

Church of the Good Shepherd



**Congratulations to Kylen Kole and his
parents. From left to right, Brad and
Chelsea Bernat Zaboroski & godparents,
Gabrielle & Trenton Bernat.**

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME– OCTOBER 5, 2025

Week of October 6, 2025, Calendar of Events

Rosary 1st Sunday of every month 20 min. before 9am Mass
Monday, October 6th – Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 6PM
Tuesday, October 7th
Wednesday, October 8th – Priests' Day of Reflection
Thursday, October 9th – Bible Study begins 10AM or 4:30PM
Friday, October 10th
Saturday, October 11th

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR OUR HOMEBOUND,
 THOSE ON OUR PRAYER CHAIN, AND THE HOSPITALIZED.

COLLECTION

09/28/2025

# of Registered Families	591
# of Envelopes Used	170
Attendance at Mass	548
Attendance Online 9/28	267
Offertory Collection	\$5,225.50
Loose Offertory	\$897.00
Catholic Education	\$205.00
Missionary	\$60.00

Church of the Good Shepherd

Office Phone: (724)528-3539

Office Address: 3613 Sharon Road
 (PO Box 226)
 West Middlesex, PA 16159

PASTOR – Fr. Glenn Whitman

Email: pastor@goodshepherdwm.org

RELIGIOUS ED DIR. – Lauren DeFelice

Email: religioused@goodshepherdwm.org

PARISH SECRETARY – Rhonda Dolin

Email: parishoffice@goodshepherdwm.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR – Greg Hansley

PLANT MAINTENANCE – Gary Wojtalik

KITCHEN MANAGER – Michelle Whalen

PRAYER REQUEST

Email: prayerrequestsgswm@gmail.com

Phone: (724)977-3369

Mass Intention Date & Time	Intentions	Requested By
Monday, October 6 th at 8:30am	John McKinley	Craig & Debbie Cox
Tuesday, October 7 th at 8:30am	Patricia Graney	Ed Robich
Wednesday, October 8 th	NO MASS NO COMMUNION SERVICE	
Thursday, October 9 th at 8:30am	Michael Brendan Biggins	Debbie & Brian Biggins
Friday, October 10 th at 8:30am	Andy & Louise Muszik	Darla David
Saturday, October 11 th at 6:00pm	Fred Lange, Jr.	Family
Sunday, October 12 th at 9:00am	Helen David	Husband, Children & Grandchildren
Sunday, October 12 th at 11:30am	Chuck Rosati	Mary Svirbly

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	USHERS (HU – Head Usher)	GREETERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Saturday, Oct. 11 th at 6:00pm	Donna & John Pavlovich	Fran Deeb Frank Langosh Monica Hanrahan David Pringle	Mat Macchia – HU Brian & Debra Biggins	Connie Titus	Alexa & Antonio Macchia
Sunday, Oct. 12 th at 9:00am	Ken Rogers	Ken Rogers Mike Bartolo Marsh & Ken Garver	Ed Grober – HU Darlene & Don Kotuby	Tom Graney	Vincent Miller
Sunday, Oct. 12 th at 11:30am	Angela Dalessandro	DJ Puskar Rudy Koraus Arlene Repko Ann U'Halie	Deb Sokolak – HU Raymond Repko Maurice Igou	VOLUNTEER	James Maynard

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, WEST MIDDLESEX, PA



FROM OUR PASTOR

“The disciples replied, ‘O Lord, increase our faith.’”

What the disciples ask seems pious and fitting; Jesus has just been encouraging them about what is expected of his followers. That included the renunciation of material wealth, unconditional forgiveness, being mindful of the plight of the poor – and we can imagine these demands weigh heavily on those still quite attached to the world and its value system. So, trying to be diligent, they ask for more faith in order to embrace these obligations. We can almost hear Jesus laughing!

More faith? He says. What more would you do with the faith you already have? Faith, like love, like commitment, like pregnancy is a you-are-or-you’re-not proposition. If you surrender to love, it will enfold you. If you make a commitment with a sincere heart, you’ll learn how to be committed. If you’re a little bit pregnant, the rest of pregnancy will follow naturally. *And if you believe*, one act of faith is enough to uproot a tree and transplant it into the sea. And if you don’t believe, don’t even bother trying to wrap your arms around that tree!

As human beings, we tend to default to the principle of “more is better.” In Catholic theology, it’s called “concupiscence,” the sin of desire, and it’s the best name for original sin because every sin originates with the yearning for more. The problem is that with “values” or “virtues,” they defy being gathered up or being measured. We may balk at the unfairness of this system but talk to the One handing out the same wage at the end of the day to all who worked in the vineyard. When it’s your vineyard, you get to make the rules.

In order to better understand this dynamic, Jesus employs an example based on a “servant/master” story where the servant does what s/he is required to do. That’s a class structure we reject in America, but here it is not a metaphor for oppression or inequality, but rather promise or liberation. If our faith is the size of a puny mustard seed, we can trust that great things will be accomplished *because the power doesn’t depend on us!* God is the one who comes up with the

authority – our job is only to believe. Being a servant should be a relief to us not a burden. If the saints sat around trying to cure a lame person or produce the stigmata, it would have been a profound waste of time. It wasn’t in them to do – it was up to God to provide.

Our seed is all we are given. And one seed is enough! You don’t have to work at Kraynak’s to know that a seed that is not planted will not produce anything. That’s why the church encourages us to make an ACT of faith, a CHOICE for faith, a deliberate bow to the will of God. After that you may just want to duck. Flying trees can be a hazard, and you never know where they’ll end up!

SHATTERED MIRRORS

Have you ever experienced the disorientation of a fun house hall of mirrors? I recall going to Waldemere, an amusement park outside of Erie, for the annual school picnic and getting lost in a part of it. It was a dark, seemingly endless maze of trap doors, moveable walls, tilting floors and a hall of mirrors that distorted images. It was great fun for a while, but I got separated from my second-grade buddies and couldn’t get my bearings and wondered if I’d ever get out.

Franciscan Fr. Richard Rohr writes that for many people modern life has become a hall of mirrors. We have no external reference point for our lives. Without putting God at the center of our lives, we have nothing and no one to set our direction by. In the age of the individual, many people put their own wants at the center of their existence, which Rohr likens to trying to live our lives in a hall of mirrors. Many of us are trying to find our way out.

In the first reading today, Habakkuk offers a remedy: “*Wait on the Lord.*” He points out those who fail to focus on the Lord will inevitably lack integrity. They are like people looking at themselves in a shattered mirror. Their lives are fragmented and disconnected. And yes, it may seem hard to wait – in prayer, in meditation, or simple awareness. Yet Habakkuk promises that “*God will not disappoint.*”

Falling Upward, Richard Rohr, 2023

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Calendar

CLASS TIME IS FROM

10:00AM - 11:15AM

- October 5 Class all Grades K-9
- October 12 Class all Grades K-9
- Confirmation Class Mass at 9:00AM
- October 19 Safe Environment Training.
- October 26 Charity Dinner
NO CLASS – Teen Shepherds work dinner

Safe Environment Training

The Religious education students will have their annual training on Sunday, October 19. The USCCB has indicated that the mandated child protection/safe environment training of children and youth has resulted in more children coming forward to report cases of inappropriate behavior on the part of adults. With this information and experience in mind, the Diocese of Erie requires that all children and youth in a parish or Catholic school be presented age-appropriate programs each year. If you DO NOT want your child/children to participate, please contact the Religious Education office in writing. Your child/children will be withheld from the program when it is presented. Videos this year are elementary: Safety Net Kids Bullies Stand Tall be Strong and middle grades: Standing tall learning assertiveness skills.

What's coming up?

- Anointing of the Sick will take place on October 19th at the 11:30 AM Mass.
- All Soul's Memorial during the 11:30 AM Mass on Nov. 2nd

Adult Education Prophet Isaiah:

He is the first and greatest of the four major prophets. Standing at the head of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, Isaiah's writings constitute the single most important prophetic book of the Old Testament. His theological vision is expansive, and it has exerted an enormous influence over subsequent Jewish and Christian theology.



Classes beginning Thursday, October 9- November 13
Mornings: 10:00am – 11:30am
Afternoons: 4:30pm – 6:00pm

Adult Education

We talk often about care for the poor. Did you know that is one of the seven pillars of Catholic Social teaching? Do you want to learn about all seven? Lauren will be leading a discussion group about them.



Beginning October 21 and 22
Ending November 18 and 19
Tuesday nights : 4:30 – 5:30pm
Wed. morning: 10:00- 11:00am

Baptisms: *Kylen Kole Zaboroski* was Baptized Saturday, Sept. 27th, 2025. He is the son of Brad and Chelsea Bernat Zaboroski.

Congratulations to the Family!

Baptisms: *Harper Marie Hilinski* will be Baptized after the 6:00 PM Mass this weekend. She is the daughter of Timothy and Brittany Hilinski.

Congratulations to the Family!

**GOOD SHEPHERD PANTRY,
MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE**

This month, we are collecting

Assorted Canned Soups

There will be grocery carts in the
Gathering Space for drop-off.

God Bless and Thank you

Good Shepherd Family!

*"A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be
refreshed."*

Proverbs 11:25

Food Pantry Committee



FOOD PANTRY NEWS
2 BIG THANK YOU'S

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped
with the distribution of groceries on Oct.
1st. And a special *Thank you* to the
Religious Ed. kids who helped with
bagging this month's groceries.

Thank you very much for all who donated
food items for our September Food Drive.
We collected 200 containers of Pasta Sauce
and 21 non-perishable foods.

The Food Pantry is in need of plastic
grocery bags.

There will be a box provided in the
Gathering Space for the next 2 weeks.

Thank you,
God bless,
Food Pantry Team

ANNUAL CHARITY DINNER

Date: Sunday, October 26th
Time: 12:00-3:00pm

Place: Good Shepherd Parish

Church Social Hall
3613 Sharon Road
West Mifflin, PA 15159

Hosted by

Church of the Good Shepherd PPC

**A DELICIOUS
HAM AND SCALLOPED POTATO
DINNER WILL BE SERVED.**



Presale tickets will be available
after all Masses until

Sunday, October 19th

Tickets will also be sold at the door
on the day of the event.

Presale Ticket Price
Adults \$12
Children \$5

At the Door Ticket Price
Adult \$15
Children \$6

**This year's proceeds go to Joshua's
Haven, AWARE, & Hunters Sharing
the Harvest.**

**ATTENTION MINISTERS
OF THE CHURCH**

Please email the office with any dates that
you are not available for in November,
December and January. I will be working
on the Ministry Schedule for those
months. The sooner, the better!

2026 MASS BOOK & NEW POLICY

The 2026 Mass Book for Intentions will
be open on Thursday, October 23, 2025.

❖ 3 weekend Masses only,
per person/family



**ALTAR
ROSARY
SOCIETY**

Altar Rosary meeting is October 9
starting with rosary at 6:00 PM.
All women of the Parish are welcome.

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OUR LADY OF FATIMA CAVATELLI FOR SALE

Our Lady of Fatima's Cavatelli can be purchased in the Good Shepherd Social Hall on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9am – 11am. The cost is \$15 for a 5 lb. bag of cavatelli.

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 724-877-0423
 Facebook

Kick-off | September 17

SHENANGO VALLEY CATHOLIC
YOUTH NIGHTS

WEDNESDAYS | 7:00 - 8:30PM
 DINNER | GAMES | FRIENDS | FAITH

NOTRE DAME | 2325 HIGHLAND RD, HERMITAGE

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH | 9-12TH GRADE
You do not have to be Catholic - bring your friends!

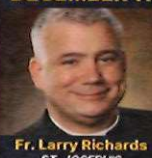
Contact Regional Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Gabby Maak
 Email: youthforChrist@dioceseofErie.org | Phone: (724) 301-6127



OCTOBER 16

Sr. Sarah Rose Dent
 Franciscan Sister, L.O.R.
 ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S

DECEMBER 11



Fr. Larry Richards
 ST. JOSEPH'S

JANUARY 29



Fr. Michael Scanga
 ST. ANTHONY'S

MARCH 12



Fr. Brandon Feikles
 GOOD SHEPHERD

MAY 21



Fr. Chris Mannerino
 NOTRE DAME

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RSVP each month:



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Log on to www.SharonCatholic.org
 or
 Stop by the St. Joseph Church Office, Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.
 79 Case Ave., Sharon, PA 16146

RAFFLE DINNER
 October 18, 6:30 pm, in St. Joseph Guild Hall
RSVP ARE REQUIRED by OCTOBER 13.
 Cost: \$15-adult, \$10-youth ages 4-10,
 3 and under free.
 To RSVP call: 724-981-3232

A Night at the Races Saturday, November 8, 2025

The Altar and Rosary of Hubbard St. Patrick Church, 225 N. Main St. Hubbard, will be having "A Night at the Races" fundraiser on Saturday, November 8, 2025, in the Parish Hall. Tickets are \$15.00 and include a pizza buffet, snacks, lemonade, coffee and mixers. It will be BYOB and table snacks are allowed. There will also be a 50/50 and basket raffle. Horses can be purchased now for \$20.00, and you name your horse. For horse purchase, tickets or information contact Paulette at 330-518-6353 or Marilyn at 330-720-3777.



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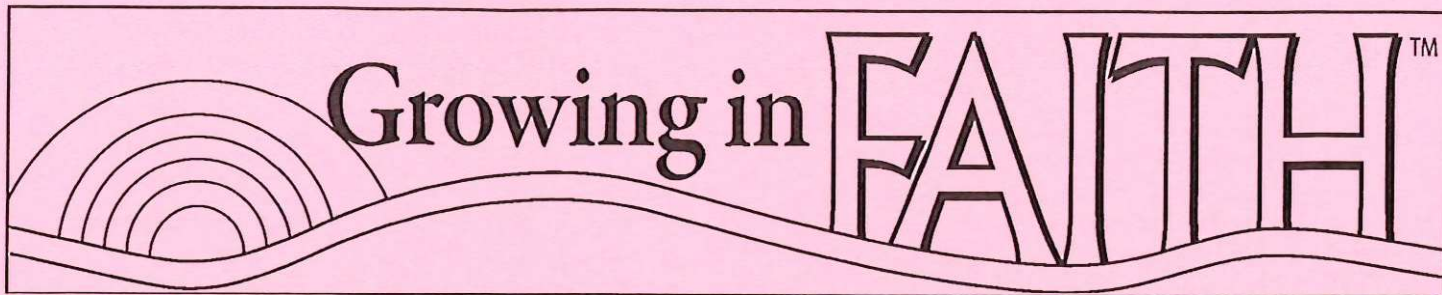
PARISHIONERS REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

CHECK: ☐ New Registration ☐ Change of Address ☐ Moving out of Parish ☐ Want envelopes

Please drop this information into the Offertory basket or mail to the Rectory.



Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

October 2025

Church of the Good Shepherd
West Middlesex, PA

One Minute Meditations

St. Paul of the Cross

Born in seventeenth-century Ovada, Italy, to a noble Catholic family, Paul Francis Danei had a great devotion to the Cross of Christ since he was young. He turned down a respectable marriage to devote his life to prayer, penance, preaching, and works of charity. In 1720, he was called to found an order honoring Jesus' Passion. The Passionist Order received papal approval. The order elected St. Paul as their superior general until his death in 1775.

Celebrating All Hallows Eve

Halloween is a Catholic holy day — it's the vigil of All Saints Day. It even has its own liturgical prayers! One way to recapture a sense of the sacred on this holy vigil is to pray Evening Prayer (Vespers) in the Liturgy of the Hours. It is easily found online and takes about 15 minutes. It's a beautiful, deeply liturgical way to celebrate All Hallows Eve with the Church. Because solemnities "start" the evening before, after Vespers, the party can start!

"If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next... Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in'; aim at earth and you will get neither" C.S. Lewis.

Simple ways to stay rooted in God's love every day

God meets us in powerful ways through the Sacraments, especially at Sunday Mass. But we're not meant to leave His presence at the church door. Our souls need daily contact with His love—through small, intentional acts that anchor us in grace, even during busy or chaotic days.

Start with a Morning Offering. This short prayer dedicates everything you do — your work, joys, and struggles — to God. It turns your entire day into an offering, a prayer in motion. Even when events feel out of control, you've already placed them in His hands. That changes how you carry each moment.

Wearing a crucifix, saint medal, or carrying a Rosary is another way to stay grounded. These sacramentals aren't lucky charms—they're signs of faith and reminders that we belong to God. When worn or used with devotion, they offer quiet strength and speak to the world, even without words.

Next, carry a line of Scripture with you. Choose a verse that speaks to your heart and keep it where you'll see it—on your phone, dashboard, or mirror. Reflect on it throughout the day. God's Word is alive and personal. Even a single verse can give light when your path feels dim.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

Lastly, surround yourself with sacred art. A holy card in your wallet, an image of Christ in your kitchen—these aren't just decorative. They teach, inspire, and prompt prayer. They gently turn your attention toward Heaven in the middle of daily routines.

None of these habits takes much time, but over time, they shape your heart. They help you live with peace, stay open to grace, and remember: God is near, always ready to meet us where we are.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Many Protestant versions of the Our Father include the doxology: "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever." While this line is theologically rich and spiritually uplifting, it was not part of the original prayer Jesus gave His disciples. It does not appear in the earliest and most reliable Gospel manuscripts. Scholars believe it began as a marginal note—

Why does the Catholic Our Father have a different ending?

possibly added for liturgical use—that was later copied into the text. Its inclusion in the King James Bible helped establish it in Protestant tradition, where it remains a beloved conclusion. Though not found in the original biblical text, the doxology reflects the heart of Christian praise and continues to express the glory of God in worship across many denominations.

Holy Hospitality - let love lead during the holidays

We may not have to host the Messiah and twelve hungry disciples on short notice, but the stress St. Martha felt is all too familiar during the holiday season. The good news? Grace can do what we cannot.

To find peace amid pressure, Pope Leo XIII said to begin with silence. Even a few moments of quiet prayer each day can create the space needed for God to work in your heart. Then, he offered two essential practices:

Focus on what matters most. Jesus' friend, Martha, was "anxious and troubled about many things," but Jesus reminded her of the "one thing... necessary" (Luke 10:41-42). Hospitality isn't about perfection—it's about presence. Pope Leo encourages us to make space for real human connection:

to care, to listen, and to truly see those around us. Resist the urge to multitask. And yes—put the phone away.

Choose understanding over offense. The holidays can magnify tensions, but they also offer a sacred opportunity for growth. "It takes effort," Pope Leo admitted, "to understand one another in disagreements, and to forgive when mistakes are made." Approach family gatherings with humility and grace. Assume the best. Be patient, flexible, and quick to forgive. Small acts of mercy often go unseen—but "your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6:18).

This season, let love—not logistics—lead. That's the heart of holy hospitality.

from Scripture

Luke 18:9-14, Divine mercy responds to humility

In this Gospel passage, Jesus contrasts two prayers: one from a respected Pharisee, the other from a despised tax collector—a comparison that would have shocked His audience.

In first-century Jewish society, Pharisees were seen as models of religious observance, while tax collectors were viewed as collaborators with the Roman occupiers and often as corrupt and dishonest.

The Pharisee confidently takes a prominent place in the temple and offers what appears to be a prayer—but it's really a self-congratulatory speech. He thanks God not for grace

received, but for his own perceived righteousness. In contrast, the tax collector stands at a distance, won't even lift his eyes, and offers a single, sincere plea: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

Jesus tells us it was the tax collector—not the Pharisee—who went home justified before God

This parable reminds us that true prayer begins with humility. God isn't impressed by performance or flowery words. He desires contrition, honesty, and a heart open to grace. He already knows us, loves us, and simply asks for our love in return.

Q & A Why do Catholics have different types of Masses?

Liturgical diversity has always been part of the Church's life. Today, when people refer to "different Masses," they may be referring to the different forms, such as the Traditional Latin Mass (also called the Extraordinary Form) and the more familiar post-Vatican II Mass (Novus Ordo, or Ordinary Form).

The Traditional Latin Mass, shaped over centuries, is known for its reverence, use of Latin and chant, and the priest facing *ad orientem*—toward the altar along with the people. It fosters an atmosphere of silence and awe.

The Novus Ordo emerged after the Second Vatican Council, which called for a renewed, simplified liturgy that would be more accessible and participatory. At that time, Latin was no longer widely taught or understood.

Both forms are authentic expressions of the same Eucharistic mystery—the meeting of Heaven and Earth at the altar. When celebrated reverently, each reveals the beauty and depth of the Church's liturgical tradition in distinct but complementary ways.

Feasts & Celebrations

October 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary (1571). This feast was originally named, "Our Lady of Victory" by Pope Pius V, on the victory of the Battle of Lepanto, when the Christians won a critical victory against the Ottomans after praying the Rosary. Pope Gregory XIII later renamed this feast in recognition of this powerful prayer.

October 10 – St. Francis Borgia (1572). St. Francis was a nobleman who served in the Spanish imperial court. After the death of his wife, he gave away all his possessions and joined the Jesuits. He proved to be a good administrator, and as superior

general of the Jesuits, he helped to spread their presence all over Spain and Portugal.

October 14 – St. Callixtus I (222). Born a slave in a Roman household, Callixtus was ordained a deacon by Pope Zephyrinus, whom he later succeeded. Callixtus's election caused an eighteen-year schismatic movement. He fought against heresy and showed tolerance toward sinners. In a time of trial and confusion, he re-opened the Church to all. He was later martyred.

October 28 – Saints Simon and Jude (1st century). St. Simon was a Zealot – Jews who believed the Messiah would free them from political oppression. St. Jude was a fisherman. After following Jesus, they eventually traveled to Persia where they preached the Gospel until they were martyred.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

2025 CHARITY DINNER RECIPIENTS

Parishioners,

The following non-profits were selected from a list of several local organizations to be recipients of this year's proceeds from the Charity Dinner. Please read over these selections and support them by attending our dinner.

Thank you.

HUNTERS SHARING THE HARVEST - This organization is throughout the state of PA but our local group serves Mercer and Lawrence Counties. They pay for the processing of donated deer and then the venison is donated to those in need through food banks including Mercer County Food Bank.

JOSHUA'S HAVEN - This non-profit is a men's shelter but it is currently working on adding a women's shelter to their current building. It will have a separate entrance for the women to use. This organization can then provide homeless women with a place to stay, medical service, meals and guidance, etc. as there is not a shelter for them in the area.

AWARE, INC - Established in 1976 this organization is a Mercer County Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency located in Sharon, PA. AWARE provides help for adults and children dealing with domestic, emotional, elder abuse and sexual violence. It is committed to educate, advocate and support all people in Mercer County impacted by these types of abuse. It is fitting that this group is one of our chosen charities as October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

