

Church of the Good Shepherd



*Congratulations, Tony and Kamille Paduano,
who returned to the Philippines to celebrate
with their families.*

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS– SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Week of September 14, 2025, Calendar of Events

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

Monday, September 15th - Men's Club Meeting 6:00 PM

Tuesday, September 16th - OCIA begins 6-7:30 PM

Wednesday, September 17th

Thursday, September 18th

Friday, September 19th

Saturday, September 20th - Missionary Appeal and Catholic Education Collection

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

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

09/07/2025

# of Registered Families	589
# of Envelopes Used	182
Attendance at Mass	626
Attendance Online 9/07	571
Offertory Collection	\$8,654.50
Loose Offertory	\$1,609.00
Catholic Education	\$25.00

Mass Intention Date & Time	Intentions	Requested By
Monday, September 15 th at 8:30am	Poor Souls	Marie Flickinger
Tuesday, September 16 th at 8:30am	Anthony Palanti	Wife
Wednesday, September 17 th	NO MASS NO COMMUNION SERVICE	
Thursday, September 18 th at 8:30am	For Our Parishioners	
Friday, September 19 th at 8:30am	Lois Fetsko	Frank & Jean Fetsko
Saturday, September 20 th at 6:00pm	Larry Wauzzinski	Mitchell Family
Sunday, September 21 st at 9:00am	Mary Ellen McGonigle	Family
Sunday, September 21 st at 11:30am	Betty Sok	Children

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	USHERS (HU –Head Usher)	GREETERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Saturday, Sept 20 th at 6:00pm	Donna & John Pavlovich	Brian Rogers James Sobey Monica Hanrahan David Pringle	Mary Ellen Doult – HU Brian & Debra Biggins	Alexis Onestak	Reagan & Hadley Simmons
Sunday, Sept. 21 st at 9:00am	Mary Svirbly	Mike Bartolo Ken Rogers Tom Hubert Bonnie Smith	Ed Grober – HU Jeff Creveling Neil Hosick	Judy Selenchik	Luke & Jackson Seelbaugh
Sunday, Sept. 21 st at 11:30am	Mary Killingsworth	Ann U'Halie DJ Puskar Judy Miller Beth Garrett	Pam Esposito - HU Mary Killingsworth Don Kemerer	VOLUNTEER	James Maynard

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, WEST MIDDLESEX, PA



FROM OUR PASTOR

Today's feast doesn't often fall on a weekend, and when it does, we attempt to make a big liturgical deal about it. But first, some history.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross traces its origins to 4th century Jerusalem. Tradition tells us that St. Helena, mother of the emperor Constantine took a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 326 AD where she discovered the cross upon which Christ was crucified. Many legends are attached to this story – one reports she found three crosses buried together near where Mt. Calvary was outside the walls of ancient Jerusalem. In an effort to authenticate which of the three was the “true cross,” she proposed a test. Three recently buried people were located and each of the three crosses were applied to the deceased bodies. Nothing happened to the first two; but when the third cross was laid upon the third person, he revived.

To honor this discovery and mark the sacred sites of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, Constantine ordered the construction of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher the holiest site in all Christendom. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335, and the next day, September 14, the cross was publicly displayed for veneration. By the 7th century, this was an annual celebration, observed by both Western (Roman) and Eastern (Orthodox) Churches.

The capital punishment of crucifixion was abolished across the Roman Empire when Constantine made Christianity the religion of the Empire and the cross became the universal symbol of the Christian faith, a paradoxical symbol of salvation and suffering.

In today's gospel, a conversation between Nicodemus and Jesus centers around transformation, and it is saturated with symbolic meaning. Nicodemus, a Pharisee and teacher of the Mosaic (Moses') Law, comes to Jesus by

night – a gesture reflecting both secrecy and the spiritual searching of one who is still in darkness. But he is drawn towards the light he sees in Jesus and cannot ignore the “signs” that Jesus performs. *‘No one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’*

Jesus patiently leads Nicodemus thru the description of the work of the Spirit, whose movements are as mysterious and free as the wind that blows where it will – and certainly not under our control. Their dialog fades as the testimony of the early church is heard: *“We testify to what we have seen.”* Their witness is to Christ.

A striking story from the Book of Numbers is recalled: when the Israelites, weary and rebellious in the desert trek, are afflicted by poisonous serpents, and God instructs Moses to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. Those who look upon it are healed.

The parallel is drawn – the Son of Man (Jesus) must also be lifted up so that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Here the image of “lifting up” brings together death on the cross with being raised and glorified. In John's gospel, the Cross is not only seen as a place of suffering and death but also a revelation of love and eternal life.

Lastly, the reading from Paul's letter to the Phillipians shows how Christ, though divine, empties himself taking the form of a slave and embracing death. And this complete self-giving is the path to exaltation!

To gaze on the cross is to behold a God who suffers with us – in our difficulties in relationships, with friends and relatives alike, when we feel depleted, sad, wounded and aimless. Whether in our eighties or teens or anywhere in between, we have a partner in our distress, who though exalted, will never leave us alone

Fr. Frank and Fr. Glenn

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

OUR VOLUNTEERS

The Catechists are dedicated volunteers who provide interesting lessons for the children to grow in their faith.

This year's volunteers are:

First Grade: Mary Svrbly and Amanda Leist

Second Grade Reconciliation:

Christine Wiesen and Fran Hageman

Third Grade First Eucharist: Mary Ellen Douth

Fourth/ Fifth Grade: Lisa Voytko

EDGE Team Grades 6 -8: Mary Pat Hannsen, Leah Ann Williams, Maria, and Andrew David

Confirmation Preparation: Grade 9 Jim Bird

Liturgy of the Word: Dana Adams, Heather Campbell, Pricilla Kovach, and Laura Maynard

Substitute Catechists, teens, and college classroom aides: Andrew David, Paula Dalessandro, Daniel Hanssen, Jeffery Linn, Alexis Onestack, Hannah Wiesen, Alizabeth, and Khloe Zehner

Teen Shepherd Leaders: Neil and Nanci Hosick and Matt and Holly Macchia

When you see them, thank them, we would not have an excellent program for our children without these volunteers.



Children's Liturgy of the Word formally begins on Sunday, September 28. Look for the candle on the altar. Father will invite all children ages 3 – 3rd Grade to participate.

Confirmation Parent meeting will be on Sunday September 28th, during class time from 10:00AM-11:15AM. Students and parents will attend the session together in the social hall.

What's coming up?

- Our Mission Co-op Speaker, Sister Joyce, from the Missionary Daughters of the Compassionate Lord Jesus, will be speaking at ALL MASSES on September 20 & 21. We will be taking up a physical second collection at all Masses.
- Catholic Education Collection – Sept. 20 & 21.
- Parish Pastoral Council Election – Sept. 20 & 21.
- Anointing of the Sick will take place on October 19th at the 11:30 AM Mass.

Next weekend is the **2025 Catholic Education Collection**. Please give generously. Half of your gift stays right here at Church of the Good Shepherd. To support our religious education programs. Without you, our faith formation and religious education programs would not be as successful as they are. Because of you, our many children and their families, both young and old, are led to greater faith. **THANK YOU for your support.**

MEN'S CLUB MEETING

MONDAY, SEPT. 15TH
AT 6:00 PM IN THE SOCIAL HALL.
ALL MEN ARE WELCOME.

Thank you to all who helped make the **Altar Rosary Gift Card Raffle** a huge success. Congratulations to *Charlene Cain* the winner of the \$760 assortment of gift cards.

50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend Thank You!

These are the Team Leaders for each category of the huge weekend event.

Leah Ann Williams — Weekend event coordinator, Caterer, Rita's, Touch a Truck reservations, donation of Philadelphia candy bar favors

Marsha Garver — Invitations & event planning

Meg & Ed Grober — Social Hall table design, set up & donation of decorations

Cindy & Mike Bartolo — Dinner Reservations coordinator

Lauren DeFelice & Laura Maynard — Slide show & teen helpers

Brady Flamino — Church program booklet

Donna & John Pavlovich — Church flowers & church decorations

Bonnie & Craig Smith — Mums centerpieces donation

Mark Colella & John Moroco — music

Doug Aller & Mary Killingsworth — Fireworks donation, Pyrotechnico

Paul & Kathy Bauer, Gary Salatino — Drink committee and donations

DJ Puskar — Beer and Wine coordinator

Lou Colella — donation of wine

Brian Biggins & his crew — Dish room cleanup on Saturday

Pat Miller, Gary Salatino, John Moroco, DJ Puskar — hotdog preparation

Marsha Garver, Mary Svirbly, Kathy Moroco, Diane Salatino, Mary Ellen Doult, Paul &

Kathy Bauer, Vicki Miller and crew — kitchen crew and Sunday Picnic preparation

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walszak — donation of 300 hotdogs and buns

The Macchia Family & Maynard Family — Kid's games and face painting

Laura & James Maynard — Card box creator

Pat Miller and Chief Jason Newton — Security coordinator

Deb Sokolak — Tent rental coordinator

Neil and Will Hosick & Don Schmidt — Parking coordinators

Rhonda Dolin (office manager) and Hospitality Committee, Chuck & Deb Antonelli, Diane

Flamino, Jeanna Savastano & Patti Chupak — Cake and dessert coordinator

Gary Wojtalik — maintenance and table/chairs set up

Thank you to everyone who helped with the planning, set-up and clean-up and all the volunteers who pitched in wherever there was a need! I apologize that I didn't list everyone who helped, but I appreciate you all tremendously! This huge event couldn't have happened without all of you! It was a spectacular weekend for our beloved Fr. Glenn!

Leah Ann Williams (your Parish Council President)



SAVE THE DATE!

OCTOBER 26, 2025 – Charity Dinner
Tickets will be available the weekend of
Sept. 20/21. More information will follow
in future bulletins.

GOOD SHEPHERD PANTRY, MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

This month, we are collecting
**Pasta Sauce in plastic jars and
cans. "Please no glass jars"**

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

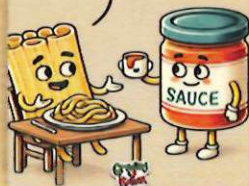
God Bless and Thank you
Good Shepherd Family!

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

Proverbs 11:25

Food Pantry Committee

CAN YOU PASTA SAUCE PLEASE?



The need for blood
is InTENTS!



Red Cross Blood Drive

Good Shepherd Church
Monday, September 29
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
church hall
3613 Sharon Road
West Middlesex

**DON'T EAT ALONE...EARLY
THANKSGIVING MEAL
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2ND at
5:00 PM in the Social Hall
WE'LL PROVIDE THE
TURKEY;
YOU PROVIDE THE FIXINGS!**

FOOD PANTRY NEWS A BIG THANK YOU

to all the volunteers who helped with the
distribution of groceries on Sept. 3rd. And a
special *Thank you* to the Religious Ed. kids
who helped with bagging this month's
groceries.

Kick-off | September 17

SHENANGO VALLEY CATHOLIC

YOUTH NIGHTS

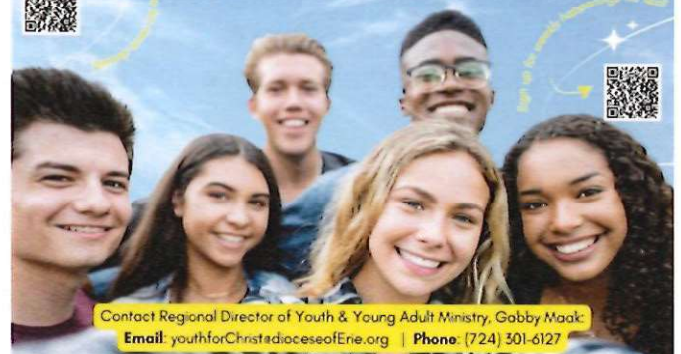
WEDNESDAYS | 7:00 - 8:30PM

NOTRE DAME | 2325 HIGHLAND RD, HERMITAGE

DINNER | GAMES | FRIENDS | FAITH

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) 501-6127

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments- Diocesan Child Protection Policies: The Diocese of Erie, is committed to protecting minors who are entrusted to our care. The Diocese has policies and procedures in place to address the national problem of child abuse, to aid in the prevention of abuse and to develop and maintain safe environments. All those who minister to minors are screened, trained, and agree to a Code of Conduct. To read the Policy that includes the Code of Conduct, go to: <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/policies-1.html> For more information, contact the diocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Youth at 814-824-1195.



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Supervisor

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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.

2025 Good Shepherd Parish Council Nominees

Ron Adams



Ron has been a member of Good Shepherd for 20 years. He has served as Director of Compliance at Primary Health Network for the past decade, drawing on more than 35 years of experience in the healthcare industry. Before joining PHN, he successfully operated his own company for 15 years. He and his wife Dana have been married for 26 years and have two daughters Kambri and Rylee. Ron has been a Eucharistic Minister at Good Shepherd for over 10 years. Outside of work he enjoys hunting, golfing and spending time with family and friends.

Chuck Antonelli



Chuck has been a lifelong Roman Catholic belonging to St. Vitus Parish in New Castle for most of his life until 2017, when he started attending church here at Good Shepherd. He and his wife Debbie became registered members in 2019 and are part of the Hospitality team. Chuck also belongs to the Men's Club. The Antonellis have been married for 30 years and have two daughters and three grandsons. Chuck is currently semiretired and works as a part time grounds keeper for 2 churches in New Castle. He appreciates your consideration in this year's Parish Council election.

Mark Colella



Mark has served on Parish Council since 2023 and was parish council president in 2024. He and his wife Tracy have been parishioners of Good Shepherd for over 33 years. Together they have three children, Gino, Angela and Marky Jr., and four granddaughters. Mark is president of Control Transformer in Cortland, Ohio and is seeking re-election to the PPC for an additional three-year term.

Jean Fetsko



Jean is a lifelong resident of Hermitage. She and her husband of 57 years Frank have been members of Good Shepherd for a little over three years. Formerly, Jean was a member Notre Dame where she was a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Parish Council Secretary and a member of the choir. At Good Shepherd she joined the Altar Rosary Society, is a Eucharistic Minister to the shut-ins and a volunteer for the monthly Food Pantry. Jean also volunteers at the Prince of Peace soup kitchen once a month. Frank and Jean have two boys and are proud grandparents of three granddaughters. Jean asks for your consideration for a three-year term on the Parish Council and is excited to help to move the parish forward.

2025 Good Shepherd Parish Council Nominees

Brady Flamino



Brady is a lifelong resident of New Castle, graduating from New Castle High School and furthering his education at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh earning a degree in specialized technology for graphic design, advertising and marketing. He is currently employed as a graphic designer by a printing company in the Franklin PA area. Brady and his wife Diane have been members of Good Shepherd for 5 years and have three sons and two grandchildren. Brady and Diane are members of the Hospitality Committee; Diane also serves as a Lector and Brady is a member of the Parish Men's club. Brady was also a Eucharistic Minister and CCD teacher at his former parish. In addition, he is a member of the New Castle Playhouse serving on the BOD and co-chairing the Artistic Committee and is a muscle and antique car enthusiast. He would be honored to serve on the Good Shepherd PPC.

Jane Gaines



Jane and her husband Keith have been parishioners of Good Shepherd since 1973. Love of family is her joy having celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary this year. Jane and Kieth have two children and three grandchildren, Noah, Ella and Liam. Jane retired from banking after 32 years in 2010. She is a member of the Alter Rosary Society, a collection counter and helps serve meals at the Prince of Peace. She would be honored to serve on the Parish Council and appreciates your consideration on election day.

Tom Giordani



Tom retired from the mining industry after a 40+ year career working as an engineer and in mgmt. A former member of Notre Dame parish, he and his wife Robyn have four children, six grandchildren and one great-grandson. Tom's work has taken he and Robyn across the country having been members of 9 churches where he has served as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, money counter and various other volunteer ministries. Since joining Good Shepherd, Tom has been part of the "Wednesday Chef Group" that prepares meals for Father and his friends, is part of the Food Pantry team and feels at ease helping in the kitchen at parish events. Tom is on the BOD and is Treasurer for the Shenango Valley Meals on Wheels, is part of the Shenango Township Planning Commission and Municipal Authority and shares his time mentoring student athletes on the Lehigh University football team.

Debbie Sokolak



Debbie has served on Parish Council since 2023 and is seeking re-election for a second three-year term. She was church Secretary for Good Shepherd for twenty-two years; has chaired the parish Charity Dinner Fundraiser for several years and has helped with the spaghetti dinner and wine and cheese events. In addition, Debbie serves as a Head Usher, is a member of the Altar Rosary Society and has volunteered as a collection counter and Lector. She and her husband Tom have been members of Good Shepherd since the 1980's. Together they have four children who now have families of their own, residing in Hermitage, Pittsburgh and Connecticut.

2025 Good Shepherd Parish Council Nominees

Ray Szelest



Ray was born and raised in Farrell PA and a member of the former St. Ann's and St. Stan's parishes. Ray is a 1982 graduate of Kennedy Christian High School. He married Gina Fetsko 34 years ago and together they have two children, Nicole and Matt. Ray worked in IT manufacturing and distribution and in 1998 his career took his family to Tarpon Springs Florida. He has since semi-retired, moved back to the area and joined Good Shepherd parish. "What is important to me? Faith/Family/Friends & Good Health". Ray appreciates your consideration in this year's Parish Council election.

