

# 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** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month 20 min. before 9am Mass  
**Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>** – Food Pantry 3:00 - 4:30PM  
**Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**

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

## Church of the Good Shepherd

**Office Phone:** (724)528-3539  
**Office Address:** 3613 Sharon Road  
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 West Middlesex, PA 16159

**PASTOR – Fr. Glenn Whitman**

Email: [pastor@goodshepherdwm.org](mailto:pastor@goodshepherdwm.org)

**RELIGIOUS ED DIR. – Lauren DeFelice**

Email: [religioused@goodshepherdwm.org](mailto:religioused@goodshepherdwm.org)

**PARISH SECRETARY – Rhonda Dolin**

Email: [parishoffice@goodshepherdwm.org](mailto:parishoffice@goodshepherdwm.org)

**MUSIC DIRECTOR – Greg Hansley**

**PLANT MAINTENANCE – Gary Wojtalik**

**KITCHEN MANAGER – Michelle Whalen**

**PRAYER REQUEST**

Email: [prayerrequestsgswm@gmail.com](mailto:prayerrequestsgswm@gmail.com)

Phone: (724)977-3369

### COLLECTION

# of Registered Families

Envelopes Used

Attendance Omm.

Offertory Collection

Loose Offertory

Children's Envelopes

COLLECTION INFORMATION WILL BE IN LATER BULLETIN

Mass Intention Date & Time	Intentions	Requested By
Monday, January 5 <sup>th</sup> at 8:30am	Richard Fetsko	Jean & Frank Fetsko
Tuesday, January 6 <sup>th</sup> at 8:30am	Monsignor Robert Malene	Debbie & Craig Cox
Wednesday, January 7 <sup>th</sup>	NO MASS	
Thursday, January 8 <sup>th</sup> at 8:30am	For Our Parishioners	
Friday, January 9 <sup>th</sup> at 8:30am	Margaret Podleyon	John & Donna Pavlovich
Saturday, January 10 <sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm	Geraldine Bicek	Nephew, Ed Robich
Sunday, January 11 <sup>th</sup> at 9:00am	Fr. James Downs	Lauren D. & the Religious Ed. Teachers
Sunday, January 11 <sup>th</sup> at 11:30am	Anna Mezei	Ed Robich

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	USHERS (HU – Head Usher)	GREETERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Saturday, Jan. 10 <sup>th</sup> 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. 11 <sup>th</sup> 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. 11 <sup>th</sup> at 11:30am	Jennifer Muir	Rudy Koraus Judy Miller Beth Garrett Ann U'Halie	Deb Sokolak – HU Raquel Collins Maurice Igoi	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Madison McClelland and or <b>VOLUNTEER</b>

# 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.

### **Personal Thank-You from the Czapski Family to Yours**

Hi,

I just wanted to reach out and personally thank you for the kindness and support you've shown my family and me during this heartbreaking 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

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

## 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 # \_\_\_\_\_



**JANUARY 29**

**Fr. Michael Scanga**  
Priest in Diocese of Erie

We'll be sipping with  
Bl. Franz Jägerstätter



ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH HALL, SHARON

## Sipping with the Saints

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Time: **7:00-8:30PM**

Doors Open at 6:30PM for Live Music



**RSVP Here:**

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Or Email Gabby @ [youthforChrist@dioceseofErie.org](mailto: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.<sup>f</sup>

### 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.