

## THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISHES OF GOOD SHEPHERD & ST. AMBROISE

April 25th & 26th, 2026 - World Day of Prayer for Vocations  
May 2nd & 3rd - 5th Sunday of Easter

### Parish Office

1125 Saskatchewan Ave. E.  
Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 3Y8  
Phone: (204) 857-5172  
Email: shepherd@mymts.net  
[www.goodshepherdparish.ca](http://www.goodshepherdparish.ca)  
Bernadette Le Lievre - Parish Secretary

### Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 2:00pm

### **Pastor - Rev. Roy George Vazhaplankudiyil**

Cell Phone: 1 (204) 218-9372  
Rectory: (204) 857-8490

**Deacon** - Reverend Rick Ryzner

**Catechism Coordinator** - Monique Lubkiwski  
(204) 856-1176

**Parish Council Chair** - Monique Lubkiwski

**Finance Council Chair** - Irene Souque Hewitt

### CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

#### **Good Shepherd Church**

Wednesday 10:00 am  
(1st Wednesday of the month  
- Anointing of the Sick)

Thursday (followed by the Rosary) 10:00 am

Friday 10:00 am

Saturday 7:00 pm

Sunday 10:30 am

#### **St. Ambrose Parish**

1st Sunday of the Month 1:00 pm

#### **Lions Prairie Manor**

1st Thursday of the Month 10:30 am

#### **Douglas Campbell Lodge**

1st Friday of the Month 10:30 am

### **Sacrament of Baptism**

Please contact the parish office to arrange baptismal classes, preparation and to set a date.

### **Sacrament of Marriage**

Engaged couples will contact the parish office at least 6 months before they wish to be married.

There is such a need for religious vocations in the church that the Holy Father has set this Sunday aside as a World Day of Prayer that the Lord of the harvest may send laborers into his harvest. We all have a mission in life, because the word of God, which came to birth in our souls at baptism, is waiting to blossom forth in a more total way in each of us. God has created us for some definite service while we may not be able to gauge with any real accuracy the effectiveness of our lives, there is nowhere we walk in life without leaving the imprint of who we are upon the ground we tread. We can be a little bit of Christ in our own homes and do our best to co-operate with his invitation to 'come, follow me.' The gospel picks up the idea of Christ, the good shepherd, calling each of us by name as we journey through life by different ways. Youth is a time of great generosity, idealism and hope. Evidence of this is in the way young people give of their time and talents to deprived groups in society. In these loud and frantic days it may be more difficult for them to hear the voice of the Lord calling, so we should pray that, as they face the decision about their future role in life, they open the possibility of a religious vocation and ask God's help to make the right choice in their calling. There are enormous riches within the hearts of youth - riches that are theirs to spend lavishly during life. Many of them are unaware of their giftedness and never draw on their talents because they are afraid to take the risk of faith which is needed. By opening their hearts in prayerful service, God, and not material things, will be the focus of their attention. The special calling faces them to be Christ to others in times of need, to be healers in times of sorrow, towers of strength in times of distress and a shoulder to lean upon, when support is needed.

God does not knock at every door looking for someone to respond to a religious vocation. If he happens to knock at your door, be generous enough to let him in. How otherwise will the needs of the flock in the next generation be met?

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE



All are welcome after mass for coffee and fellowship in the parish hall. Please join us!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL

Tues	28	Catechism	5:00 - 7:45 pm
Wed	29	Catechism	5:30 - 8:00 pm
Wed	29	Faith Enrichment Course	7:00 pm
Thurs	30	Confirmation Class	<b>Cancelled</b>

### MAY

Tues	5	Catechism	5:00 - 7:45 pm
Wed	6	Catechism	5:30 - 8:00 pm
Wed	6	Faith Enrichment Course	<b>Cancelled</b>
Thurs	7	Confirmation Class	7:00 pm
Sat	9	Alter Server Training	2:30 pm
Sun	10	Mother's Day	

### ALTER SERVERS TRAINING

#### & Pizza Party

Saturday, May 9th at 2:30 pm



All returning alter servers as well as those interested in serving, are asked to attend this training to learn or review their roles during the mass as well as meet and get to know their fellow servers. Pizza will be served afterwards.

## FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

**First Holy Communion** - A date has been set for **Sunday, June 7th during 10:30am mass**. A reception to follow in the parish hall honoring our first communicants.

**Confirmation** will be celebrated on **Sunday, June 14th** during 10:30am mass with The Most Reverend Archbishop Murray Chatlain. Reception to follow in the parish hall honoring the newly confirmed and Archbishop Murray. Please mark your calendars.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Father Roy will be on retreat from May 4th-8th.

### PARISH GARDEN BEDS



A few Garden beds are available for use by parishioners this summer at no cost. Please call Bernadette at the office at 204-857-5172 for more information.

## COUNCIL & COMMITTEES



### **CONSTRUCTION BEGINS!!**

The Roof Repair Building Committee is pleased to announce that our building project is scheduled to start the first week of May until approximately the middle of June. The 1<sup>st</sup> week of May the work will be outside preparing the grounds for our new HVAC units to be installed. During the second week the work will begin inside removing gyprock to access and modify the ductwork. Then the new HVAC units will be installed and new ducts run to them with a minimum downtime. The old HVAC units will be removed and the roofing started. For approximately 3-4 weeks during this time there will be **NO ACCESS** to some parts of our building including the Cry Room, Sacristy, Confessional, the washroom beside the Sacristy and the storage room. Hoarding will be installed to keep dust to a minimum during the project. A walkway inside the hall from the southwest exterior door to the storage room will be built. The hall and kitchen will still be available for limited events such as funerals and coffee parties. We need to move and store **EVERYTHING** in the Sacristy and Storage room. We will be looking for your help to pack and move items from the storage room and Sacristy during the week of May 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. If you are available to volunteer some time in the evenings of that week, please call the parish office at 204-857-5172 to offer a date you can help and we will reach out to you.

Thanks & Blessings

## FINANCIALS

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

April 11th & 12th	\$ 2,531.00
April 15th Auto Debit	\$ 2,185.00
April 18th & 19th	\$ 1,739.90

### Sharing God's Gifts

Annual Target Amount	Amount collected to April 19th	Year to Date + / -
\$22,419.00	\$ 3,839.00	- \$ 18,580.00

**Sharing God's Gifts 2025** - We were \$3,245.00 over our appeal amount. Thank-you, Thank-you for your Generosity!

### CHILDREN'S COLLECTION - CHALICE



Year-to-date	\$ 1,874.55
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#### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

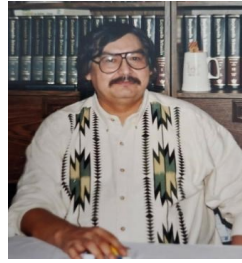
Fourth Sunday of Easter Weekend - Saint Peter plays a prominent leadership role in the first two readings, urging his listeners to be baptized and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit; and encouraging them to follow in the footsteps of Christ. We have just renewed our baptismal promises at Easter and the Holy Spirit dwells in us in a special way. Are we good stewards of those baptismal vows? Have we renewed our commitment to follow in Jesus' footsteps? Have we opened our hearts to discern the will of God in our lives? Take some time to reflect on the importance of our baptismal renewal and our lives as disciples of the Lord.

***Easter is the feast of tombstones taken away, rocks rolled aside. God takes away even the hardest stones against which our hopes and expectations crash: death, sin, fear, worldliness.***

- Pope Francis

## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

**Father Stanley Albert Fontaine** of the Sagkeeng (Fort Alexander) First Nation passed away peacefully on April 14, 2026.



Father Stanley was ordained to the priesthood on Oct. 7th, 1984 for the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan. In

2022 for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, he ministered to people of the church and helping to promote healing through the "truth and reconciliation". He shared that he considered his greatest work and greatest achievement was when he helped people to know and walk with God and to help them in their healing. He has been called a gentle 'man of God'. He will be greatly missed by his family & relatives, by his church family at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Indigenous Catholic Parish and by many First Nations communities.

Our sincerest condolences to his family and friends. Please remember him in your prayers. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

Catholic School of  École catholique d'évangélisation

- 2026 Summer Camp Registration  
Saint Malo Catholic Summer Camp Registration is OPEN - Early Bird Pricing is on until May 15th. Please check their website at: <https://www.catholicway.net/camps> Or scan this QR code with your phone to check out the details!



- Staff & Volunteer Opportunities  
The CSE is currently hiring for the following positions for their Summer Camps: Camp Coordinator, Staff Counsellor, Head Cook, Lifeguard, Assistant Cook, Maintenance. They are also currently seeking an Executive Director! Maybe this is your vocational calling? Please visit their website at <https://www.catholicway.net> for further details.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Please place donation of \$10.00/Mass Intention in the offertory collection basket clearly marked “**Mass Intention**”

<b>4th Sunday of Easter</b> Saturday, April 25th	7:00 pm	Good Shepherd	✠Roger Bruneau by Antonia & Alvin Rossnagel
Sunday, April 26th	10:30 am	Good Shepherd	Deceased Members of the Ridder Family
Wednesday, April 29th	10:00 am	Good Shepherd	✠Betty Conrad by Dave & Rosemary Barney
Thursday, April 30th	10:00 am	Good Shepherd	✠Ralph Lamirande by The Family
Friday, May 1st	10:00 am	Good Shepherd	✠Catherine & ✠Emile Allard by The Family
<b>5th Sunday of Easter</b> Saturday, May 2nd	7:00 pm	Good Shepherd	✠Don Verwey by The Verwey Family
Sunday, May 3rd	10:30 am	Good Shepherd	Birthday Wishes for Lita Winter by Kevin & Bernadette Le Lievre
	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>St. Ambroise</b>	✠Harold Ricard by The Family
Wednesday, May 6th			<b>NO Mass - Father is away</b>
Thursday, May 7th	10:00 am	<b>Lions Prairie Manor</b>	<b>Communion Service</b>
Friday, May 8th	10:00 am	<b>Douglas Campbell Lodge</b>	<b>Communion Service</b>
<b>6th Sunday of Easter</b> Saturday, May 9th	7:00 pm	Good Shepherd	Birthday Wishes for Neethu Jose by The Family
Sunday, May 10th	10:30 am	Good Shepherd	For All Mothers

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Prairie Vox Community Choir presents - *From Broadway To The Big Screen*** - April 28th, at Good Shepherd Parish. See Poster in the gathering area for more information.



### **SALVATION ARMY FOOD BANK**

For the month of **April** we are collecting: **Canned Meat**

For the month of **May** we are collecting: **Oatmeal**



**Total canned vegetables collected in March - 139 items**

Thank-you for your generosity!



**Project FOCUS** In partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFB) the goal of FOCUS is to reduce hunger and its

consequence among hunger-affected individuals, households and communities in developing countries. Your donations will be used to plant the crops they grow and sell to support the CFB. The Government of Canada matches all donations at a ratio of 4:1! Charitable Donation Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20.00 or more. Travis Rintoul is the coordinator for this project and will collect your donations.

Please see the poster and handouts in the gathering area for further information and for details on where to send your donations.