

Church of the Good Shepherd



NEWLY CONFIRMED, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Reagan, Sofia, Cascia,

Ella, Zoe, Luke, Armani, Connor

CONGRATULATIONS!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 3rd, 2026

Week of May 4th, 2026, Calendar of Events

- Rosary** 1st Sunday of every month 20 min. before 9am Mass
Monday, May 4th
Tuesday, May 5th
Wednesday, May 6th – Food Pantry Distribution 3:00-4:30pm
Thursday, May 7th – Altar Rosary End of the Year Picnic 6pm
Friday, May 8th
Saturday, May 9th

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
 (PO Box 226)
 West Middlesex, PA 16159

PASTOR – Fr. Glenn Whitman
 Email: pastor@goodshepherdwm.org

SACRAMENTAL ASSISTANT –
Fr. William Barron

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

COLLECTION	April 26, 2026
# of Registered Families	622
# of Envelopes Used	195
Attendance at Mass	588
Attendance Online 04/26	360
Sunday Collection	\$7,380.00
Loose Offertory	\$974.00
Easter Collection / Ascension	\$25.00/\$25.00
Holy Land / Intl. Needs	\$25.00/\$25.00
Children/Good Shepherd	\$2.00/\$25.00

Mass Intention Date & Time	Intentions	Requested By
Monday, May 4 th 8:30am	Kenneth P. Cline, Sr.	Sr. Mark SCN
Tuesday, May 5 th 8:30am	Carol Watson	Husband, William
Wednesday, May 6 th	NO MASS	
Thursday, May 7 th at 8:30am	For Our Parishioners	
Friday, May 8 th at 8:30am	Scrip Morocco	Sallie Ruffo
Saturday, May 9 th at 6:00pm	For Our Deceased Mothers	
Sunday, May 10 th at 9:00am	For Our Deceased Mothers	
Sunday, May 10 th at 11:30am	For Our Deceased Mothers	

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	USHERS (HU –Head Usher)	GREETERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Saturday, May 9 th at 6:00pm	Lyndon & Michael Cain	Brian Rogers Cliff Sederland Michael Drda Charlene Cain	Mary Ellen Douth – HU Brian & Debra Biggins	Cyndee Adamo	Rianne Cain
Sunday, May 10 th at 9:00am	Carol Gilliland	Mary Ann Palanti Christine Schwarz Diane O'Rourke Ken Rogers	Patrick Miller – HU Vicki Miller Neil Hosick	Rosanne Smithyman	Vincent Miller
Sunday, May 10 th at 11:30am	Olivia Gingras	Aiden Puskar Judy Miller Rudy Koraus DJ Puskar	Pam Esposito – HU Jake Bayuk Don Kemerer	VOLUNTEER	James Maynard

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, WEST MIDDLESEX, PA



FROM OUR PASTOR

Over the last couple weeks, Father Bill has been moving into the upstairs rooms in the rectory, bringing parts of his life, memories of schooling, souvenirs from past assignments to start a new chapter of his life. Not much different than our college age students moving into dorms, or parishioners beginning new lives and jobs hundreds of miles from here and trying to make a new residence feel more like home.

Starting from the beginning, from scratch, has a novelty about it with new classmates, discovering the quickest way between classrooms and the dining hall, realizing that new neighbors from widely scattered parts of the country and a fresh start is sometimes the best course of action.

One of our New Testament heroes, Peter has been sharing the establishment of a new "home" for Christians as our second reading these past couple weeks. It's a familiar tune in the scriptures because God likes to make things new. Old ideas are torn down in order to build again new and as Peter tells it, sometimes it's the slate upon which the past has been scrawled that needs to be refreshed and wiped clean.

Peter, good Jew that he was, had more than a handful of themes and promises from the Old Testament that he transplants into his letter of instruction for the "newbies." Some are: *cornerstone* from Isaiah 28, the *rejected stone* from Psalm 118, a *stumbling block* from Isaiah 8, the *chosen race* from Isaiah 43, a *royal priesthood* from Exodus 19 and a *holy nation* from Deuteronomy 27. The new Christian household he is establishing there isn't a condemnation of the old but rather a vital restoration and extension.

When Jesus offers his friends a place in the new household of God, it not only *seems* like heaven, it is heaven! He tells them he'll go on ahead to make sure things are in good order for their arrival. What could be better? Well, perhaps their reception of this idea for one thing. Thomas complains he doesn't know how to get

there; Philip is suspicious, not merely of the route but of their host. It seems downright rude.

But Jesus must be used to that by now. He casts out demons, and they call him a devil. He shares joyful time and meals with them and he's called a glutton and a drunkard. He tells the truth and they call him a liar. He offers them a place in the kingdom of God, and they want to see God's credentials. It might be nice for a change, when Jesus says he's the way, the truth and the life, that we fall in behind him, accepting that it could all be just that grand.

A Stumbling Block You Need

At the time, I recall thinking Jack was a party pooper, but I've become ever so grateful. A group of us were scheming to pull a prank on a guy in our class who was often the butt of our jokes, thinking it was all in good fun. But it wouldn't have been much fun for him.

Then Jack, a quiet guy, said, "*I don't want to be part of this.*" Simple as that. He didn't try to shame us or talk us out of our plans. His decision of conscience not to go along with the crowd proved to be a stumbling block to the rest of us. In a flash, we all paused to look at our behavior regarding this classmate who had more than once been our fall guy. It started to feel cruel and selfish.

I'd like to say it caused an immediate turnaround in me, but that wouldn't be true. But quiet Jack's taking a stand had a slow-growing and long-term effect on me. In the second reading today, we hear that Jesus was a stumbling block to many. When you're proceeding fast in the wrong direction, a good stumble may be just what you need.

May you have a blessed week!

Fr. Glenn & Fr. Frank

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education

Parents, did your child forget to bring their book home? Did they leave a coat or jacket?

Confirmation students, do you want your picture from the church display?

These items may be picked up Sunday May 3rd, Sunday May 10th or Sunday May 17th before and after all the Masses.

All items will be in the first-grade classroom. The religious education office is also open during the week.



Adult Education

Miracles of Jesus

Lauren will lead a discussion about Jesus' Miracles using the Chosen video series.

Mondays May 11 and 18 June 1

**Times : 9:30am – 10:30am or
4:30pm – 5:30pm**

- May 11 – Wedding at Cana
- May 18- Healing of the Paralytic
- June 1 – TBA

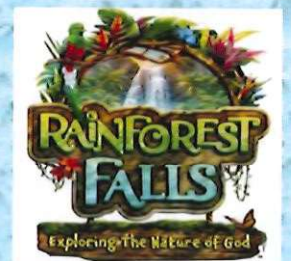
NO cost / signup sheets in the gathering space.



Congratulations to Fiona Bates.
Fiona received her First Communion with her catholic school class at Holy Family Church on May 2nd.



Vacation Bible School (VBS)
Sunday, July 12 – Thursday July 16
6:00- 8:30PM
Host: Good Shepherd Church
All hands-on deck !



Contact Lauren for more information. I would love you to join our VBS team.

- Do you own a CRICUT?
- Could you cut out name tags?
- Are you artistic?
- Are you musically inclined?
- Can you lead a group of kids?

Here are some descriptions for what help is needed.

Bible Story: tell the bible story provided to each group of children.

Crafts: lead children in making a craft each day

Kitchen crew: assemble and serve snacks each night.

Music Leader: Using the CD of songs and movements provided. Teach the children songs to perform at the closing celebration on Thursday night.

Registration/ Sign in: Make sure kids are registered. Make sure kids are signed out to their parents at the end of the night.

Team Leaders: Lead a group of children to each station. Example take 1st and 2nd graders group to the craft room, snack room, bible story room.

VOLUNTEER ONE NIGHT OR ALL FIVE

Adults who volunteer need background checks completed.

CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL 2026

A *sincere thank you* to all who made a pledge and/or gift to the Catholic Service Appeal.

GOOD SHEPHERD TOTALS

<i>Diocesan Assessment:</i>	\$52,074.00
<i>Total Pledged as of 04/22/26:</i>	\$121,810.00
<i>Total Paid as of 04/22/26:</i>	\$86,539.00
<i>Surplus after Assessment:</i>	\$34,465.00
<i>Parish Project Goal:</i>	\$90,500.00
<i>Surplus from CSA 2025:</i>	\$37,419.24
<i>Remains at Good Shepherd to be used toward roof replacement on Social Center / HVAC</i>	

CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL 2026

A *sincere thank you* to all who made a pledge and/or gift to the Catholic Service Appeal.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA TOTALS

<i>Diocesan Assessment</i>	\$21,724.00
<i>Total Pledged as of 04/22/26</i>	\$38,352.00
<i>Total Paid as of 04/22/26:</i>	\$31,396.00
<i>Over goal:</i>	\$4,972.00
<i>To the good:</i>	\$9,672.00
<i>Remains at Our Lady of Fatima to complete the restoration of our Rectory and Office after our winter water disaster.</i>	



GOOD SHEPHERD FOOD PANTRY

"MAY FOOD DRIVE"

BOXED CEREALS

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



HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP!

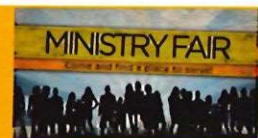
- ✚ **Donut Social after the 9:00am Mass on Mother's Day, May 10th in the Social Hall.**
- ✚ **Anointing Mass, Sunday, May 17th at the 11:30am Mass. Refreshments & goodies will follow in church.**
- ✚ **Ministry Fair, the weekend of May 30th/31st. More details below.**

GET YOUR LOTTERY TICKETS!

The Men's Club will be selling lottery tickets before and after Masses during the months of May and June for July drawings. They are five dollars each and based on the evening Pennsylvania three-digit number. They make great inserts for graduation cards!




GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH MINISTRY / PROGRAMS FAIR AFTER THE MASSES MAY 30TH AND 31ST



OUR CHURCH IS SPECIAL BECAUSE OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU!

**WE NEED: USHERS, GREETERS, ALTAR SERVERS, LECTORS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, FOOD PANTRY, SOCIAL EVENT PLANNING, PRE CANA, MAINTENANCE, LANDSCAPING, MEN'S CLUB, ALTAR ROSARY
COME AND SEE!**

Praise and Worship
Adoration
 Holy Hour



NATIONAL
 Eucharistic
 Revival

Mercer County

Thursday, May 7, 2026 @ 7pm
 Notre Dame, Hermitage

catholicyouthforchrist.com



Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquets
 Spiritual Bouquets are available for Mother's Day in the gathering space. Please complete the outer envelope in Memory/honor of your loved one and place with your donation in the basket provided on the table. Please keep the card enclosed to deliver or mail to your family member. A memorial list will be printed in an upcoming bulletin.

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.



Knights of Columbus


Pancake Breakfast

Sunday May 17, 2026
 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

SHORT STACK
 FOR A
 TALL CAUSE

Notre Dame Multipurpose Room

Includes Pancakes, Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Fruit, and Drinks!

Sipping with the Saints

Discover the Saints like never before!


Join us for a night of inspiring talks, live music, light hors d'oeuvres and a handcrafted beverage echoing the life of the Saint we celebrate – an evening of faith, community, and fresh perspective for adults 18+.

MAY 21
 Fr. Christopher Mannerino
 Priest in Diocese of Pittsburgh


Babysitting also available so parents can relax and enjoy.

Time: **7:00-8:30PM**
 Doors Open at 6:30PM for Live Music

We'll be sipping with St. Philomena



RSVP Here:
 Scan Here!



Call or Text: (724) 301-6127
 Or Email Gabby @ youthforChrist@dioceseofErie.org

NOTRE DAME IN HERMITAGE

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments
Child Abuse Prevention Month: Be Vigilant: Keeping kids safe starts with all of us. Pay attention to how people interact with children – and speak up if something feels off. Notice the signs of abuse, take them seriously and report concerns right away. If you see behavior that seems inappropriate or just doesn't feel right, don't ignore it. Reporting could prevent harm. Have questions about warning signs or what's considered inappropriate? Call the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth at 814-824-1195.



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NAME _____ PHONE _____

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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.



One Minute Meditations

St. Rita of Cascia

Born in 1381 near Spoleto, Italy, St. Rita was known for her holiness and charity from a young age. She wanted to be a nun but was forced into marrying when she was twelve. Unfortunately, her husband was cruel and violent. After eighteen years, she was widowed. Following the deaths of her sons, she finally entered the convent, where she became known for her piety, kindness, and humility. She is the patron saint of impossible causes.

"Come, Holy Spirit!"

On the Feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and ignited their mission to baptize and preach. For this reason, Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church. This same Spirit, who empowered twelve frightened men to travel, preach, baptize, and labor for the Kingdom of God, also comes to our aid in our struggle for holiness, even in our prayer (Romans 8:26). This month, keep with you this short yet powerful prayer: "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love!"

"Jesus answered him, 'If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him'" (John 14:23).

Who is my neighbor?

This question matters. In the Two Greatest Commandments, Jesus calls us to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. But that raises a real, practical question: who is our neighbor? Our Lady offers a clear answer. Through her example, we begin to see that our neighbors include:

Family: Mary's first thought after the Annunciation was for her cousin Elizabeth. Despite the immense honor Mary had just received, she went in haste to serve Elizabeth. That sets the pattern. The first neighbors we're called to love are the ones closest to us: those in our own home and family.

Friends: Tradition holds that Mary and Jesus were close to the couple at the wedding in Cana. When the wine ran out, Mary didn't draw attention to herself. She noticed the need and acted, gently guiding things toward a solution. Loving our friends often looks the same—paying attention, stepping in quietly, and serving without needing

recognition.

Those who suffer: At the Cross, Jesus entrusted His mother to St. John. In that moment of deep loss, Mary and John were given to each other, able

"If you want to change the world, go home and love your family."
St. Teresa of Calcutta

to share a bond shaped by suffering. When someone in your life is hurting, that person is your neighbor. Who is carrying something heavy right now? How can you stand with them?

Each person we meet: As Queen of Heaven and Mother of the Church, Mary cares for all of us, especially through her prayers. To love God is to love those He loves—which means everyone. Sometimes the most meaningful act of love we can offer is also the simplest: to pray for them, asking that they come to know her Son more deeply.

Why Do Catholics Do That? Why do Catholics call Mary our Mother?

Mary's role in salvation history is to lead people to her Son. As the Church teaches, "The Virgin Mary... is the mother of the members of Christ" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 963). Her motherhood extends to all who belong to Him. At the Cross, in the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "Behold

your mother" (John 19:27), entrusting Mary not only to St. John but to every disciple. From that moment, her care became personal. Because of her unique closeness to Jesus, she intercedes for us, always guiding us toward Him and helping us follow His will more faithfully.

St. Joseph - the quiet strength behind May

Though May is traditionally dedicated to Mary, it fittingly begins with the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. The Church invites us to honor St. Joseph and entrust our lives to his care, just as Jesus did during His hidden life on earth.

He protects. St. Joseph safeguarded Mary when her pregnancy placed her at risk (Matthew 1:19) and led the Holy Family to safety in their flight from Herod (Matthew 2:14-15). We can place ourselves under that same protection—formally through consecration or simply through daily prayer—entrusting our families, homes, and

responsibilities to his care.

He provides. As a carpenter, St. Joseph faithfully provided for Jesus and Mary. Christians have long trusted in his continued help. St. Teresa of Ávila famously wrote that she never asked anything of him without receiving help. We can confidently bring him our needs, work, and concerns.

The saints became holy by being open to God's grace. In St. Joseph, we're given a quiet but steady guide—one who helps us, step by step, follow God more faithfully on the path to heaven.

from **S**cripture

John 3:16-18, Jesus' sacrifice reveals God's love

"For God so loved the world..." When doubt sets in—when God seems distant or silent—the Church directs our attention to the Cross. In the Crucifix, we don't see a contradiction of God's love, but its clearest expression. Christ does not stand apart from human suffering; He enters into it. What looks like defeat becomes the place where divine mercy is most fully revealed—a love that holds nothing back.

"He sent His only begotten Son." Faced with suffering and evil, we naturally look for solutions we can measure and manage—strategies, systems, progress. God's response is not a method but a

gift: He gives Himself. Evil, which is a distortion or absence of the good, cannot ultimately be overcome by partial fixes. It yields only to perfect goodness, just as darkness gives way to light.

"That all who believe in Him might not perish but have eternal life." This life is not the destination but the path. Its trials, uncertainties, and even its sufferings are not meaningless when lived with Christ. If we remain close to Him—whether in darkness, in turmoil, or at the foot of the Cross—we are not off course. We are being led, step by step, toward the life that does not end.

Q & **A** How can the Church be holy if her members aren't?

First, Jesus was aware of the failures within religious life. In the Gospel of Matthew, He strongly rebuked the Pharisees—the religious leaders of His time—for not practicing what they taught (Matthew 23:3). Among His own disciples, there were moments of division, betrayal, and abandonment (John 6:66). Yet the redemption He offers is not reserved for the perfect, but for all who place their faith in Him.

Second, the Church's holiness does not depend on the virtue of each individual member, but on the holiness of her Founder, Jesus Christ. A church building remains sacred even when its physical condition is imperfect because it is dedicated to God. In the same way, the Church, as the Mystical Body of Christ, remains holy even as her members continue to struggle and grow.

Third, history shows that God raises up saints precisely in times of difficulty. St. Athanasius, St. Catherine of Siena, and St. Thomas More each responded to periods of division and crisis with prayer, sacrifice, witness, and fidelity to the truth. Their example reminds us that holiness is always possible—and that we are called to live it, even now.

Feasts & Celebrations

May 14 - The Ascension of the Lord. This solemnity marks the completion of Jesus' mission of salvation and His triumphant entry into Heaven.

Note: In many dioceses, observance of Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.

May 14 - St. Matthias (1st century). When the Apostles met to choose Judas' successor, Peter said that the new Apostle must have followed Jesus from His Baptism to His Ascension and witnessed His Resurrection. St. Matthias was chosen by lots to fill Judas' place.

May 18 - Pope St. John I (526). Born in Tuscany, Italy, John was elected pope in 523 while still a deacon. During his

pontificate, he battled the Arian heresy, and worked to improve diplomatic relations with the East. He was the first pope to visit Constantinople, during which he restored peace with the Eastern Church yet raised political suspicions. Arrested by King Theodoric, St. John I died in prison.

May 25 - Mary, Mother of the Church (2018). On the Cross, Jesus gave us His mother to be our mother (John 19:27). Now in Heaven, she prays and cares for us as our spiritual mother until we are safely home with God. We can look to her motherly care with confidence since she always leads us to her Son by the shortest, safest, and fastest route. This memorial highlights one central truth: Mary is not only the Mother of Jesus, but the Mother of all who belong to Him—the Church.

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