

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISHES OF GOOD SHEPHERD & ST. AMBROISE

March 28th & 29th, 2026 - Palm Sunday

April 4th & 5th, 2026 - Easter Sunday

Parish Office

1125 Saskatchewan Ave. E.

Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 3Y8

Phone: (204) 857-5172

Email: shepherd@mymts.net

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

The passion presents the ultimate humbling of Jesus involving far more than the physical cruelty of the crucifixion. There was terror and agony of mind to be endured and this pain was so intense that his sweat became like drops of blood long before the nails were driven into his body on the cross. The loneliness and isolations which he felt when friends deserted the hill of Calvary was nothing to the experience of being abandoned by the Father: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

The people involved in Christ's death are very like us. The rejection and the crucifixion continue daily. We must never forget that each of us has a hand in Jesus' death when we hurt others through gossip and slander and ride rough-shod over them for our own purpose. Jesus is crucified every time a human being is degraded, treated unjustly and deprived of freedom. This final week of Lent is a great opportunity to celebrate the death and resurrection of the Lord in a way that will change our lives. The simple truth of the Christian experience is that sin has marred our lives, has made a mess of our world by leading us to conduct our affairs with hearts hardened against God. The cross is lifted up as a sign of Christ taking the sins of humanity upon himself in order to soften our hearts, by revealing the depth of his perfect love. The fact that God through we were worth all that pain and suffering should reduce us to silence. We must never forget that Jesus died on the cross so that we might have new life. We should try in our own simple way to imitate him.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Weekend, 45 minutes prior to mass or by appointment.

Sacrament - Anointing of the Sick

1st Wednesday of the Month during mass

For home or hospital visit - Please contact the parish office (during office hours)

Outside of office hours - call pastor directly on cell phone or at the rectory.

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.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

Sun 29 Sedar Meal 6:00 pm
Tues 31 Catechism Cancelled

APRIL

Wed 1 Catechism Cancelled
Tues 7 Catechism 5:00 - 7:45 pm
Wed 8 Catechism 5:30 - 8:00 pm
Sat 11 Baptism class 11:30 am
Sat 11 Syro Malabar Mass 4:00 pm

ST.AMBROISE CHURCH EASTER MASSES

April 5th - Easter Sunday 1:00 pm

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH EASTER MASSES

March 28th - Palm Saturday 7:30 pm
March 29th - Palm Sunday 10:30 am
April 2nd - Holy Thursday
Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 pm
April 3rd - Good Friday
Passion of the Lord 3:00 pm
April 4th - Easter Vigil
Resurrection of Our Lord 7:30 pm
April 5th - Easter Sunday 10:30 am

**** Please Note:** During the Holy Triduum, mass times will be longer than regular Sunday masses due to additional prayers and sacraments being celebrated during mass.

****Please be Advised:** Incense will be used throughout Holy Week.

Without the burden of afflictions it is impossible to reach the height of grace. The gift of grace increase as the struggle increases - St.Rose of Lima

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS



Our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of **Enda Murray and Donald Verwey**. Please remember them in your prayers. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

BAPTISM CLASS - April 11th at 11:30am

Father is offering a class for those parents who desire the sacrament of baptism for their children in the next 6 months. No registration is necessary. Class will be held in the church and gathering area.



BLESSING OF EASTER FOODS /BASKETS

On Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday during mass, Father Roy will Bless the Easter Foods/Easter Baskets. Please place all baskets to be blessed in front of the alter prior to mass on either Saturday or Sunday.



HOLY THURSDAY ADORATION 8:00 - 10:00 pm

Adoration is a sign of devotion to and worship of Jesus Christ, who is present Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, under the appearance of the consecrated host.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND

- Each year, on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in Catholic churches across the world and the funds raised are sent to the Custody of the Holy Land, which runs and oversees the Church's work around the Holy Places. Cardinal Claudio Gugerotti, Prefect of the Dicastery for Eastern Churches, stated "the act of donating money to support the life of Christians in the Holy Land, may seem small in appearance but in reality is "decisive in its meaning." This gesture is vital for them and essential for the Custody of the Holy Land, which has long safeguarded the places that witnessed the life of the Lord Jesus."

Envelopes are in the gathering area.

FINANCIALS

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

March 14th & 15th	\$ 1,687.75
March 15th Auto Debit	\$ 2,385.00
March 21st & 22nd	\$ 1,788.35

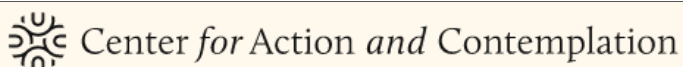
Sharing God's Gifts

Annual Target Amount	Amount collected to March 22nd	Year to Date + / -
\$22,419.00	\$2,735.00	- \$ 19,684.00

CHILDREN'S COLLECTION - CHALICE



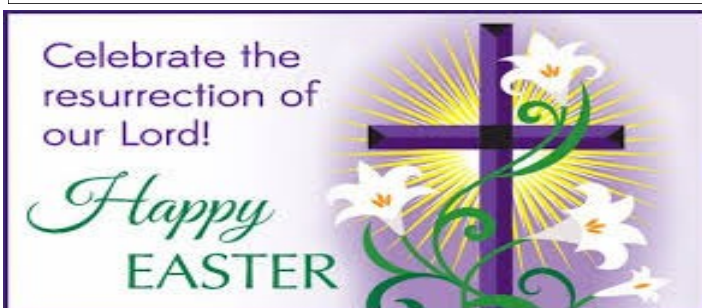
Year-to-date	\$ 1,385.75
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Center for Action and Contemplation

INVITATION TO CONTEMPLATION

Our times seem full of world-wide discord and fear, power and violence. How is God calling us to respond? We begin with contemplation. Fr. Richard Rohr, founder of the **Center for Action and Contemplation** suggests, "Grounding social action in contemplative consciousness is ... a cultural necessity. ... Only a contemplative mind can hold our fear, confusion, vulnerability, and anger and guide us toward love." (Mar 24/26 CAC Daily Meditation) You can find suggested contemplative practices on the CAC website <https://cac.org/practice-with-us/>.



FROM THE CCCB

The Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has issued a Statement **Calling the Catholic Faithful to Prayer for Peace in the Middle East**. The statement affirms that we cannot remain indifferent to an armed conflict that risks escalating into a prolonged war. "Faced with rising tensions and the risk of escalating war, we invite the People of God in Canada to pray for peace. Let us ask the Lord to increase the thirst for justice, reconciliation, and true peace in the world. Let us pray that the leaders involved in this armed conflict will allow the light of wisdom and dialogue to guide their decisions. Where fear and anger threaten to overwhelm hearts, may the Holy Spirit inspire gestures of openness, reconciliation, and peace". The Statement encourages all Catholics to draw upon the message of the Gospel by becoming peacemakers, cultivating solidarity with people affected by war, and sustaining hope for a better world.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Palm Sunday - March 28/29

We are at the doorsteps of Holy Week where we remember Christ's passion. Jesus humbled himself and let go of everything, emptying himself for us. During this time of Lent, how have we joined the Lord? Has our prayer, penitential practices and almsgiving moved us to humble ourselves before the Lord? Have we let go of things that keep us from being authentic stewards for Christ Jesus? How have we "emptied" ourselves so that when we do approach the table of the Lord, we can be nourished by His body and blood? As disciples of the Lord Jesus and stewards of His gift of faith, it is time to evaluate our lives under the cross.



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL 2026:

For Priests In Crisis - Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Palm Sunday Saturday, March 28th Sunday, March 29th	7:00 pm 10:30 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	For all Parishoners For all Parishoners
Monday, March 30th	7:00 pm	Good Shepherd	For the repose of all souls in St. Emeric's Cemetery
Wednesday, April 1st	10:00 am	Good Shepherd	✠Ray Taillon by Lori Thompson
Thursday, April 2nd	7:00 pm	Good Shepherd	For all Parishoners
Friday, April 3rd	3:00 pm	Good Shepherd	For all Parishoners
Easter Vigil Saturday, April 4th	7:30 pm	Good Shepherd	Resurrection of our Lord
Easter Sunday Sunday, April 5th	10:30 am 1:00 pm	Good Shepherd St.Ambroise	For all Parishoners For all Parishoners
Thursday, April 9th	10:00 am	Good Shepherd	For the repose of the souls of ✠Soccoro Melendrez & ✠Alicia Malobago by Family
Friday, April 10th	10:00 am	Good Shepherd	✠Rene Phillipot by Friends
2nd Sunday of Easter Saturday, April 11th Sunday, April 12th	7:00 pm 10:30 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	Deceased members of the Zdan & Zalluski Families ✠Heinz Ridder by the Family

ANOINTING OF THE SICK - 1st Wednesday, of every month, (April 1st) during Mass (10:00 am), there will be anointing of the sick. The Sacrament can bring comfort and peace to many. All parishioners, whether one desires anointing or not, are invited to come and pray as a community for those receiving this Sacrament.

CHRISM MASS - March 31st at 7:00pm at St. Mary's Cathedral

All Parishioners are invited to attend the Chrism Mass. During this mass the Bishop consecrates the Sacred Chrism (used for Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders) and blesses the Oil of Catechumens (for Baptism) and the Oil of the Sick (for anointing the seriously ill). Priests from across the diocese gather with the bishop to renew their ordination promises, demonstrating unity. It marks the unity of the Church and the role of the bishop as a shepherd, with the oils symbolizing the Holy Spirit's presence in the sacraments. A reception will follow in the parish hall.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Youth for Christ
Youth Unlimited™ PORTAGE

**Friday,
April 17th**

PEROGY FUNDRAISER - YFC Portage has an answer for that nightly question: “What’s for dinner?”. Well, at least for one night! Friday, April 17th is the annual perogy fundraising supper. Pre-order your meals of cottage cheese perogies (with cream gravy) or potato and cheese perogies (with sour cream). They will come with juicy farmers sausage. Call the YFC office at 204-239-6763 to order, or check out their website at www.yfcportage.com.