

Church of the Good Shepherd

TEEN SHEPHERD'S CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TRIP TO THE EASTWOOD MALL FOR CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 4, 2026

Week of January 5, 2026, Calendar of Events

Rosary 1st Sunday of every month 20 min. before 9am Mass

Monday, January 5th

Tuesday, January 6th

Wednesday, January 7th – Food Pantry 3:00 - 4:30PM

Thursday, January 8th

Friday, January 9th

Saturday, January 10th

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

COLLECTION

" of Registered Families

Envelopes Used

Attendance Online

Offertory Collection

Loose Offertory

Children's Envelopes

COLLECTION INFORMATION WILL BE IN LATER BULLETIN

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

PRAAYER REQUEST

Email: prayerrequestsgswm@gmail.com

Phone: (724)977-3369

Mass Intention Date & Time

Intentions

Requested By

Monday, January 5th at 8:30am

Richard Fetsko

Jean & Frank Fetsko

Tuesday, January 6th at 8:30am

Monsignor Robert Malene

Debbie & Craig Cox

Wednesday, January 7th

NO MASS

Thursday, January 8th at 8:30am

For Our Parishioners

Friday, January 9th at 8:30am

Margaret Podleyon

John & Donna Pavlovich

Saturday, January 10th at 6:00pm

Geraldine Bicek

Nephew, Ed Robich

Sunday, January 11th at 9:00am

Fr. James Downs

Lauren D. & the Religious Ed. Teachers

Sunday, January 11th at 11:30am

Anna Mezei

Ed Robich

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LECTOR

EUCARISTIC MINISTERS

USHERS (HU – Head Usher)

GREETERS

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, Jan. 10th
at 6:00pm

Donna & John
Pavlovich

David Pringle
Frank Langosh
Fran Deeb
Gary Salatino

Mat Macchia – HU
Kathy Bauer
Cindy Adamo

Carol Baker

Reagan & Hadley
Simmons

Sunday, Jan. 11th
at 9:00am

Ken Garver

Ken Garver
Marsh Garver
Tom Hubert
Christine Schwarz

Ed Grober – HU
Jeff Creveling
Neil Hosick

Judy Selenchik

Luke Seelbaugh

Sunday, Jan. 11th
at 11:30am

Jennifer Muir

Rudy Koraus
Judy Miller
Beth Garrett
Ann U'Halie

Deb Sokolak – HU
Raquel Collins
Maurice Igoi

VOLUNTEER

Madison
McClelland and
or VOLUNTEER

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, WEST MIDDLESEX, PA



FROM OUR PASTOR

"Where is the one who is born king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him."

Those astrologers or wise men from the East have picked up a lot of baggage on their journey through the centuries. First, they got a number - three - though the gospel story says nothing about how many there were. As time went on, they got kingships because the psalm we pray today as a responsorial speaks of kings bearing gifts. They were given races after the first millennium, not by scripture or Divine Revelation, but because artisans who created manger scene statuary thought that each "king" should represent one of the known races: African, Caucasian and Oriental. (*And yes, there are many more races on earth, but someone already decided that there were only 3 magi. See sentence # 2 above.*)

Of course, if we already have a number, we might as well come up with names for each of them. Whether this was done by a lottery or some sort of vote, we settled on Balthasar, Gaspar and Melchior. In 1248, construction began on one of the world's most beautiful buildings, Germany's Cologne cathedral to house a gold casket that supposedly contains their relics. When you think about it, it seems they have so much baggage that we can no longer see who they are.

So, what's this celebration all about? Literally, an epiphany is a showing. It's a celebration of the showing of Christ to people beyond the shepherds and residents of Bethlehem. That is – US.

Jesus was born of Jewish parents in a Jewish town, a Jewish boy who grew up to be a Jewish man. Why would the birth of Jesus mean anything more to the greater world than the birth of any other Jew? Yes, he is the incarnate presence of God on earth, but of what significance would that be to those who are not themselves members of the chosen people, the Jews? Other great acts of God for those people did not particularly help others. Moses led the Hebrews

through the sea, but it was not the best thing to ever happen to the Egyptian Chariot corps!

What we celebrate today is the wonderful love of God that did not limit itself to a single people. Jesus came to and for the Jewish people. But he also came to all of us who have no natural ties to them.

Were that not the case, most of us would not be followers of Christ. Most Catholics, most Christians, are not Jews by descent. We are Chinese and Arapaho, Magyars and Armenians, Slavs and Irish, Indonesians and Americans and Thais. We are everybody and we all bring to the church our own ways of being Christian, our own colors to add to the caravan.

That's what we celebrate today, what we give thanks for today. God has chosen to love us, the unchosen people. The centuries God spent, the prophets God sent, were all meant to build a people within whom a savior could be born for all of us. On Epiphany we celebrate the fact that Christmas was not just for one people; Christmas is for all.

So, who are these wise astrologers? They are all of us. We are the strangers who come from afar, from outside the chosen people, to worship the king of the Jews. We come to Christ, conscious that we have no right to him, and grateful that God's love isn't hemmed in.

Like the astrologers, we come to worship. We don't bring the gold of a king, the frankincense of a god or the myrrh of the dead, but we worship him as the One who died and rose. We bring the gifts of our personalities, cultures, traditions and even our sins. And we invite others to join us.

Along with them, we bring our ways of praying, our ways of singing, our ways of thinking and our ways of acting. We ought also give thanks for each other, for the variety of our fellow travelers and for what we bring as "*bearing gifts we travel afar.*"

Keep following yonder star!

Father Glenn and Father Frank

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Calendar

CLASS TIME IS FROM 10:00AM -11:15AM

- **January 4 Classes Resume**
- **January 11 Class all grades K-9**
- **January 18 Schedule Change**
- **NO CLASS ANY GRADE**
Catechist Inservice
- **January 25 Class all grades K-9**

Parenting Pointers: Consider doing something pro-active for the new year like starting the tradition of having a Family Night once a week. Start today by playing a family game together. Need more ideas for Family Nights? Check out *Just Family Nights*. A few simplified versions of Family Nights from the book are *on the Family Activities part of my website*.

Hi,

Personal Thank-You from the Czap Family to Yours

I just wanted to reach out and personally thank you for the kindness and support you've shown my family and me during this heartbreakin and challenging time. Your generosity — whether it was through a donation, attending the spaghetti dinner, checking in on us, praying for our family, or simply offering support in whatever way you were able — has meant more than I could ever put into words.

Every single act, big or small, made a real difference. We are grateful for every bit of love that was shown to us, even if all someone could offer was a prayer. It all mattered. It all lifted us. And it all reminded us that we are surrounded by an incredible community of people who care.

This tragic situation has been one of the hardest things we've faced, but it has also brought unexpected blessings. It taught our kids what true community looks like — people coming together, caring deeply, and showing up for one another. And it reminded my husband and me of the beauty of community and the importance of slowing down, appreciating life, and recognizing the goodness around us. Our perspective on life, gratitude, and connection has been forever changed.

Thank you again for being part of this circle of support, love, and strength. Your kindness brought us comfort and hope when we needed it most. We will always carry this gratitude with us.

With heartfelt appreciation,
Melissa

GOOD SHEPHERD FOOD PANTRY MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

This month, we are collecting

Tuna and Egg Noodles



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

ATTENTION MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Please email or call the church with your dates to avoid in February, March, & April. I will be working on the schedule soon. Thanks!

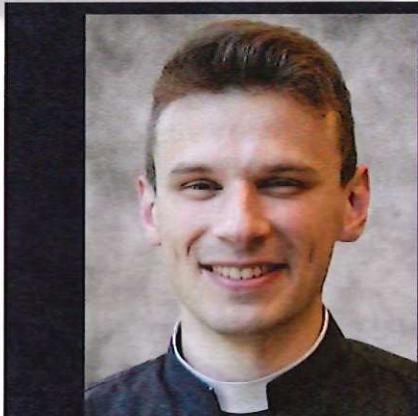
Contribution Statements for Tax Purposes

If you wish to receive a statement of giving for your 2025 income tax records, please fill out the information below. Please return it to the parish office or by placing it in the mail or in the collection basket marked to the attention of the Parish Secretary.

Full Name _____

Envelope # _____

**FOOD PANTRY
DISTRIBUTION
IS WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7TH
FROM 3:00 - 4:30 PM**



JANUARY 29

Fr. Michael Scanga
Priest in Diocese of Erie

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Bl. Franz Jägerstätter



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Time: 7:00-8:30PM

Doors Open at 6:30PM for Live Music



RSVP Here:

Scan Here!

Or Email Gabby @ youthforChrist@dioceseofErie.org

Ways to celebrate Epiphany from Teaching Catholic Kids

1. Bless your home and household on Epiphany

A more traditional form of the Epiphany blessing involves using blessed chalk to write the letters C, M, and B, plus the year, above the main entrance to the home (or above the door to each room in the house), like so: 20 + C + M + B + 18. The letters are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also represent the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means: “May Christ bless the house.” Of course, the + represents the cross.

2. Send the magi on a journey through your house

If you have a manger set, bring out the three kings on Christmas Day—but instead of placing them at the manger right away, put them somewhere else in your house so that they can journey to the manger over the twelve days between Christmas Day and the traditional date for the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6).

3. Hold a procession of the magi

On the Feast of the Epiphany, read the Gospel account of the visit of the three wise men (see [Matthew 2:1-12](#)), then have your children march through the house holding the figures of the three kings and singing “[We Three Kings](#).”

4. Eat King's Cake

A popular Epiphany tradition in many cultures, the King's Cake (or King Cake) is a sweet cake in which a small figure of the baby Jesus is hidden. Searching for the baby Jesus in the cake imitates the Magi's search for the baby Jesus. You can find great recipes for King's Cake, along with some cultural background, over at [Catholic Cuisine](#).

HELP NEEDED

Housekeeper Wanted:

Fr. John Hindman and Fr. Frank DiCristina are in need of a housekeeper one day every two weeks. Work would entail dusting and cleaning.

If you are interested, please contact Fr. John at 951-236-8024.

Matthew Kelly books are in the Gathering Space. Please take one!

HELP NEEDED

Retired teacher & lector needs help with some housekeeping and organizing for 2 half days a week. \$20-25 per hour. Call 724-981-1954. (Mary Liz Moroco)



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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.