

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISHES OF GOOD SHEPHERD & ST. AMBROISE

April 11th & 12th, 2026 - Divine Mercy Sunday

April 18th & 19th, 2026 - 3rd 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

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.

In an age when faith is becoming more difficult and mystery is on the way out, the church puts before us the deeply moving encounter between Christ and Thomas, his doubting disciple. We make a big mistake if we dismiss Thomas as a man of little faith. Who could really blame him for not accepting the disciples' story about the risen Christ without a single shred of evidence? After what happened on Good Friday, it was asking too much of his type of personality. Thomas had seen the Lord, who he loved deeply, die the death of a criminal, crucified between two thieves and a few hours earlier he had witnessed Peter promise fidelity to Jesus and then deny him three times. He was disheartened, disillusioned and angry which made him hardhearted in his questioning and unwilling to accept the word of others. The episode paints, in dramatic fashion, the journey of many people from a position of total disbelief to one of absolute faith. Having doubts in our search for truth is nothing to be ashamed of and can actually turn out to be a growing point in the life of faith. Thomas was doubtful about the key issues of whether Jesus had risen from the dead and was actually alive. Therein lies the heart of our whole believing. Thomas with his intelligent questioning and his need for satisfactory answers is a good type of person to have in any community, and acts as a defense against the excesses of pious belief. In many ways he echoes moments of our own uncertainty, when we question the religious values handed down to us. During life, faith is an on-going struggle and there are moments of crisis when our minds are darkened and our vision of God is blurred by clouds of doubt. The risen Christ is present in our midst and we are called to live our lives in his name. Faith is our meeting with God and there will be moments in life when all else fails and we have nothing to fall back on except our faith!

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	14	Catechism	5:00 - 7:45 pm
Wed	15	Catechism	5:30 - 8:00 pm
Sun	19	Spanish Mass	5:00 pm
Tues	21	Catechism	5:00 - 7:45 pm
Wed	22	Catechism	5:30 - 8:00 pm
Wed	22	Faith Enrichment Course	7:00 pm
Wed	23	Confirmation Class	7:00 pm

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.

FAITH ENRICHMENT CLASS

Once again, Father Roy will be offering Faith Enrichment Classes on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the church. (Previously called "Know your Faith" study group.) Father Roy will be leading a weekly study group focusing on different topics each week including: the Mass, the Sacraments, the Gospel, the books of the bible and any other questions you may have wondered or forgotten since taking catechism as a child. Please join us.



We Joyfully Welcomed Into The Family Of God **Desmond Pashe** who was baptized, received first communion and confirmation in our parish community. May God grant him, his parents, family and godparents many blessings! *"Think of the love that God has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's own children; and that is what we are."* —1 John 3:1



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of **Roger Bruneau & Verna Ball**. Please remember them in your prayers. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

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.



ELECTRONIC BULLETINS

If any parishioner wishes to have the bulletin in electronic form, ie. emailed to them, please send an email to the office at shepherd@mymts.net and we will add you to the list.



The Earth Day - April 22 - theme is **"Our Power, Our Planet,"** a global initiative organized by EARTHDAY.ORG, this theme emphasizes using our collective voices and actions to protect the planet.

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

FINANCIALS

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

March 28th & 29th	\$ 2,081.80
April 1st Auto Debit	\$ 3,410.00
April 4th & 5th	\$ 4,147.50

Sharing God's Gifts

Annual Target Amount	Amount collected to April 5th	Year to Date + / -
\$22,419.00	\$ 3,335.00	- \$ 19,084 .00

CHILDREN'S COLLECTION - CHALICE



Year-to-date	\$ 1,385.75
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Holy Land	\$ 910.00
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PARISH REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

Update - At the end of December, our parish's Refugee Sponsorship application for Y Khiu (pronounced E Q) Nie and his family was submitted to IRCC (Canada Immigration) and processed. We are grateful to all involved in the busy application process. Now we wait for its approval, possibly 2-3 years.

In the meantime, please pray continually for Y Khiu safety in Thailand and his wife and child's safety in Vietnam. We also pray for those in IRCC who are handling our file. Also, consider becoming involved in this ministry when we put out the call once the application is approved. We will need lots of help.



FLOWERS FOR EASTER - Thank you to everyone who made a donation.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION - April 12, – Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) “All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them all according to each one's need.” Acts 2:44-45 The early church practiced the purest form of stewardship. Their generosity was a realization that all they had belonged to God and it was entrusted to them for the sake of others.

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.

World Day Prayer For Vocations - April 26th - Prayer for Vocations - O God, who have chosen the apostles to make disciples for all nations and who by Baptism and Confirmation have called all of us to build up your Holy Church. Bless our married couples and help them live out their vocation through Christian Family life, a true Domestic Church, always open to your voice. We earnestly implore you to choose from among us, your children, many Priests, Deacons and Religious Brothers and Sisters who will love you with their whole heart and will gladly spend their entire lives to make you known and loved by all. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

2nd Sunday of Easter Saturday, April 11th	7:00 pm	Good Shepherd	Deceased members of the Zdan & Zalluski Families
Sunday, April 12th	10:30 am	Good Shepherd	†Heinz Ridder by the Family
Wednesday, April 15th	10:00 am	Good Shepherd	†Enda & †Rachael Murray by Dave & Rosemary Barney
Thursday, April 16th			No Mass
Friday, April 17th	10:00 am	Good Shepherd	Healing Prayers For a Family
3rd Sunday of Easter Saturday, April 18th	7:30 pm	Good Shepherd	†Harold Hassman by Marlene Wollbaum & Family
Sunday, April 19th	10:30 am	Good Shepherd	†Sister Evelyn Pierret(Sisters of the Cross) by Lorie & Arthur Rey
Wednesday, April 22nd	10:00 am	Good Shepherd	†Debbie Lane by Lorie Thompson
Thursday, April 23rd	10:00 am	Good Shepherd	Deceased Members of the Piano Family
Friday, April 24th	10:00 am	Good Shepherd	Deceased Members of the Partridge & DeRuyck Families
4th Sunday of Easter 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

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration of Mercy – April 12 - **Reflection - Tracking Thomas** - Of the apostles named among the 12, we have real affection for only a handful. There are not many fan clubs for Bartholomew (with apologies to the St. Bartholomew Churches out there!). Few folks have personal devotions to Philip or James the son of Alphaeus. Others may feel mild empathy for Matthew-Levi, tax collector and pariah among his own people. But when you ask for a show of hands for favorite apostle, you’ll get takers for Peter the impetuous and Thomas the doubter. Saint Peter has enormous stature in the church for obvious reasons; we love Saint Thomas for only one: the Gospel of John. Thomas has nothing to say apart from John’s testimony to him, which makes him a near chatterbox by comparison with the synoptic gospels. In John he distinguishes himself four times: before the raising of Lazarus, when he urges the other disciples to go to Bethany with Jesus and to die with him. Second, at Jesus’ last discourse he frankly admits he doesn’t know the way to follow Jesus. Third, after the Resurrection appearance in the locked room Thomas gets himself into the present mess commemorated this Sunday. Finally, he is one of the disciples singled out by name getting in the boat with Peter to go fishing. This last passage should be the one by which we remember Thomas, because it’s the most telling. In the end it shouts to us: Thomas got on board! From the start Jesus calls disciples for the expressed purpose of going on a fishing expedition for his sake. It’s significant, then, that Peter’s first post-Resurrection decision is to go fishing. The roll call of those who got in the boat with Peter is not random: Thomas the confessor, Nathaniel the reformed cynic, Zebedee’s now humbled sons, and two mysterious “others”—one of whom is the Beloved Disciple. No point in spilling more ink in the controversy of who the Beloved Disciple is, which won’t be solved here. It’s more intriguing to consider who the other “other” might be: Does that leave room for you or me in the boat? Taking in the whole story of Thomas at a glance is important because many of us get stuck in this one episode, which reveals Thomas the Problem. It’s obvious that John’s intention is to provide us with Thomas the Solution, the redeemed one, viewed over the spectrum of his discipleship. Just like Thomas, we problem disciples still have time to get on board. – Alice Camille