission	7:00 pm



SPRING FORWARD - daylight saving time starts, remember to turn your clocks forward 1 hour on **March 12th, at 2:00 am**

LITURGY WORKSHOP - I will be offering the workshop on Liturgy on **Saturday, March 18th at 9:00 am**. We will conclude before noon. Due to my increase activities with the commission these next couple of months I will offer one and not two workshops. The workshop will not be "bookish", but will honor the experience of the participants. While there will be some handouts and helpful information on the Liturgy, the importance of our learning from each other will be key. Please come, and be prepared to have some fun!

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS - the income tax receipts have been mailed out. If you have not received yours, please contact the office.

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 22nd - St. John XXIII Parish 10:00 am
- March 23rd - St Patrick's Church 7:00 pm
- March 29th - St. Anthony's Hungarian 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**

HOSPITALITY WORKSHOP - there will be a workshop for **hospitality** (greeters, ushers-collection and gift bearers) on **Tuesday, March 14th at 7:00 pm or Saturday, March 18th at 1:00 pm**. If you are involved or would like to become involved with this ministry please come and join us, on one of the dates provided. If you have any questions please contact Terry Giercke at 204-857-3358.

WORD AMONG US REFLECTION BOOKLETS

- are available in the gathering area. As you may not be aware, these books come from the States. The cost has gone up because of the exchange rate. **If you choose to pick up a booklet for yourself, they will be \$2.50.** Thank you.

1st Sunday in Lent
March 4th & 5th, 2017

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

HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

CHURCH EXTENSION VOTING AND PLEDGE RESULTS - This week we had 3 individual parishioners count the results of the Church design and pledge vote. The results are as follows: Out of 106 returns, 84 voted in favor of one of the 3 designs - (40 were in favor of Option #1, 24 for Option #2, 5 for Design #1, 15 were in favor of the extension, but offered no preference), and 22 were not in favor of the extension. In the coming weeks, a more detailed plan for Option #1 will be prepared and a Building Committee will be established. For the purpose of Fundraising, in addition to the funds and pledges in place, follow-up calls will be made to those who did not respond to the vote and pledge process to seek their commitment to the building project.

"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.

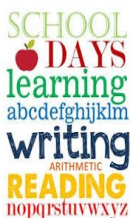


PARISH LENTEN MISSION/RETREAT - Priest, Prophet, and King – Deacon Gilles Urqhart has agreed to lead us in a Lenten Mission. Gilles is a deacon at Holy Cross Parish in the Archdiocese of St. Boniface and owner of Stephanchew Church Goods in Winnipeg. When I met with Gilles recently he told me that he was offering a mission on the topic of Priest, Prophet, and King. Given the theme of the Diocesan Synod on Discipleship, I thought it would be very important that we have a deeper look at these themes. The words themselves lay out a mission for us that we first receive in Baptism. So often the notion of these roles can be overlooked or lost in our lives. How can we put them into practice? What are the nuts and bolts of expressing ourselves through these themes? One thing I can promise you is that you will not be bored at these evening talks! Gilles is a very engaging speaker, passionate about his faith and his love of the Church. The Mission/Retreat will begin with Evening Prayer on **Sunday, March 19th – Tuesday, March 21st**. Similar to the sessions when Fr. Sam Argenziano joined us last year, the prayer and talk will be about an hour in length followed by refreshments in the Church Hall. **The Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday gatherings will all begin at 7:00 pm.**

E.P.I.C. RETREAT - Every Person's Identity is in Christ - My name is Ginette Gauthier. I'm the youth minister coordinator for Blessed Sacrament of Elie (west of Winnipeg). We are bringing on **March 26th** a young dynamic group of adults, PureWitness, from Saskatoon, SK to evangelize our faith to our youths. And we are inviting the parishes of our surroundings to this retreat. In the morning 9am -12pm, there will be a retreat for the confirmation candidates and what a great way for our youths to be among each other in this journey of faith. Lunch will be provided to everyone. Following, will be a retreat open to all youth ages 10 yrs and up (1pm - 4pm) followed by a youth mass and finishing with a delicious supper (6:00pm) offered by our parish community. All of this is free (donations will be accepted)!!!! If you have any questions, you can contact me at 204-470-5191 or email gauthierg60@gmail.com.

Registration forms are at the back of the church. Registration deadline is March 20th. Also poster in kios

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION - At the beginning of this Lenten season we hear proclaimed the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. He responds to the first temptation by saying that one does not live by bread alone but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. The season of Lent invites us to consider how we nourish our hearts, how we act as stewards of the Word of God entrusted to us. A good reflection for the week: What do we live on? What keeps us going? Could it be possessions, prestige, the need to be in control, the need for security, addictions? Or the fervent desire to listen to God's word?



Ever thought of sharing the gift of learning with someone facing challenges? **Portage Learning and Literacy Centre** is looking for volunteers to work one on one in a classroom setting with students who struggle with reading and writing and with mathematics. If you are interested in this opportunity, please call Laurie at 204-857-6304 or fill out a volunteer application form at our website, www.pllc.ca. Community Clothes Cupboard is looking for donations of gently used clothing suitable for work attire. Donations may be dropped off at Portage Learning and Literacy Centre, 110 Saskatchewan Avenue West, Monday to Friday, 8:30-4:30.

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

1st Sunday in Lent
March 4th & 5th, 2017

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

1st Sunday of Lent Saturday, March 4th Sunday, March 5th	7:00 pm 11:00 am 1:00 pm	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd St. Ambroise	✠Henry & ✠Elsie Zedan by the Family Health of Gisele Wegleitner by the Le Lievre Family ✠Myrtle & ✠Edmond Lavallee by John & Marlene Lavallee
Wednesday, March 8th	7:00 pm	Good Shepherd	✠Rita Cloutier by the Cloutier Family
Thursday, March 9th	7:00 pm	Good Shepherd	In Thanksgiving by the Semchyshyn Family
Friday, March 10th	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	✠Lorrie Tanguay by the Bullock Family
2nd Sunday of Lent Saturday, March 11th Sunday, March 12th	7:00 pm 11:00 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	✠Jean Sareault by the Cloutier Family Thanksgiving to St. Joseph by Jacklin Jackson

Friendly Reminders

Saturday, March 11th

Greeters - Louis Lasson, Denys Marion
Ushers - Mary Bolton, Estelle Sinclair,
Norbert & Donna Rey
Gift Bearers - Reinhard & Adrianna Kirchner
Lectors - Linda Leafloor & Jim Ross
Eucharist Ministers - Rachael Murray, Donna Rey,
Anita Kowerchuk, Jo-ann Voesenek, Tara Ryzner

Friendly Reminders

Sunday, March 12th

Greeters - Brenda Franke, Pauline Calder
Ushers - Bernadette Le Lievre, Sharon Murkin,
Irene Souque-Hewitt, Joan McCallister
Gift Bearers - Brenda Franke, Pauline Calder
Lectors - Ruth Deegan, Sylvia Gauthier
Eucharist Ministers - Suzanne Borisenko,
Stan Lambert, Elaine Harder, Gary & Dawn Lernowicz,
Joe & Marie Wermie

Giving gifts during Lent

James Lamm, Director of Stewardship, St. Louis Catholic Church, Austin, Texas

Christmas is the time most of us think about giving gifts. The three Magi in the Christmas story gave gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts represented the infant Jesus as God, as High Priest, and as the Sacrificial Lamb who died on the cross for us. During the season of Lent we are also called to give gifts. The gifts of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the traditional gifts of Lent. Unlike the gifts from the Magi, however, the gifts of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are sacrificial gifts of ourselves, and therefore fitting gifts to our God.

Prayer allows us to be loved by God the Father. Prayer places us in the position to listen and to give God all that we are, our expectations and hopes. Prayer is a sacrifice of praise and intercession. The gift of prayer is the way we unite ourselves to Jesus and open ourselves to the Holy Spirit who makes all things new.

Fasting is a great spiritual tradition. Fasting represents the element of expectation of the Lord. It is the opening of the heart, stripping oneself of everything that is an obstacle to the gift of Christ's coming. During Lent, fasting represents being pilgrims toward the great gift of Easter. We must rediscover the need and desire for God as the center of our existence, emptying ourselves in order to be full of God.

Almsgiving is more than an act of giving; it is an attitude of the heart. It is an attitude of heart that is humble, repentant, merciful, compassionate, and which seeks to imitate with others the experience of mercy that each of us receives from our God. Almsgiving, therefore, is care, is discernment, is gift – all of these being part of what we have experienced as believers when we contemplate the love of God that accepts and forgives us.

During Lent we need to rediscover the value of sacrifice through the gifts of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. A sacrifice is a gesture of love which costs something and is done in praise of God and for some one who is suffering and in need. There is no love without sacrifice, just as without love, sacrifice would be simply external restraint. Sacrifice is an offering of love. We must not forget the great example that Jesus gave us, and remember that "God so loved the world that he did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all. (John 3:16)"

So rather than seeing Lent in negative terms, we should see it as a beautiful spiritual experience that will strengthen us. Pope Francis

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